

Some points of interest

2 – 7 Until enclosure around 1797 all the fields in front of Toddington Manor were once a single field cultivated in strips. Hedges were introduced to make smaller fields suitable for sheep and cattle. Later still the fields were made larger to accommodate modern machinery.

7 – 8 The small area of woodland on the right is planted to provide “Game Cover” for shooting. Game shooting is an important part of the farm’s countryside conservation, providing the necessary financial justification for much of the conservation work.

9 – 10 This small thicket was originally a clay pit supplying clay for brick making at the manor in the 18th century.

11 Hereabouts stood the Brick Kiln owned by the manor. Brick making was certainly taking place here in 1797 but probably ceased in the 1850’s.

16 Single trees now standing alone in fields often mark the line of old hedgerows. They are retained on the farm as an important landscape feature.

18 – 19 Hedgerows like the one alongside this path are an important part of the farms conservation projects. Bird surveys on the farm have shown that the bird population is on the increase. Why not rest at the seat and take in the magnificent views of the Bedfordshire countryside towards Sharpenhoe Clappers.

20 – 21 Park House was built by a wealthy businessman in 1801 and is not part of the farm estate.

23 - The area next to the road is usually planted with maize to provide feed for the game and other birds. Along both sides of Park Road you will see hedges planted in 2002.

Remember the Countryside Code



- Respect other people
- Protect the natural environment
- Enjoy the outdoors
- Keep dogs under close control

Enjoy the Toddington countryside. Enjoy your walk, and let others enjoy it too.

Other routes are available from:

www.LetsGo.org.uk
www.Toddington.Info

Suggestions or problems with the leaflet or route: Info@Toddington.Info

© 2002-20, Allan Portas & Tom Chevalier

This leaflet may not be reproduced stored or sold for commercial purposes except with permission of the copyright holder.

Last updated: 23 Aug 2020

Toddington Parish Walk No 4

Toddington - Lodge Farm Circular Walk

A stile free circular walk over arable fields, of about four miles (6 km), starting at the war memorial on Toddington village green.

Farm livestock may be in some of the fields you cross, so dogs must be kept under close control. There are six kissing gates and a handful of steps to climb. The many arable fields may be muddy in places, particularly after ploughing. Much of the walk is over land managed by Heathcote Farm Ltd who request you support their environmental work by respecting the county code.



View of path back towards Toddington

From the war memorial on the village green, (1) cross the road to the Bell pub and turning right and then left opposite the church into Park Road. After approx. 250yds turn right into Long Lane, signposted Tingrith. Please keep a look out for traffic as you walk along the lane for approx. 200yds until there are open fields on the left. Enter the field (2) and walk diagonally across this field to the far corner passing a lone Sycamore tree three quarters of the way along (3).

At the corner of the field turn left into the next field and then turn right through the hedge (4). Cross this field and over a bridge (5), continue across the next field and through the hedge (6)

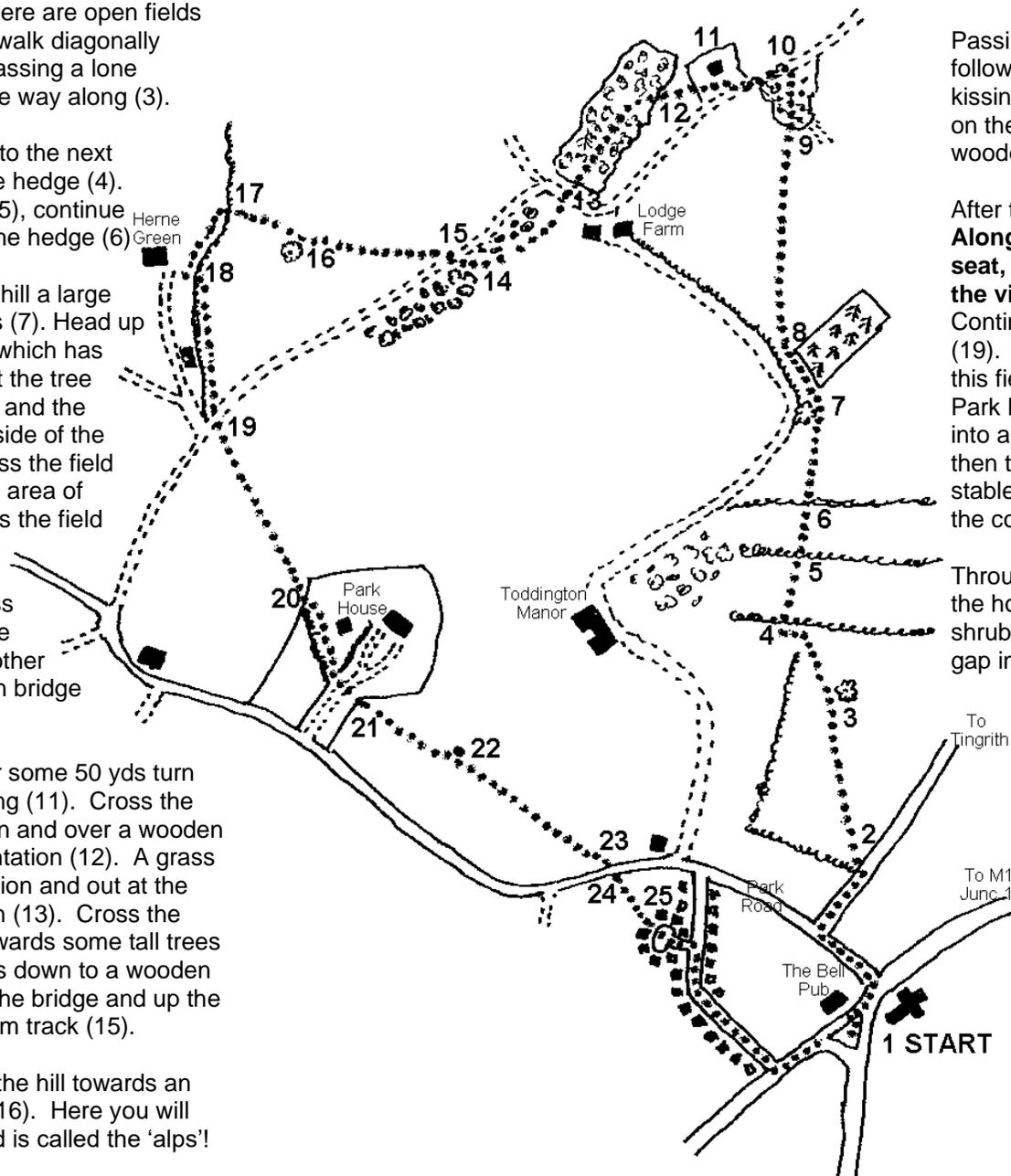
Here you can see at the top of the hill a large tree behind which are some woods (7). Head up the hill across the field to this tree which has recovered from a lighting strike. At the tree follow the path between the hedge and the woodland. Emerging at the other side of the wood (8). Looking diagonally across the field you will see in the distance a small area of woodland (9). Head straight across the field for this woodland.

Pass into the wood and at the grass track turn left and then right into the thicket. The path emerges at the other side of the thicket across a wooden bridge and up onto the farm track (10).

Turn left at the farm track and after some 50 yds turn right into a yard with a small building (11). Cross the yard towards a woodland plantation and over a wooden bridge towards an established plantation (12). A grass track takes you through the plantation and out at the other end onto the farm track again (13). Cross the track and continue into the field towards some tall trees (14). Here you will find some steps down to a wooden bridge across a stream. Crossing the bridge and up the other side you emerge onto the farm track (15).

Cross the farm track and head up the hill towards an oak tree at the top of the hill (16). Here you will appreciate the view & why this field is called the 'alps'!

The farm tracks are private areas please do not use them as footpaths. The representation of footpaths and tracks on this map is not evidence of a public right of way.



Continue past the oak tree towards a gap in the hedge. Here you will find a kissing gate into the next field (17). You are now on the footpath known as the "Monmouth Way" (See Monmouth Way walk leaflet).

Passing through the kissing gate turn left and follow the hedge passing through another kissing gate by a filed gate until you see a gate on the left through the hedge and across a wooden bridge (18) and a second gate.

After the gate turn right and follow the hedge. **Along the hedge you will find the Monmouth seat, where you can take a rest and admire the view towards Sharpenhoe Clappers.** Continue until you reach the farm track again (19). Cross the track and follow a line across this field towards the large house (known as Park House). Here you will find a wooden gate into a paddock (20). Cross the paddock and then through a metal kissing gate close to the stables and continue to another kissing gate in the corner of the small paddock.

Through the gate you will be in the driveway to the house. Cross the drive to the left of the shrubbery through three tall trees and through a gap in the iron fence into the next field (21).

Here the path goes diagonally across the field, passing an electricity pole (22) and then continue up the hill until it reaches Park Road (23).

Across Park Road to the left to a metal finger post points to a kissing gate at the top of the embankment (24) leading into a grazing field. Cross this field towards the houses where there is another kissing gate into a narrow alley between two gardens (25). This opens out into Wentworth Close. At the end of the close turn right into Manor Road, and at the end of Manor Road left into Leighton Road. This will lead you back to the green where you started your walk.