

Walk No. 2 White Barn Walk

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A Circular Walk Through Cuddington Vale

A pretty walk circling Cuddington village, with some good views over the village and the surrounding countryside. If you are lucky you may see birds of prey as you cross the fields.

3¼ miles, say 1½ hours.

Start at Norley Road Playing Fields car park, grid ref. SJ 602715.

Start this walk with your back to Norley Road, taking the footpath opposite the car park entrance alongside the Scout Hut. Emerging into Greenfield Way, keep right to meet Weaverham Road. Turn left and soon fork left into Smithy Lane.

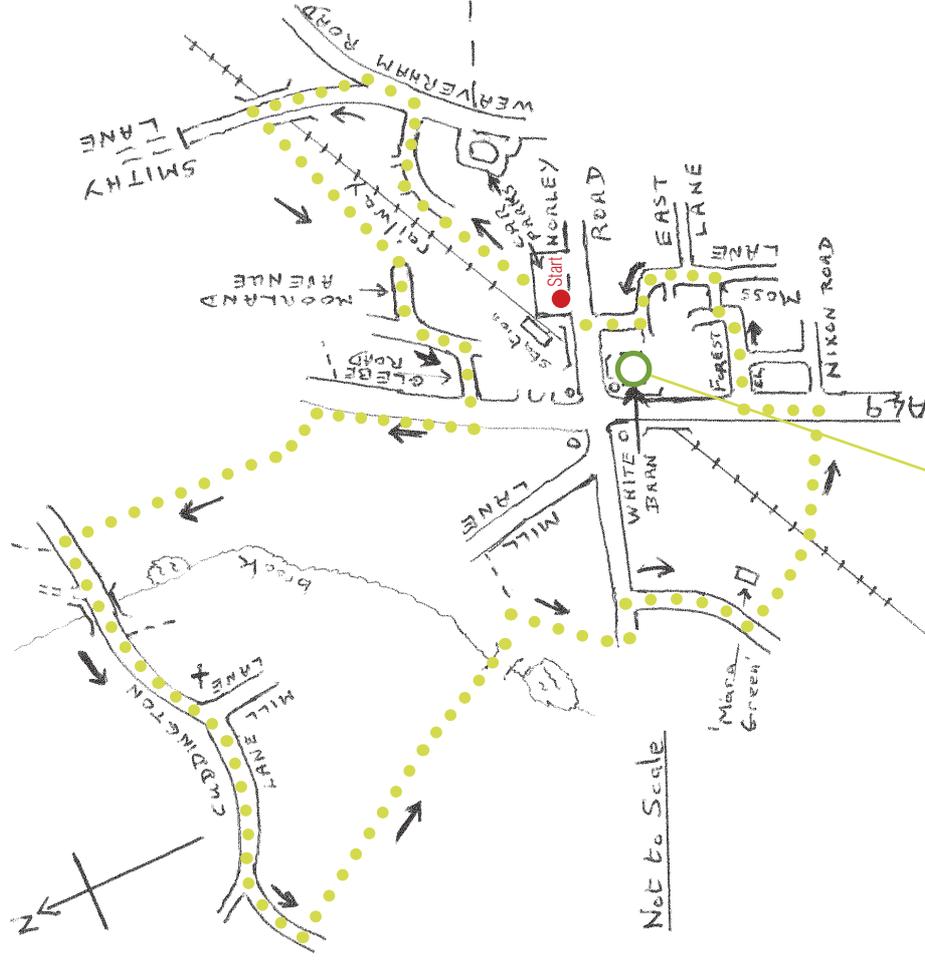
At the railway bridge, pause for a moment to take in the railway line as it passes through the village; Cuddington Station is on your left about a third of a mile along the track.

Chester-Manchester Railway: The line from Cuddington to Chester opened in 1869 and Cuddington Station opened to passengers in 1870.

Continue down Smithy Lane and then take the footpath on the left just before the gate closing the road to traffic. This footpath leads across the fields bringing you into Moorlands Avenue. At the T-junction at the end of the road, turn left into Mayfield Drive and then take the next turning right into Glebe Road.

Glebe Road: The area to the north of Cuddington Station was primarily glebe land under Weaverham Parish Church.

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The White Barn

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particularly along the section towards the top of the hill.

Pause at the top of the hill to enjoy the view northwards and then bear left along the road past Cuddington Hall Farm.

This is one of the main farms on the Wilbrahams' Delamere House estate and the black and white house "Yew Trees" is probably the oldest dwelling in the village, dating from 1706. It was originally thatched.

The post box outside Yew Trees is one of the last Victorian boxes in the area.

On the left a concrete track now leads to a footpath but before taking this path down the hill stop and lean on the Iron Gate to admire the view over Cuddington. At the bottom of the hill you will cross Cuddington Brook; here you can see the remains of the sluices which once controlled the water supply to the mill downstream. Pass Merlewood Pool on your right then at a fork in the path take a sharp right and continue to Norley Road.

Just before reaching Norley Road take the unofficial path to the left for about 20 yards through the trees, emerging opposite Waste Lane. Cross carefully as this is a particularly dangerous stretch of Norley Road, and enter Waste Lane. Follow Waste Lane for about ¼ mile. After passing a high bank on your left there is a drive to the house named "Mara Green" and just beyond it a concealed finger post shows a

footpath goes off left alongside a garden fence. Follow this footpath up a steep set of steps to cross the railway track, keeping a keen lookout for trains.

After crossing the railway, follow the path between hedges and across a field, which brings you to the main road (A49) again.

The big house to your left is iMap Centre, originally Beechfield, built by the Thompson salt family and later occupied for many years by the Locker family.

Cross carefully to the other side of the A49 (at the end of Nixon Road) and turn left along the footway beside the main road. Take the first road on the right (Forest Close). After a turn to the left, turn right into West Lane and then left (into Moss Lane). Pass East Lane and Cartledge Close on your right before turning right up Trickett Lane and back to your starting point in Norley Road.

As you finish this walk, the "White Barn" pub is along Norley Road to your left, just over the railway bridge.

The White Barn has been a hostelry since at least the 18th century. Possibly it was previously known as the Bull's Head. The large granite boulder outside is an erratic deposited during the melting of the last ice age, dating from the time when the glacial sand from which Sandiway gets its name was deposited.

