



Walk 11 - BEHIND QUERNS

For this walk turn right onto Hardwick Road and when you reach Primrose Hill take the high level footpath. The trees on your left and forming the bower are wild plums which bear beautiful blossom in early spring and delicious fruit in the autumn (indeed they are my first harbinger of spring, I always keep an eye open for the first glint of green on them).

Go past Bozedown Farm until you reach the footpath sign on your left, turn left and follow the path by the side of the field until it turns right and approaches a kissing gate. Go through the gate and follow the hedgerow to the gate at the side of Path Hill. Go through the gate and over the road (with care) to the footpath that rises to the Baulk. This path was once divided to allow its joint use by horse riders and walkers but now it has a kissing gate at the top to ensure its use by walkers only. If you tire during this climb turn round and enjoy the views of the plain of Whitchurch.

The footpath emerges at the Baulk - the house on your right with flint towers which make it look like a Church. The story associated with the Baulk is that a young couple who were eloping mistook the towers for those of a church and were 'balked' in their attempt to get married. The footpath joins a metalled road and this leads pleasantly to Path Hill Farm. When you reach the farm turn left and follow the farm road past the first cottage, you will soon see a footpath sign on your right just before the next cottage. Turn right at this sign onto a short lane which drops down to the field and a field gate below and immediately right through a gap in the right hand hedgerow into the copse and down a narrow path which is the right of way. The path leads you gently and quickly through the copse to emerge at a kissing gate and enter this beautiful dell which is one of my favourite spots in all seasons, it is lovely in the snow. Go through and walk gently down to the bottom. The footpath then goes uphill and turns slightly right to a kissing gate, go through and with the nearby hedgerow on your right the path leads to another kissing gate. Go through this one and immediately turn left towards a gate, go through the gate (please close it) and pass between Holly Tree Cottage and Keeper's Cottage onto a farm road. Go straight across this road to the field gate opposite and into the field and then follow the obvious track diagonally left across this field to reach the hedge on your right. The lovely Querns property is away to your left. Now you turn right down a narrow waymarked and fenced path past the side of the houses to meet the bridleway which runs from the side of the old Goring Heath Post House (away to your left) to Collins End.

Turn right onto this new path and walk towards Collins End; you will meet a metalled road coming in from your left. Follow this road straight ahead to go past the houses on your right until you meet the crossroads with the path to Rose Cottage on your left. Turn right here and follow the road until just before the first farm on your left.

Turn left and then take the second turning right which leads you between the farm sheds and the rear of the farmhouse to a narrow footpath at the bottom of the farmhouse garden and along it to a kissing gate. Go through this new kissing gate into a field and bear left across the field to another kissing gate in the fence surrounding the opposite woodland. Go through and follow a fairly obvious footpath to a kissing gate which leads back into the dell again. Bear slightly right downhill to the edge of the opposite woods and another kissing gate, go through and bear left uphill to meet an old gate. Go through and head towards the gateway just by Path Hill Farm (this area is now used as a car park for the business people hereabouts).

Your homeward journey can be made by returning to the Baulk or turning left and following the path through the woods and down to Hardwick House, or by turning right to Pilgrim's Cottage, left onto Path Hill and then right in front of the cottages which overlook the hill and through a kissing gate into the field. Follow the right hand hedge to a kissing gate which leads onto the lane from Hill Bottom (Town Lane). Turn left and follow this lane down (as in walks 2, 6 and 7) to rejoin Path Hill in its descent to Hardwick Road and your return to the village.