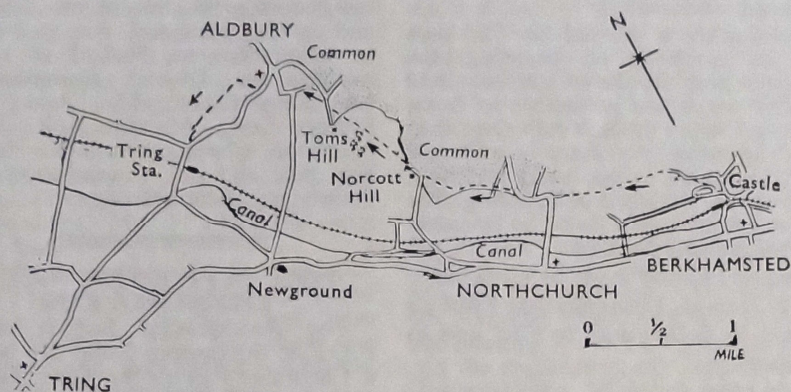


THE QUICKEST WAY TO ALDBURY

by Townsman



As TV viewers and cinema-goers know, outdoor scenes of many films have been shot in and around Aldbury. Amateur photographers, too, are forever wandering around the village, directing their cameras at houses of various periods and hat styles, including straw-thatch. Foreground colour is provided by some of the nicest front gardens I have seen anywhere.

Of course, everybody takes pictures of the stocks and whipping post beside the pond. Strange that instruments which once caused pain and public humiliation give so much pleasure to snappy photographers.

Aldbury parish church is very near the top of my visiting list—the interior is absolutely fascinating—but I do not really care very much for the exterior unless I view the church from afar. And the place for distant viewing is the wooded hillside above the village.

Aldbury, then, is a village to visit again and again. It is pleasant at any time of the year. But the narrow, winding roads from Newground, Tring Station and Ivinghoe are best left to motorists; walkers should seek other and safer approaches.

Unlike some of our round-about walks, this month's route is short, and sweet, and direct—just right for the shorter days of autumn and winter. Walking on roads is kept to a minimum. A quick return by train is recommended to those who have time and energy for only 5½ miles; but you can extend the walk to 9½ miles by walking home along the canal towpath.

THE ROUTE

From the traffic lights, go along Lower King's Road, under the railway bridge, turn left along Bridgewater Road and then right up Castle Hill Avenue. Use the footpath on the right side of this road and *keep straight on*, steeply uphill, between an avenue of lime trees.

At the top of the hill go ahead along a rather rough road which soon veers left; you pass barns, etc., on your left. Keep straight on, over a stile beside a fieldgate, and continue on high ground with the hedge first on your left, then on your right. This hilltop path enters a stony road which descends steeply to the Northchurch Common road.

Go ahead along this road and where it

bends right, to cross the Common, take a path which starts a few feet left of the 'Deer for 3 miles' sign. This path runs downhill, just inside the Common; if it is badly overgrown, veer right, but on reaching a little farm road follow this road, downhill, to the edge of the Common, to rejoin the recommended path, which is now a clear one as it runs uphill and then downhill to a second valley. Turn right along this valley for about 100 yards and then left, up a rather winding path; just before reaching the trees at the top you will find a grass path which veers right and soon enters the road at Norcott Hill.

(There are several other and clearer walks over this part of the Common; but please do your best to keep the lesser used tracks open.)

Go ahead along the road (Norcott Court and other buildings on your left). The road soon becomes a track, ending at two fieldgates. Go over a stile (not easily seen until you are very near it) left of the fieldgates, and continue straight ahead, beside hedge and fence; then, via a stile, an iron swing-gate and another stile (all close together) keep on in the same direction, hedge on your left.

On reaching Aldbury Common, go straight ahead along a grass track to a minor road (from Tom's Hill). Turn right in this little road and shortly after entering a wider road, look for the 'Public Footpath' sign on your left, near some white chained posts. Go down this steep path and continue along Malting Lane to the Newground—Aldbury road, in which turn right to the crossroads. Then, for a short distance, take the Tring Station road, and just beyond the churchyard go through the white swing-gate on your right. A short distance ahead you will see a stile: go over this stile and keep on in the same direction, over a fieldgate and then beside a field with a low hedge on your right. On reaching a dead tree, turn sharp left, hedge on your left, and keep straight on, crossing an open field and then through trees and beside a hedge to the road. Tring Station, only a short distance ahead, is now in sight.

For a quick return home there are trains to Berkhamsted at 32 minutes (weekdays) and 36 minutes (Sundays) past the hour; fare 1s. 3d. If you prefer to walk home by the towpath, and if the section between the Cow Roast and Dudswell is still in a bad condition, use the little byroad which runs between the two bridges.

CRUICKSHANK, RHYS & JUDE

[A. J. CRUICKSHANK, A.F.C., F.S.V.A., G.W. KNOX, [F.F.S.], D. F. GREAVES, F.R.I.C.S., A.M.T.P.I., R. H. NEALE, F.S.V.A. (TRING)]

Estate Agents, Planning Consultants, Surveyors, Valuers

236A HIGH STREET, BERKHAMSTED. Tel. 2364/5

also at

TRING

CHESHAM

HIGH WYCOMBE

MARLOW