

WALK FIVE BOVINGDON

(Old English Bufan Dune, meaning
'above the downs')

This is a circular walk of approximately six miles.



The walk starts and finishes at St. Lawrence's Church, Bovingdon. St. Lawrence's dates back to 1235, but was much 'restored' by the Victorians in 1845. It is accessed via Church Lane, off the High Street. There is limited parking to the side of the Lych gate into the Churchyard.



Standing with your back to the Lych gate, Vicarage Lane is in front of you. On the right is Stoney Lane, marked by a sign saying 'Unsuitable for vehicles.' Stoney Lane is a very ancient route originally paved in flint, some of which still remains. You will know it by the amount of stones underfoot. It forms part of the Hertfordshire Way.



Go along Stoney Lane until it starts to be flanked by houses on both sides. Turn left into the first road after the houses start. This is Bushfield Road. Go down it until you come to the B4505.



Carefully cross over the B4505, which can be busy, and turn left then right into the drive to Little Hay Golf Course. Walk up the drive, past the car park and clubhouse to the driving range at the end of the drive. When you get to the driving range you will see a sign marked 'Public Footpath.'



Go round the building to your right and follow the path way-marked 'Hertfordshire Way'. It is fairly well defined and has a number of benches along the way. However it gives way to a much less well defined path across the golf course to your left. This has yellow 'Dacorum Council' way-marks. Follow this path down the hill until it reaches the foot bridge across the A41.



Once across the bridge go down the embankment on the bridleway and straight on.

The path will eventually go between two houses and out on to the A4251 opposite Bourne End Village Hall.



Bourne End takes its name from the Bourne Gutter, a 'woe water' which tradition says only flows in times of tragedy. Cross over the A4251 and turn right. Walk along the A4251 until just before the petrol station. Turn left down Winkwell to the bridge across the Grand Union Canal. Do not cross the bridge. Turn right on to the canal tow path and follow it round, under the railway, to the next bridge you reach, with locks in front of it.



At the bridge turn right. Ahead of you, you will see a tunnel under the railway. Go through the gate and along the tunnel (admiring the ever changing graffiti on the walls.). This leads to a second tunnel under the A41. Carry on along the lane until you reach London Road.



In front of you you will see two roads coming on to London Road, both with traffic lights. Take the one to the left called Felden Lane. Go up Felden Lane, taking care when the pavement suddenly ceases about half way up the hill. Just beyond the junction with Rosefields Close on your left, and before the unrestricted speed signs, you will see a lane branching off to the right with a sign saying Felden Lodge.



Go up that lane. Just before the entrance gates to Felden Lodge, (the national headquarters of the Boys' Brigade), there is a yellow way-marked bridleway to your right. Follow it round the edge of the Felden Lodge estate until the path opens on to a tarmac drive running downhill to your right.



In front of you is a sign saying Bury Wood and a series of bridleway markers. Do not be tempted to follow the bridleways into the wood as it is easy to get lost and none of them lead back to the circular route to Bovington.



Turn left and go up the path which initially seems to be a continuation of the drive. This will gradually get steeper and much narrower and eventually opens out onto a field margin with a house on the horizon. Turn right onto the path along the field margin.



Keeping the hedge to your right, carry on through successive fields. There are occasional yellow way-markers and gates between the fields. As you approach Bovington you will encounter a series of garden gates which give on to the footpath.



After you climb the hill and pass a copse to your right, you will come to a gate which opens onto a field with the church before you, diagonally across the field. The path will take you down the side of a large house on to a lane which goes around the church yard.



Following this lane takes you back to the Lych gate of St. Lawrence's church.

This route last walked by CPRE in April 2016

Note: all walkers do so at their own risk. Suitable footwear and clothing are recommended.

CPRE Hertfordshire is a registered charity no. 1162419, address: 31a Church Street, Welwyn, AL6 9LW, tel 01438 717587. For more information on our work visit www.cpreherts.org.uk. We are the county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.