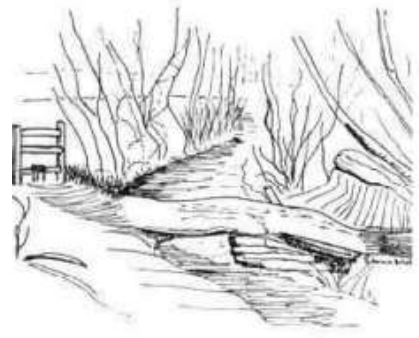


The Stone Bridge Walk

Approximately 5.25 km. or 3.25 miles

This walk starts from the Full Moon over the Rudge Ridge and back again. It runs through pleasant farmland with good views both north and south of the ridge. Wild deer are very common in the area and the walk also takes in a beautiful stone footbridge on the return leg.

Leaving the Full Moon by the front door, turn left and then left again on the road towards Brokers Wood. At the first road junction follow the road around to the left to find a stile in the left-hand hedge. Cross the field to the hedge corner opposite and, continuing on the same line, head for the hedge corner on the right-hand side of the field. Here, follow the right-hand hedge to Honeybridge Farm.



Ignoring the two stiles on your left, climb the slope northwards, following the right-hand hedge, to a stile in the top corner of the field. Continue across the next field to a gate in the far hedge and then, bearing very slightly right, cross the next field towards the gateway on the far side. Now head for the gate in the far left-hand corner of the next field at Norris Hill Farm.



Walk along the side of a barn to the farmyard and turn left. Go through the farm gate into a small grassy enclosure beyond and then through another gate into the fields once more. Here the path runs along the side of extensive chicken runs leading to a cutting that runs down to a stile with good views to the north. Now bear left and follow the left-hand hedge line to a gate at the bottom of the field. Continue to follow the left-hand hedge to a stile at the top of the slope. Still following the left-hand hedge, head towards a line of willow trees where you will pass through a gateway, which can be muddy. Continuing to

follow the same hedge line, you soon reach a kink in the hedge where there is a gap into the field on the left which is used as a permissive bridle path.

Go through this gap and walk along the northern edge of a large field. This section has good views to the south and tends to catch the sunshine. At the far end of the field turn left into a clear bridle path and follow it south towards Castley Farm. Part way along, cross a ramp that connects the fields on either side and continue to a junction of bridle paths. Here turn right on to Duck Pool Lane.

Follow Duck Pool Lane for some distance until you reach a kissing gate on the left-hand side. Go through the gate and head towards Duck Pool Farm, following the left-hand hedge. At the end of the barn in the field corner go through another kissing gate in the hedge and then almost immediately over a stile on the right-hand side.



Cross the next field diagonally to the far left-hand corner where there are two stiles with the remains of a stone footbridge in between. Cross the next field, heading for two large trees just over the brow of the hill. As you approach the trees you will see the next stile just to the right. Here you will find the feature that gives its name to this walk. Once again there are two stiles either side of a small stream. In this case however there are steep banks down to the stream and in the bottom is a lovely footbridge made of a single slab of stone resting on stone piers on either bank of the stream. It goes without saying that this is a



pleasant spot at which to stop and take refreshment.

Now head up the slope towards Stone House, and pass through the garden by means of two stiles. This brings you to the road leading to Castley Farm. Here you turn right to join Rudge Lane almost immediately. Turn left and follow the road down through the hamlet of Rudge to return to the Full Moon.

