

4 - Woodham, Rowtown & Ottershaw Circular Walk

This 6 km / 4 mile circular walk begins in Woodham, passes through fields once belonging to the New Haw 'vet labs', climbs into Rowtown, through the outskirts of Ottershaw and follows the Bourne valley before returning to Woodham.

A good starting point is 'The Victoria' PH on Woodham Lane, where you may wish to refresh yourself after your exertions! Alternatively, you may prefer to drop into 'The Cricketers' PH or the Bourne Valley Café as you pass en route. Please be warned that, following heavy rain, this walk can be muddy in parts and, in these circumstances, boots will be essential!

Starting Point: (OS Explorer Map 160 grid ref: 037616).

The first part of this walk is along close boarded Rights of Way, but it soon opens out to give open views and a good perspective of the area.

From 'The Victoria', cross over Woodham Lane and turn right and the start of the footpath will be found just inside Junewood Close. The path crosses Amberley Drive and exits at Woodham Park Way. Turn right and then left into Woodham Park Road and follow this round the left hand turn. Take the footpath to the right opposite Fulmer Way. Keep straight on at the crossways and follow the path over the River Bourne. Enjoy the open land on the right because it may be transformed in due course into a huge housing development.

At Rowtown, turn left onto the road. Then take the footpath, which is immediately past 'The Cricketers' PH. Just behind the pub, the path passes between two metal posts with private drives to the left and right. Keep on to another metal post and immediately turn left at the crossways. Carry on to the end and turn right onto an unmade road. After 100 yards, turn left onto the footpath opposite the school. Cross the field, keeping close to the hedge on the left.

At the junction, turn left into Brox Lane. Go past the private fishing lake and through the farm, using the automatic metal gates. At the junction, turn right along Woodham Park Road passing Bourne Valley Garden Centre (why not stop for a drink and some delicious cake in the garden centre café?).

At Holme Farm, just after the left hand bend, turn right onto the footpath. After 500 yards, look out for deer on the right over the River Bourne as you follow this path back to 'The Victoria'.

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