

## STUBBINGS WOOD

Designated an S.S.S.I in 1983, the wood grows on a steep north-west facing chalk escarpment, which is capped by a glacial residue of clay with flints. The dominant trees are Beech, Ash and Oak, with an understorey of Holly, Yew, Dogwood, Field Maple and the chalk-loving Wayfaring Tree. High on the crest of the hill, a plantation of Larches and Sycamore can be found. Beneath the trees lies a carpet of Dog's Mercury with pockets of Bluebells and Primroses. Wood Anemone, Sweet Woodruff and Wood Spurge vie for space with the Wood Melick and the rarer Wood Barley. Exotic species include White Helleborine and Fly Orchid. All the common butterflies can be met with along the wooded paths, including the Speckled Wood, Wall and Meadow Brown. At the edge of the trees, Marbled Whites, Brimstones and Small Blues can be seen. During recent survey work, a total of 53 different species of bird ranging from Goldcrest, Britain's smallest bird, to Carrion Crow, were found to be using the woods. The species most often seen and heard are the two larger woodpeckers, the Green with its distinctive call or yaffle and the Greater Spotted which drums on tree trunks to advertise its presence. From the top of the woods, Kestrels and Sparrowhawks can be observed hunting in the valley below.

The Kestrels are on the look out for mice and voles. Other mammals present include the ubiquitous Rabbits, Muntjac Deer, Badgers and Foxes. The Muntjacs are descendants of animals which have escaped from the collections at Woburn and Whipsnade. Another introduced creature is the Edible Dormouse or Glis-glis released into Tring Park by Lord Rothschild in the last century and now living in the surrounding woods.

Please follow the Country Code

- Leave gates in the position you find them
- Leave only your footprints
- Take away your litter
- Keep dogs under control

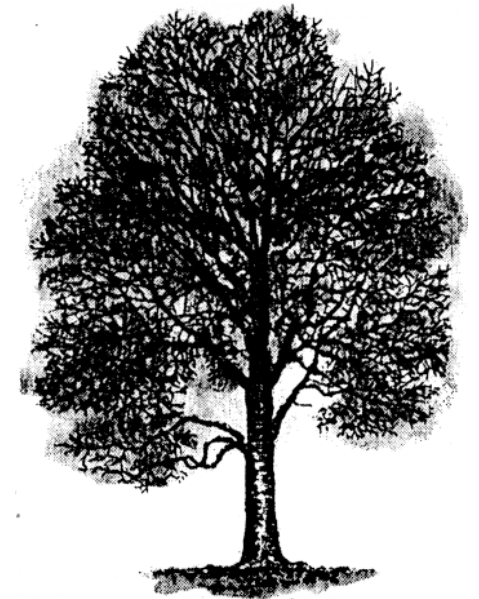
Do wear sensible clothing for your own comfort. Strong footwear is recommended, and particularly after rain, you may encounter some stretches of the route which are muddy.

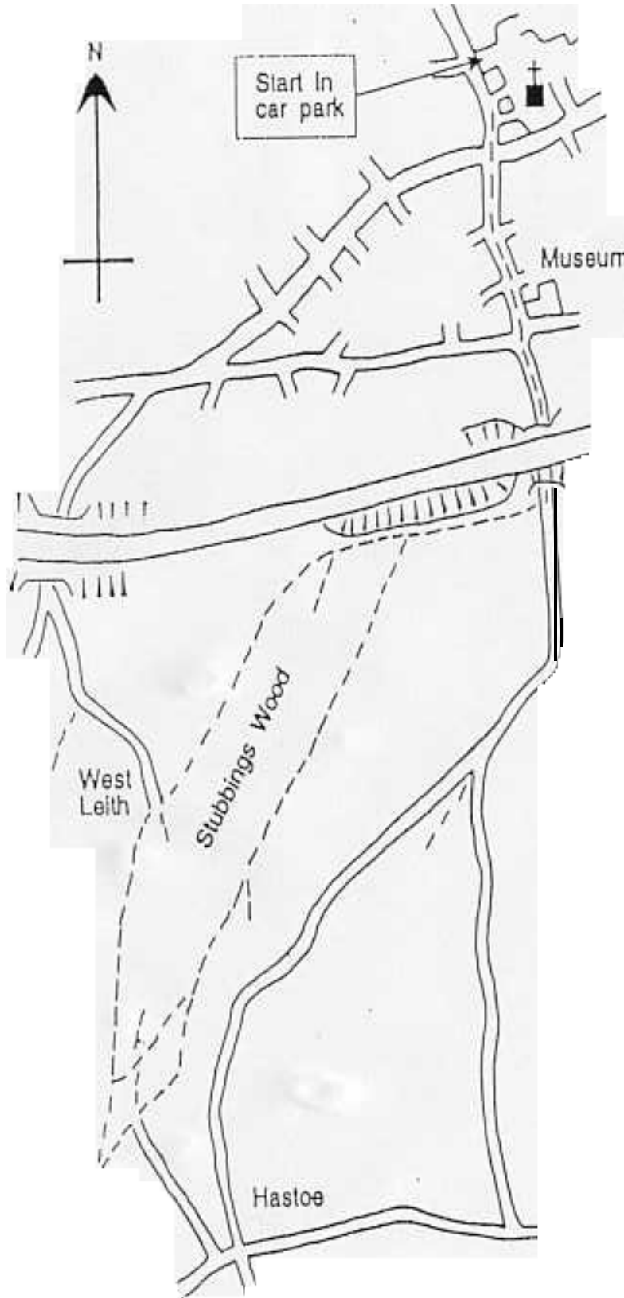
This guide was produced on behalf of Tring Environmental Forum by John Taylor, Jonathon Iles, and Rodney Sims. Permission to use the illustrations by Patricia Simpkin and Debra Hindle is gratefully acknowledged. Published by Tring Town Council. Copyright - Tring Environmental Forum May 1995 Revised December 2002

# TRING PARISH WALKS NUMBER 2 STUBBINGS WOOD

Approximate time : 75 minutes

Approximate distance: 5 kilometres





From the car park, go along the HIGH STREET towards the town centre, and turn left into AKEMAN STREET. Continue out of the town, passing the WALTER ROTHSCHILD MUSEUM on your left. Outside the Museum the road bends into Park Road. Follow the road round and take the left turn into Hastoe Lane (signposted Chesham). Continue along this road and after passing under the by-pass bridge, take the footpath on the right signposted to The path climbs beside the bypass for a short distance until it reaches a stile. Bear left in the direction of a hedgerow, passing an old water trough. At the top of the rise where the hedge ends pause to admire the view.

You can see from left to right  
 Hill,  
 The Vale of Aylesbury  
 Mentmore Towers  
 Ivinghoe Beacon  
**Pitstone Hill**  
 Aldbury Nowers  
 The Bridgewater Monument and below  
 you to the right  
 Tring Park

Walk on across the field and the path lies beside the Blackthorn edge of Tring Woods. The path enters the wood. Here bear left and follow it through a thicket of Holly bushes beneath towering Ash trees.



As the Holly thins out, the path divides. Go to the right slightly. Eventually the path reaches a HOLLOWAY, one of the ancient DROVERS' LANES that climb up from the Vale. Go straight across and follow the path which skirts a high chain link fence. Soon you come to another holloway. Turn right along this path and going downhill stop to look across towards DANCER'S END.

The bridleway curves to the right to rejoin the first holloway at the bottom of the woods at WEST LEITH.

Take the footpath that skirts the woods, beneath many fine Beeches. The path emerges from the trees close to the by-pass and climbs steeply up beside a field.

Carry on and Hastoe Lane is regained. Return to the car park maybe taking time to visit the interesting museum.