



Walk 7 - TO COLDHARBOUR AND PENNY ROYAL

Another of these walks which starts by walking up the High Street, through the defile and over to the high level footpath which runs from Firhill Cottage entrance to the Foxglove Manor entrance gate. Cross over to the War Memorial and go up and through the kissing gate into the field above (may have cattle or sheep out of sight), the path follows the line of the woodland and leads pleasantly to and round Beech Farm. Cross over the road at the entrance to Beech Farm, through the gate and follow the fence to the kissing gate which allows you to enter the wood. Follow the path that leads straight ahead and then bends left and heads straight towards the edge of the woodland and a kissing gate.

Go through and head directly ahead across the dell, as you crest the rise you will see another kissing gate in the fence directly ahead of you to the left of the trough. Cross over and bear slightly right towards the hedge on your right, just before a gate you will reach another kissing gate in the hedgerow. Go through, turn left and follow the edge of the field round the outbuildings and cattle sheds of the farm to another kissing gate leading onto the farm road.

Go through and drop down to, and turn right onto, the farm road, walk up the road and straight across the crossroads ahead (marked 'Restricted Byway'). Your way now leads pleasantly along until you reach a 'T' junction. Turn **right** on this occasion and follow the road to Coldharbour (Col Arbree?). A lane leads off to the left and is a pleasant diversion to look at the cottages. If you do divert then return to this road and follow it to its junction with the Whitchurch Hill to Cray's Pond road. Go straight across this road (with care); in front of you is a footpath that runs alongside the grounds of Great Oaks (the Oratory Prep). Go down this footpath and as it reaches the field the path follows the left hand side down a narrow track by the side of the hedge or the now more normal path on the edge of the field. Eventually it enters the woods. The path is obvious as it follows the iron fence on your left. As you reach the light on the farther edge of the woodland watch out for a path on your right (not very obvious!). Turn right and follow this new footpath which curves gently back through the woods; as it forks take the right hand fork and follow the path until it reaches the wide path on the edge of the woods.

The bridle path ahead (Gashes Lane) leads to the Hill Bottom road and when it reaches it go straight across to the bridle road opposite until it brings you out onto the Whitchurch Hill road opposite the well. Turn left here and follow the road until you reach a footpath sign at Hod's Corner (thought to be derived from the Norse/Anglo Saxon God Odin or Woden). Follow the gravelled entrance to a lane (Hod's Lane - thought locally to be part of the Danish warpath). Turn down this lane which brings you eventually to a kissing gate leading into a field, go through and immediately turn right. This path soon meets another coming in from your right (Walk 2), turn left and follow the path between the fields until you meet and drop down to Town Lane. Turn right and follow this lane to Path Hill.

Turn right when you reach the Path Hill road and walk down with care until you come to a gate and new kissing gate on your right. Enter this field (Bec Tythe) and follow the hedgerow to another new kissing gate on the far side. Go through until you meet the fenced path leading to Hardwick Road, turn left and stroll back down (take care as you reach the road), turn right and return to the village.