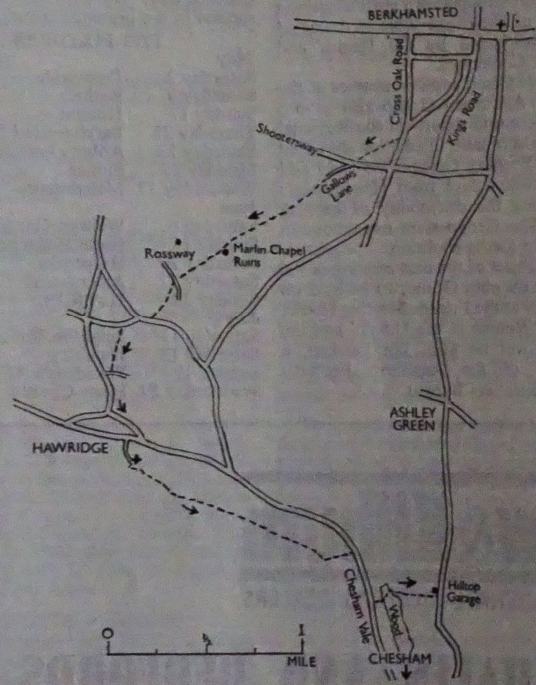


ALONG THE RIDGEWAY FROM HAWRIDGE TO CHESHAM VALE

by Townsman

The first part of this walk, the footpath to Marlin Chapel, must be familiar to many readers. But how many, or rather how few, have ever walked along the ridgeway from Hawridge Church to Chesham Vale?



Whether this is the best part of an exhilarating walk you will judge for yourself, but I always feel on top of the world when ambling high above the road, with no hedges to obstruct the views.

Instead of a round tour, Berkhamsted back to Berkhamsted, which would be between nine and ten miles long, I think you will prefer five or six miles on foot followed by a short bus ride home. The bus service from Chesham to Berkhamsted is not as frequent as it was even a few years ago, and there are very long waits on Sundays, so be sure to arm yourself with a time-table before setting off.

The thought occurred to me that it might be better to take a bus, or arrange for a 'lift', to a suitable point near Chesham and then walk home, using the route recommended below in the reverse direction. This would save hanging around for a bus at a remote request stop. But after walking both ways I came to the conclusion that it is much better to go south than north. With luck you may even return home with a sun tan!

THE ROUTE

The rural part of this walk starts in Galloway Lane, a little turning off Shootersway, just beyond the grounds of Cross Oak. (The mansion was pulled down last year.) Visitors unfamiliar with the district are advised to go up King's

Road, turn right along Charles Street, then left up Doctors Commons Road and Graemesdyke Road to Cross Oak Road. Go ahead in this road for a short distance and just beyond the house 'Greystoke' turn right along the diagonal path which crosses two roads to enter Shootersway.

Cross the road, go down the little lane (Galloway Lane), then take the forward path, hedge first on your left, then on your right, then again on your left. Note the ancient moat as you pass, on your left, Marlin Chapel Farm. Go right of the ruined chapel to a wide stile and continue over a large field. Make for the short five-barred section of the two-barred fence which runs across this field; then head for the stile in the hedge straight ahead. Cross the lane to another stile and go ahead, hedge on your right, to a road in the valley. Lovely views on the way down the hill.

Turn right in the road, left at the fork, and about 150 yards beyond the fork go through a wide gap in the hedge, left, and take the uphill path, hedge on your right. The path soon levels out and then descends slightly to a little farm road, in which turn right and then left down a road to the valley. Here turn left (road signposted 'Chesham'), and on reaching a main road turn right, then left along a little road signposted 'Hawridge Court'. This leads to the church, farm, and a very photogenic black-and-white house.

Turn right along a short, narrow path in front of the house and garden (you

will see the moat through the hedge) to a stile; turn left, keep to the hedge, and go through a gap into the next field. Straight ahead in the far corner of this field, you will see a stile; keeping to the hedge, make for this stile.

Keeping on in the same direction, you now take the gently curving and slightly raised path which runs along the ridge for over a mile with fine views on both sides. Eventually you come to a stile and a newly-ploughed field. By this time a path has probably been made across this field; if in doubt, keep to the hedge on your left and at the far end of the field you will enter a track in which turn left (to the accompaniment of electricity poles and wires) to the road in the valley.

Here you have two alternatives. The simplest (and less interesting) is to go right along the road to the Nashleigh Arms (just over a mile; bus stop). This can be a rather dangerous road; there are no footpaths for the first half mile or so.

Alternatively, go right along the road for about a quarter of a mile. Just beyond the drive to the bungalow named Bridleside, go through a fieldgate, left, up a path between trees and a wire fence to a wood. About 30 yards inside the wood, at a fork, take the left track which winds through the trees, uphill, to the top of the little wood; then go ahead (hedge on your left) to the main road beside Hilltop Garage. There is a bus stop nearby.

In the Matter of Charities called the Ecclesiastical Charities of Richard Balshaw and Others in the Ancient Parish of Berkhamsted St. Peter in the County of Hertford.

The Trustees of these Charities give notice that they intend to appoint one additional pensioner of the Charities. Poor persons (either sex) of good character who are members of the Church of England and who are residing in the area of the Ancient Parish of Berkhamsted St. Peter are eligible for appointment. Preference will be given to the applicant who has resided longest in the said area.

Application for appointment must be made in writing to A. B. WESTCOTT at 1 CASTLE HILL AVENUE, BERKHAMSTED on or before 30th June 1970. Every applicant must state his/her name, address, age, and occupation, and must be prepared to produce sufficient testimonials and other evidence of his/her qualifications for appointment, and unless physically disabled, to attend in person.

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