

Stondon.net

Walk Three

After two five mile walks, here's the final route that covers the remaining Stondon Footpaths. It is slightly shorter at only about 6½ kilometres (approx four miles). It will take just under two hours.

Leave the village sign post along Station Rd towards Shillington to turn left into Fakeswell Lane after 250 metres. Follow this road for 300m veering right into Maple Close. The track (Bridleway 1) is at the end of this close to the right. Continue along BW1 until reaching a T-junction (signposted); turn right (onto BW10) for only 100m then turn left across a bridge. Be very careful here: at the time of writing the rails had been damaged by mindless vandals. This should be repaired in this year's Bedfordshire County works programme and at same time the high step down from the bridge should be made easier.

After the bridge follow the footpath across the field (Footpath 50—it becomes FP27) heading towards Holwell Church that should be visible on the skyline. Keep ahead until a signposted junction with BW 10 joining from the right - this is a distance of 850m beyond the bridge. Do please remember this point as it is important for the return journey! Then follow the winding bridleway through trees and bushes for 450m into Holwell.

Retrace your steps back to the junction you were asked to note, and here turn left. Continue ahead, passing a track to the right, along BW10 that turns right at a signpost/trees 700m later (ignore FP51 that keeps straight ahead for a short distance). Then turn left away from BW10 150m later through a signposted gap in the trees, to cross another vandalised footbridge onto FP15.

Until now the route has been easy to follow. The next kilometre or so is slightly less obvious because the path is not well used so the grass and weeds can be very high.

Follow FP15, keeping to the left of a hedge, and 120m after a track crosses at right angles, turn right across yet another footbridge onto FP26. Initially keep to the right of a hedge following the two sides round the edge of a field (the right turn is signposted). Then, with Mayfield Farm on your right, turn left through a gap then keep the hedge to your right) round two sides of another field.

At this point there is a signposted farm track to the right. Turn onto this (still FP 26) strolling for another 650m to reach the Shillington Road. To get back to the signpost at the start of the route, turn right and walk on the right side of the road, facing the traffic, for 1200m.

Thanks to Alan Holbourn for describing this walk.

Walk Three Map (Courtesy of Ordnance Survey)

