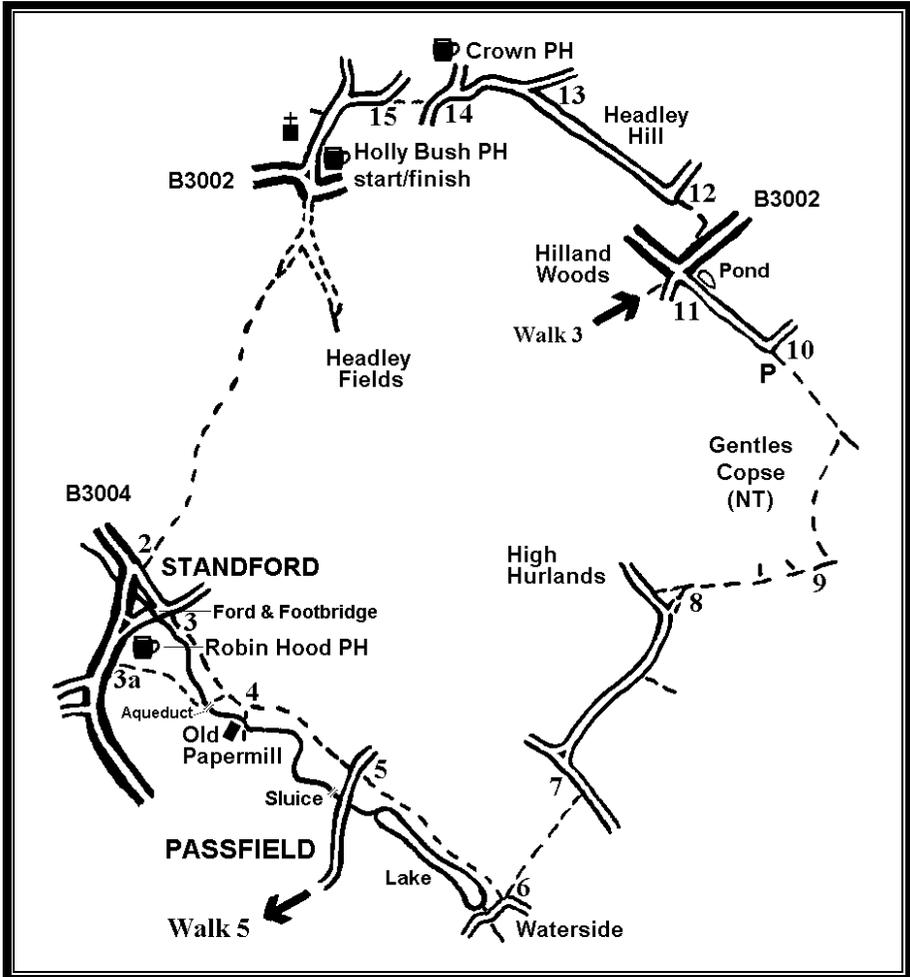


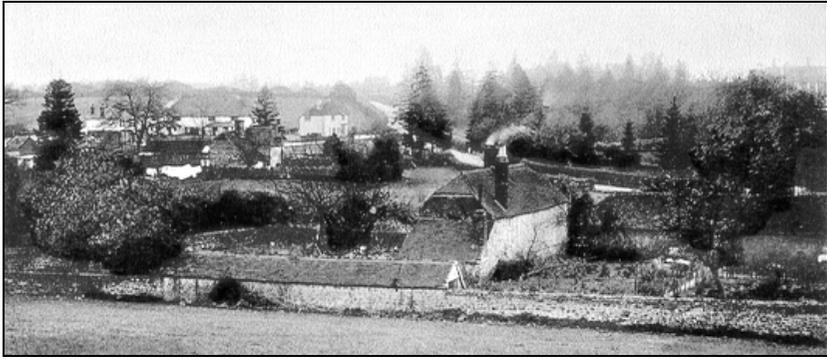
Walk 4 – Down by the Riverside

Distance approximately 5 miles/8km

This walk starts and ends in Headley High Street, visiting Stanford, following the River Wey upstream through Passfield to *Waterside*, then via High Hurlands and Ludshott Common to Fullers Vale where it rejoins Walk 3 in returning over Headley Hill to the High Street.



- 1 From the *Holly Bush*, turn left, cross the road with care and to the right of *Crabtree House* go along the lane called *Headley Fields*. After a hundred yards or so, fork right by *Mayfield House* along another unpaved lane. Keep to the footpath where this divides to the left. After passing between hedges, it crosses fields through a number of ‘kissing gates’ and eventually descends to meet a road (*Tulls Lane*) at *Stanford*.



View over Stanford in 1903 taken from near the footpath from Headley

- 2 Turn left along Tulls Lane. Where it bends sharply left, take the footpath passing through a gate and garden straight ahead. (To the right at this point is a footbridge over the River Wey leading to Stanford Village Green and the *Robin Hood* pub, see photo p.28).

The ford and bridge here have been favourite subjects for artists and photographers through the years. The ford is not recommended for car users! Downstream of the bridge the wooded area was once the mill pond for Stanford Paper Mill, which shut down around 1886.

For an interesting diversion, go over the bridge and past the Robin Hood – take a path to the left (at 3a on map opposite) at a sign showing Open Access information and go through a kissing gate into old watermeadows. Make your way through the meadow to an aqueduct (rebuilt in 2006) where you can cross the river again and rejoin the walk between Points 3 and 4.

- 3 Follow the track through the garden, then between fences. The field to the right which falls towards the river is a nature reserve (old watermeadow).
- 4 Ignoring a flat concrete bridge over the river to the right, carry straight on following the footpath along the river bank.



Footpath beside the River Wey between Stanford and Passfield

Walk 4

The buildings opposite used to be Bramshott Paper Mill, closed in 1924. Now the site and the area of the old mill pond is used by a variety of light industrial and commercial operations.

This path is a pretty, shaded walk along the bank of the River Wey. It emerges up a sharp incline to meet an unmade lane serving houses which leads shortly to a surfaced road.

Walk 5 leaves us here.

Nearby to the right is a good example of a sluice which diverted water from the river as part of the water meadow irrigation system which once ran along both sides of the river. It can be seen from the road bridge (see photo p.28).

- 5 Cross the road diagonally, passing to the right of a gate and following the path along the bank of a lake formed from damming the river. At the other end of the lake you arrive at a crossing of public rights of way at *Waterside*.



Top end of the lake at 'Waterside'

In the private grounds at 'Waterside', water from the river is pumped into side channels or 'leats' which run at a higher level. These, once part of the water meadow irrigation system, now act as a supply for water features in the garden.

- 6 Take the bridleway on the left to meet a road (Bramshott Lane).
- 7 Turn left along the road, then shortly right along Gentles Lane which soon becomes a 'sunken lane' climbing uphill.

Sunken lanes are a feature of this part of Hampshire. In places here the activity of burrowing animals often shifts quantities of the bank soil down onto the road surface.

- 8 Where the lane bends left, take the muddy bridleway straight ahead, turning right shortly where it joins another bridleway known locally as Roman Road.

Follow this (waterproof footwear recommended) until you see a National Trust sign for Gentles Copse on the left.



'Roman Road' – bridleway from High Hurlands to Ludshott Common

Local legend says that this track was used by Roman soldiers on their way to cross the river at Standford. It is known that in Roman times Gentles Copse was coppiced for the manufacture of charcoal.

- 9 There are several paths from here which cross the Trust land to arrive at the bridleway leading to Pond Road car park. To follow the marked public right of way, carry on along the bridleway for another quarter of a mile or so and take a bridleway sharp left and uphill. This follows a firebreak between woods over a rise and descends into a valley (follow the overhead electric cables). Join the main track along the valley bottom near an old concrete dam, turning left to reach the NT car park in just over a quarter of a mile.

During the Second World War, army training activities with tracked vehicles denuded Ludshott Common of most of its vegetation – as a result, when it rained water poured off the Common instead of being absorbed, ran down this valley as a river and flooded properties in Fullers Vale and in Arford. Some concrete flood prevention works can still be seen here and there in the undergrowth.

- 10 Carry on down the valley (along Pond Road) to Fullers Vale pond.
*This is point 5 of **Walk 3**, which you follow in returning to your start point. See notes and illustrations at p.20.*
- 11 Cross the main road with care at the four-way junction and walk along the left-hand side of Beech Hill to take the bridleway which passes *Oakdene* and climbs straight ahead uphill. Follow the track as it bends to the left and meets concrete at Headley Hill Road.

Walk 4

- 12 Continue straight ahead along the road, which becomes more pitted as it descends to meet a surfaced road (Bowcot Hill).
- 13 Turn left down Bowcot Hill to cross the Ar stream and then rise to meet Arford Road by the gate to Arford House. (Note that *The Crown* public house with its secluded garden is conveniently just down the road to your right).



The Crown Inn at Arford, with shop in earlier days

Note: The booklet 'To the Ar and Back' (published by The Headley Society) gives more details of the history of this area.

- 14 Turn left up Arford Road keeping your ears open for traffic approaching round the blind corner, and shortly take the steps up to the right. Follow the footpath across a drive and between properties built in an old gravel quarry on the left and the old manse on the right to arrive at a road (Long Cross Hill) opposite *Medway*.
- 15 Turn left up Long Cross Hill and left again at the top to return to the High Street.

