

Walk No. 5

This walk starts at St. James's Church, Kimbolton. There is a limited amount of parking space on each side of the road for perhaps 10 cars.

Walk down the hill in a westerly direction, and turn left following the signpost for KB 14 through the garden of a house (Little Britain) and alongside the house. This will bring you to the main A4112, which you cross. Then carry straight on along KB 63, which brings you to a bridge over the Yolk Brook. Having crossed the brook, turn right on to KB 62. This way across a field, usually containing sheep, brings you to a stile over the fence along the bottom of the field. This stile leads into Duggan's Transport Yard which you cross passing to the right of a now dilapidated, but once lovely, listed house. Go through the gate to the right of the house and carry on through a field, usually containing one or two horses, to a stile. Having crossed this stile you will be faced with Lower Stockton, a fine half-timbered building on the other side of the road. Having crossed the road, follow the sign which takes you a very short distance along the right side of a stream by the side of Lower Stockton before you cross another stile. This leads into a field, and you follow the lower edge of the field along the line of KB 61, and after 100 yards you arrive at a bridge over the Cogwell Brook which you cross via the bridge. Continue along the left of the brook (still KB 61) along the lower edge of a large field. After about a quarter of a mile you arrive at a stile. Cross the road after the stile and cross the stile on the opposite side of the road. Go through the field along KB 52 with the Cogwell Brook to your right, and, after about 300 yards, you will come to a gate in the bottom left-hand corner of the field. Go through this gate and almost immediately through the next gate too, keeping the brook on your right. You are now in another large field, the side of which at this point is formed by KB 52 along the Cogwell Brook. After some 200 yards you will arrive at a point at which you can either turn right over a bridge and then over a stile, or you can turn sharp left through the field along KB 54. Turn left along KB 54. This takes you along the right side of the field. After crossing the Whittey Brook, you go up a slope to a stile on the top edge of the field which borders the road to Stretford.

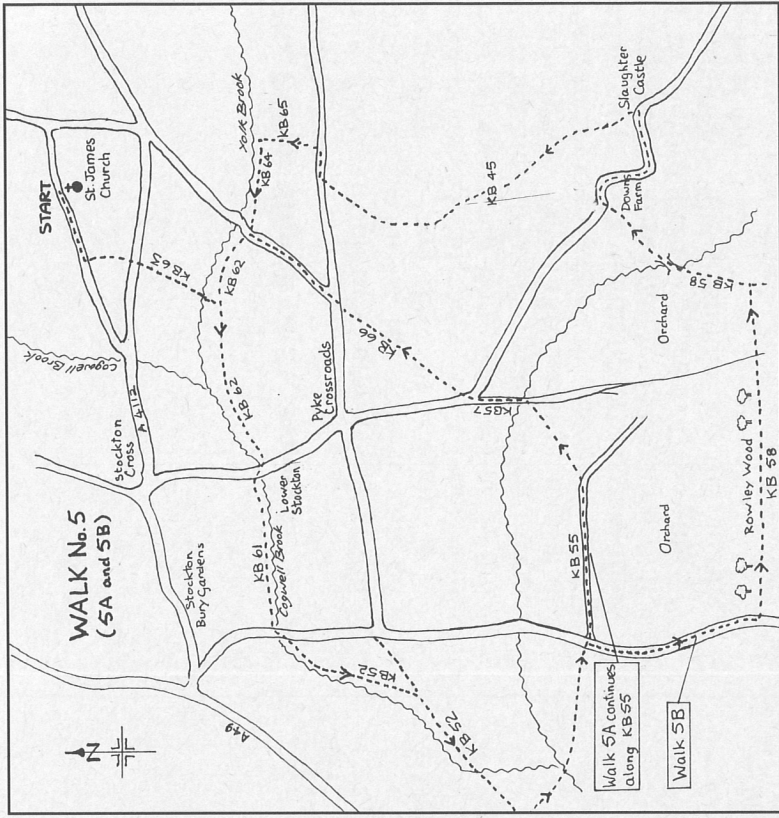
At this point you have a choice, which we shall call 5A and 5B.

Walk No. 5A

The first choice takes you straight across the road and up a driveway which is also the line of footpath KB 55. At the point at which the drive bends sharply to the right, cross the stile ahead of you into a field, and cross diagonally down to the left across the field. This footpath will bring you to a bridge across the Whittey Brook. Turn left across the bridge and up a lane which is also the line of KB 57. Go up the hill, passing a house on your left, and looking back to your left to enjoy the fine views across to Hay Bluff and the Brecon Beacons. The lane brings you to a road (Kimbolton to Hammish). Cross this road straight ahead up the short track to a gate, which brings you into a field which you cross along KB 66 to the bottom right-hand corner. Here there is a stile which brings you to the road at Pyke Cottage. Turn neither right nor left, but go straight up the road opposite to the left of Pyke Cottage, and follow the road past the chicken-houses on your right and then down past the orchard on your left into the dip. At this point, just before the Yolk Brook, turn left over a stile into a field. You are now on KB 62 again. Walk along the bottom of the field until you reach the bridge across the Yolk Brook which you crossed earlier; then retrace your steps to the church. Total distance about 3-4 miles.

Walk No. 5B

The second choice takes you to the right for about 500 yards up a fairly gentle slope along the road towards Stretford. You pass a house, Bonaventure, on your left, and this is followed by an orchard bordered by a long line of tall poplar trees. There are splendid views to the right over the Herefordshire countryside down to Hay and the Black Mountains and Radnorshire. Towards the top of the hill, before the broad drive leading to a chicken-farm, a signpost points you to the left along KB 58 through a long narrow copse. At the end of this copse, which is about 200 yards long, you will come to a junction. To the left is the Bulmer's Orchard. To the right KB 57 leads along the top edge of a field. You go straight ahead to the left of the bungalow (this path is signposted). Behind the bungalow there is a stile leading into the orchard. You are still on KB 58. You walk between the apple-trees to the far side of the orchard where you will find another stile slightly to the left. Having crossed this stile you drop down a slope diagonally to the left across a large field to a line of trees bordering the bottom edge of the field. This line of trees marks the course of the Whittey Brook, which you follow to the left for about 20 yards. You have to look carefully down to the brook to find the



bridge across it. Having crossed the bridge over the brook, you walk up through the L-shaped field following the long arm of the L. You are still on the line of KB 58. At the top of the field there is a gate and also a stile. Having crossed the stile walk along the left-hand margin of the field with a barbed-wire fence on your right. The end of this path brings you to the Kimbolton-Hammish road at Downs Villa Farm. Turn right on to the road and follow it round to Slaughter Castle Farm. Here you go to the right of the farm in a northerly direction along KB 45. You keep to the lower headland of the field and through three more fields: there are stiles and waymarkers to keep you to the line of the footpath. After half a mile you will arrive at a stile opposite a small cottage. Having crossed the stile you will be on the road from the Pyke Crossroads to Lever Hill. Turn right here, and walk for a short distance along the road until you come to a bridlepath signpost and gate on your left. Follow this bridlepath (KB 65) through a small copse of trees to another gate. Keep going in the same direction down across a field, almost always containing sheep, until you reach the line of trees along the Yolk Brook which borders the bottom of the field. Here you turn left on to KB 64 and follow the line of the brook to the road, which you cross, and follow the line of KB 60 along the Yolk Brook for about 200 yards when you will see a bridge across the brook. This is the bridge which you crossed near the beginning of your walk. You now retrace your steps along KB 63 and KB 14 back to the church where you started. Total distance about 4-5 miles.