

Standon Nr. Ware Walk 10:

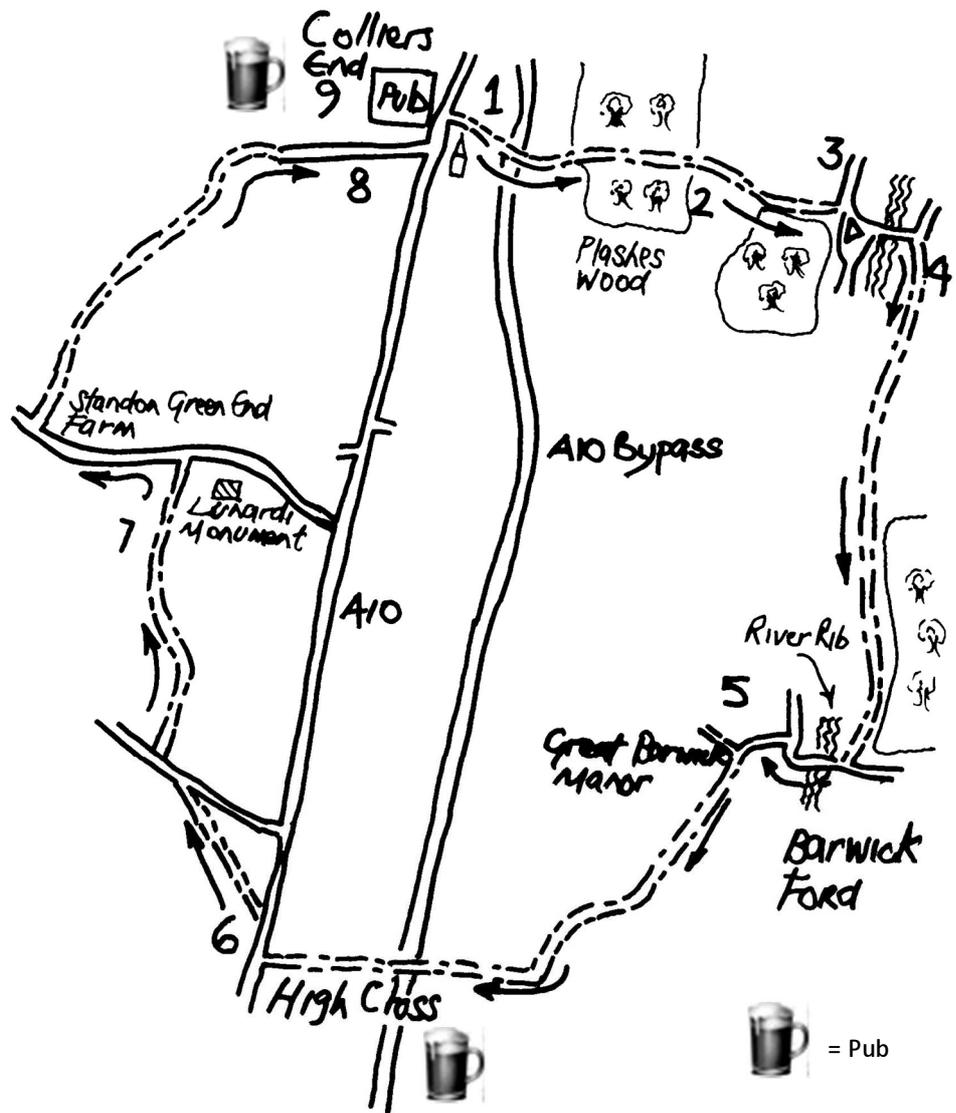
An Aeronautical Walk from Collier's End

This walk, though starting and finishing in the Parish, leaves it for some of the distance. It has been included in order to bring in some attractive paths in the south of the Parish, and also passes some items of aeronautical interest.

Distance and time needed: 5½ miles, approximately 2¾ hours

Refreshments: The Lamb & Flag, Colliers End 01920 823222

White Horse, High Cross 01920 462996



1 Starting from the Church at Collier's End, (on the East side of the old A10), leave the road and follow the sign post along the bridleway. Initially the path will take you straight down beside the hedgerow, keep the hedge on your left. Follow the hedge, then the ditch and pass under the new A10 dual carriageway. Turn left parallel with the road for 50m then right along the fence and into Plashes Wood. You quickly leave the traffic noise behind in these beautiful woods.

2 Once into the wood follow the clear path until you reach a clearing, ignore the path which goes straight on and bear right. This will lead you through the wood up to Plashes Farm. The bridleway will emerge onto a concrete farm track. Turn left onto the track for 50m. When you are almost opposite the entrance to the farmhouse, you will see a pond on your right. Turn right, keeping the pond on your left and ignoring the bridleway (blue sign) on your left go straight on across the field.

On a clear day, to your right, you can see Canary Wharf and the Shard!

3 Just inside the tree line follow the bridleway as it bears left and goes downhill to emerge at the edge of another field with another beautiful view over the Rib valley. Follow the path down the field beside the wood and through a short path to the right of a garden, coming out on the Barwick Road. Turn left, *take care narrow road* then, almost immediately, turn right down to the river bridge and ford.

4 50m after crossing the river Rib turn right onto a path marked 'Bridleway 58 Great Barwick'. *Look out for the sculpture of a deer made out of horseshoes in the garden on your left.* This path is well marked and easy to follow in and out of woods for about 2km. On reaching the road at Great Barwick (which in spite of its name consists only of a few houses) turn right and cross the ford by the footbridge. The path continues straight ahead into the grounds of Great Barwick Manor (Signed: Bridleway 62 High Cross 1.5 miles). After 100m turn left where indicated by the Bridleway sign, in front of gates to the farmyard.

5 You should now be on a good gravel farm track with a hedge on your left. At the end of the first field, turn right on the grassy path up the hill. Continue on this path as it turns left up the hill. There is a bench near the top with a great view, as a reward for your climb. Just over the top of the hill, you will see a small airfield on your right. With luck on a fine day you should be able to watch light aircraft landing and taking off. After 200m take the gravel track on the right towards the hangar. When you reach the wood, leave this track and take the path on the left with the wood on your right. When you reach the deer fence for the new bypass, turn left and then right over the road bridge (*if you want to visit the White Horse in High Cross, carry straight on down this road*) and then right again on the other side of the road along the deer fence again. Turn left at the hedge under power cables, just before a concrete road turn right through the hedge and this path will take you to the village of High Cross, coming out on to the old A10 just by the Church.

If you visited the White Horse, come out of the pub and turn North (right) until you pass the school on your right and continue with the following directions.

6 Turn right up the old A10 for a short distance. Just after passing the school, cross the road and take the marked footpath to the left. Cross three fields and two stiles to come to a lane by a metal gate. Turn left and a little further down the lane, another marked footpath turns off to the right. This is a very good path, easy to follow and with 'de-luxe' stiles featuring removable top rails and dog doors!

7 Going up the hill, after a small wood, you will see a stile on your right, turn right through the hedge at this point and immediately left with the hedgerow on your left.

Over the next stile you will see, one field over on your right, a large stone surrounded by green railings. This is a monument marking the landing place of the first British flight of a hot air balloon on 15th September, 1784 (see picture over the page). It is on private land.

8 When you reach the lane at Knoll Farm turn left, and after 400m turn right at a sign 'public footpath 35 to Collier's End 1½'. Keep near the right hand side of the field past the farm, and near the far corner you will see where the path enters a small wood over a stile. Cross this wood, and continue on the path down into a small pretty valley and up the other side. Keep the wood/hedge on your right hand side until you come to a large oak tree in front of you, then turn right and on to the lane which takes you back to Collier's End.

9 Turn left onto the old A10 and in 100 metres you will arrive back at the Lamb and Flag for a well earned drink (and a Chinese or Thai meal?).

Paths in Standon Parish are clearly waymarked. If you come across any problem with missing waymarks, please contact the Parish Paths Partnership: john@walkinginengland.co.uk.

This leaflet has been produced by Standon Parish Council working as part of the Parish Paths Partnership, a programme funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Countryside Management Service (CMS). CMS helps communities across Hertfordshire to care for and enjoy the environment. www.hertslink.org/cms

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