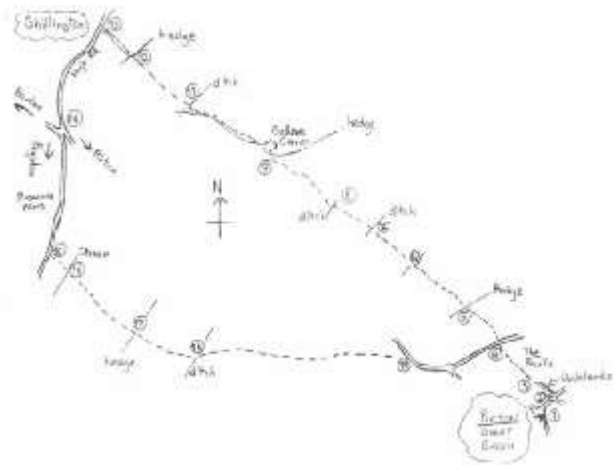


Shillington via Gallows Corner & The Driftway



Eric Franklin describes this walk

Assuming you start at Great Green (1), turn right into Crabtree Lane beside the Motte & Bailey Pub. 100 yards onward, turn left into Docklands (2) and follow the left hand pavement until it turns into the footpath (3) known as the Baulk. The other, northern end of this will deliver you to Shillington Road (4).

Cross over the road at the footpath sign and follow the path across the meadow to the stile (5) visible in the hedge on the horizon. Follow in the same direction the path rolled out for you by Shaws, the farmers, for most of the route.

From here to the county border the route is waymarked at each field boundary and Shaws have taken considerable trouble to delineate the path by rolling it. This only becomes troublesome immediately after ploughing when you should use Shillington Church as your principal guide and realign yourself at each waymark.

You will follow a track with hedge and ditch on your left from the northern end of the second field (6) until you meet the southern boundary of the fourth field (7). From here you will be striking out across the centre of this (8) and the next field

and heading for the western corner of the hedge that immediately confronts you (9). Once there, you are at Gallows Corner and the County Boundary. The hedge takes a detour around three sides of a square to your right while you take the fourth side straight ahead and encounter the next waymark (10) over the ditch on the border. Follow the hedge round the next field, keeping it to your left shoulder and, at the far border look a few yards along the ditch to your right for a short length of culverting (11) across the ditch.

Cross the ditch and head north for the stile and waymark (12) in the hedge opposite. Cross the final meadow keeping the wire fence to your left shoulder. Cross the final stile and you are on Shillington High Road (13).

Cross, turn left and walk along the pavement to Apsley End (14). Take the road marked Pegsdon past the Musgrave Arms (unless you need refreshment) and about one hundred yards on the left you will find a footpath marked (15).

At the end of the first field you will cross a brick culvert over a stream (16). Go through the roughly supported metal gate and follow the fence with your right shoulder through the next two meadows. You are now back in Hertfordshire (17). Follow the well marked path with the hedge to your left across a wooden footbridge (18) and along to the Pirton/Shillington road (Grove Lane - 19), a distance of about half a mile.

Follow Grove Lane into Pirton and return home. The whole walk is around three miles and takes one and a half to two hours.