

Toddington and Tebworth Walk

approx 6½ miles - allow 4 hours

On street parking available in parts of Toddington, please park considerately. Unlimited parking in front of shops on Sundays, two hour limit Monday to Saturday.

1 Begin at Village Pond. Proceed along path towards Church, past Wentworth House on to Conger Hill past Conger House. Walk back towards High Street taking in buildings around The Green. Turn right on to Church Square, past Feoffee Yard and The Sow and Pigs.



Wentworth House

2 Turn left on to Park Road. Take footpath on right just past Manor Road. Go as far as pond, taking in views of Toddington Manor. Retrace steps to Park Road, turn right. **(take care on Park Road)!**



Conger House, Toddington

3 Follow Park Road briefly, ignoring bridlepath, to footpath on left, signed Monmouth Way. Cross stile and walk towards houses. Look for and cross stile, take footpath between houses and then onto to road. At end of road turn right, continuing on road to signed public footpath on right, between numbers 64 and 66.

4 Follow footpath on to road. Turn right on to Byfield Close and take public footpath to left of number 15. Follow path, turn left at marker post, go through gate. Cross left-edge of field go through next gate. Walk through farmyard, heading for gate on right. Go through gate, to another gate approximately halfway along left-hand hedgerow.

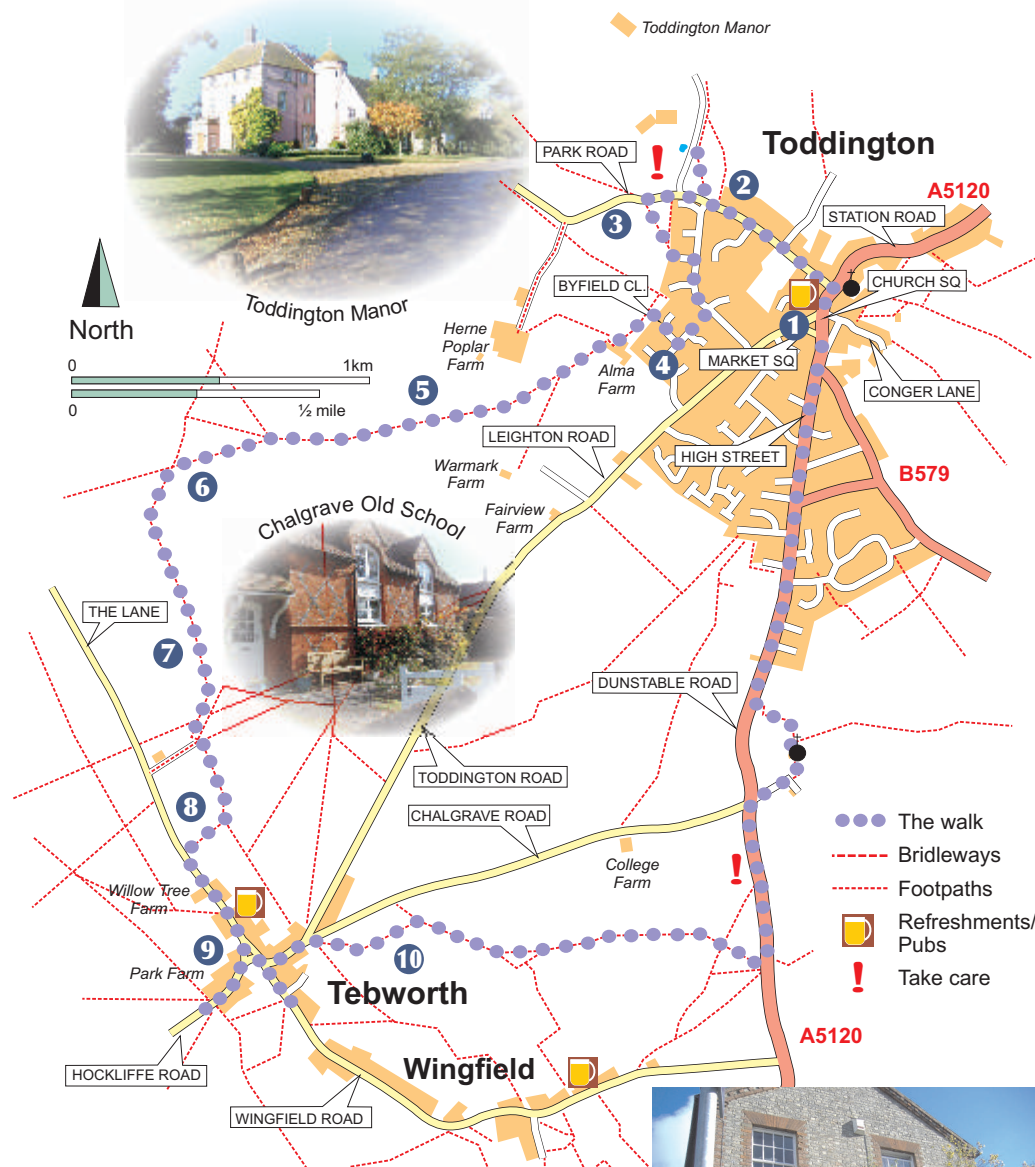
5 Go through gate. Head across field towards gate in far bottom right of field. Go over gate and brook bridge, continuing along right edge of field to another stile and brook bridge.

6 Follow footpath to left through field, towards yellow marker post. Follow marker post through next field. As a farm comes into view ahead, follow path on left towards yellow marker post, with Chalgrave Parish plaque on.



Emmerstone's Cottage, Tebworth

7 Head across field to large gap in hedgerow. Continue across to stile and brook bridge, and at next marker post, head straight towards stile and brook bridge in centre of hedgerow. Go over these and look for and cross stile and bridge on left in hedgerow.



8 Turn right and head towards metal gate and track. Cross over track and through gate opposite. Follow footpath diagonally through field (careful – livestock). At top turn right and skirt along hedgerow towards gate in far right corner (ignore first gate on left). Keep to left of field (ignoring marker posts on right) and go through gate and turn left on to The Lane.



The Old School, Tebworth

9 Follow The Lane into Tebworth Village, noting several attractive historic buildings, including Emmerstone's Cottage and The Old School. (over)

Toddington and Tebworth Walk (continued)

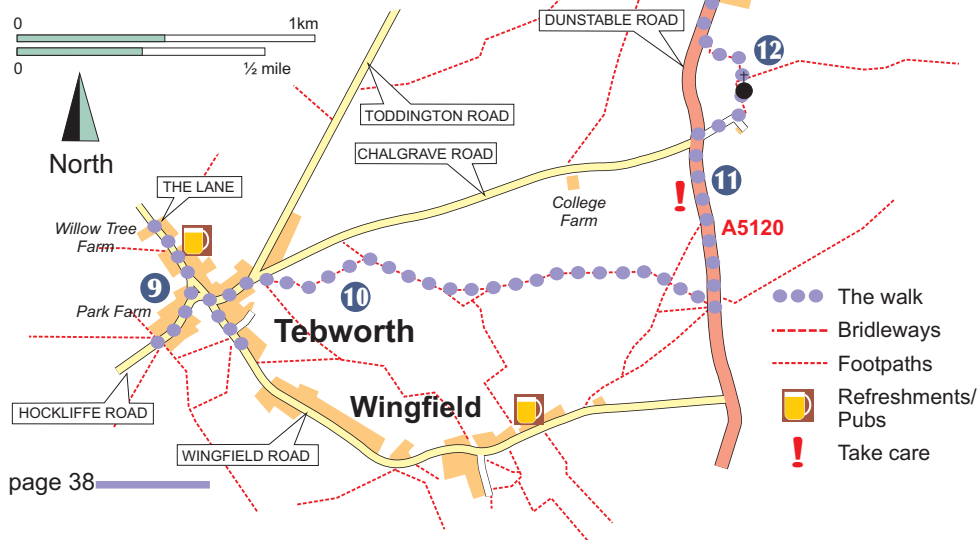
9 (continued) At top of The Lane, note Park Farm on right. Cross over road, turning right on to Wingfield Road, to Chalgrave Old School. Retrace steps, turning right at junction on to Toddington Road. Continue along road before bearing right on to Chalgrave Road. Take footpath immediately on right and follow left across field ignoring yellow markers to right. Continue straight on at yellow marker post.

10 Go over brook bridge, follow path to right and go over stile and brook bridge. Turn left, following path along left-hand edge of field and then right, to a wide gap in hedgerow and yellow marker post. Head straight up next field, looking out for yellow marker post about two-thirds of the way up field. Shortly after yellow marker post, go through gap in hedgerow, signed Icknield Way Trail.

11 Follow path diagonally right to public footpath sign. Turn left on to Dunstable Road (careful-no path). ! Turn right down road signed Chalgrave Church.

12 Take footpath to right of All Saints Church gate, signed Icknield Way Trail. Follow round Church and continue right at second marker post. At next marker, take path to left. When reach edge of field, go through gap in hedgerow. Follow path to left, through gate, across field and through second gate. Turn right and proceed back into Toddington, looking out for any other historic buildings.

The Monmouth Way is a walk from Toddington to Evershot, named after the Duke of Monmouth (1649-85), Pretender to the English throne, whose mistress Henrietta Wentworth was born in Toddington and lived at Toddington Manor. The route can be downloaded from www.letsgo.org.uk



Other Historic Buildings

The following are just a few of the district's other historic buildings. All are listed buildings, but for a full list visit the South Bedfordshire District Council website, www.southbeds.gov.uk

Houghton Hall, The Green, Houghton Regis

The great mansion house of Houghton Hall was built for Dame Alice Milard in 1654 and completed in 1700. The Grade II* listed Hall features a Welsh slate roof, sash windows and canopied doorway. Not open to public.



Luton Hoo, Lower Harpenden Road, Hyde

The country house at Luton Hoo was built in 1767 for the 3rd Earl of Bute. Destroyed by fire in 1843, the house was rebuilt with the addition of a grand entrance portico. The house is set within 1053 acres of parkland, designed by Capability Brown and featuring a large serpentine lake, formed by the flow of the River Lea. Also of note on the Luton Hoo Estate are the eighteenth century stables and courtyard, the nineteenth century Kennel Lodges and Lady Bute's Lodge. Luton Hoo has played host to a number of important visitors, including Queen Elizabeth II and Winston Churchill, and has recently been transformed into a luxury five star hotel.



Open: Open to those using the hotel only. See website for details. Contact: www.lutonhoo.co.uk

Somerles Castle, Hyde

In the late twelve century, the Somery family from Worcestershire built a large moated house on the site. This was replaced in the fifteenth century by a brick building, one of the earliest brick buildings in England. The gateway and part of the chapel remain. Open: Yes, all year round.

Contact: Bedfordshire County Council, 01234 363222

See www.somerlescastle.co.uk

Access: Down single-track road and farm track off the Lower Luton Road (B653). Parking available outside castle.

