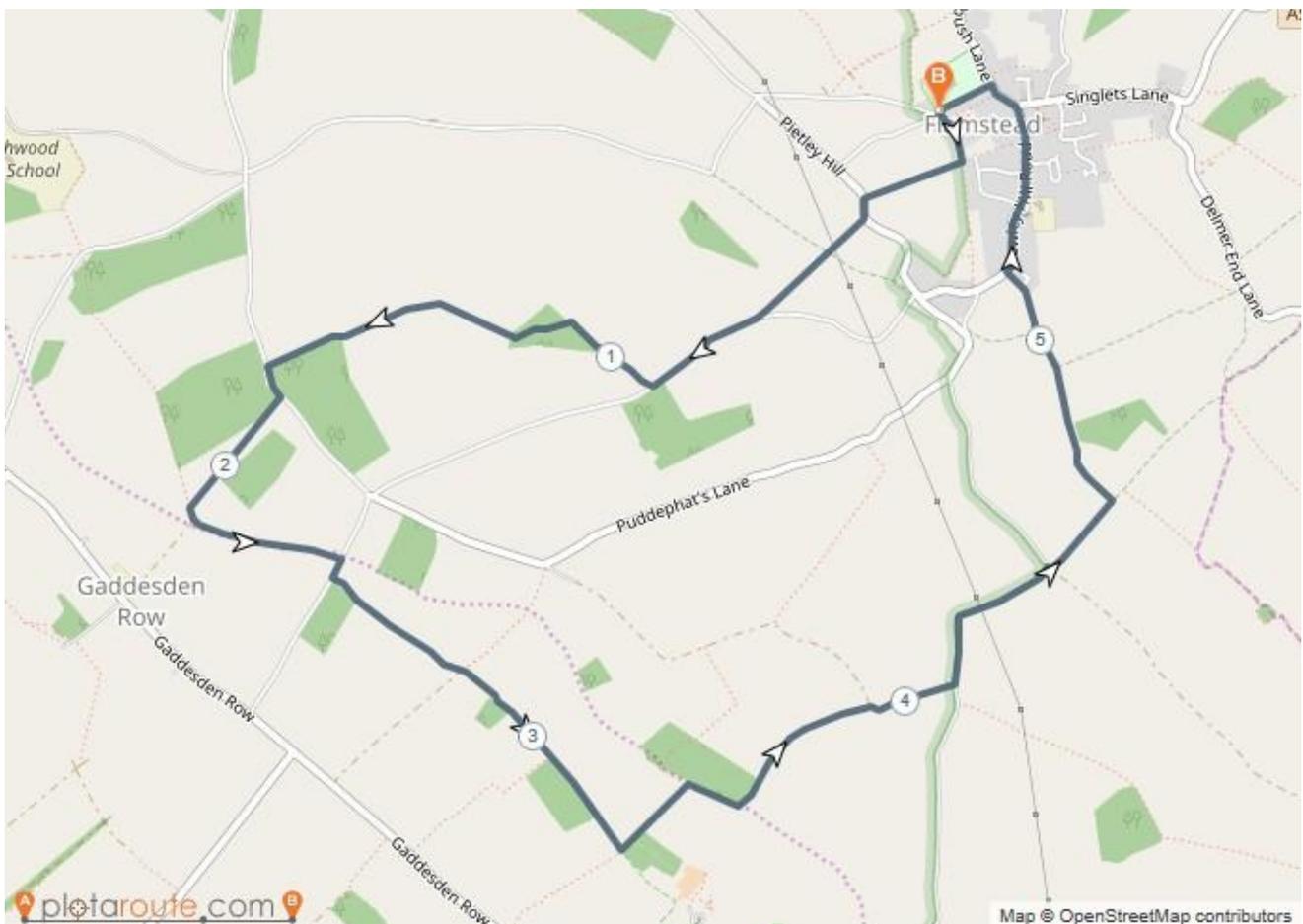


2019 Midsummer Walk - Countryside Around Flamstead

This 5.7 mile circular walk takes in some lovely undulating farmland and woods around Flamstead in Dacorum Borough. The village traces its history back to 1006, and is notable today for its annual Scarecrow Festival (scheduled for 9, 10 & 11 August 2019) which raises money for local charities and to help preserve St Leonard's church.

Flamstead is also notable for the convergence of several walking paths: Ver Valley Walk 2, The Hertfordshire Way, and The Chiltern Way all pass through the village centre. For those wanting a shorter walk, a very pleasant "out and back" can be done on any of these waymarked routes.

For CPRE's route, the start and finish are at the free car park at the junction of Friendless Lane and Mill Lane on the northwest side of the village.



From the car park, walk south on the footpath through the middle of the field for about one-tenth of a mile. At the path junction (where there is a wooden bench), turn right (west). You are now on The Chiltern Way.



Follow the path through the middle of the field all the way to a road.



At the road, turn left (south) and walk about 50 yards. This is a quiet lane but watch out for any traffic. Turn right through a gap in the hedge and two wooden posts.



Follow the path as it descends through the field, crossing a bridleway at the bottom. Continue straight on up the hill.



Near the top of the hill the path is marked with a cairn made of flints, and soon after you will emerge onto Wood End Lane.



Turn right on Wood End Lane and walk about a quarter-mile. This is another very quiet lane but watch out for any traffic. Look for the signpost on the left marked "Public Footpath" and "The Chiltern Way".



At this point turn right onto the footpath and walk across a grassy field towards a wood.



On reaching the wood, follow the path keeping the wood on your left. Soon the path turns left through two wooden posts into the wood. Follow the path through the wood, ignoring the paths branching off to either side.



Emergence from the wood, and continue across the next field towards another wood.



On reaching this wood, the path jogs left and then quickly right through a wooden and metal gate into a pasture. Pass through this gate, turn left, and then keep alongside the edge of the pasture with the fence on your left.



Pass through another gate at the far end of the pasture and continue on through a 3rd gate and onto a gravel track. Follow the track out to the road.



Turn left at the road and walk about 100 yards along the verge. This is a busy road so do take care with any traffic. You will come to a 7-bar metal gate on your right. Turn right through the narrow gap to the right of this gate, onto the footpath.



Walk along the path keeping the fence on your left, and pass through a kissing gate into a wildflower meadow.



The path through this meadow may be indistinct. Walk in a southwesterly direction, aiming for the far corner of the wood on your left. Pass by a wooden "hide" and continue in the same direction.



At the far corner of the meadow, there is a wooden gate with an adjacent metal kissing gate. Pass through the gate onto a path and turn left.



Walk along this path for about 50 yards to a path junction. Turn left at a well-festooned signpost (photo). You are now leaving The Chiltern Way. Follow the path in an easterly direction with the field on your left and a row of trees on your right.



The path ends at a road. Turn right and walk along the verge for 50 yards, and then turn left at the signpost marked "Public Bridleway 29, Stags End".



Follow this bridleway in a southeasterly direction with horse paddocks on your left. Continue straight on through the farmyard at Upper Wood Farm where you will see an unusual carved wooden bird on the signpost.



Continue southeasterly on the bridleway until you come to a path junction marked by a tall wooden signpost. Turn left here.



(If you reach a large fallen tree across the bridleway then you have gone too far and should retrace your steps back to the path junction.)



Now walk northeasterly with the field on your left and the wood on your right. There are magnificent views to the north.



The path soon ends at a wood. Turn right here...



... and continue with the field on your right and the wood on your left. After one-tenth of a mile turn left and follow the path up the hill, keeping the wood on your left.



Continue straight ahead with the hedgerow on your left, and then follow the path through the middle of a field to an unmarked gravel track.



Turn right onto this gravel track and follow as it curves around and comes to a tarmac road. There is a signpost pointing back the way you've come "Public Highway Puddephats Lane 1".



Turn left and walk about one-third of a mile on this road. It is a quiet road but watch out for any traffic. At the sharp left hand bend, you leave the road and carry on straight onto the Bridleway...



... passing through a set of metal stanchions. You are now on The Hertfordshire Way and will remain on it the rest of the way back to Flamstead village.



Follow the path for about two-tenths of a mile, turning left at a metal kissing gate.



Continue on the path across the field, past a distinctive oak tree to the hedgerow, where the path turns right. Continue down the hill to Trowley Bottom, then on up the hill and through a kissing gate into a small wood.



Emerge from the wood into a residential cul de sac "Linnins Pond". Proceed out to the street and turn right. Walk up the hill, past the unique crochet "Flamstead" sign, and on through the centre of the village.



Continue past the churchyard and the Three Blackbirds pub. Turn left at the pub onto Chapel Road, then left again onto Friendless Lane and back to the car park where you started.

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If you have enjoyed this walk, please consider supporting CPRE Hertfordshire in our efforts to protect and celebrate the Hertfordshire countryside for everyone to enjoy. For more information on our work and how you can help, please visit our website at www.cpreherts.org.uk.

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Note: all walkers do so at their own risk. Suitable footwear and clothing are recommended and a compass may be helpful. This route last walked by CPRE in early July 2019.

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CPRE Hertfordshire is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered charity no. 1162419, address: 31a Church Street, Welwyn, AL6 9LW, tel 01438 717587. We are the county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.