

Mendip Ring Leg 5b. Farleigh Castle School to Faulkland 5.7 Miles.

Start point G.R. ST 800570

1. Walk up the drive to the Farleigh Castle School follow the path through the grounds to reach the A366, cross this busy road with care and enter the lane opposite following this until you reach the A361. Turn left, pass the service station, cross the road and take the first path on your right through the gate, follow the path through Enfield Plantation to reach the drive of Norwood Farm now follow this until you reach a gate, go up the bank on your left and follow the path across the fields to reach the B3110.
2. Cross the road and enter Chever's Lane, go over the crossroads then just round the left hand bend take the bridleway to Hassage on your right. Follow the bridleway over the stream, ignore the footpath on your left continue to follow the bridleway to reach the hamlet of Hassage.
3. Turn left up the road then where the road turns sharp right take the stile up the bank following the path across the fields passing Ramsgate Wood, through Knoll Wood and Knoll Farm to reach the lane cross the stile (which is about 30m off line here), turn left back up the road then right into the bridleway, follow this round the field edges to enter an enclosed path, now look for another enclosed path on your left which takes you to the village green at Faulkland.

Points Of Historical Interest

Section 1

Farleigh House is shown on some maps as Farleigh Castle School. It is described as a classic example of the florid Victorian Gothic. Originally a modest Manor House, from about 1700 it

belonged to the Houlton family, who had Farleigh Hungerford mill. By the mid 19th century it had been enlarged and altered to its present appearance. Changes of ownership in the 20th century included a period as a school. It is now where Bath Rugby trains.

Set back across a little green on the left is the Grade II Listed Hermitage House. Dated late 17th to early 18th century, it has a 3 light timber mullioned stairway window above the front entrance. All the buildings in the courtyard at Church Farm are Grade II Listed. The last building behind the farmyard on the right has the initials ITH, possibly one of the Houlton family and the date 1855 on the eaves. The footpath across the fields here is on the old trackway, mentioned earlier, which continues across the A 366 Farleigh Road and on to Hinton Charterhouse. The road was turnpiked by the Trowbridge Trust in 1768.

Norwood Farm. Until recently this was a Rare Breeds centre.

A Roman road into Bath is shown on some maps as crossing the field adjacent to the main road at Norton St Philip, but there is nothing visible.

Section 2

The centre of Norton St Philip is a Conservation Area and there are several 17th century houses. The George Inn is one of the finest buildings of its type in England. It was built by the monks of the Carthusian Priory at Hinton Charterhouse, the sister house to the monastery at Witham Friary (Leg 3). Used as a wool store until the 15th century it probably became an Inn shortly after the Dissolution in 1539. During the Monmouth Rebellion, the Duke

stayed at The George. It is said that he narrowly escaped being killed when a shot was fired at him through the window over the main door.

Samuel Pepys visited the village in 1668. He lunched at The George and visited the church of St Philip and St James to see the stone effigy of Siamese Twins. There is guide to the church in the church. The school dated 1827 is opposite the church and there is a Baptist chapel dated 1814 and a Wesleyan chapel dated 1836.

The telephone box on Bell Hill is Grade II Listed and described as 'Type K6. Designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Made by Carron and Co. Cast Iron. Square kiosk with domed roof.

Unperforated replacement Elizabeth II crowns to top panels and margin glazing to windows and door'.

Mt Pleasant Farm is a Grade II Listed 18th century building.

In the secluded valley at Hassage, the Manor Farm on the left is a Grade II* mid 17th century building. The gable of the porch shows the date 1677. The building was restored in 1982/3. The barn across the road, with a square headed carriage entry, is late 18th century and Grade II Listed.

Section 3

The house at The Knoll is a gamekeeper's cottage. It belongs to the Ammerdown Estate, of which more later.

Faulkland is variously described as meaning 'folk land' or 'land held by the King that could be granted for life'. The Mendip District Guide description says 'a small unspoilt village with 18th/19th

century cottages grouped around a triangular green, in the centre of which the village stocks still stand'. Green House Farm on the green was the home of Thomas Turner, a noted 18th century eccentric, who built a tower on the southern edge of the village to rival the Joliffe tower on the Ammerdown Estate (Leg 6). Turner's Tower was demolished in the 1950's. The Wesleyan Chapel is early 19th century.

Opposite the green is the Somerset Lavender Farm which is open from Wednesday to Sunday between May and September. There is a café at the Farm.

Faulkland has a Post Office with a shop.