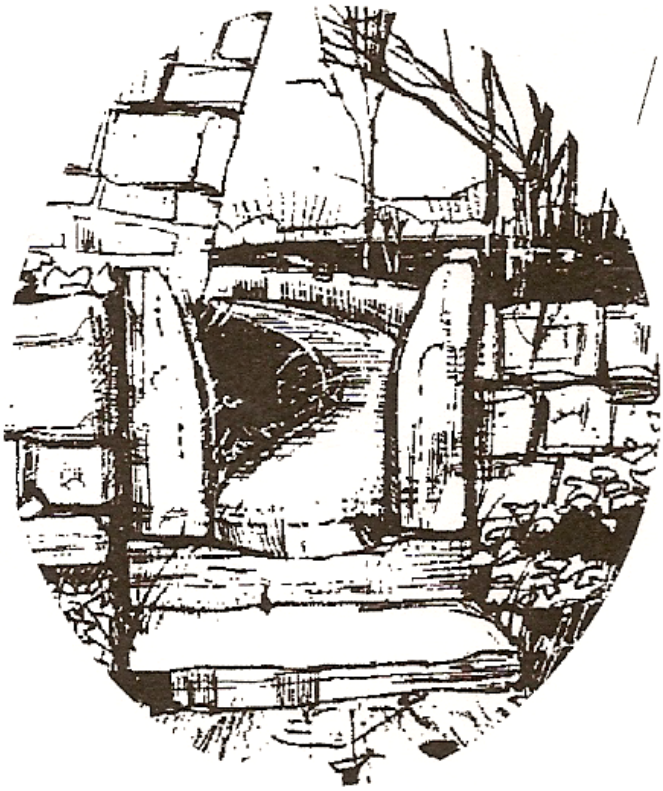
Walks Around

Bromham



Produced by

Bromham Footpath Group

Price £1,50

Proceeds in aid of "The Friends of Bromham and Sandy Lane Churches".

FOREWORD

The walks in this booklet have been devised by members of the Bromham Footpath Group and have been walked by members in the recent past. Members of the group meet on Thursday mornings at 9.00 am on the parish car park near The Greyhound, and spend between 1 and 2 hours traversing parts of the total of 84 footpaths within the parish. All visitors and residents would be very welcome to participate in these walks. During certain times of the year walks are also arranged on Sunday afternoons. If you are interested more information may be obtained from Dennis Powney Tel. (01380) 850979.

The total length of footpaths in the parish is some 35 miles, so there is a long way to go before we have produced booklets to cover them all.

The walks described are walked regularly by members and coloured markers or arrows (yellow for footpaths, blue for bridlepaths) have been placed on most rights of way. It is hoped you will find the paths clear of obstruction. However, if you **do** encounter obstructions of any kind, then please report them to the Area Rights of Way Warden:

Area Highway Office
36 Lancaster Road
Bowerhill
Melksham
SN12 6QT
Tel: (01225) 702649

You will find places for refreshment at:

The Greyhound Inn	High Street	Bromham 01380 850241
The Westbrook Inn	Westbrook	Westbrook 01380 850418
The Oliver Cromwell	Devizes Road	St Edith's Marsh 01380 850293

For those of you who are staying within the village or parish on holiday, it is worth noting that it would be possible to pick up many of these walks if you were to start from The Westbrook Inn. Please check with the landlord for permission to use his car park.

We do hope you enjoy your walk whilst visiting our parish and village.

Have a nice day.

Frontispiece :– The front cover line drawing by Keith Mahoney is of the stile in Horsepool which you pass through on walks Nos. 4 and 7.

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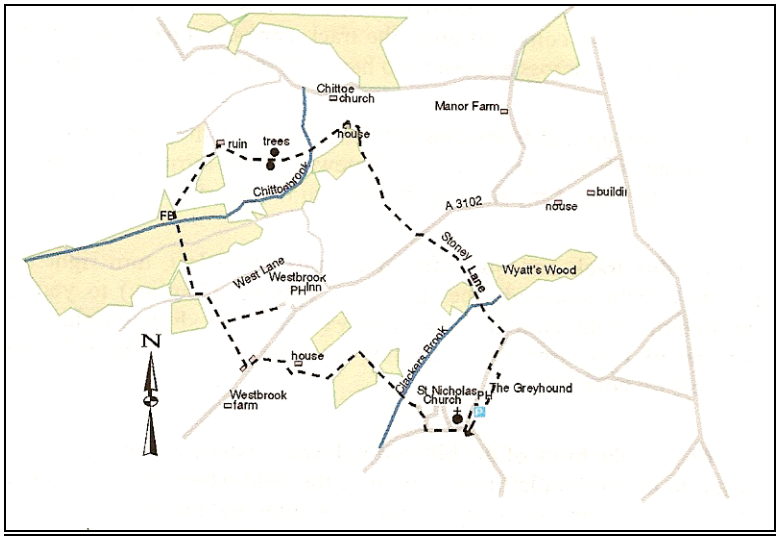
Walk No. 1 **Bromham, Westbrook, Prickmoor Wood, Chittoe and Stoney Lane**

Distance: 4 miles (6 km)

Time: 1 ½ hours

Parking: The walk starts from the parish car park (Map Ref: ST 9645 6530).



Directions:

Leave the car park by turning left into High Street alongside the shops and continue right past the church and down hill taking the second turning on the right (Hunts Mead). Take the left fork and the footpath between houses Nos. 7 and 8, over the stile into the field and across to a second stile and gate over the stream (Clackers Brook).

Go straight uphill to the stiles in the top right hand corner and continue uphill to a gate on the left. Pass through this gate and continue alongside the wooded quarry and take a right hand fork to a stile into a field. Cross this stile and walk diagonally right across the field towards the farmhouse.

The footpath continues straight across the garden of the farmhouse, but there is a permissive path alongside the fence to a small gate in the hedge. Pass through this gate and turn right through another gate into a lane leading to the main road (A3102) at Westbrook.

Cross the road, turn left and, after about 75m, turn right between two houses through a gate into a field. Keep close to the boundary hedge on your left across two fields. The second field is arable and the stile into it needs care as it leans backwards. Cross another stile into West Lane.

Turn left into the lane and after a short distance (25m) turn right into the field through a gap and proceed across an arable field keeping parallel with the wood on your left to a yellow marker on the fence in front of the wood opposite. Pass into the wood (Prickmoor Wood) and continue in the same general direction down through the wood to a forest track, following markers on posts and trees. In wet weather the going will be muddy and just before the forest track is a bridge over a shallow ditch, so exercise care. The path down through the wood runs close to a water course (dry in summer); you should come out on to the track opposite a path (also waymarked) leading to a footbridge across a stream and up to a gate into a field.

The path now goes up and bears diagonally right across the slope to the corner of the field, turning left and upwards to a gateway. Pass through this gateway and continue round the side of the field on the track to the top right corner.

Follow along this track and, just after it turns sharp left, turn right through a gateway into a field alongside the ruins of a cottage (Gamlins) to your left. Go ahead through this field, pass through a gateway, and bear slightly right towards the left hand one of two large trees standing over the brow of the hill passing an electricity pole on your left.

As you come over the brow of the hill you will see a gateway. Pass through this gate and bear left to the bottom left hand corner of the field where you will find a double stile and bridge crossing the stream. Cross these stiles and bridge.

On the other side of the stream turn left through the trees on the field boundary and then immediately right, keeping the boundary trees to your right, towards the garden of the converted church (St Mary's, Chittoe) where you will find a stile leading into the south east corner of the garden. Cross this stile and continue in the same direction alongside the garden fence to a second stile leading out of the garden into a crossing track.

Go up the sunken path to the left of the house. At the top, at the corner of the wood cross a stile into a field and, bearing slightly right, continue alongside the wood until you reach the corner when the path continues ahead across the field to a small wicket gate.

Pass through this gate and cross the field keeping the field boundary on your left into a lane leading on to the main road (A3102). Cross the road and a short distance to your left you will see a signpost labelled ‘Stoney Lane’. Go down this lane which brings you out into the village of Bromham at Horsepool.

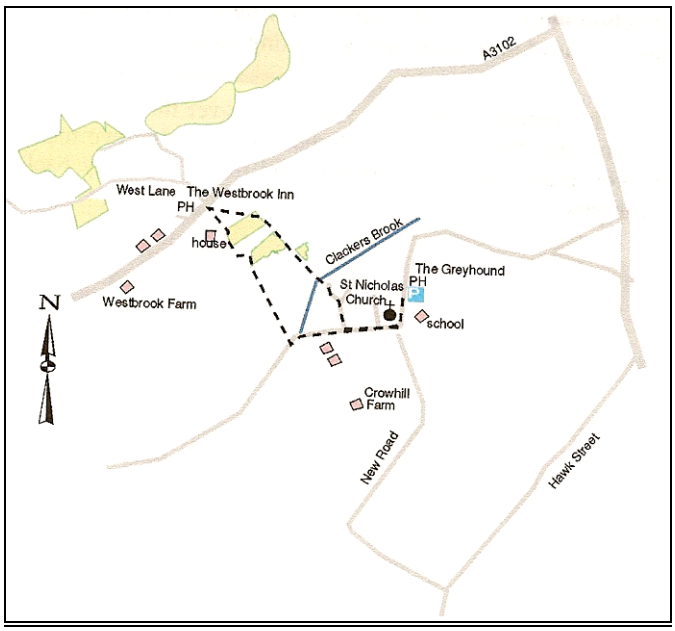
Turn right along the pavement and then cross the road into Breach Close; 50m along this road turn right on to a footpath which goes behind the houses on the right back to the car park near ‘The Greyhound Inn’.

Walk No. 2 **Westbrook and Return**

Distance: 1 ½ miles (2.5 km)

Time: 40 minutes

Parking: The walk starts from the parish car park (Map Ref: ST 9645 6530).



Directions:

Leave the car park by turning left into High Street alongside the shops and continue right past the church and down hill taking the second turning on the right (Hunts Mead). Take the left fork and the footpath between houses Nos. 7 and 8, over the stile into the field and across to a second stile and gate over the stream (Clackers Brook).

Go straight uphill to the stiles in the top right hand corner and continue uphill past a gate on the left to another stile, with a gate beside, in the top left corner of the field. Cross this and continue to the corner of the wood on your left where you will find another stile leading into the wood.

Cross this stile and follow the path alongside the edge of the wood with the field boundary on your right until you come to a stile leading into a field. If you wish to visit the 'Westbrook Inn' then cross this stile and make for the diagonal corner just to the left of the houses ahead on the main road (A3102). The inn is just across the road. On your return, rather than retracing your steps, you should make for the right hand corner of the woodland opposite where you will find a stile leading back into the wood.

If you do not wish to visit the inn, then you may take the path which winds along just inside the edge of the wood. You will meet on your right the short path leading from the stile leading into the wood referred to in the above paragraph. Continue in the same direction until the path takes you out of the wood and turn left and follow the path with a cattle shed on your right until you come to a stile into a field. Over to the right is the building of Westbrook Park Farm.

Cross the stile into the field and keeping the boundary hedge on your left proceed in the same direction until you reach a stile in the hedge on your left. Cross this stile and a few metres ahead turn right on to a crossing path.

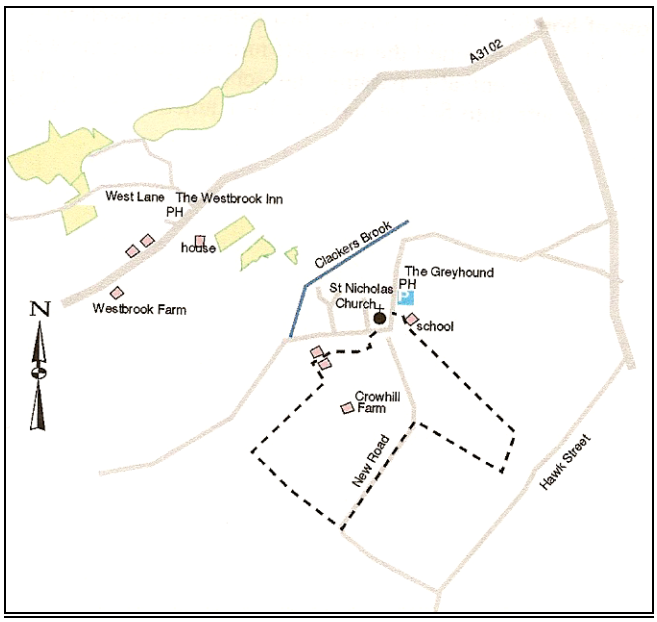
Go ahead with the boundary fence on your right, over the next stile (gate). The boundary hedge is now on your left until you reach the road (crossing two more stiles (gates) on your way). When you reach the road, turn left and make tour way back uphill to the village and car park.

Walk No. 3 **Loop Hill, Abbotswood, New Road and Return**

Distance: 2 miles (3 km)

Time: 1 hour

Parking: The walk starts from the parish car park (Map Ref: ST 9645 6530).



Directions:

Turn left on leaving the car park past the shops and right round the corner by the church. Take the narrow road (The Chantry) leading to the Village Shop, turn left just prior to the shop and right at the end of the buildings and go down the path to a gate and stile. Cross the stile and proceed to the corner of the hedge forming the garden of the house almost straight ahead. The path goes down between the houses to Loop Hill. Turn left here and go up almost to the end of the road to a stile on your right which leads into a field. Cross this stile and go straight across the field to a second stile and a bridge into the cultivated area beyond. This used to be the fruit picking area of Abbotswood Farm and you should keep your dog under very close control here.

Go uphill keeping the boundary hedge on your left and turn right along the top side of the cultivated area below the line of the bank and wooded area which you should now keep on your left. Eventually you reach a crossing path, turn left and go uphill with the boundary on your left.

In the top corner of the field there is a stile (gate?) which you should cross and continue in the same direction. You may find it easier at certain times of the year to climb the bank to your right and walk along the edge of the cultivated area until you reach a more clearly defined dirt track. Do not turn left, which leads to Crowhill Farm, but go straight ahead to the road (New Road) out of the village.

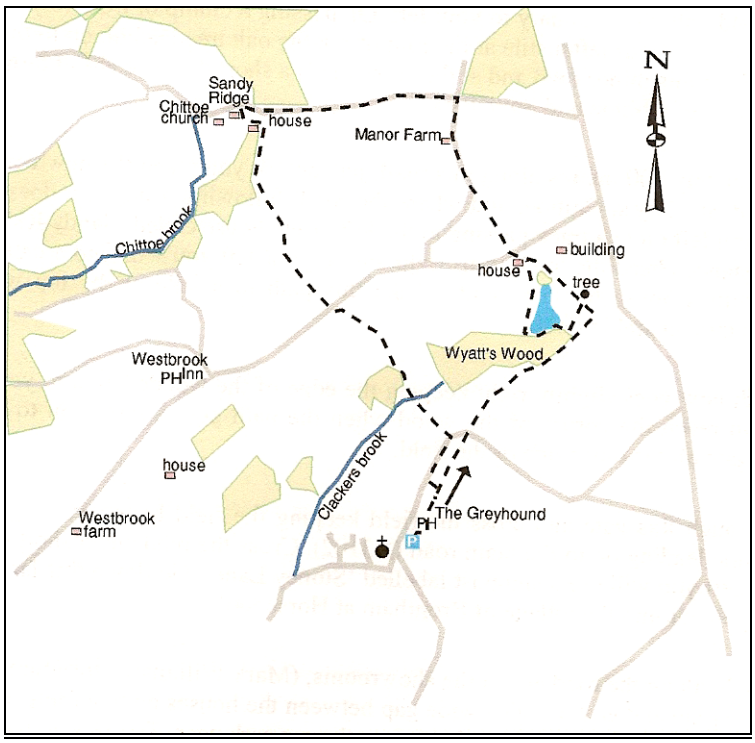
Turn left at the road and in about 500m turn right on to a dirt track leading towards a row of houses in Hawkstreet. Just before you reach the houses turn left on to a track and continue round the next left turn and along the well defined track back to the village, eventually passing the school field on your right and the allotments on your left, into School Lane and the junction of New Road and High Street.

Walk No. 4 **Bromham, Cinderbarrows, Wyatt's Lake, Chittoe and Stoney Lane**

Distance: 3 miles (2.5 km)

Time: 1 ½ hours

Parking: The walk starts from the parish car park (Map Ref: ST 9645 6530).



Directions:

Go out of the car park on to the road running past the front of the inn and take the path between two houses immediately to the right of the inn. This goes behind the houses in High Street and comes out on the road at Horsepool. Cross the road here and take the path opposite which leads towards the main road (A342) and is known locally as 'Cinderbarrows'. About 1km along this path, shortly after you have passed a slight dip in the ground and a wooded area on the left, look for a bridge and a stile in the hedge on your left. Cross this stile and make for a large tree a short distance ahead.

The public right of way proceeds approximately 100m beyond the tree and then bears left towards a house diagonally ahead to your left on the road (A3102). However there is a much more interesting permissive path from this point. About half way towards the tree turn left and go alongside a short stretch of water with a raised bank to your right. At the end of the water turn right and at the end of the wooded area to your left turn left and walk between the wood and the bottom edge of the lake. This is Wyatt's Lake and carp fishing is available here. At the corner of the lake turn right and go along in the general direction of the dirt track to your left and keeping the lake on your right. You rejoin the public right of way at the gate where the dirt track joins the road.

Cross the road and take the path over a stile a little to your left. This path runs alongside pony paddocks with the field boundary on your left. On passing a clump of trees and a pond to your right you will find to your left a stile at the foot of a large oak tree leading on to the road. Turn right at this minor road and at the cross roads a short distance ahead turn left in the direction of Chittoe and Spye Park.

Approximately 700m along this road, just before you reach the now converted church of St Mary's, Chittoe, and where the road, following a descent, does an 'S-bend', turn left on to a track passing to the left of the house called 'Sandy Ridge'. A short distance ahead the track turns right and to your left you will find a hollow path going uphill with a house to your right. Take this path to the top where it emerges into an arable field.

The path now goes slightly right keeping the edge of the wooded area to your right until you reach the corner of the wood when the path goes straight ahead on to a small wicket gate on the other side of the field.

Pass through this gate and cross the field keeping the field boundary on your left into a lane leading on to the main road (A3102). Cross the road and a short distance to your left you will see a signpost labelled 'Stoney Lane'. Go down this lane which brings you out into the village of Bromham at Horsepool.

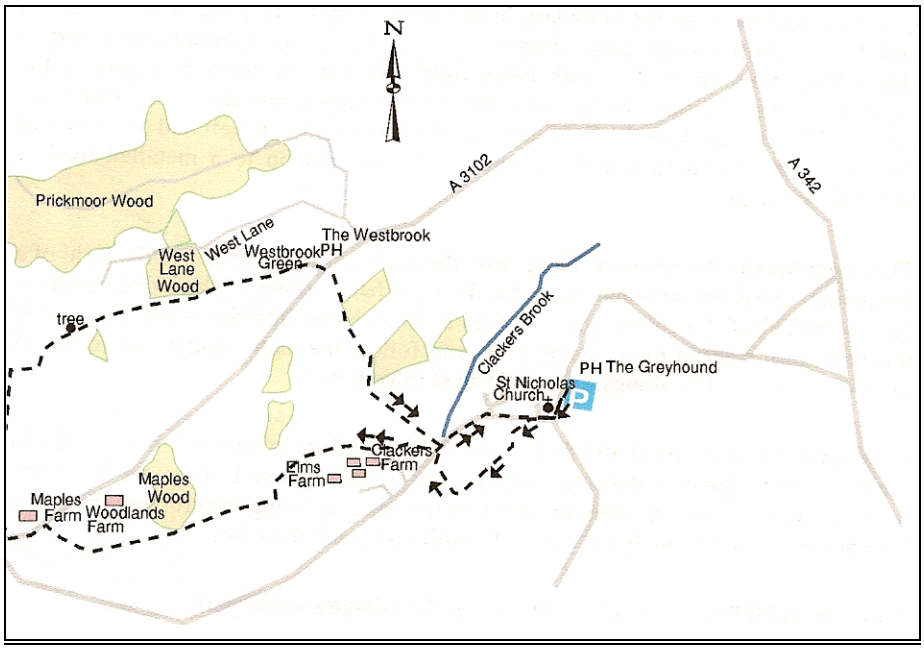
Turn right along the pavement and then cross the road into Breach Close; 50m along this road turn right on to a footpath which goes behind the houses on the right back to the car park near 'The Greyhound Inn'.

Walk No. 5 **Bromham, Clackers Farm, Sandridge, West Lane Woods, Westbrook Green and Return**

Distance: 3½ miles (5.5 km)

Time: 1 ½ hours

Parking: The walk starts from the parish car park (Map Ref: ST 9645 6530).



Directions:

Turn left on leaving the car park past the shops and right round the corner by the church. Take the narrow road (The Chantry) leading towards the Village Shop; turn left just before the shop and right at the houses called Spire View and go down the path (track) to a gate and stile. Cross the stile and proceed to the corner of the hedge forming the garden of the house almost straight ahead. The path goes down between the houses to Loop Hill. Turn right down to the main road and right of almost opposite you will find a stile into an avenue walkway. Cross this stile and follow the avenue through two gates and on to a stile, over this and turn slightly left downhill to another stile about two-thirds of the way along the bottom field boundary.

Bear slightly right here and go towards the far boundary hedge, over a stile and on across the field to the bottom corner of Maples Wood ahead. There is a bridge over the ditch in the corner near the wood. Cross these and immediately to your right you will find a small gate into the next field. Go diagonally across this field uphill to the far corner of the field to the left of the small copse (Furzedown Copse), through a gate and turn immediately right through a second gate into another field and cross over yet another gate just ahead.

You should now make for a stile at the top left field boundary. Go over this and then another stile keeping the boundary on your right until you come to a metal gate leading on to the main road (A3102).

Cross the road and to the left is a stile and signpost saying ‘Bowden Hill’. Cross the stile and continue along a farm track which eventually narrows to a path, passing through a number of gates and stiles across a succession of paddocks. After negotiating the seventh stile look for a gate on your right. Go through this gate and continue with the boundary hedge to your right, over the brow of the hill and down until the hedge turns sharply right. At this point continue on towards a single large tree where the path bears right and goes up towards a gate in the top right corner. Continue in the same general direction across the field towards the corner of West Lane Woods. Continue with the woods on your left and at the end of the woods cross two further fields until you come out on to a metalled road at Westbrook Green.

Continue along this road to the main road and cross the road to a signpost just to the right of a bungalow. Cross the stile and make for the right hand corner of the wood opposite. Just to the left of the corner you will find a stile leading into the wood. Cross over this stile, turn right at the crossing path, and follow the path through the corner of the wood and turn left alongside a cattle shed to your right.

Cross over the stile ahead and follow the field boundary to your left over a stile in the left hand hedge near the corner of the field. Turn right and follow the boundary fence to another stile (gate) and then go down to the road, crossing two further stiles (gates) and keeping the boundary hedge to your left, until you reach the road.

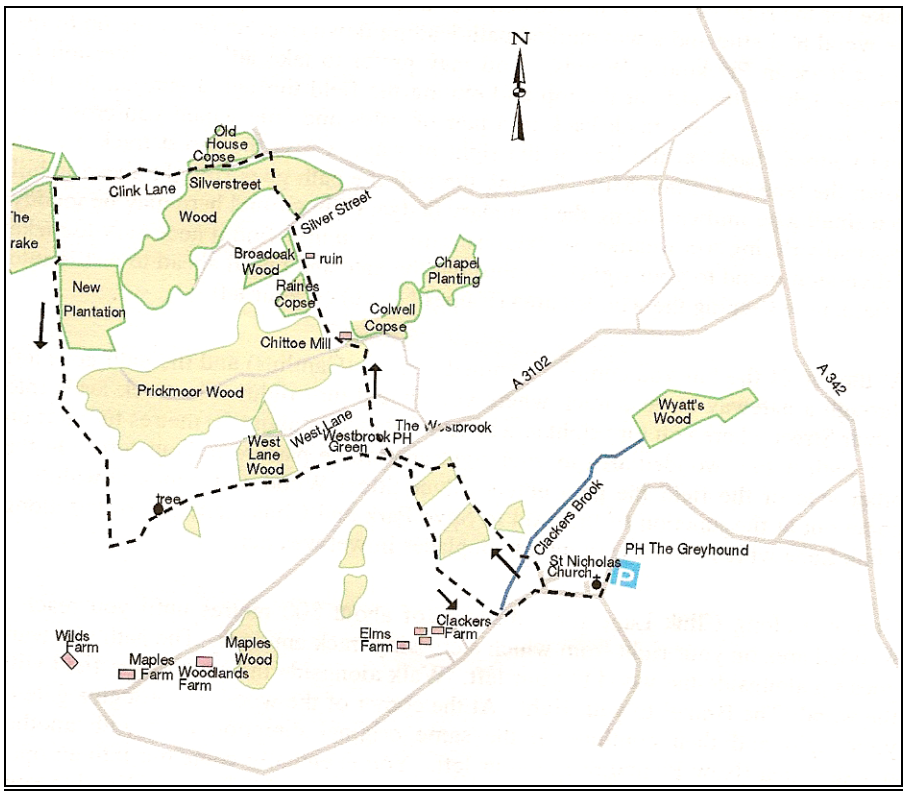
Turn left and follow the road uphill back to the village and car park.

Walk No. 6 **Bromham, Chittoe Mill, Clink Lane, Sandridge, Westbrook Green and Return**

Distance: 5 miles (8 km)

Time: 2 hours

Parking: The walk starts from the parish car park (Map Ref: ST 9645 6530).



Directions:

Leave the car park by turning left into High Street alongside the shops and turn right past the church and down hill taking the second turning on the right (Hunts Mead). Take the left fork and the footpath between houses Nos. 7 and 8, over the stile into the field and across to a second stile and gate over the stream (Clackers Brook). Go straight uphill to the stile in the top right hand corner and continue uphill past a gate on the left to another stile (gate) in the top left corner of the field. Cross this stile and continue to the corner of the wood on your left where you will find another stile leading into the wood.

Cross this stile and follow the path alongside the edge of the wood with the field boundary on your right until you come to a stile leading into a field. Cross this stile and make for the diagonal corner just to the left of the houses ahead. You cross over a stile into the main road (A3102) coming out very near to 'The Westbrook' which you will find a very suitable place for refreshments! Cross the road, and a little to your left, go down the side road, 'Westbrook Green', and take the signposted path on the right between the houses, towards Chittoe.

The path comes out into a field which you cross to a stile in the opposite boundary. You now enter West Lane, turn right to a gateway on the left and make for the right corner of the wooded area ahead. The path goes down the side of the wood to a stile and a waymarked path leading steeply down over another stile on to the forest track in Prickmoor Woods. You may prefer to take an easier diversion by turning right at the stile at the top and exiting the field over a locked a gate on the left. Turn left on the forest track back to a pair of gates and stile which you cross and find yourself back on the line of the right of way. Cross the forest track and go down the lane to Westbrook Mill. Passing the mill the path goes straight ahead uphill to a small gateway midway along the boundary hedge (the ground here may be muddy especially during wet weather, so exercise care - you may find it necessary to make a diversion round to your right). Go through the gateway and steeply uphill ahead into a field, now keeping the wooded area (Raines Copse) on your left.

At the top of the hill you come to a ruined cottage (Gamlins) and the path goes left of the ruins through a gateway on to a track where you should turn right. The track leads into Silver Street where you turn right and after a distance of about 50m turn left on to a path with a wooded area to your right and arable pasture to your left. On the other side of the field the path enters Silver Street Wood and winds downhill to come out at the junction of the road to Spye Park and Clink Lane. Turn left along Clink Lane.

Continue along Clink Lane for a distance of about 800m until you reach a wooded area on your right from which a crossing track emerges. The path you want goes over a stile and then alongside the wood to your left. Walk alongside the edge of the field with the wood (The Brake) to your right. At the corner of the wood go through a gate to your right and then continue in the same original direction now with another wooded area (New Plantation) to your left. After two stiles you eventually come out into an open field with a stream running alongside the far boundary and Prickmoor Wood to your left. The bridge across the stream is a short distance to your right in the boundary hedge. Cross the stream and bearing slightly left to pick up the main direction now going uphill keeping Prickmoor Wood to your left, over a stile in the field corner and continue with the boundary to your left to another stile which you cross and go on in the same direction until you come to a gate on your left just before another stile. Go through this gate and continue with the boundary hedge on your right over the brow of the hill and downhill until the hedge turns sharply tight. At this point continue towards a large tree where the path bears right and goes up towards a gate in the top right corner. Continue across in the same direction across the field to a gate near the corner of West Lane Woods. Continue with the woods on your left and at the end of the woods cross two further fields until you come out to a metalled road at Westbrook Green.

Turn right here to the main road and cross the road to a signpost just to the right of a bungalow. Cross the stile and make for the right hand corner of the wood opposite. Just to the left of the corner you will find a stile leading into the wood. Cross over this stile, turn right at the crossing path, and follow the path through the corner of the wood and turn left alongside a cattle shed to your right.

Cross over the stile ahead and follow the field boundary to your left over a stile in the left hand hedge near the corner of the field. Turn right and follow the boundary fence to another stile (gate) and then go down to the road, crossing two further stiles (gates) and keeping the boundary hedge to your left, until you reach the road.

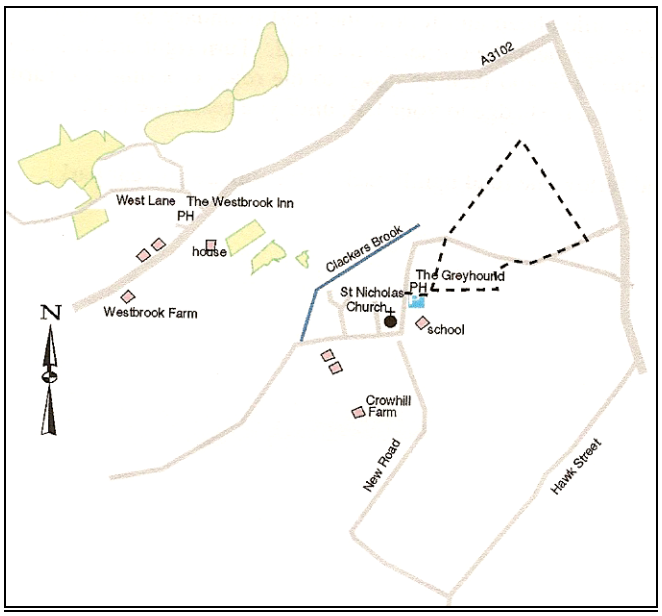
Turn left and follow the road uphill back to the village and car park.

Walk No. 7 **Cinderbarrows and the Tennis Court**

Distance: 1 ½ miles (2.5 km)

Time: $^1/_2$ hour

Parking: The walk starts from the parish car park (Map Ref: ST 9645 6530).



Directions:

Go out of the car park on to the road running past the front of the inn and take the path between two houses immediately to the right of the inn. This goes behind the houses in High Street and comes out on the road at Horsepool. Cross the road here and take the path opposite which leads behind some houses (Greystones) and alongside a cultivated area until you reach a slight dip in the ground and a wooded area on your left. You should now turn right on to a farm track. This is not a public footpath, but you may walk along it until you reach the road at Highfield.

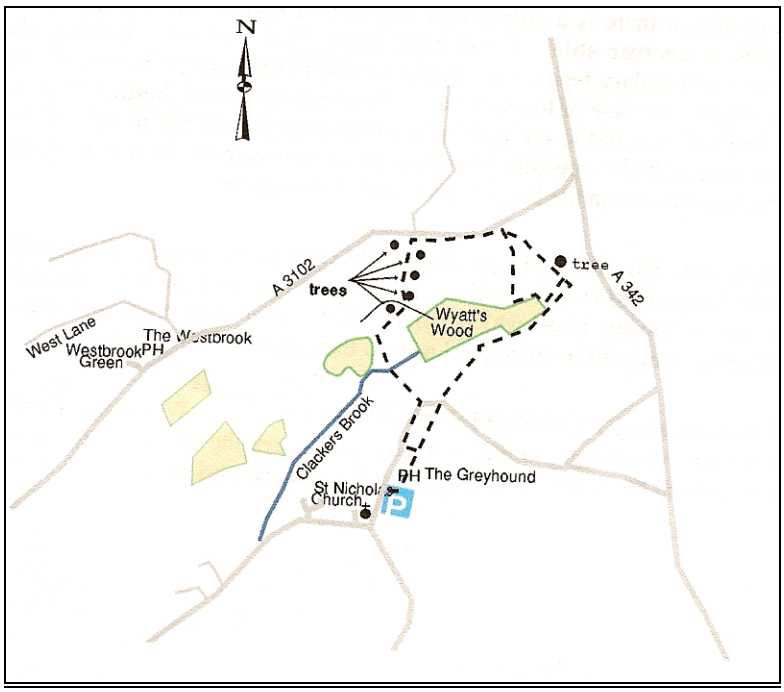
Turn right along the road passing the tennis court on your right and two turnings on your left until you reach the junction with another road coming from your left. Cross the road here, turn right and at the third house on your left take the metalled path which leads back towards the village. At the point where it turns diagonally left, just before you reach a bungalow, go straight ahead into Jockey Lane and the car park.

Walk No. 8 **Bromham, Wyatt's Lake, Nonsuch Park and Stoney Lane**

Distance: 1 ½ miles (2.5 km)

Time: 40 minutes

Parking: The walk starts from the parish car park (Map Ref: ST 9645 6530).



Directions:

Go out of the car park on to the road running past the front of the inn, Jockey Lane, and take the path between two houses immediately to the right of the inn. This goes behind the houses in High Street and comes out on the road at Horsepool. Cross the road here and take the path opposite which leads towards the main road (A342) and is known locally as 'Cinderbarrows'. About 1km along this path, shortly after you have passed a slight dip in the ground and a wooded area on the left, look for a stile in the hedge on your left. Cross this stile and make for a large tree a short distance ahead.

The public right of way proceeds approximately 100m beyond the tree and then bears left towards a house diagonally ahead to your left on the road (A3102). However there is a much more interesting permissive path from this point. About half way towards the tree turn left and go alongside a short stretch of water with a raised bank to your right. At the end of the water turn right and at the end of the wooded area to your left turn left and walk between the wood and the bottom edge of the lake. This is Wyatt's Lake and carp fishing is available here. At the corner of the lake turn right and go along in the general direction of the dirt track to your left and keeping the lake on your right. You rejoin the public right of way at the gate where the dirt track joins the road.

Turn left along the road which is the main road (A3102) and is quite busy, so take care. There are grass verges on both sides which are safe to walk on.

When you reach the junction on the right which is signposted to Chittoe Heath, you should look for a small iron gate in the tall hedge on your left. The gate is almost opposite the turning to the right and is supported between two stone pillars. Immediately in front of you there is a stile giving access to a narrow pasture on the other side of which is another stile. Cross both these stiles and now, looking ahead to the opposite boundary fence, you should be able to see a single tree on the other side of the fence. The line of the path passes between two horse chestnut trees immediately in front of you and to the right of a single large tree in the middle of the field. As you approach the opposite boundary fence you come to a clump of trees on your left, and the stile in the fence is just behind this clump.

Cross over this stile and bear diagonally right to the corner of the field. It will be quite boggy here in wet weather. In the corner of the field is a stile and gate giving access to Stoney Lane which comes down from your right and proceeds to the village coming out in Horsepool near to the corner of 'Greystones'.

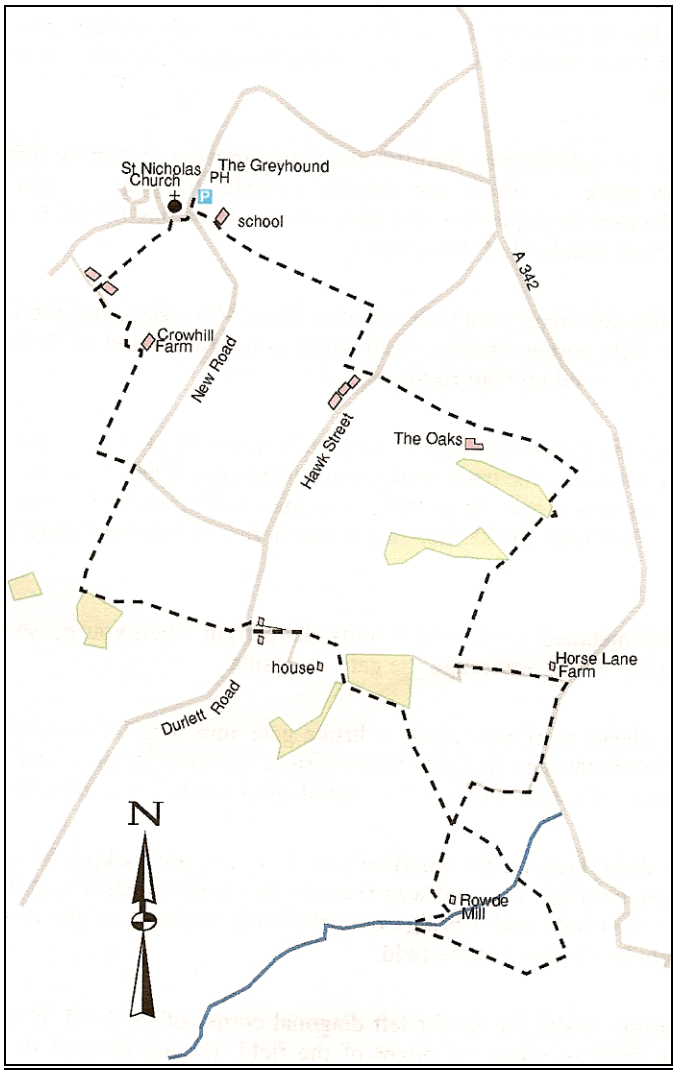
Turn right along the pavement and then cross the road into Breach Close; 50m along this road turn right on to a footpath which goes behind the houses on the right back to the car park near 'The Greyhound Inn'

Walk No. 9 **Bromham, Crowhill Farm, Clinghill Wood, Rowde Mill and Return**

Distance: 5 ½ miles (9 km)

Time: 2 ½ hours

Parking: The walk starts from the parish car park (Map Ref: ST 9645 6530).



Directions:

Turn left on leaving the car park past the shops and right round the corner by the church. Take the narrow road (The Chantry) leading towards the Village Shop, turn left just before the shop and right at the end, Spire View, and go down the path (track) to a gate and stile. Cross the stile and proceed to corner of the hedge forming the garden of the house almost straight ahead. The path goes down between the houses to Loop Hill. Turn left here and go up to the end of the road.

The path now goes with a fence boundary on your right and a ditch on your left. Turn right at the corner of the field boundary and go uphill and cross a second stile. The path now bears left with a boundary fence on the left and crosses a third stile into the garden of Crowhill Farm. Please treat this with respect. The path goes alongside the fence on the left and turns right alongside the house to the gate in the top right corner.

After passing through the gate turn left and then almost immediately right on to the vehicular dirt track - this is not actually a public footpath - you regain the footpath at the next track junction at which you turn left along the track to the corner of the road (New Road out of the village).

Turn right on to the signposted path and after about 400m you enter a field (fenced paddock) and go to the top right corner straight ahead where you turn left and go down keeping the wood on your right.

Follow the path through the new coppice to a gateway in the far boundary and along the track until it reaches the road (Durlett Road). Turn right for 25m and then left on to the bridleway between the houses.

Go down this metalled track until it turns sharp right when you go straight ahead through a squeeze stile or through the gate alongside.

Go straight ahead until you reach a bridle-gate into a field alongside Clinghill Wood. Do not go through this gate but turn right and keeping the wood on your left go to the corner of the field where you should cross double stiles into another field.

Go straight ahead keeping the wood on your left. You are looking for a stile in the far side of the field just over halfway from the left hand corner. Cross this stile and make for another stile and a bridge over the ditch about ¼ of the distance down from the right hand corner of the field.

You should now make for the far left diagonal corner of the field. If the crops are too difficult then go round the edges of the field. Having reached the far corner, cross the stile, turn left and over another stile into another field and, keeping the field boundary on your left, proceed to a small gate (stile) in the far corner. Go down the path with a hedge on your right and the fence of the Rowde Mill property on your left.

About 80m down this path you will find a stile in the hedge on you right. Cross this stile and go to the left hand corner where you will find a bridge over the mill stream. Cross this bridge and follow the path uphill to a stile in the field boundary hedge to the left. The mill (now converted) is on your left.

Cross over the stile at the top into another field and make for a point to the right of Rowde church tower. As you breast the brow of the hill you will see a gate and stile in the far left hand corner. Cross over this stile into Cock Lane, turn left, and after some 150m turn left into Bunnies Lane.

Follow this lane over a stile and two bridges to the track leading from the mill to the main road and take the path into the field opposite keeping the boundary hedge on your right. At the far boundary cross the stile and turn right. You will find that you have returned to the field you entered after leaving Clinghill Wood.

Continue until you reach a horse chestnut tree on the right corner. Turn right and continue round the field boundary on to a track which leads into the main road (A342).

Continue along the main road for some 300m and turn left into the signposted bridleway on the left at Horse Lane Farm. Go through a metal gate with the farmhouse on your right and when you reach a small gate straight ahead do not pass through this gate but turn right and cross the stile into the field.

Cross this field keeping the hedge on your left and make for a stile in the far boundary some 80m to the right of the far left hand corner (or use the gate to the right which negates this and the next stile). You will

find another stile just ahead round the corner of the wood. Cross this stile and make for the stile in the opposite right boundary hedge. Cross this stile and you will find the path crossing a bridge over a small stream and proceeding with a cultivated garden on your right and an electric fence on your left until you reach a track where you should turn left.

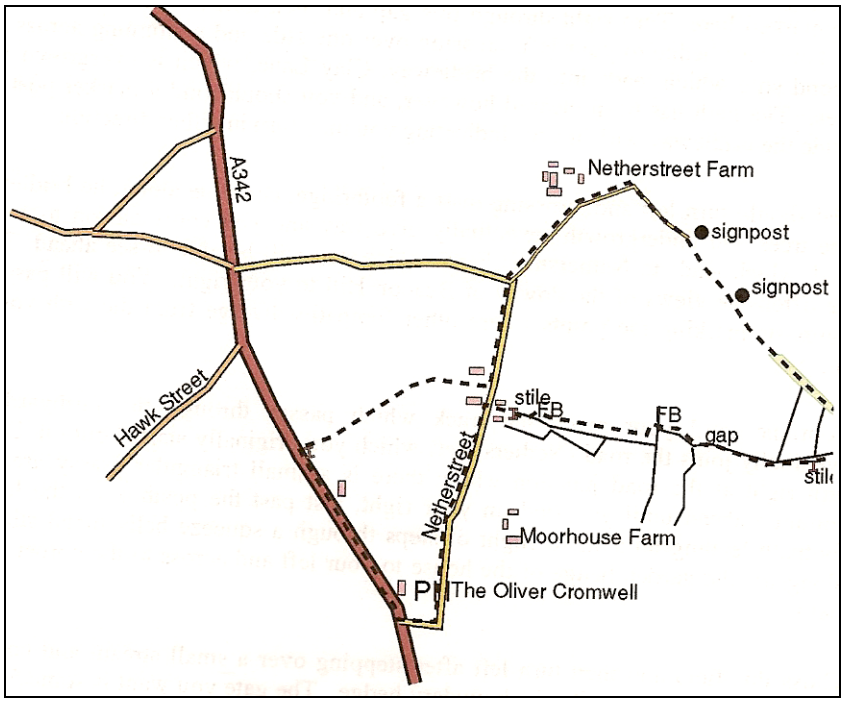
Follow this track through the pig farm until you reach Hawkstreet. Cross the road and slightly to the left take another track which leads to New Road in the village. After about 80m turn right along another track, which some 220m later turns sharp left and eventually leads you back between the school playing field and the allotments to School Lane. Turn left and then right at the corner of New Road and High Street to the car park at Bromham.

Walk No. 10 Netherstreet, Clay Lane, Netherstreet Farm and The Lakes

Distance: 2 ½ miles (6 km)

Time: 1 ¼ hours

Parking: The walk starts from the car park of The Oliver Cromwell (Map Ref: ST 9780 6440). Please confirm with the landlord the use of his car park.



Directions:

Turn left on leaving the car park and follow the main road south to the turning on the left (Netherstreet). Turn down this road and follow it round to the left and continue for about 600m until you find a footpath sign to your right (at house number 52) going down between a brick wall to your right and a fence and hedge to your left.

Cross the stile approximately 50m ahead and continue with the field boundary on your left until, at the point where the field narrows, you come to a footbridge on your left about 75m along. Cross this footbridge and turn right and follow the boundary hedge to your right to another footbridge in the far hedge boundary about 50m left from the far right hand corner of the field.

Cross this bridge and continue with the field boundary to your right until you come to a gap where a grassy bridge crosses the little ditch on your right. Turn right through this gap and then turn left and continue with the boundary hedge to your left, crossing over one stile and continuing across to a second stile which leads into the bridleway, Clay Lane, which is overgrown with trees. The path has been cleared however, and you should find a marker post just inside the bridleway with arrows indicating you may turn in either direction.

You should turn left and, crossing over a footbridge, continue along the bridleway. The trees and undergrowth eventually give way and you come out onto a farm track which leads to Netherstreet Farm which you will be able to see ahead. There are extensive views of the downs of Beacon Hill to your right. You will pass two signposts marking the points where other footpaths diverge from the path you are on.

Continue until you reach the track which passes through the farmyard and eventually joins the road (Netherstreet) which you originally started out on. Do not turn right at the road junction where there is a small triangular grassy area, but continue ahead until you find on your right, just past the postbox on the left, a footpath leading up a small flight of steps through a squeeze belly metal stile and alongside the garden hedge of the house to your left and across to the corner of the field.

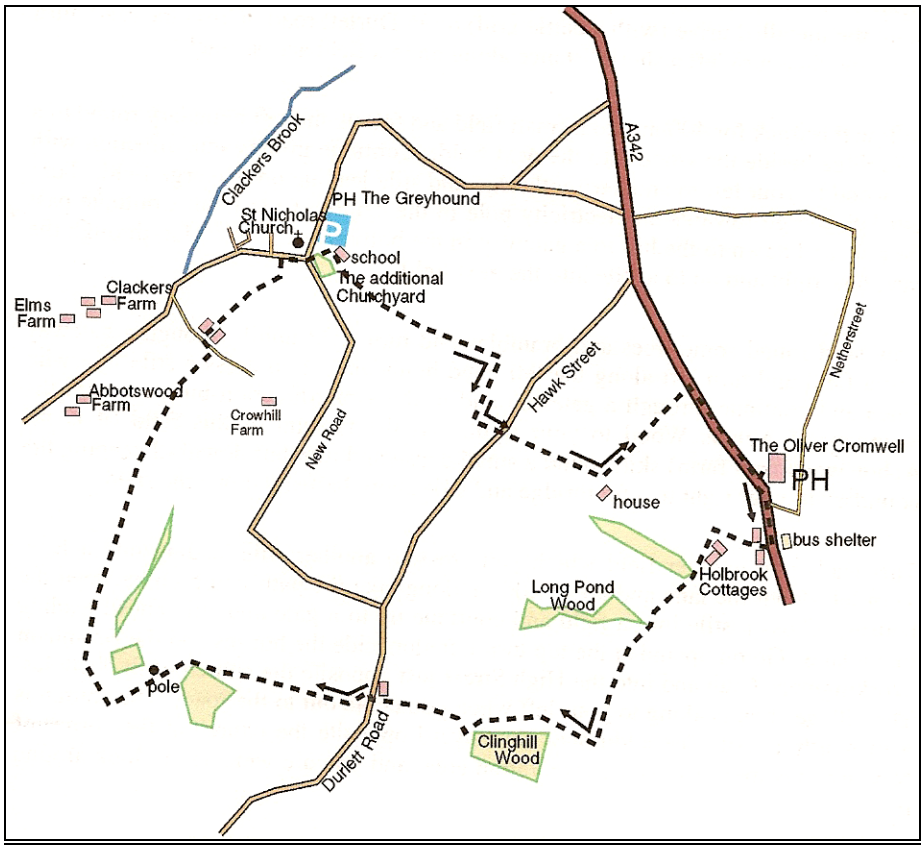
Cross this field and then turn left after stepping over a small stream and continue ahead towards a gap in the far boundary hedge. The gate you want is some 50m to the right of the gap and is hidden by the boundary hedge. Pass through the gate and cross the next field to a signpost and a stile giving way on to the main road (the A342). Turn left and walk back south to The Oliver Cromwell which is about 450m down the road.

Walk No. 11 **The Oliver Cromwell to Bromham Village and return**

Distance: 2 ¾ miles (4.4 km)

Time: 1 ½ hours

Parking: The wa1k starts from the car park of The Oliver Cromwell (Map Ref: ST 9780 6440). Please confirm with the landlord the use of his car park.



Directions:

Leave the Oliver Cromwell car park, turn left, and wa1k along the main road past the turn to Netherstreet on the left and at the bus shelter cross the road and take the lane between the houses. Follow this lane for 150m and then turn left on to the lane leading to Holbrook Cottages.

The footpath continues straight ahead, past the cottages and along a garden path into a small wood, across a footbridge and a stile into a field. Continue ahead to a stile into the edge of Long Pond Wood, cross another footbridge and stile into a field. Continue ahead to the far right hand corner and cross a stile into a lane. Turn right and go through double bridle gates (remembering to close them after you) and go ahead with the boundary on your right. Pass through two more gates and along the metalled drive (with a cattle grid) on to Durlett Road. Cross the road, turn right, and then turn left a short distance along on to a field access track.

Follow this track for 400m into a small coppice and follow the left boundary round to a footbridge beside the wood into the next field. Continue in the same direction with the wood to your left to another footbridge and stile leading onto a large field. Turn half left and go towards an electricity pole in the centre of the field. Continue past the pole and down to the hill to a gateway in the bottom left corner. Go through the gate, turn right and on to a stile into the next field.

Now skirt round some trees and brambles and turn right uphill through a gateway into a field and turn left along the left hand boundary. You cross a stile in a wire fence and continue through a gateway and in the same direction but now with the boundary of Abbots Wood on your right. At the far end of this field (it was the Abbotswood fruit farm) skirt round a small copse and turn left downhill keeping the boundary to your right to a footbridge and stile about halfway down the field.

This leads into another field which you cross to another stile leading into a lane. Turn left down the lane and about 100m along take the path going up between the houses. Cross a stile into a field and continue up to a gate and stile ahead leading into a lane. Go on up and at the top turn left alongside the houses and the Bromham Village Shop and into the High Street just opposite the parish church of St Nicholas. The church is well worth a visit. The additional churchyard opposite the church at the corner of New Road is managed as a conservation area, and you are welcome to look around it.

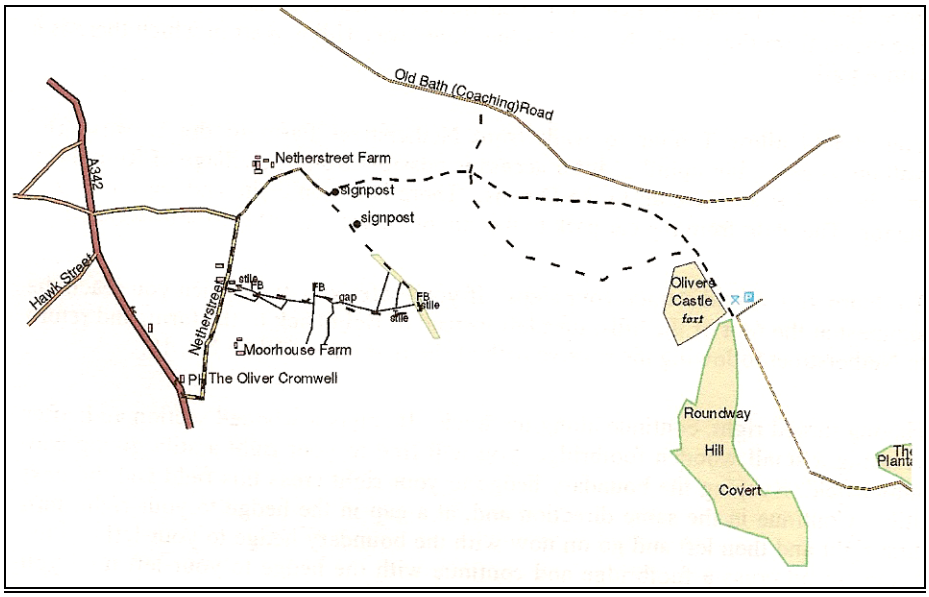
To return to the start of our walk, at the road junction by the church, walk along School Road; at the school gates turn right along the footpath and follow it round alongside the school playing field. The path now becomes a track and you should continue along it until after about 500m, as you approach the houses, you turn right and on to a T-junction with another track. Turn left and go on to the road (Hawkstreet). Cross the road by turning left and right on to another track. Go along this track for about 400m, and just before you reach the house on the right, turn left on to another track which soon becomes a metalled road and leads on to the main road (A342). Cross this road to the pavement and turn right and walk ahead to reach the Oliver Cromwell about 400m ahead.

Walk No. 12 **The Downs, Beacon Hill and Oliver's Castle (Iron Age Fort)**

Distance: 5 miles (8 km)

Time: 2 ¼ hours

Parking: The walk starts from the car park of The Oliver Cromwell (Map Ref: ST 9780 6440). Please confirm with the landlord the use of his car park.



Directions:

There is only one public path leading from Bromham on to the hills at the south east of the parish. To reach it from the Oliver Cromwell turn left out of the car park and left again into the turning signposted Netherstreet about 60m south of the pub. Continue to the junction approximately 1km along the road and at this point go straight ahead towards Netherstreet Farm. As you approach the farm you will find a large metal gate alongside which has a bridle step over which you should cross into the farmyard and continue along the bridleway with the farm buildings to your left. About 300m along round the bend you will find a signpost and the track divides here, one branch leading up to the hills, and the other continuing straight ahead to Clay Lane.

Take the left hand fork up to the hills. After some 500m a crossroads is reached. The path ahead leads up to Beacon Hill; left leads to the Old Bath Road (the coaching road) which also provides access to Beacon Hill; the bridleway to the right skirts around the base of Beacon Hill and on up to the site of the Iron Age fort, Oliver's Castle (there are people locally who refer to this site as Bromham castle, since there is no evidence that Cromwell was ever near the place). There are very fine views from this point. Nearby is the Roundway Hill Covert in which there is a nature trail.

You should allow 1 hour to walk from Netherstreet Farm to the Downs. The walking is good, but uphill. Motor access is possible from the village of Roundway and the road from there up to the Downs. There is a picnic site and car parking at the top. The walk from the car park to the site of Oliver's Castle is about 400m.

To return you should retrace your steps. If you prefer you may, when you reach the signpost at the foot of the hills, turn left instead of right back to the farm, and return to Netherstreet following the reverse path of the first part of Walk No. 10.

Having turned right, continue along the track. It enters a wooded section and, after crossing a small wooden footbridge, you will find to your right a stile giving way into a field. Keeping the boundary hedge to your right, cross this field and the next stile. Continue in the same direction and, at a bridge over the ditch turn right over the bridge and then left and go on now with the boundary hedge to your left. In the hedge ahead cross a footbridge and continue with the hedge to your left until you come to another footbridge in the hedge on your left.

Cross this footbridge, turn right and cross the stile some 75m ahead and follow the path between a brick wall on the left and a fence and hedge on the right out on to the road at Netherstreet.

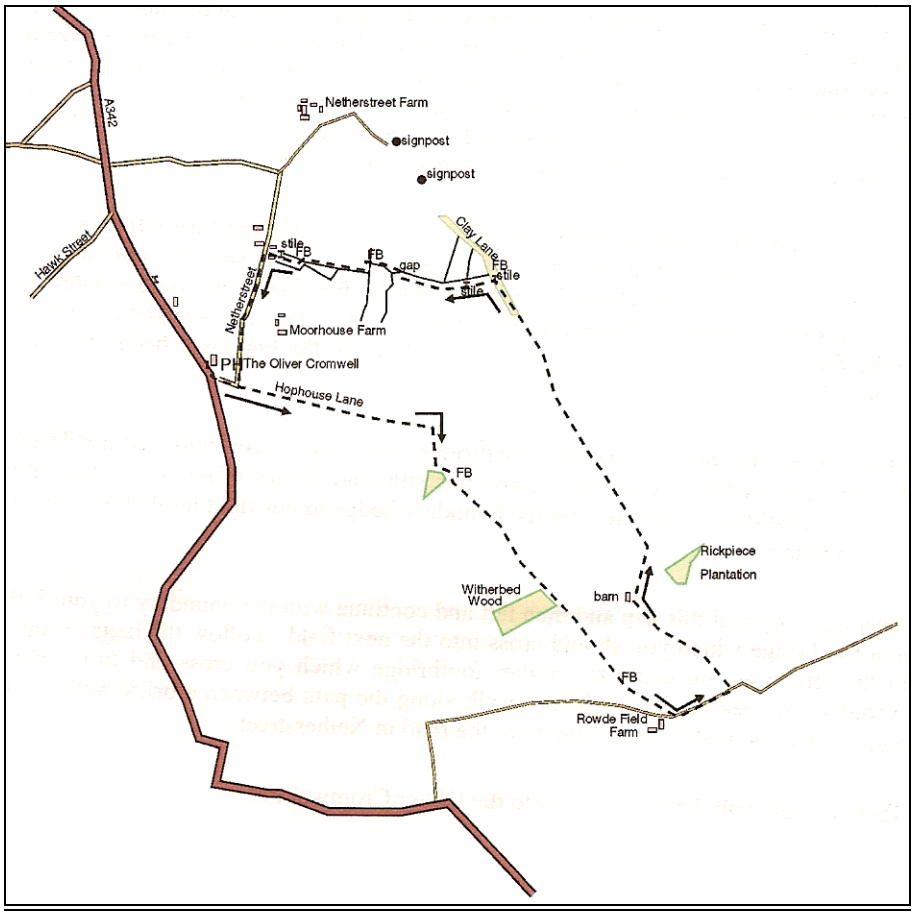
Turn left and follow the road back to the main road (A342) and the Oliver Cromwell.

Walk No. 13 **The Oliver Cromwell to Rowdefield via Hophouse Lane and return via Clay Lane**

Distance: 4 ¾ miles (7 km)

Time: 2 ¼ hours

Parking: The walk starts from the car park of The Oliver Cromwell (Map Ref: ST 9780 6440). Please confirm with the landlord the use of his car park.



Directions:

Turn left out of the car park along the main road for 60m and turn left into the road signposted Netherstreet. After 60m, where the road turns sharp left, go straight ahead into Hophouse Lane. Continue for about 500m and, just before the lane turns left, cross the stile in the hedge to your right. Turn left and continue in the original direction to another stile in the opposite boundary next to a gate. Cross this stile and go ahead to a third stile. After crossing this (double) stile turn right and walk round the edge of the field, keeping the boundary hedge to your right.

Continue round two sides of a small wooded area. In the corner of the field, near the wood, cross a stile and footbridge (you are now in Rowde parish) and turn left. Walk around this field with the boundary to your left and after some 300m just prior to the wood, pass through a gateway on the left. Turn right along the field edge with the wood to your right. At the end of the wood cross a bridge over a stream into a large field. The path continues in the same direction. If it is not clear on the ground make for the farm buildings ahead in the distance behind a line of trees. On reaching the trees you should find a footbridge across a deep ditch. Continue across the field to the road (Conscience Lane) near the farm.

Turn left along the road for about 300m. At the footpath sign turn left and walk towards a barn about 500m ahead. Pass close by the barn on your left into another large field and bear right about 20 degrees. At the far side of the field a gateway across a stream brings you back into Bromham parish. Cross the next field to a stile in the far left corner. Cross this stile and walk along the boundary hedge to your right and over a stile into the wooded Clay Lane.

After 300m, just before a wooden footbridge over a ditch, you will find a stile on the boundary hedge to your left. Cross this stile and the next one on the opposite side of the field and continue with the boundary hedge to our right until you come to a bridge over the brook, on the right.

Turn right over the bridge and then left and continue with the boundary to your left to a footbridge which you should cross into the next field. Follow the hedge round to the left until you come to another footbridge which you cross and turn right. About 75m ahead cross a stile and walk along the path between a brick wall (left) and a fence and hedge (right) out on to the road in Netherstreet.

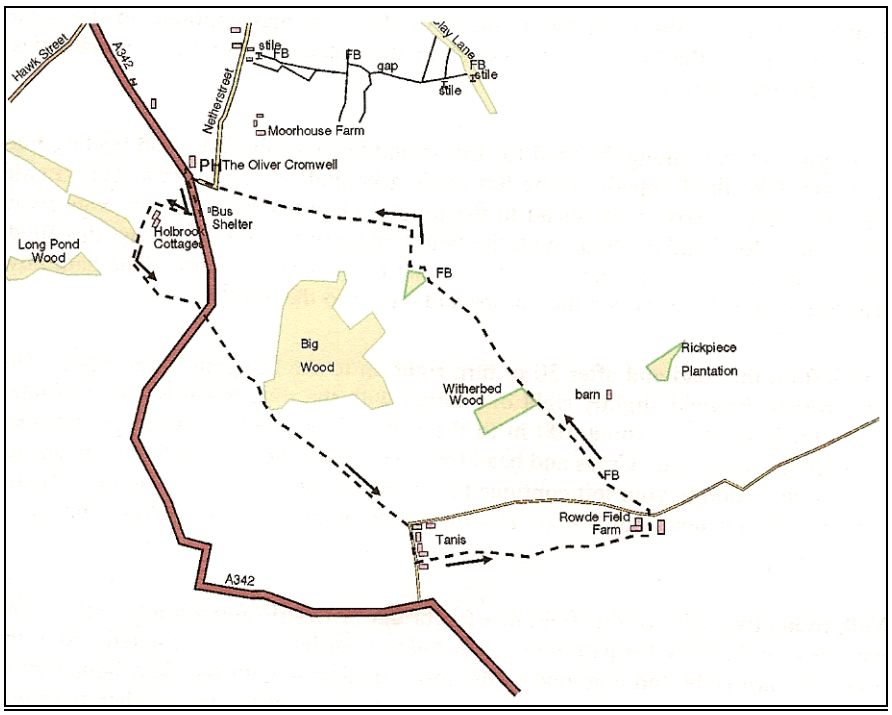
Turn left and walk back the 500m to the Oliver Cromwell.

Walk No. 14 Oliver Cromwell, Holbrook Cottages, Pig Stye Lane, Three Bridges, Tanis, Rowdefield Farm, Hophouse Lane and return

Distance: 5 miles (8 km)

Time: 2 hours

Parking: The walk starts from the car park of The Oliver Cromwell (Map Ref: ST 9780 6440). Please confirm with the landlord the use of his car park.



Directions:

Turn left out of the Oliver Cromwell car park and walk along the main road towards Devizes. Continue past the Netherstreet turning and in 60m, by the bus shelter, cross the road and take the lane between the houses. Follow this lane for 150m and turn left on to the lane leading to Holbrook Cottages. The footpath continues ahead past the cottages and down a garden path leading to a small wood and over a footbridge and across a stile into a field.

Continue ahead with the field boundary to your left and, in about 50m turn through a gateway on the left and walk diagonally across the field (there was a bridge, currently missing, over a stream approximately half way) to a metal stile in the far right hand corner. Cross over this stile into Pig-Stye Lane. Go to the main road at the end of the lane and, across the road, go over the stile into a field.

The right of way goes diagonally across this field to another stile in the right hand corner. Pass over this stile and go ahead with the boundary to your left to another stile leading into a small wood. Follow the fence and path over a footbridge (this area is called Three Bridges) and across a stile into a field. Turn diagonally left towards a stile in the left hand corner, cross into the next field and on to another stile about 60m left of the right hand corner of the field and continue in the same direction towards the houses (The Tanis) in the distance, over three more stiles, coming out on to a road.

Turn right and walk along the road for 150m and just past the side road leading into the estate, take the footpath on the left leading behind the bungalows, over a stile and into a field. Now walk ahead to the far right hand corner, through a gateway into the next field and continue with the field boundary to your left across this field, over a stile and across the next field to the rear of the nearest house. The path now turns left over a stile between the houses and out on to the road.

Turn left on the road and after 50m turn right on to the footpath to the right. The path crosses the field slightly right of parallel with the road towards a line of trees on the far boundary. About 100m to the right of the road a footbridge provides access to the next field. Cross and head for the right hand corner of the wood ahead. Keeping the wood to your left continue to the end of the wood and then turn left and right through a gateway and on in the same direction now with the field boundary on your right.

Walk round two sides of this field to a footbridge with stile and a bridle gate. Cross over these and follow the path with the wood to your left round to the left and at the boundary turn right and continue in the same field now with the field boundary to your left. About 150m along the hedge cross over a stile into another field and continue ahead to a gateway with a stile alongside. Cross over the stile and continue to another stile in the boundary to your right. This stile leads into Hophouse Lane. Turn left and walk along the lane to Netherstreet.

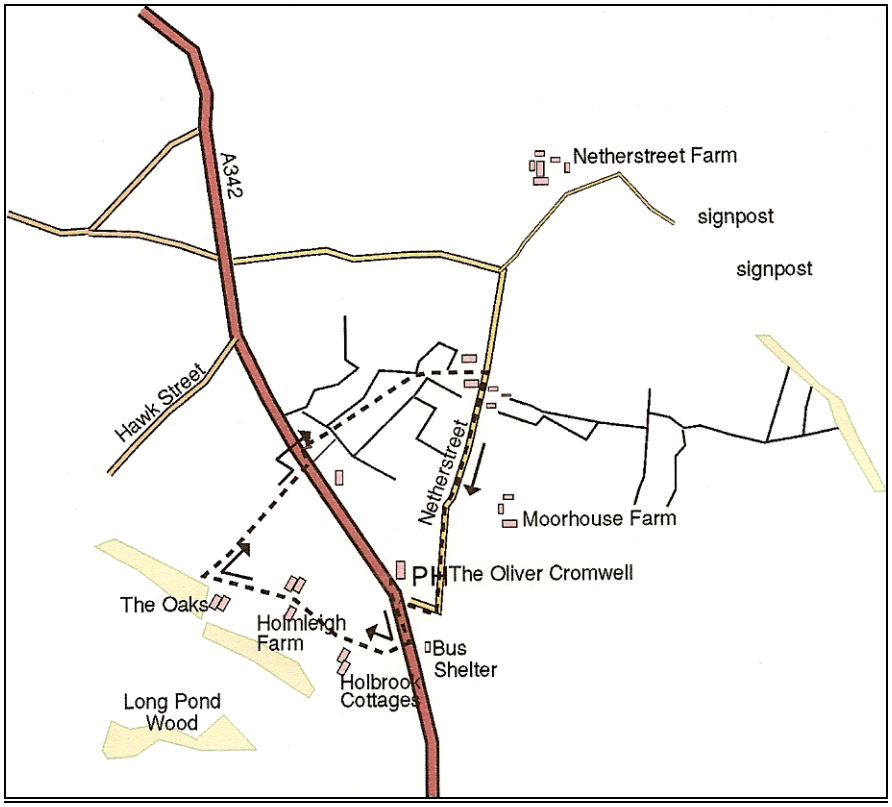
Continue to the main road, turn right and return to the Oliver Cromwell.

Walk No. 15 **The Oliver Cromwell, Pie-A, The Lakes, Netherstreet and return**

Distance: 2 miles (3.5 km)

Time: 1 hour

Parking: The walk starts from the car park of The Oliver Cromwell (Map Ref: ST 9780 6440). Please confirm with the landlord the use of his car park.



Directions:

Turn left out of the Oliver Cromwell car park and walk along the main road towards Devizes past the turning to Netherstreet and, at the bus shelter, cross the road and take the track leading between the houses. Stay on this track (Pie-A) for about 500m ignoring the track going off to the left and go through Holmleigh Farm. Just past The Oaks Farm take the track to your right and continue along it for about 350m until you reach the main road.

Cross the road and turn left and in 50m cross the stile on your right leading into a small field. Continue straight ahead across this field to a gateway and pass through this into a rectangular field called The Lakes (this may be arable). Cross this field, or walk round the boundary, to an exit in the far end at the right of the field, over a small stream. This leads into a small field which you cross to take a path leading alongside, and to the left of, a redbrick house. The path comes out on the road in Netherstreet.

Turn right and walk some 500m along this minor road, back to the Oliver Cromwell.