

PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

For these walks, the most pertinent points are:

Take all litter home with you

Keep to the paths

Keep dogs under close control

Leave gates as you find them, whether open or closed

Take all litter home with you (this is worth repeating)

Paths can be muddy after rain and in winter -- dress appropriately.

There are no public toilets in Hanslope.

All paths used on these walks are shown on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No.207.

Thanks to Hanslope Street Fayre and Hanslope Parish Council for helping with costs.

We hope you enjoy these walks, you won't regret trying them.

Any problems or enquiries, please email l444lor@hotmail.com or contact Jubilee Walks, 51 High St, Hanslope, MK19 7LQ.

LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS, TAKE NOTHING BUT PHOTOS

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HANSLOPE

Jubilee Walks

This booklet contains four circular walks around Hanslope using the spaghetti of footpaths that criss-cross the parish.

The walks are of varying length, from just over a mile up to 4-5 miles. None are particularly difficult -- it is fairly flat around the village and the paths are clearly marked -- but all have a few stiles to be crossed.

All the walks start and end in Market Square, allowing the more energetic to combine them for longer 'figure-of-eight' hikes.

GLOBE WALK: 60-90 minutes, lots of stiles

From Market Square walk to Gold Street (towards Tompkins the butcher) and turn right. Turn left into Newport Road and walk out of the village, crossing Eastfield Drive. Just past the last house on the left (No.67) cross a stile and walk across the field with the hedge on your left to a stile in the corner.

Cross that stile and turn left and, shortly, turn right to cross the field, passing two trees in the middle to reach another stile. Cross it and bear towards a stile near the left-hand edge of the hedge at the opposite side of the field. Cross the stile.

Walk straight across the next field, passing through a gap in the hedge to another field. This time the path leads straight across to a stile in the hedge. Cross it and then pass through four fields to Forest Road, crossing stiles between each field.

Turn right along the road before turning left down a tarmac drive towards Rose Lane Farm. Halfway down the drive turn left at a fingerpost sign. Cross a field, then a stile into another field, and then several more stiles in quick succession before passing some houses and reaching Hartwell Road. ('The Globe' pub is 100 metres to the left.)

Cross the road diagonally right to the 'Hartwell Road' sign and turn left to go through one metal gate and, 50 metres further, a second metal gate. Turn left in the field, walking round it next to the hedge on your left. Some 30/40 metres along the second side

of the field cross a stile in the hedge, skirt an abandoned van and continue walking with the hedge on your left to a road. Turn right.

Turn left down a signed gravel track, which eventually turns right. As it straightens out turn left onto a grassy path with Hanslope Spire ahead. Walk along the edge of the field, with the hedge on your left, to reach a footbridge on your left. Do not cross it, but turn right instead, aiming for the rightmost of a row of houses ahead.

Continue straight ahead with the housing on your left to reach the corner of the field and a gap in the hedge. Pass through it, go over a green lane and cross a footbridge and stile into a field. Turn left and walk along the field edge, passing gardens, to reach Castlethorpe Road. Turn left.

Turn right at the 'Watts Arms' pub to go down the High Street, passing 'The Cock' pub to return to Market Square.

CUCKOO'S HILL FARM: 60-75 minutes, some stiles

From Market Square, walk down Church End and turn right in front of church gates to follow a footpath to a field. Pass to the right of the tree immediately in front of the kissing gate, then walk straight across the field to an obvious gap in the hedge. Cross the stile into another field and walk with the hedge on your right. Halfway along the field turn right to cross a stile and walk along a path between two gardens to Castlethorpe Road.

Cross the road towards the right to walk down the drive to Cuckoo's Hill Farm. Turn left just after the farmhouse and continue along a gravel track to a cottage. Walk along the left of the horse jump ahead to come to a stile in a hedge. Do not cross it.

Instead, turn left in front of the stile to walk with the hedge on your right to come to a wooden gate. Go through it and after 30 metres fork right at a footpath junction (point A) to enter a field. Walk with gently downhill with a hedge/ditch on your right. Continue through a double metal-barred gate.

After about 100 metres, bear right to a gateway in the corner of the field. In the next field, walk towards a gap in the hedge in the far left corner of the field. Go over a small bridge and follow a grassy path, keeping the hedge on your right.

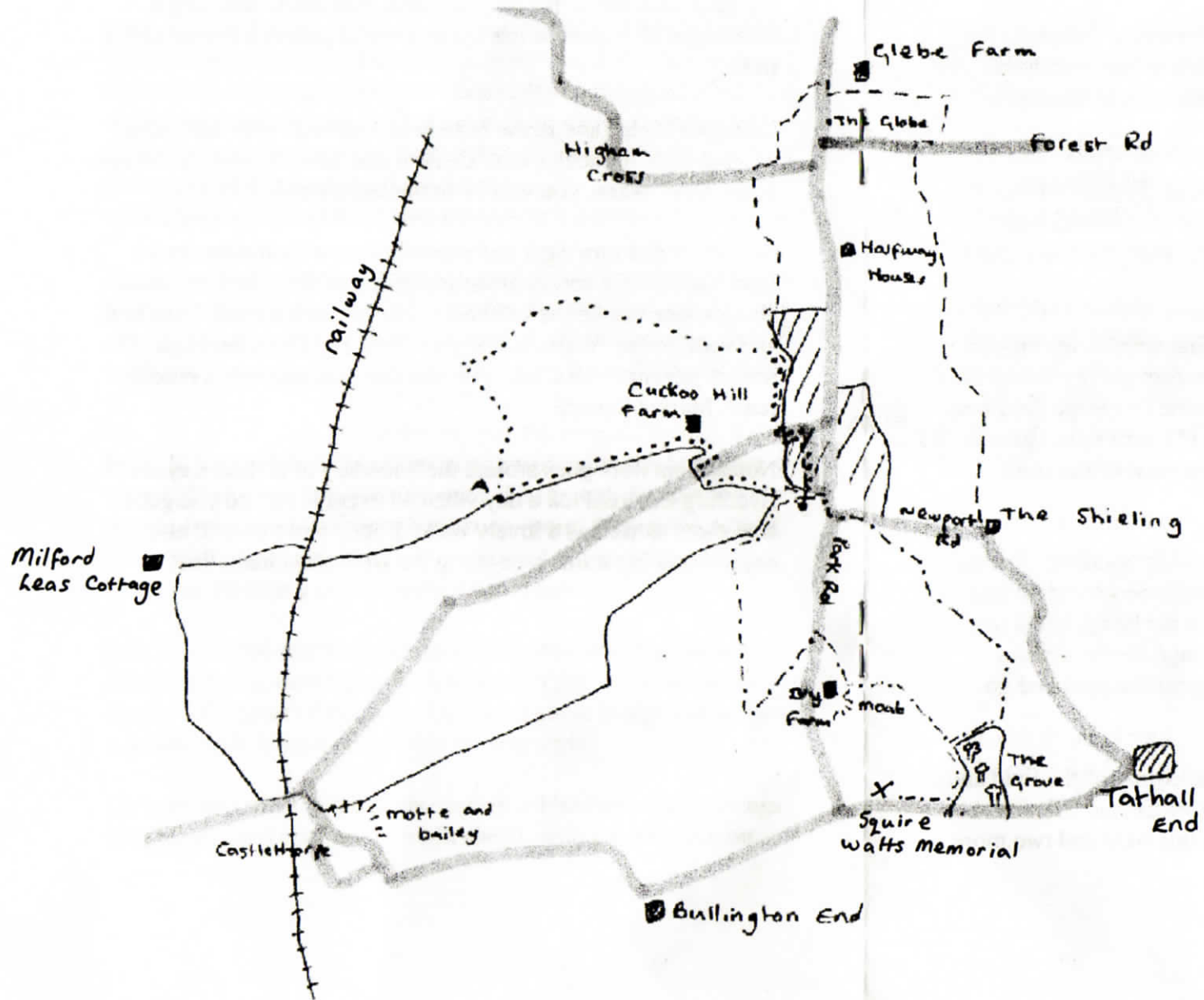
Go over two stiles in quick succession -- Hanslope Spire springs into view -- and continue straight ahead, with a wire fence on

your right, to a kissing gate into a field. Walk along the edge of the field with the hedge on your right, eventually reaching a footbridge 15 metres to the left of a metal gate in a corner of the field.

Cross the bridge and in the next field, continue with the hedge on your right to meet a stile. Cross it and turn left into the corner of the field, where you will be funnelled towards a stile.

Go over it and turn right immediately over a footbridge into a field. Go straight across towards a group of three houses. Walk along a lane beside the leftmost house to reach a road. Turn left and walk to the 'Watts Arms' pub. Turn right into the High Street, passing 'The Cock' pub and the working men's club to reach Market Square.

Notes: This walk goes around the boundary of Milton Keynes Eventing Centre. Pick a day when an event is on and you get a free show as well as a lovely walk. Young children will also enjoy watching trains race along the west coast main line.



- The Globe Walk
- Cuckoo Hill Farm Walk
- . - . The Grove Walk.
- Manslope Castle Walk.

THE GROVE: 45-60 minutes, no stiles on short version

From Market Square go to Gold Street (towards Tompkins the butcher) and turn right, soon turning left into Newport Road. Just past No. 11, take the marked path on the right to enter a field.

Bear half left, walking parallel to overhead electricity lines 30 metres on your right, to reach the left side of the field with allotments on the other side of the hedge. Turn right to a gap in the corner.

Walk along the edge of the next field, first with hedge on your left, then a ditch and then hedge again before going through an opening into the next field where you come to a large dead tree. Turn right and, when 'The Grove' ends (*), turn right again to walk with a hedge on your left and a fine view of the spire ahead.

Turn left at the end of the field towards farm buildings. Before reaching those buildings, cross a footbridge on your right and head towards the spire, reaching a gap in the hedge and a road. From here, turn right to return to the village centre without having had to cross a stile. Otherwise, cross the road and go through a kissing gate.

Walk with the hedge on your right to the corner of the field and turn right through a gap, crossing a footbridge and stile into a field. With the hedge on your left cross this field and two more

before entering the field adjacent to the church.

Cross the field diagonally to reach a kissing gate at the left-hand end of the graveyard. Walk along a narrow tarmac path to reach the church gates. Turn left to arrive back at Market Square.

*Turn left here to walk to a road where you turn right to reach a gated glade almost opposite the entrance to Hanslope Park. This is the spot where Squire Watts was murdered in 1912. Retrace your steps to continue the walk.

Notes: The Grove is lovely in spring when bluebells and primroses carpet this ancient woodland.

HANSLOPE CASTLE: 2-3 hours, several stiles

From Market Square, walk down Church End and turn right in front of church gates to follow a footpath through a kissing gate to a field. Walk to the far left-hand corner, finally coming across a metal gate. Part of one gate post is a stile. Cross it into a field.

Walking with the hedge on your left cross this field and two others (crossing a stile and then going through a metal gate) to arrive at a stile in a gap in the hedge. Go through the gap and turn left, reaching a farm track. Cross it to enter the field just on your right. With a hedge on your left, walk around two sides of the field to a stile.

Cross it and another stile a short way ahead to enter a field which leads to Castlethorpe Rec. Cross it by walking alongside gardens on the right to arrive at a stile into the field ahead (ignore a gate on your right). Ahead is what remains of Hanslope Castle, whose history is on a tablet set on a stone plinth close by the stile.

Now, after exploring the earthworks and the adjacent church, EITHER retrace your steps to Hanslope OR go through a gate at the opposite side of the castle to the church to walk along a narrow path to North Street. Turn right and then left over the railway bridge. Immediately on the other side of the bridge cross a stile into a field and aim for a row of cottages in the far left-hand corner to reach a stile.

Cross it and turn right along a farm lane to reach Milford Leys cottage, the first building on your right after passing several on your left. Just past the cottage turn right into a field and, keeping the hedge on your right arrive at a railway bridge, at the other side of which is a large field. Turn right to walk around the field.

When the hedge turns sharp right keep straight ahead to the hedge opposite which you keep on your right to the top of the field, eventually arriving at a stile in a gap in the hedge. Go through to the field, which is part of an eventing centre. Keeping the hedge on your left reach a wooden gate for walkers. Go through it and in a few yards reach a junction.

You are now at Point A of Walk 2 and can switch to those directions to extend this walk by turning left. Otherwise turn right to reach a gate. Pass through it and walk alongside a hedge on your left to reach a cottage. A gravel track on the left of this takes you to Cuckoo's Hill Farm. Turn right on a tarmac drive to Castlethorpe Road.

Cross the road toward the right to go down a footpath between houses. Cross a stile into a field and turn left to a stile in the corner. Cross it and walk straight across the field to the kissing gate near the start of the walk Return to Market Square.