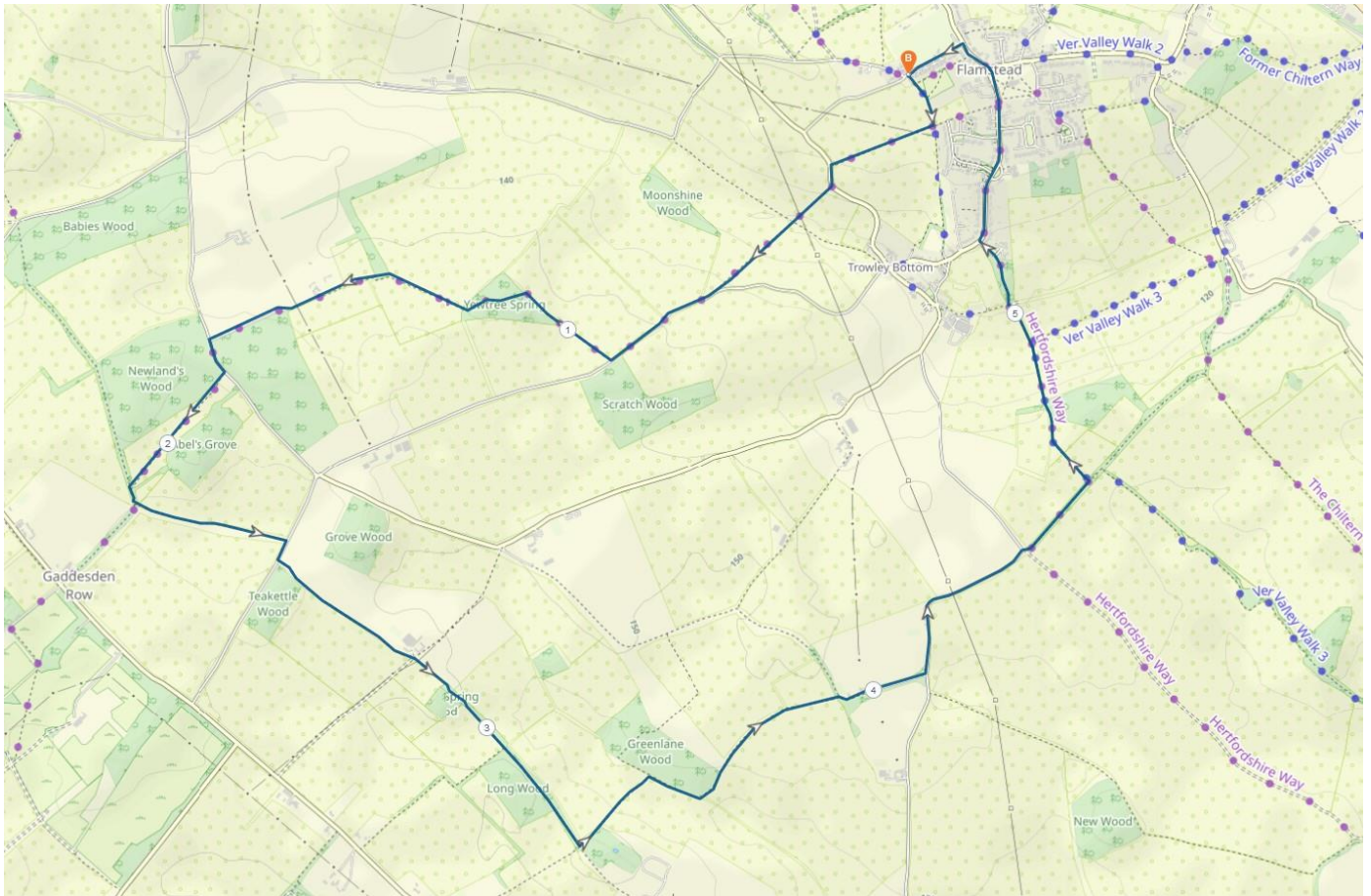




The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

Countryside around Flamstead



This 5.7 mile circular walk takes in some lovely undulating farmland and ancient woodlands around rural Flamstead village in Dacorum Borough. The village traces its history back to 1006, and is notable today for its annual Scarecrow Festival (held in August) which raises money for local charities and to help preserve St Leonard's church. The village makes an excellent base for walking, with The Hertfordshire Way, The Chiltern Way, and Ver Valley Walk 2 all passing through the centre of the village.

Distance: 5.7 miles / 9.2 km

Ascent: 367 feet / 112 metres

Duration: 2.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy - with some gentle hills

Start / Finish: The free public car park at the junction of Friendless Lane and Mill Lane on the northwest side of Flamstead village (what3words dent.swung.shack).

Refreshments: The Three Blackbirds pub in Flamstead

From the car park, walk south on the footpath through 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.



Follow the path as it descends through the field, crossing a bridleway at the bottom. Continue straight ahead 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 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 (one with a waymark on it) into the wood.

Follow the path on through the wood, ignoring the paths branching off to either side, as it gradually curves to the right.



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

(If the path is indistinct, aim for the left side of the wood.)



Pass through the gate, turn left, and then keep going straight on alongside the edge of the pasture.

Continue in the same direction through several more gates and past a house on the right, 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 the 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 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.



Continue to the far corner of the meadow, where 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 here - 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 1".



Follow this bridleway in a southeasterly direction with horse paddocks on your left. Continue straight on through a farmyard.

Continue southeasterly on the bridleway until you come to a path junction, marked by a tall wooden signpost on the right. Turn left off the bridleway and onto the public footpath here.



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

Continue straight on ahead across the middle of the field to a wood.

Turn right, and continue along the field edge with the wood on your left.



After one-tenth of a mile turn left and follow the path up the hill, still 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.

(If the path across the middle of the field is indistinct, aim for the large fallen log at the gap in the trees).



Turn right onto this gravel track and follow it 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 along this road. It is a quiet road but watch for any traffic. At the sharp left-hand bend, leave the road and carry on straight ahead onto the bridleway (Public Bridleway 54).

You are also 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 reach the hedgerow, where the path turns to the right.



Continue down the hill to Trowley Bottom, then straight ahead up the hill on the other side.

Walk on through a gate and into a small wood.



Emerge from the wood into a residential cul de sac “Linnins Pond”. Proceed out to the main street and then turn right. Walk up the hill and on through the centre of the village, past the churchyard and The Three Blackbirds pub. Veer slightly 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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This route last walked by CPRE in August 2024.

If you have enjoyed this walk, please consider supporting CPRE Hertfordshire in our efforts to protect and promote the Hertfordshire countryside for everyone. For more information on our work, or to sign up for our newsletter, make a donation, or volunteer with us, please visit www.cpreherts.org.uk

CPRE Hertfordshire is a registered charity no. 1162419, address: 31a Church Street, Welwyn, AL6 9LW, tel 01438 717587.

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