



Chalgrave's hidden history

The Chalgrave Heritage Trail

an 8 mile circular walk

The Chalgrave Heritage Trail, beginning at information board 4 in Tebworth. Where known, dates and old names are in italics.

As you stand at the board behind you, to the right of the **Queen's Head** [*The Three Horseshoes, 1822*] is **2 The Lane** [*17th century*]; the **village pump** was to the left of the pub. Across The Lane is **Blacksmith House** [*site of the blacksmith's shop, 1755*], then **Forge Cottage** [*The Cock beerhouse, 1867*]. Further right is **Buttercup Farm** [*late 17th century*] and straight ahead, down Hockliffe Road, is Park Farm, much as it appeared in the 19th century; to its left is **The Maltings** [*malt house 1693; the Butcher's Arms, 1690*]. **Tithe Farm** [*17th century*] is further left, across the road. The village **stocks** [*1757*] and a **cattle pound** [*1755*] where stray livestock could be reclaimed after payment of a fine were in this area. In 1277 the triangle of ground where Forge Cottage and Blacksmith House stand today was part of the green, and villagers worshipped at **St Martin's Chapel** on its western side. If you walk up Wingfield Road you can see **St Mary's Chapel** [*1889*], the **National School** [*1855*], and **The Shoulder of Mutton** [*17th century*] in Parkview Lane, all of which are now private houses.

Walk east along Toddington Road, past the **Wesleyan Methodist Chapel** [*1842, now a house*] to the **Pond**. Information board 5 is here, and a bench with a back designed by the children of Chalgrave in 2008.

Follow the footpath sign through the gate and past the pond. Continue straight ahead across some fine examples of the ridge-and-furrow created by medieval ploughing to a green lane. Turn right into the lane to walk through **Boggy Meadow** (a County Wildlife Site) and across the brook. Go through the gate, then turn right through the field gate with the CHT waymark, following the footpath arrow to angle up across the field along part of what was once **Frenchman's Way**, the pre-enclosure road to Toddington. Cross one stile and continue on the same angle to another stile in the corner of the field.



Carefully cross the busy Toddington road, then follow the waymarkers. **Please** stay on the permissive path through recently planted trees to the corner of the field, then turn right. Continue ahead, over a stile and kissing gate to walk to the Glebe in Toddington. Follow the waymarked footpath sign south along the fence and turn right through another kissing gate. The path runs through a nature reserve and across a bridge into Chalgrave parish. Continue to Chalgrave Road (once known as *Church Way*) at **College Farm**. Turn left and walk to **All Saints Church**. There has been a church here since before 1185; information board 2 tells you more about its history (including the famous wall paintings) and the Manor that once stood beside it.

Follow the waymarks and the Icknield Way path around the churchyard and continue east, beside the golf course. Where the Icknield Way turns left the CHT turns right across the field to **Chalgrave Manor Farm**. Follow signs around the farmyard to the road on which the footpath runs south to Featherbed Lane, once part of a prehistoric track the Anglo-Saxons called **Theedway**.

At board 1 turn left onto *Theedway*, then take the first footpath right. Follow the signs through **Grove Farm**, turn right onto a bridleway beside the A1520, then left, carefully crossing this busy road. You are now walking the Chalgrave parish boundary on the **Boundway** [*The Dyke 926*]. Take the first footpath on the right, cross a bridge and follow the signs across the fields once known as *Grove Grass Croft* to **The Plough** [*1822*] and information board 3 about medieval **Wingfield**.

Take Tebworth Road (another section of *Theedway*) toward the centre of Wingfield, but turn left onto the next footpath, part of the Icknield Way as well as the CHT, and walk around the cricket field to Hill Close. Walk past **Hill Farm** to take the first path on the right. Walk through a dell, over a bridge and across what was once *Stockwell Furlong*. Cross three stiles and take the concrete track right, back toward Tebworth Road. Turn left onto the footpath that follows the route of *Theedway* and *Chasewell Way*. Take the first path on the right,



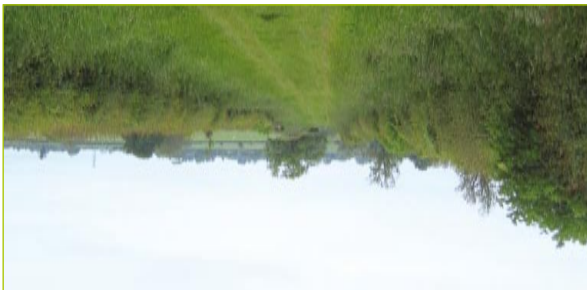
People have lived and worked in Chalgrave for over 6,000 years: the villages of Wingfield and Tebworth are only the most recent settlements here. The boundaries of Chalgrave Parish were described in an Anglo-Saxon charter over 1000 years ago and include a Roman road and *Theedway*, a track established by travellers long before the Romans arrived in Britain. Modern Chalgrave was shaped by this history: follow the **Chalgrave Heritage Trail** to discover more about this landscape and the people who lived here.

This waymarked circular trail is about 8 miles long, and can be walked in its entirety (4–5 hours) or in sections using other footpaths to return to your starting point. Maps of the parish footpath network should be available in the pubs and can be downloaded from www.chalgrave.org

Note that there are stiles along the route. Please close gates to prevent livestock straying.



Chalgrave Parish Council are grateful to Bedfordshire County Council's Heritage and Environment Section for archaeological and historical information about Chalgrave. The Chalgrave Heritage Trail was funded by Chalk arc.



Looking northwest along the green lane running roughly along the crest of the ridge, which rises gently toward Toddington.

warmer, south-facing slope of the ridge.

settlement remains known in Chalgrave are on the low clay vale west of the parish. The earliest ground through Chalgrave until it reaches *Theedway* runs down from the Chalk to follow high prehistoric track known to the Anglo-Saxons as the landscape shaped settlement of this area: the of *glacial till* that caps the Gault ridge.

area. When the ice melted these became the layer from the landscape they flowed across to reach this The glaciers brought with them clay, sand and rock wind and rain to create the landscape we live in. the Gault were exposed and eroded by glaciers, southern England. The Chalk, the Greensand and that raised the Alps created a gentle ridge across alga. Then, 20 million years ago, the same force the south is made of the skeletons of microscopic or no mud reached it: the Chalk escarpment to Eventually this area was so far from land that little a muddy sea floor that is now the Gault Clay.

sea drifted down through the water to become was further away, finer particles washed out to Chalgrave; as the sea grew deeper and dry land sea floor became the Greensand Ridge, north of south Bedfordshire. Sands deposited on the shallow million years ago, rising sea levels were flooding Gault Clay. In the Cretaceous period, over 100 Most of Chalgrave Parish sits on a low ridge of the

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which was *Millway* (nothing now remains of the Mill) across the fields that were *West Close Furlong* to Hockliffe Road.

When Chalgrave was enclosed in 1800 the old route across the open fields to Hockliffe, *Coxstead Way*, was replaced by Hockliffe Road. Cross this road and take the footpath, angling through a modern copse and across the ditch. These fields were part of *Coxted Furlong*. Cross the next ditch into part of Hockliffe Parish that was once in Chalgrave and continue through the **recreation ground**, skirting the football pitch. Walk down Kilby Road, turn right and follow Birches Close to the **A5**.

The A5 [*Watling Street*] has been a major road since Roman times; **Hockliffe** thrived on passing trade after the road was turnpiked. Turn right and walk to the Woburn Road crossroads past what were once inns: **The Red Lion** [*Three Blackbirds, 1720*] closed in 2003 and the site is now a housing estate; **The White Horse Inn** [*1712–c. 1924*]; **The Shoulder of Mutton** [*1822–c. 1914*] and **The Star Inn** [*1636–c. 1850*], Turn right toward Woburn, across **Clipstone Brook**, and take the first footpath on the right, down the track. The path runs parallel to the brook across *Washingpool Furlong* to a stile. Follow the CHT signs into Chalgrave Parish, turning right over a small bridge, left along the field edge, then right to follow the field edge. Cross the small bridge, climb the stile, walk straight across the field to a second stile and then left and right along the field edge on the path known as the 'slipe'. The first path on the left takes you across *Pullins Close* to The Lane at 30 The Lane (*includes 16th century Emerton's Cottage, the oldest building in Tebworth*). Turn right and walk into Tebworth where **The Queen's Head** awaits.

