

Walk No. 1

A circular walk of about 4 miles in the area to the southwest of the village commencing from the Red House



Highclere Church

Exploring



The Studio

Historic Highclere



Highclere Castle



The Red House



IGHCLERE SOCIETY



Old shot of the Red House



Old shot of Little Flexford

This walk includes quiet lanes and rights of way over fields and through woodland. Parts are hilly and it can be muddy so suitable footwear should be worn. The walk is not suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs or for very young children. Please respect the countryside. You may encounter cattle, sheep or pheasants. Dogs may therefore sometimes need to be kept on a lead. If fields have been prepared for, or have crops growing you may need to skirt around the edge.

The walk directions start and finish at the Red House Public House and Restaurant on the Andover Road.

Please only use their car park if you eat or drink there)

With your back to the Red House turn right along the A343.

After passing Little Flexford turn right into Hollington Lane noting as you do so Flexford House on your left which used to be a school. Along this lane you will see a number of interesting old properties including Boxhall Cottage

After 400yds Hollington Lane turns left, keep right (straight on for 200 yards) to the new Alma Farm. At a right-hand bend in the lane is a footpath sign, a stile and a dog-gate. Cross the stile and walk down the path towards the woodland.



Old shot of Flexford House School

At the entrance to Ireland's Copse, which has bluebells, there is a dog-gate and a stile. Follow the path uphill into the woods noting the "Dogs on lead" sign. At the top of the hill you will cross two rides with horse jumps made from tree trunks. Shortly after this you will reach a bridle path. There you will see a post with two HCC waymarks, the yellow arrows indicating that you need to go left.

After about 35 yards, you will see a post with yellow arrows showing a right turn. This takes you into a clearing and heading downhill with a pine forest on your right and mixed woodland on your left. At the end of the clearing is an open field with a

footpath going down diagonally into the valley.

At the bottom you reach a footpath sign and a farm track in the far corner. Cross the brook on the track and after about 25 yards the footpath bears off to the left and goes uphill into another woodland, Long Copse. You should see pheasants in this area, in or out of the pheasant pen to your right. If you are lucky you may also see deer with buzzards and kites soaring above.

At the top of the hill you will pass alongside another pine forest, Collarmakers Copse, on your right. Continue on until you reach another stile. The footpath now crosses over a flat open field (direction 10 o'clock) towards the far corner where there is another stile and a large metal farm gate. Climb over the stile and turn left onto a quiet distant part of Hollington Lane. Follow the lane for about three quarters of a mile. You will pass by some interesting properties such as Yews Old Farmhouse.

At the bottom of the hill the lane turns left at a Y junction with a well proportioned Georgian house on the right-hand corner. This used to be called Wykes Farm House. Go straight ahead over the stile by a footpath sign into the field.

[Sometimes this field will have a sign warning that a bull is in the field with other cattle. If you prefer there are two alternative routes at this junction, both described later]

Walk up the hill across the field into the right-hand corner to a well hidden stile onto a wooded track. Cross this boggy track and a small ditch into the field opposite. Walk left to corner of the field then turn right with the field hedge on your left to the far corner.



Old shot of Alma Farm House



Old shot of Wykes Farm House

Turn right for about 75 yards and then find a stile on your left to a path ahead between hedge and field fence. It is poorly maintained and can be overgrown. There is evidence that "regulars" walk in the field parallel with it for 150 yards until a large gap in the fence enables them to rejoin it.

The footpath passes between two properties with the hedgerow on your left and opens onto the Ashmansworth Road at Hill House. [\[Alternative 1 rejoins here\]](#) Cross the road and climb over the stile and a small 5 bar gate and walk ahead down the field to a stile at the bottom. **Warning:** This stile leads to the busy A343 so take care! Go straight across the road into Highclere Street. Follow the lane uphill and at the top bear left.



17th Century Plaster Panel

On the right Top Farm, a private home, has a plaster panel and frieze depicting the first Stuart royal coat of arms which is believed to have been cut in 1603. Continue along the lane to the A343 passing several old houses including Highclere Farm

At the junction with the A343 turn right and follow the Andover Road back to the Red House.

Alternative routes from Y Junction

1. This only adds a quarter of a mile to the walk. Turn right and follow the lane uphill for just over half a mile. At the T junction turn left down Ashmansworth Lane. Take care on this quarter mile stretch, it is a busier lane. Just after Zell Farm on the right take the signed footpath over the stile opposite Hill House. [\[You rejoin the main route above here\]](#)

2. If you want to shorten the walk by a mile turn left and follow Hollington Lane with Pill Hill to your right and Narington Copse left. Go past the Natural Garden. After about two thirds of a mile just past Ashdown House turn right at the Y junction, rejoining the first part of the walk to return down Hollington Lane until you reach the main A343. Turn left here to return to the Red House.

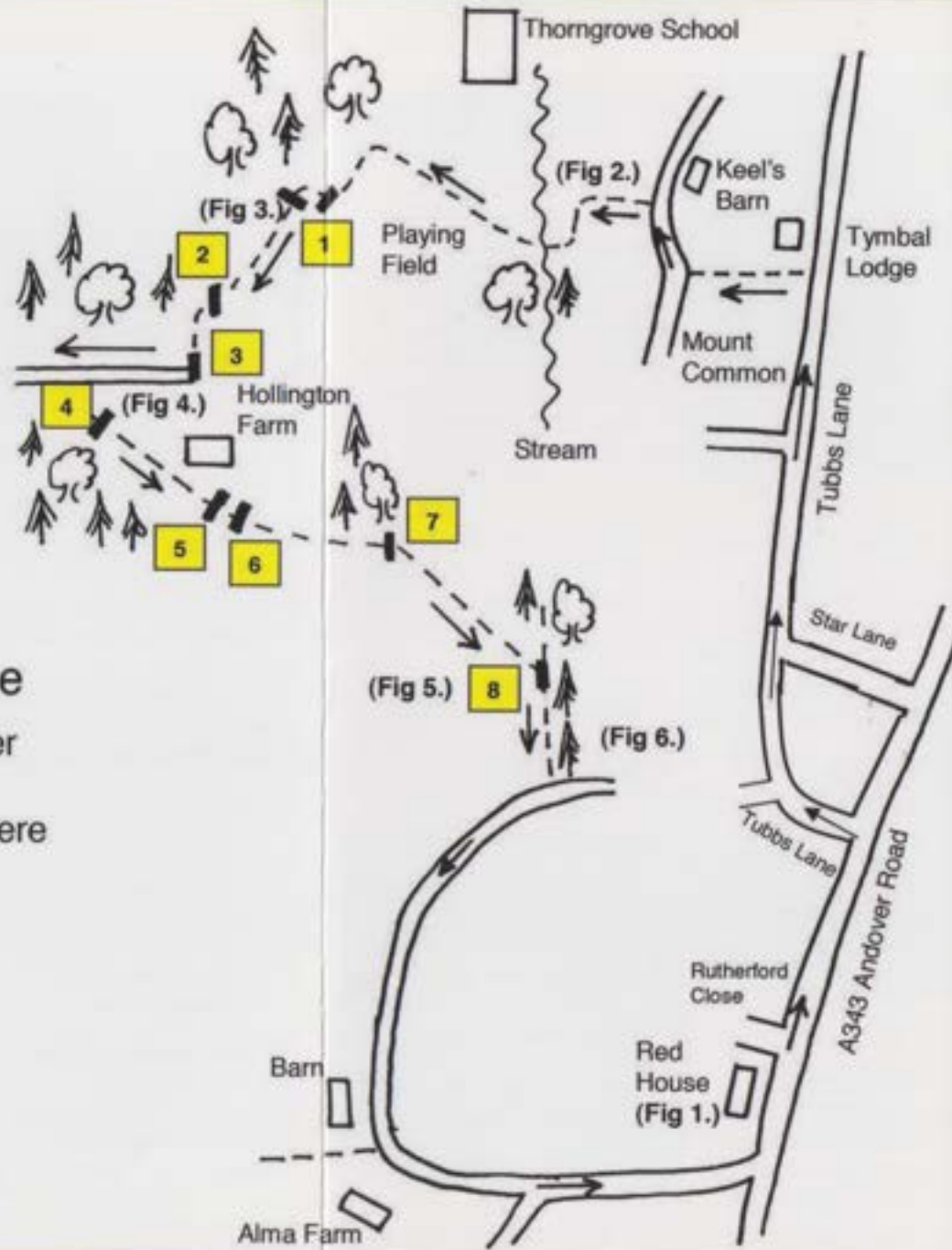
Exploring

Beautiful Highclere

A circular walk of about 1.5 miles in the area to the southwest of the village commencing from the Red House pub



www.highclere.org.uk



Not to Scale
OS Landranger
Map No 174
Covers Highclere

- Roads/Lanes
- Footpaths
- Stiles
- Woodland

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Fig 1.

The walk directions start and finish at the Red House pub on the A343/Andover Road (Fig 1.). (Please only use their car park if you eat or drink there.) The walk is approximately 1.5 miles but can be extended to approximately 5 miles by combining this walk with walk no. 1 of the series (Historic Highclere).

On leaving the Red House pub, turn **left** towards Newbury and walk **300 metres** turning **2nd left** into Tubbs Lane. Follow the road round to the **right** for **500 metres** and turn **left** at the 3rd 30mph sign. There is an enclosed field on your left (Mount Common) and a house (Tymbal Lodge) on your right. This narrow footpath goes through to a tar macadam road (Pantings Lane).



Fig 2.

Go **straight ahead** keeping to the right hand side of the field and turn **left** along the metal fence at the far end to a **grey metal gate** in the far left hand corner. Go through the gate (yellow directional arrow) and turn immediately **left** over **stile 1**. Walk along the left



Fig 3.

After **20 metres**, turn **right** over **stile 3** (yellow arrow) and continue along the farm road for **100 metres**. (Fig 4.)

Turn sharp **2nd left** (Hollington Farm sign on tree) and cross over **stile 4** taking the **right hand** fork.

hand edge of the field (Fig 3.) and cross over **stile 2**, then turn immediately **left**.



Fig 4.

Turn **right** and walk along the road for **70 metres**. Turn **left** onto a footpath just as the road starts to slope downhill (opposite a house called Keel's Barn). Follow the footpath (Fig 2.) which goes **left** at the bottom of a gentle slope into woods and **right**, then onto a wooden bridge over a stream before emerging into school playing fields.



Fig 5.

Cross over **stiles 5 & 6** (farm buildings on the left) before proceeding down a farm track to a gate at the bottom of a hill. Cross over **stile 7** in front of you and walk diagonally **right** up the hill. At this point you may like to take time to enjoy the views (Fig 5.) Continue to **stile 8** in the far right hand corner of the field. Cross this stile and turn immediately **right**, walk through the woods (Fig 6.) until you reach a tar macadam road. Turn **right** and follow this road until you come to a footpath on your left between a modern barn and large house, Alma Farm, before a sharp left hand bend.

At this point you can choose to join walk No. 1 following the directions from Alma Farm (but please note that you are approaching Alma Farm and the bend from the opposite direction).

Or you can return to the Red House pub by following the road around the bend and continuing until you reach the A343. Then turn left onto the main road and continue until you reach the Red House pub.



Fig 6.

Walk No. 3






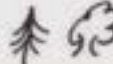
Exploring

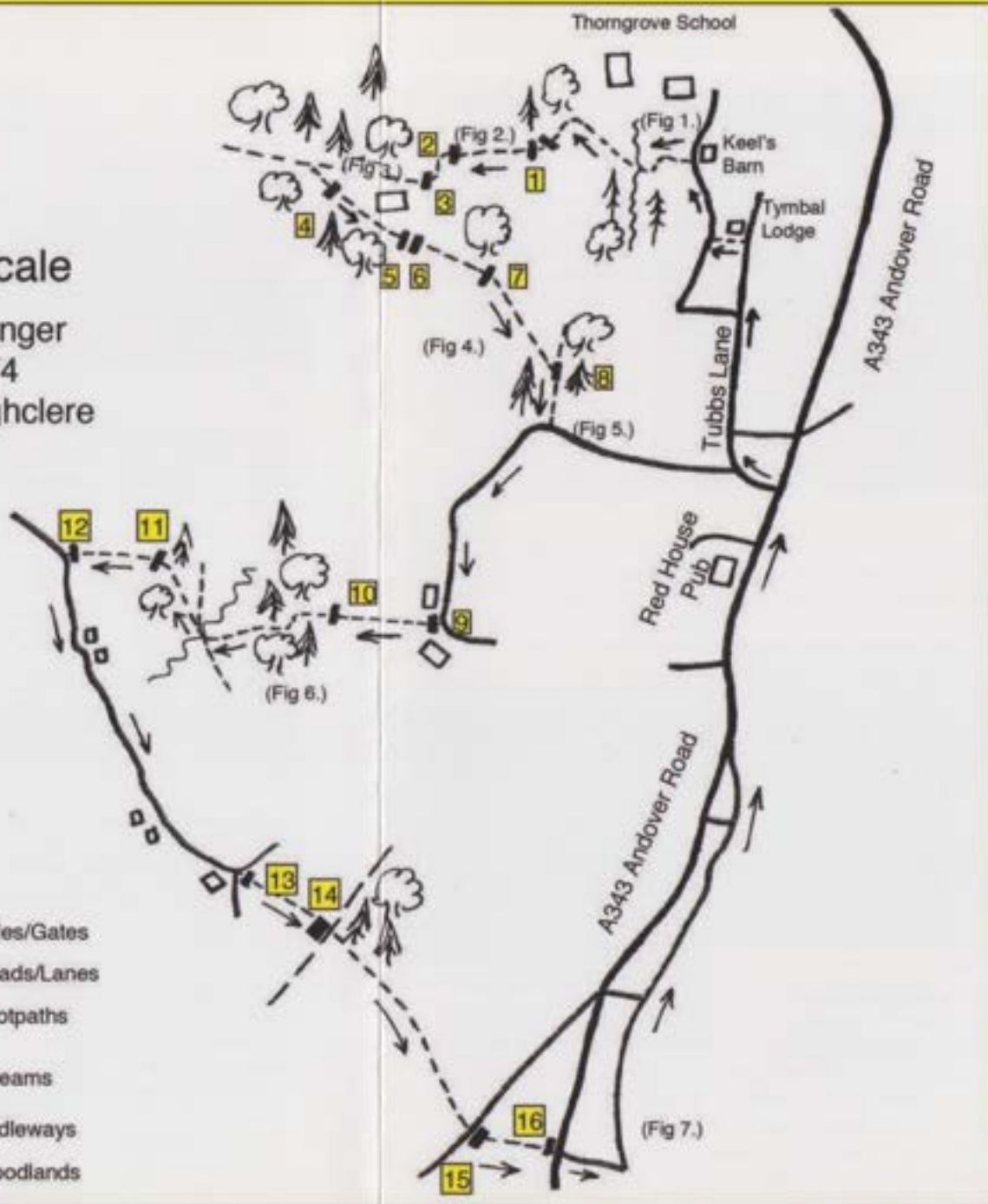
Highclere Byeways

A circular walk of about 5 miles in the area to the southwest of the village commencing from the Red House Pub



Not to Scale
OS Landranger
Map No 174
Covers Highclere

-  - Stiles/Gates
-  - Roads/Lanes
-  - Footpaths
-  - Streams
-  - Bridleways
-  - Woodlands



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Fig 1

Follow the footpath (Fig 1) which goes **left** at the bottom of a gentle slope into woods and **right**, then onto a wooden bridge over a stream before emerging into school playing fields. Go **straight ahead** keeping to the right hand side of the field and turn **left** along the metal fence at the far end to a **grey metal gate** in the far left hand corner.

Go through the gate (yellow directional arrow) and turn **immediately left** over **stile 1**. Walk along the left hand edge of the field (Fig 2) and **cross over Stile 2**, then turn **immediately left**.



Fig 2

On leaving the Red House pub, turn **left** towards Newbury and walk **300 metres** turning **2nd left** into Tubbs Lane. Follow the road round for 500 metres to the **right** and turn **left** at the 3rd 30mph sign. There is an enclosed field on your left (Mount Common) and a house (Tymbal Lodge) on your right. This narrow footpath goes through to a tar macadam road (Pantings Lane). Turn **right** and walk along the road for **70 metres**. Turn **left** onto a footpath just as the road starts to slope downhill (opposite a house called Keel's Barn).



Fig 3

Cross over **stile 7** in front of you and proceed diagonally **right** up the hill, with the view of Hollington House (Fig 4) behind you, to **stile 8** in the far right hand corner of the field. Cross this stile and turn **immediately right**, walk through the woods (Fig 5) until you reach a tar macadam road.

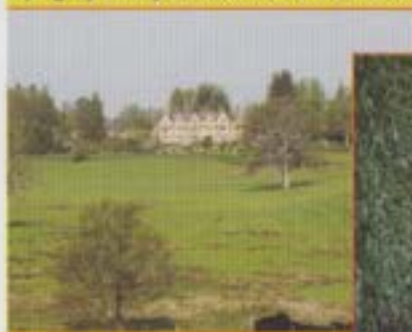


Fig 4

Turn **right** and follow this road until you come to a footpath on your right

between a modern barn and a large house (before a sharp left hand bend). Cross **stile 9** and proceed down the farm track to a wood at the bottom. Enter the woods over **stile 10** (sign on tree "keep dogs on lead"). Stay on the main footpath which turns **left** and then **right** (posts with yellow arrows) and cuts diagonally across a field (Fig 6) to a bridge over a stream at the bottom.



Fig 5

After **20 metres**, turn **right** over **stile 3** (yellow arrow) and continue along the farm road for **100 metres**. (Fig 3) Turn sharp **2nd left** (Hollington Farm sign on tree) and cross over **stile 4** taking the **right hand** fork. Cross over **stiles 5 & 6** (farm buildings on the left) before proceeding down a farm track to a gate at the bottom of a hill.



Fig 6

On crossing this stile, turn **left** and follow the tar macadam road for **about 1km** going past a number of farms until you come to a **road junction** with a large house set back from road on your right. Cross over **stile 13** in front of you and proceed up the hill along the right hand side of the field, continuing **straight ahead** across open field (when the fence breaks off to the right) to the far right hand corner, cross over **stile 14** and immediately cross a bridal way and a gully (sometimes filled with water) into a large field.

Turn **left** and proceed down and up a slight hill to the far left hand corner keeping to the border of the field on your left, turning **right** and then **left** at the top. Walk towards the house (Hill House) staying close to the left hand fence.

Where the break in this fence permits, join a footpath (quite overgrown) to a tar macadam road and **cross over** to **stile 15**, proceed **straight across** this field to **stile 16**. **CAUTION** – A343 is immediately after the stile. **Cross** the main road and go up a tar macadam road in front of you to Highclere Street.

At the top of the hill (Fig 7) turn **left** and walk down the road through Highclere Street and emerge onto the A343. Turn **right** onto the footpath and walk back to the Red House Pub



Fig 7