

1. Starting by the old pump on Toddington village green, walk down Conger Lane (Oddfellows Arms on the right). At the end of the tarmac road, continue down the grass track to a kissing gate.

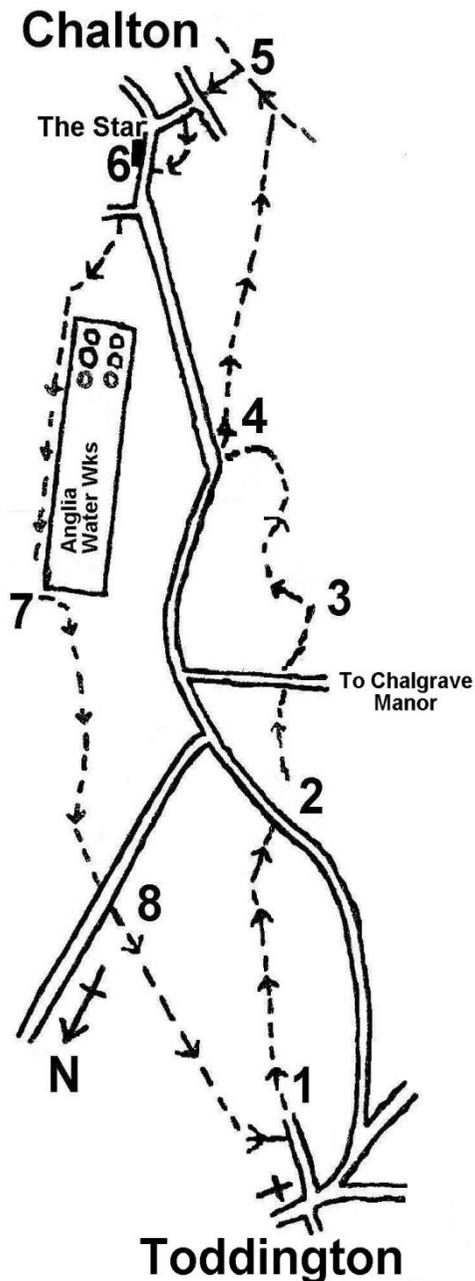
Follow the Icknield Way markers by going slightly right across the field to the double pole of a power line, then to a kissing gate in the hedge (ignoring the parallel path to the left).

Continue in the same direction to another hand gate, then ahead towards the gap in the hedge on the skyline and a waymark post. On reaching the brow of the next field, make for a kissing gate (again, ignoring the kissing gate to the left). Turn half-right to a signpost and kissing gate midway along the roadside hedge. Carefully cross the road, turn right and in about 50 metres go left through a kissing gate. Our route leaves the Icknield Way here.

2. Follow the left-hand arrow and cross the field diagonally left towards a house with a slate roof and prominent brick gable-end. Go through the kissing gate into a field of young trees, follow the path to a stile then, keeping a bungalow on your right, until you come to a private road (which leads to Chalgrave Manor). Cross the road to the kissing gate opposite and, continuing with the hedge to your right, go through a kissing gate into the next field. In the far right hand corner, through the kissing gate and over a bridge, turn left in this next field.

3. Keeping the hedge on your left, pass some old willows. After crossing a bridge in the corner, turn right and, now keeping the hedge on your right, go round to a bridge which takes you through the hedge and over a ditch. Turn left and, now with the hedge on your left, continue the short distance to the corner of the field (close to the road).

4. Staying in the same field and now with your back to the road, walk diagonally left across to a sleeper bridge just to the right of the largest



pylon. Continuing in the same direction cross three more fields, keeping parallel with the large pylons, eventually ascending to the top left-hand corner of the last field in your view. Here, midway between a pylon and the trees on the brow of the hill, you should see a waymark post at the edge of a wide grassy track (the ancient Bound Way). Turn left and walk for about 150 metres to a gap/sleeper bridge on your left.

5. From the sleeper bridge cross a field to a gap between houses. Cross the road continuing down the hill, after about 50m find a finger post on your left, just before the road bends. Follow this path between a building site and a thatched cottage until you reach a children's playground and, at the right hand corner, continue along a tarmac path (running parallel to the tarmac drive) to Luton Road and The Star public house, Chalton.

This is the alternative, Chalton, starting point:

6. The route now goes left along the road towards Toddington (if you visit the pub turn right as you emerge!) Very soon, turn right into Water End Lane. Opposite the village hall, go left through a kissing gate, then through the field and to another kissing gate in the left corner, beyond the stable.

Cross the drive and follow the right edge of the field for a short distance to a concrete railed footbridge next to a small fenced compound. Following a grassy path into a copse, you soon arrive at the perimeter fence of the Anglian Water treatment works. Here, turn right and follow the path which skirts the works with the substation on your right. After nearly a mile you arrive at a concrete and railed footbridge at the edge of the site.

7. Entering the field turn left along the edge for approx 100 metres. The bridge over the River Flit is access to the **Fancott Woods and Meadows**. Here our route turns half right and, passing a lone tree, crosses the field diagonally to a wooden footbridge over the River Flit. Continue diagonally in the next field towards a fenced compound and then up to the road (known as The Bridleway). Cross the road with care!

8. Walk diagonally across the corner of the arable field to a wide field edge. Continue to climb and soon St George's church will come into view. Passing the corner of the cemetery, go ahead to the normally open field gate, then left diagonally across a small field through two kissing gates (keeping the ancient monument Conger Hill on your right) to the last metal kissing gate. Now you are in Conger Lane and in a few paces to the right is the Oddfellows PH and back at the old pump on Toddington village green.

For those who started the walk at Chalton, at the metal kissing gate go left down Conger Lane. Now go back to the start of this description for the route back to Chalton.

Fancott Wood and Meadows: The woodland, known as Chalton Spinney, is managed by the Beds Wildlife Trust (www.wildlifebcn.org), a bridge over the River Flit gives access to a circular walk, see information board. In spring, the woodland floor is carpeted with bluebells, along with dog's mercury and the occasional primrose. Multi-stemmed shrubs of hazel tell of past coppicing, while on the meandering path through the wood you may discern the smell of garlic emanating from clumps of ramsons.

Remember the Country Code

Leave gates as you find them

Leave farm property alone

Take your litter home

Keep to the footpaths

Keep dogs under close control

Keep water supplies clean

Guard against fire

Make no unnecessary noise

Do not pick wild flowers

Do not disturb birds and animals unnecessarily

Enjoy the countryside. Enjoy your walk, and let others enjoy it too

Other routes are available from
www.LetsGo.org.uk
www.Toddington.Info

Suggestions or problems with the leaflet or route: RoW@chevalier.me.uk

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Toddington Parish Walk No 3

Toddington - Chalton Circular Walk

A circular walk just over five miles (8km), starting by the old pump on Toddington village green. The route links with the Fancott Wood and Meadow where an additional mile loop can be added. Alternatively, start outside the Star public house in Chalton.

Farm livestock may be in grazing fields so dogs must be kept under control. There is one stile to climb and fourteen gates. Arable fields may be muddy in places, particularly after recent ploughing.



**View towards Toddington
from the Bound Way**