

From the Village Hall cross Sundon Road, opposite Carpenters Arms, and walk down Station Road passing Harlington House, famous as the place of interrogation by Francis Wingate of John Bunyan. Opposite Wentworth Court is the white painted Harlington Arms now a private dwelling. Pass Station Cottages and go over the railway bridge noting the station which was built in 1868. Great care is needed when crossing Toddington Road. The old entrance to the sand pits is on your left. Just after the bungalow on your right is the first footpath sign. Follow the path across the field and aim for the large gap in the hedge. The trees on the left surround the old pits of Harlington Estate Brick Yard. Soon the path crosses a field to the River Flit. The footbridge is to the left of the pylon. Cross over the Flit, known locally as The Wash Brooks, into a narrow meadow. In summer lots of butterflies are to be found here. Climb over the stile beside the A5120 making diagonally left for the lay-by across the road.

Inside the lay-by on the left but pointing right is a finger post towards Harlington Wood End. Once through the hedge bear left onto the old dairy lane. Many a milk churn has clunked in the cart on its way from Wood End to the station. As the lane bends right another footpath comes in left from Redhills Farm, Toddington. Next as the track swings left keep to the field boundary alongside the old lane. The pathway then returns back to the milk route where remnants of an elm hedge are now evident.

The pathway soon opens out into a field. This is the edge of Wood End Green where dwellings were once scattered around its perimeter. The small fenced field on the right contains two ponds which were part of the green. Wood End House, stood with its boundary against the far left hedge. The Jacobean Mansion, home to the Astry family for 200 years, was reputedly destroyed in the late eighteenth century. The house in front of you, behind the ponds, is all that is left of the Wood End settlement of mediaeval times. In the nineteenth century this area was surveyed as a possible route for the London - Sheffield Railway.

The footpath left goes to Toddington, the path on the right leads to the large oak where there is a footpath junction. (Here you may wish to turn right and make your way back to Harlington). Continue to follow the field boundary round on the left passing two Victorian Cottages until the first waymarker is reached over a footbridge. Walk towards the wooden pylon across the field and pass through the kissing gate. Once through the gate continue to the corner of the next paddock keeping the pond on your left. Here the path continues to the next gate alongside the hedge on the right. Walk along the path, with tennis courts on left, to the road. This is Wood End, Westoning.

Once out of Bramleys turn right down the lane to the T junction and cross the Woburn Road to the wooden five barred gate. Follow the finger post diagonally across the field through the hedge and over the all-weather racing track to the corner of the field by a small spinney. Be aware of galloping horses. The path continues with edge of the field on the right and crosses the River Flit (Wash Brooks). Go through the small spinney and cross the stile. Now follow the path with the fence on your right, then pass through the swing gate with the oak tree on your left. Walk along the path to a gate just before the end of the field, then turn left and follow the trackway.

Next turn right into Church Road passing Manor Lodge House before coming to St. Mary Magdalene's Church. Westoning Church was entered in the Domesday Book (1086) under Hertfordshire. Walk along Church Road passing cottages on left with plaques bearing the initials JCCC 1875. (Bending round the Old Village School, now the Village Hall, is the old Bedford Road which comes out at a small roundabout on the A5120 a little north of the village.) Close by once stood Harlington Wood End's Tythe Barn. The footpath turns right between houses to a metal swing gate into a field. Continue diagonally leftwards through another small gate to a yellow post across the next field. Cross trackway to another kissing gate and continue with hedge on right.

On the other side of the clocktower is Westoning Stud Mews. Pass through two more metal gates. Next the route passes through white gate posts. Follow path between two paddocks noting an all-weather training area on your right. At the end of the paddocks bear left through a gate into a little spinney keeping the sound of the River Flit on your right. After about 50m the path bears right across a footbridge and over a wooden stile. The River Flit should still be on your right. Ignore barns in front and continue right through gate and walk diagonally across to the end of a small field to stile beside the A5120.

Turn right along grass verge, follow minor road round to the right signed Eversholt and cross the River Flit again. This area was known as Cranesfield. Walk past the Lady Astry Charity strips on right and look for bridleway sign on left. Cross road carefully and walk along bridleway with mature hedge on left. Just before top of hill, with noise of M1 motorway ahead, the bridleway continues to the right across fields to the next yellow post. A little common sense may be exercised here! Continue along edge of field to corner near yellow waymarker. On the left is a small spinney and a narrow pond, one of the features left from the old Astry Estate parkland. In winter Westoning, Harlington and Toddington churches may all be seen from here. Also look out for Pulloxhill Water Tower and Midland Railway Line.

Continue across field towards a large oak tree which we have met before. It would not be unusual to find the odd sherd of mediaeval pottery in this field. At the oak we are now back in Wood End Green and here the path crosses this very large field. Turn left towards Harlington. Follow this path towards pylon. On top of the hill is a small pond. Lower down hill the path goes left to the pylon used as a marker when first crossing the field the other side of A5120. Pass over the footbridge by the A5120 towards our original footpath which is now a little to the right, cross the main road and retrace your steps to Toddington Road, Harlington and back to the Village Hall.