

WALKS IN KIMPTON PARISH

WALK 3 EXPLORE WHITWELL VILLAGE

7.5km/4½ ml circular walk along footpaths and quiet country roads. Stiles.

(note: as a large section of this walk is across fields, it might be best to avoid walking the return part in late August/September when fields are being ploughed).

Approx time: 1½ hours

Refreshments in Whitwell: The Maiden's Head pub, The Bull Inn pub, Cressman's Corner stores; Whitwell Post Office and Stores; Emily's Tea Shop.

Park in Parkfield Sports Ground car park – grid ref: 176186

- ❖ This walk can be combined with the 304 bus which runs approximately every 2 hours. See www.kimpton.org/aboutus for a downloadable timetable.
- ❖ Go through the gateway at the bottom of the car park and turn left through the gate into the grassy field. Go straight through this field toward the woods and go through the kissing gate. Proceed keeping the woods on your left.
- ❖ At the top of this path you will go through a small strip of woodland and over a stile into the next field.
- ❖ Cross another 4 stiles until you reach the road at The Holt Farm and Livery Centre.
- ❖ Turn right and follow this quiet country road for 1½ km until you reach the main Kimpton to Whitwell road.
- ❖ Turn left and walk a short distance along this road then take the path straight on marked "Byway Open to all Traffic", under the water tower.
- ❖ Walk downhill and turn right when you reach the road
- ❖ Walk past the school
- ❖ At the bottom of the hill, you will see on your left Nine Wells watercress beds. The farm has been growing watercress for around 200 years and is one of the few remaining to hand-cut the watercress. The beds are fed by nine bore holes which go down 250m into the chalk aquifers below. If you take a detour to your left, you can buy watercress at the farm shop.



- ❖ Turn right into Whitwell Village. Take time to look at some of the older buildings here and to stop off for some refreshments. You may also like to take a detour past St Paul's Waldenbury, the birthplace and childhood home of the Queen Mother. The gardens are open to the public on certain weekends. There are 2 footpaths from the village which will take you there.

- ❖ To return to Kimpton, take the path on the right opposite the house marked “Old Brewery”, signposted Kimpton.
- ❖ When you reach the field, turn left.
- ❖ Carry on through this field and the next two. Look behind you for a view over the Whitwell valley. You will notice particularly in summer how many trees there are around; something you may not notice when driving in the area. In the distance, beyond Whitwell, you can catch a glimpse of St Paul’s Walden church.
- ❖ At the junction of paths, turn left towards the house (Hoo Farm).
- ❖ Turn right to walk down the Hoo private drive, which is also a public right of way. The verges on this road provide a beautiful display of field scabious, knapweed and other wild flowers which attract bees and butterflies.
- ❖ At the bottom of the road, cross this sometimes busy road.



TAKE GREAT CARE CROSSING THE ROAD AS THERE ARE TWO BLIND CORNERS

- ❖ Follow the path signposted to Parkfield Sports Ground.

This series of walks has been produced by Catherine Tees, Kimpton Rights of Way Committee.

It is our aim to keep rights of way in the Parish clear of obstructions, well marked and easy to walk. We hope that this walk will encourage you to use the paths in the Parish and explore our beautiful countryside. Please report any errors in directions, or any problems with paths to Catherine Tees, via www.kimpton.org.uk or to Hertfordshire County Council Rights of Way Section.

August 2008