Stebbing / Lindsell and Oxen End

Due to the small size of the Parish of Stebbing you will soon run out of footpath. This route, suitable for walkers and runners, makes a good half day walk taking you North out of the Parish, through Lindsell and back via Oxen End.

Although the Countryside Code asks you to keep to the footpath, there are occasions when this is not possible. Over time the precise routes of some PROWs have either disappeared or it has become more sensible to use what you will see on the ground and nobody has got round to having the map changed because this can be an expensive process. Therefore, you will find that in some places the route described here differs slightly from what is shown on the map.

10.2 miles  3hr 30min (approx. walking time)
Starting from outside The White Hart (1) a 17th century inn. Turn down Mill Lane and then turn right into Mill Lane Field (cricket ground) just past the Old Chapel, an 18th century former Methodist Chapel, now converted into houses. Cross the cricket ground diagonally to the gate on the far side. Proceed down the footpath which takes you past Stebbing Park House on your left with its Motte, Motte castles are medieval fortifications dating back to the Normans and this is the oldest known part of Stebbing. Cross the track to Stebbing Park, go through the ‘kissing gate’ opposite (2) and take the right -hand footpath. Follow the waymarked path diagonally down the hill, through the gateway and along the long meadow to reach the old mill (now apartments) and the road (3). Cross with care and proceed up the gravel drive to Tanners Farm where the path continues on the right-hand side of the buildings. This path will take you alongside Stebbing Brook to cross a 3-plank bridge with a longer one on your right (this one is known as Wendy’s Bridge and is a story for another day. Take the footpath on the left and pass through the copse, taking care to watch out for tree roots. On leaving the trees (you have now left Stebbing Parish and the waymarking is not always too clear). Follow the track around the field edges and to the Left of the pheasant rearing pen to arrive opposite the barns at Lashley Hall, originally a C15 timbered building with C16 & C17 additions, uphill to your right. Pass between the barns and follow the track down the hill to meet the road at Lindsell (4).

On reaching the road, cross with care and follow the track bearing right to meet the junction where you turn left staying on the track to reach the road (5). Turn right on the road and follow until it turns sharp left with a Bridleway leaving to the right, follow the Bridleway to reach the track at Brazenhead Farm (6). Turn Left and follow the track to just before a collection of old farm equipment and take the Crossfield path heading 45° right to cross a 3 plank bridge and on to meet the main road at Oxen End (7).

Cross the road with care and take the lane until you reach Fann’s Farm to take the footpath on your Left following the field edge to then take the footpath on the Right which will bring you back to the lane at Bushett Farm (8). Shortly after the farm you have a choice; either to carry straight on along the Byway to reach the Long Green Byway or turn Left to join the Coney Green Byway turning Right to reach the Long Green Byway and turning Left at the junction. A short way along the Byway turn Right on the Bridleway to reach Lubberhedges Lane at Martin’s Farm (9) (half way along the Bridleway as you cross the ditch you are crossing the Parish Boundary back into Stebbing).

Turn Right on Lubberhedges Lane until just past Pages Farm (10) where you take the footpath on your left which will bring you to the track at Holt’s Farm. This next bit is another classic case where the route walked differs from the map. After turning Right onto the farm track, you will shortly come to a field edge path on your Left, take this for two fields to reach the wood (11) ( you may have noticed that the waymarked route is actually some 20M into the field on your Right, old maps show this to have been a very narrow field and what is now a cross-field path used to be the field edge). On reaching the edge of the wood, ignore the bridge on your Right and take the path ahead into the wood turning Right at the waypost. Follow the path through the wood (lovely bluebells in the spring) bearing left at the junction and then Right to cross the big field, then simply follow the path through the hedge gap, down the hill and, passing Brick Kiln Farm, to reach Brick Kiln Lane (12). Turn Left and then, ignoring the road junction continue ahead, bearing right into the Clay Lane Byway. Ignore the first footpath on the Right and take the next footpath on the Right at the junction, this will take you across the field and ahead on the path to the High Street emerging opposite the village shop, turn Left and in a few metres, you will be back at the pub.