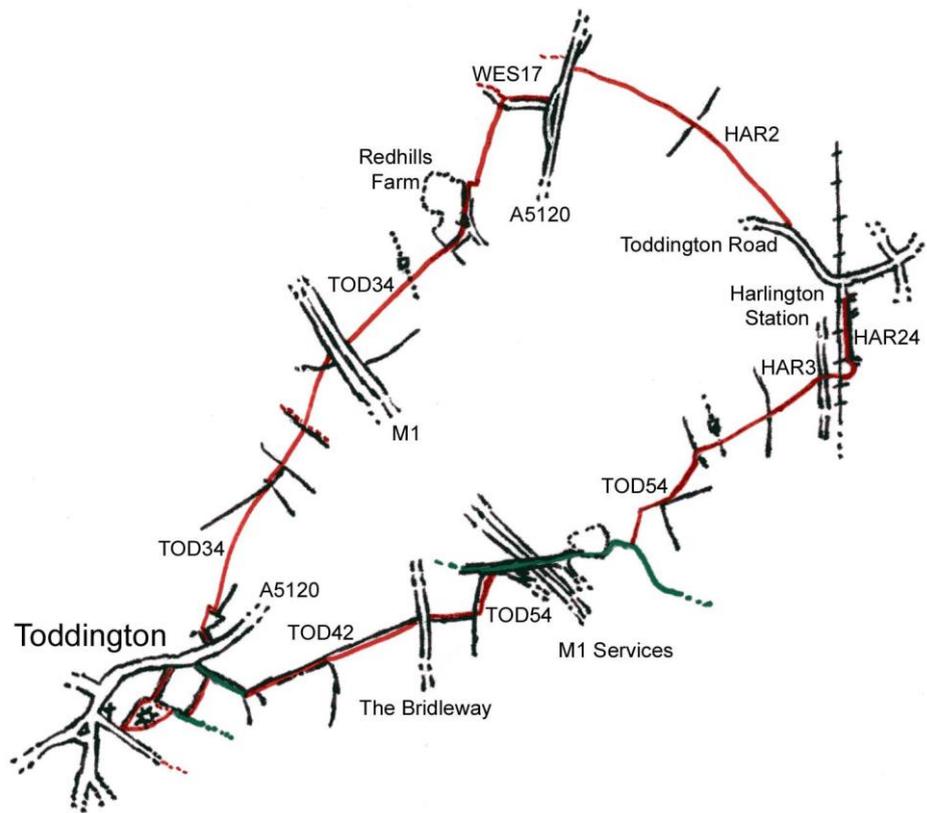


Toddington to Harlington Station Circular Walk

Toddington Parish Walk C

One of a series of circular walks around Toddington.

A 4¾ mile (8km) walk largely over arable fields so it is good when the ground is dry, but difficult after recent ploughing. The first part is over land managed by Heathcote Farms who normally keep the paths clear of crops. The route is stile free with some 16 gates and may have some fields with sheep or horses grazing. In good weather with firm ground allow about 2 hours for the walk.



1. From the old pump on the village green set off down Conger Lane past the Oddfellows Arms, at the Griffin farm entrance go through the kissing gate. Walk along the side of the field, through the next metal gate keeping Griffin farm on your left and Conger hill on your right.
2. Go through the wooden kissing gate following the path past the cemetery on your right. Turn right along Harlington Road, after about 100m, carefully cross the road and turn left down a footpath (TOD34) marked by a figure post beside a house named Glenside.
3. Go between the houses, from the stagger & waymark post aim for a waymark post at the end of the hedge on your right.
4. Follow the hedge around to the right for about 20m to a waymark post in the hedge line. Appreciate the extensive views. Now turn left across the field aiming for the opposite diagonal corner, where you might be able to see a waymark post.



5. Follow the path between the fence and the hedge, at the bridge, keep in the same direction across the field towards the gap in the hedge, here our path is crossed by another path.

6. Continue in the same direction towards the corner of the field, the motorway and another waymark post. As you get closer, you will see the subway under the motorway. Go through the subway under the M1.

7. Follow the track through a second newer subway under the slip road. Follow the track to a waymark post and turn left into the field and aim for the right of the pylon and the group of trees just over the brow of the hill.
8. As you approach the trees, keep the trees/hedge on your left and the fenced paddocks on your right. Follow the waymark posts. Cross over the triangle of grass of the Redhills farm drive. Follow the second drive pasting right of a pair of large intimidating gates, turn right over the bridge into the field. Head left across the field, you may just see a waymark post in the far hedge line, just to the right of the tallest tree in that hedge.
9. Cross over the pair of bridges, and turn right beyond the second hedge. For some reason the official path (WES17) runs along the field edge rather than in the green lane between the hedges as you might expect. After a short distance there is a gap in the hedge to take you into the lay-by. Turn left and walk through the lay-by, where the lay-by joins the A5120 carefully cross over the road to a finger post on the other side.

10. A kissing gate takes you away from the road to a concrete and railed bridge (HAR2) over the river Flit. On the horizon you can see Harlington church, below which is a gap in the hedge, cross the field and go through the gap in the hedge, where the path then veers to the right. Aim for the double poles supporting an electricity transformer, the path goes through the hedgerow into Toddington Road.



11. Turn left along the Toddington Road pavement towards Harlington Station, at the railway bridge carefully cross the road and the railway bridge. The station entrance is on the west side of the bridge. [If you need some sustenance, continue along this road to the cross road, and turn right to find a pub.]
12. Just after the entrance to the former station goods yard and before the houses take the tarmac path on the right. Follow this path keeping houses on your left and the former goods yard on the right, when the tarmac path goes to the left, keep to the right along the gravel path (HAR24). The path emerges at an overgrown and frequently dry pond, go around the pond to the right, and through a tunnel beneath the railway.



13. Go through the anti-bike device on the other side of the tunnel, follow the path (HAR3) across the (temporary until 2016) haul road then head diagonally left across the field to a gap in the trees and a waymark post on the brow of the hill. Keep going straight across this ex-quarry keeping the pylon to your right and go up the earthen ramp to the hedge at the top of the hill. The 1999 OS maps are incorrect as the previous temporary diversion around the quarry has expired.
14. From the top of the ramp (TOD54), go diagonally left to the right of a flag pole beyond the brow of the hill, where you will see another waymark post beside the track. The flag pole indicates a clay pigeon shooting range beyond the bank of earth on your left, beyond the motorway you can see the tower of Toddington St George church on top of the hill and some houses on Luton Road, Toddington.
15. Follow the farm track down the hill. Before you reach the former farm buildings the path turns left at a waymark post across the field, follow the waymark posts to the left of the imposing farm fence, through the bridleway gate adjacent to the farm gate. We join the Icknield Way path back into Toddington. The 1999 OS maps are again incorrect as these paths have also been rationalised.

16. Follow the farm drive onto the motorway bridge. Be particularly careful of any traffic as the bridge is narrow, drivers don't expect to see walkers, and may still be travelling at motorway speeds! Note the plaque on the northern bridge parapet.
17. On the other side of the bridge the access road to the northbound services goes off to the left, shortly after that is a path (TOD54) leaving by a gate on your left. In the field turn right and follow the field boundary keeping the hedge on your right. About halfway along this hedge is a hidden waymark post, turn right crossing a bridge and through kissing gate. The fields for the remainder of the walk may have horses or sheep grazing, so keep dogs under close control.
18. Walk straight across the field keeping the fence on your left. Pass through the gate and carefully cross the road, known incongruously as the 'the bridleway'. Although traffic goes quickly, there is good visibility at this location. Pass through the gate into the field to commence your ascent into Toddington, keeping the hedge on your right, through the next gate there is now a fence on your left, although this is regularly cut, the path can get overgrown with nettles.
19. Passing through two kissing gates and two bridges takes you through a small wooded area to the top of the hill and to a waymark post. Turn right here between the electric fence and the hedge and appreciate the view of the church. By the cemetery take the wide path to the left, keeping the cemetery to your right. To your left you have a view across to Sharpenhoe Clappers and the distant tower blocks of Luton.
20. At the corner of the cemetery turn right, keeping the cemetery on your right. There is a kissing gate on the left which takes to another gate with Conger Hill on your right. Continue to the kissing gate leading back to Conger Lane, on the other side of the road is a finger post indicating the distances of the long distance walks passing near. Turn right and return to the old pump on the village green, or the Oddfellows Arms for a well deserved drink!

Starting/finishing at Harlington Station:

Come out of the station building, turn right up the station access road, then turn right over the railway bridge, and continue from step 12.

Advice for Dog Walkers – Subject to following the Country Code, for much of the route a dog can be off the lead, with the exception of the sections over grazing fields and some minimal distance along roadside pavements. There are dog bins on Toddington village green and adjacent to the path after turning off the road past Harlington railway station. Dependent on the time of year there is water in various streams & ditches.

Last updated: 27 Oct 2015. Comments and suggestions to: RoW@chevalier.me.uk
For more routes visit: www.Toddington.Info