

Starting from the old pump on the green, walk into Conger Lane passing the Oddfellows Arms. At the very end of the lane a footpath sign directs you into a grassy track (1). Follow the track to the bottom of the hill.

Go through the kissing gate and turn right into the corner of the field. Head diagonally across this field to a double electricity pole (2), which can be seen at the far side. At the electricity pole you will see two kissing gates in the hedge. Go through the right hand kissing gate into the next field, marked with Icknield Way waymark discs.

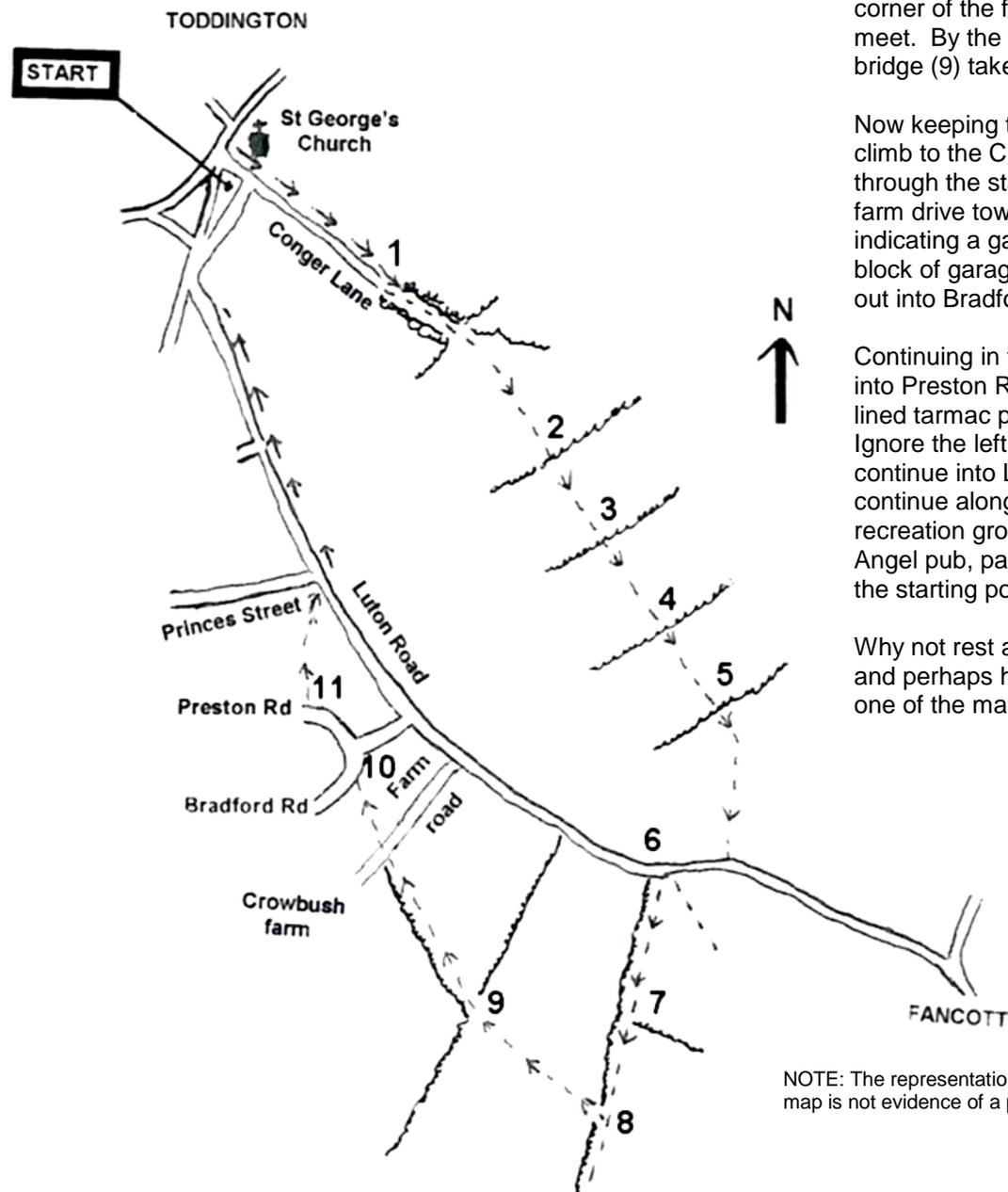
Continue across this field where you will come to hand gate in front of a bridge (3). In the next field walk to the top of the rise where you will find a waymark post by a gap in the hedge (4).

Continue across this field heading for the farm buildings, the roof of which can be seen just above the rise. In the next hedge you will find another kissing gate (5). Ignore the kissing gate to the left. In the next field turn right towards Luton Road where you will see another kissing gate and a footpath signpost.

Carefully cross the road and turn right heading back up hill towards Toddington and go through the kissing gate on your left (not the subsequent bridle gate) left with a footpath sign indicating the Icknield Way path (6).

In the field follow the hedge keeping it on your right. In the far corner of the field you will find another kissing gate (7). In the next field continue along the hedge side for approx 100 metres where a waymark post indicates a right turn through a gap in the hedge (8).

We leave the Icknield Way here to cross the field diagonally heading towards Toddington again. The direction of the path is about half way along the line of houses, the roofs of which can be seen over the brow of the field.



As you go over the brow you will see the corner of the field where four fields meet. By the waymark post a wooden bridge (9) takes you into the next field.

Now keeping to the hedge on your left, climb to the Crowbush farm drive. Go through the staggered barriers, over the farm drive towards a waymark post indicating a gap between houses and a block of garages (10). This brings you out into Bradford Road.

Continuing in the same direction cross into Preston Road and into a hedge lined tarmac path at the corner (11). Ignore the left branch of this path and continue into Luton Road. Turning left, continue along Luton Road past the recreation ground, turn right past the Angel pub, past the pond and back to the starting point.

Why not rest a while by the village pond and perhaps have a snack and drink at one of the many local hostleries.

NOTE: The representation of footpaths and tracks on this map is not evidence of a public right of way.

Points of interest

1. The rough track is a continuation of Conger Lane, an ancient track which was first documented in 1581 but is probably much older.
2. The ancient hedgerows around these fields are rich in all kinds of fruits and berries.
- 4-5. Note the grassy ridges in these two fields, a relic from earlier farming practices dating from before the hedgerows were planted. The ancient hedgerows are now protected by law.
6. The 105 mile long Icknield Way path was opened in 1992 it starts at Ivinghoe Beacon and continues across country ending at Knettishall heath near Thetford in Norfolk. Ivinghoe Beacon also marks the end of the Ridgeway footpath which starts near Avebury in Wiltshire. Whilst Knettishall Heath is the start of the Peddars way ending at Hunstanton on the Norfolk coast. The Icknield Trail is a similar route designed for horse riders and cyclists.
7. Although most of the agricultural land in Toddington is arable growing mainly wheat and oil seed rape this part of the parish has remained grassland for rearing sheep & cattle.
8. Formally grassland the field has been planted with young trees.
9. As you climb this rise back to Toddington take a moment to look back and admire the patchwork of fields and trees in this part of the parish and the view of Chiltern hills in the distance.
- 10-11. Although you are now back in the Toddington conurbation the old line of the footpath has been preserved through the housing development.

Remember the Country Code

- Shut the kissing gates after you
- Leave farm property alone
- Take your litter home
- Keep to the footpaths
- Keep dogs under close control
- Keep water supplies clean
- Guard against fire
- Make no unnecessary noise
- Do not pick wild flowers
- Do not disturb birds and animals unnecessarily
- Enjoy the countryside. Enjoy your walk, and let others enjoy it too

Other Toddington walks are available from Toddington library or www.LetsGo.org.uk www.Toddington.Info

Suggestions or problems with the leaflet or route: RoW@chevalier.me.uk

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Toddington Parish Walk N° 1

Conger Lane and Crowbush Circular Walk

A pleasant circular walk of approximately two miles (3km) suitable for all the family. Starting at the village green. The first part of the walk follows the Icknield Way passing through an ancient pattern of fields and hedgerows.

Most fields are used for grazing, so there is always livestock in some fields along the route - dogs need to be kept under close control. The route is stile free, but has seven kissing gates and three staggers. In good weather with firm ground allow about an hour for the walk.



View looking back from Crowbush