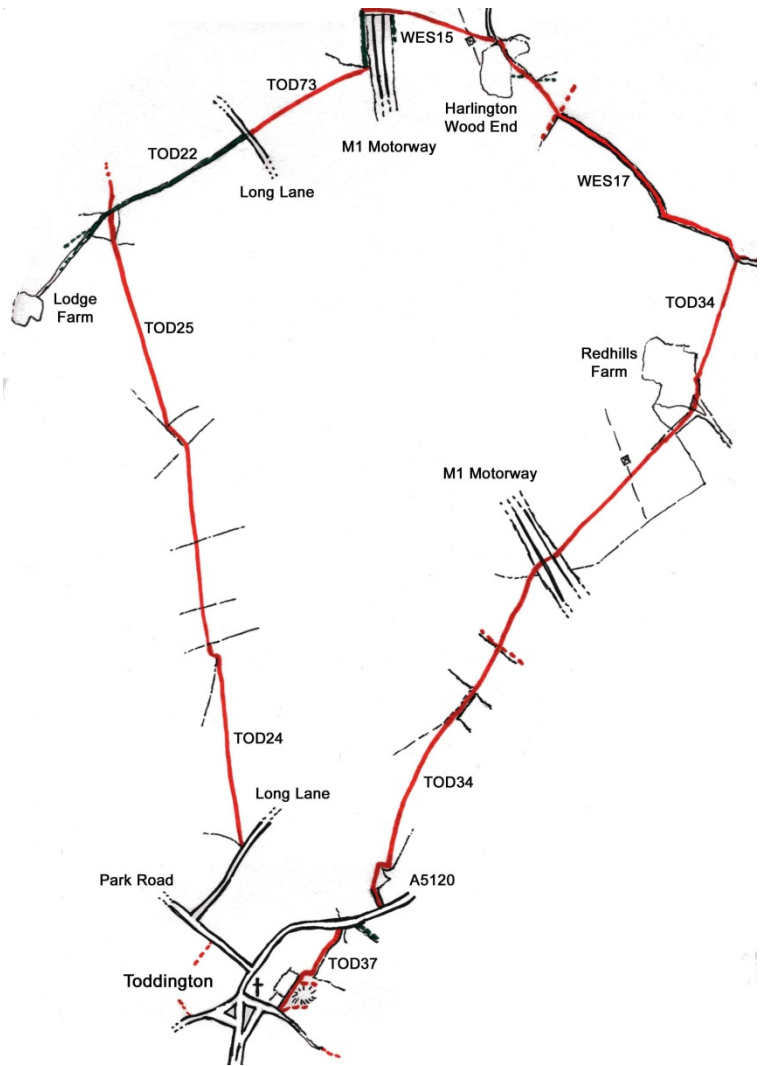


Toddington - Harlington Wood End Circular Walk

Toddington Parish Walk B

One of a series of circular walks around Toddington.

A 4½ mile (7 km) walk virtually all over arable fields so it is good when the ground is dry, but difficult after recent ploughing. The first half of the land is managed by Heathcote Farms who normally keep the paths clear of crops. There are four kissing gates on this route, and not normally any livestock. In good weather with firm ground allow around 2 hours for the walk. The revised junction 12 has extended the length of the underpasses.



1. Start from the War Memorial on the Village Green. Set off north along Church Road (A5120) with the church on your right after 50m, turn left down Park Road, past the Off Licence, St Elizabeth's Roman Catholic church and opposite Parkfields school turn right into Long Lane, signposted to Tingrith.
2. Walk careful down Long Lane, when the trees and houses finish take the footpath (TOD24/25) on the left. Aim for the furthest lone tree in the middle of the field and keep in a straight line to the opposite diagonal corner. On your left you have a good view of Toddington Manor. Go around the end of the hedge and aim for a gap in the hedge which is now on your right. Go straight across this field to another gap where there is a bridge over a stream, keep going straight across to the gap in the next hedge.
3. Now turn slightly to the right and head up the hill, aiming just to the right of the large oak tree on the brow of the hill. When you get to the oak tree, go to the right of the hedge keeping the hedge on your left and the wood on your right. Having gone past the wood you emerge into another field head diagonally right across this field to the opposite corner, aiming for the smaller of the two clumps of trees (the one on the left). As you cross this field you see Lodge farm to your left. As you get closer to the wood you will see a gap, go over a small bridge, then left then after a few metres there is an opening on your right which takes you deeper into the woodland following the waymarks.



4. After crossing a bridge you emerge from the wood on a farm road which is also a bridleway, the footpath continues straight ahead, but turn right along the bridleway (TOD22 - the farm road) towards Long Lane.
5. At Long Lane cross straight over the road onto the footpath (TOD73) head for the nearby electricity transformer pole then continue walking in a straight line to the opposite corner of the field adjacent to the motorway. In the distance to your right you can see Harlington Church tower and the lorries parked at Redhills farm on the other side of the motorway. From the corner of the field go left and walk north parallel with the motorway (TOD73) with the motorway boundary fence/hedge on your right until you reach a bridge where you cross over the motorway.
6. On the other side of the bridge follow the track straight on towards Harlington Wood End. At the roadway turn right, then follow the driveway to the left, following the finger posts emerge in a field with a paddock on the left. Continue straight on across the field to where two hedges join, jutting into the field. This is where two footpaths cross, continue forward on a wide farm track between two high hedges, leaving Harlington Wood End farm directly behind you.
7. Through the hedge on your right you catch glimpses of Redhills farm. The hedge on the left stops and the path follows the field edge keeping the hedge on the right. When the path turns sharply right and then left you will see a waymark post on your right. By the waymark post cross a pair of bridges. If you reach the road – you missed the bridges!
8. Head straight across the field (TOD34) aiming for the small white building of Redhills Farm, after leaving the field turn left past two large intimidating. Cross the grass triangle of the driveway, keep the farm house hedge on your right and the fenced paddocks on your left. As you enter the arable field aim to the left of the pylon in the centre of the field and to the right of the trees near the motorway. As you go over the brow of the hill you will see the portal of a subway under the motorway. Go through the first subway (under the slip road) and follow the track through the next subway (under the M1).
9. As you come out of the subway on the Toddington side turn diagonally left, crossing over a concrete farm bridge aiming across the field for the gap in the next hedge. A field edge path crosses our path, but keep straight on heading for a small group of tall trees. Cross the small bridge and walk between the hedge and the fence which takes you into a large arable field.
10. Aim diagonally to your right to the houses on the brow of the hill, where you might just make out a waymark post in the hedge line which juts into the field. At the waymark post turn right keeping the hedge on your left to the next waymark post then turn left and aim for a waymark post beneath a two storey house. Follow the path between the houses.
11. Cross over the A5120 and turn right towards Toddington. After you pass a bridleway going off to your left, a millennium bench and the cemetery entrance, turn left through the wooden kissing gate (TOD37) which takes you along a path beside the cemetery.
12. Follow the path to another kissing gate then continue keeping the farm buildings and the small boundary wall of Griffin Farm on your right, and Conger Hill on your left. As you go through the final kissing gate you turn right in Conger Lane to return to the Village Green right next to the Oddfellows for a well deserved drink!



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 some minimal distance along roadside pavements, the sections over grazing fields and where birds are being encouraged to breed. There is a dog bin on Toddington village green. Dependent on the time of year there is water in various streams & ditches on the route.

Last updated: 26 Oct 2015. Comments and suggestions to: RoW@chevalier.me.uk