

Directions

A. Leave the Old School and turn right along School Lane away from the B660. Follow the lane until it becomes an unmade track crossing the brook.



Continue uphill towards a set of converted barns at Mount Pleasant which has a wind turbine in the grounds.

B. Turn left at the top of the hill before Mount Pleasant, where two tracks cross, and continue along a good track in open countryside. At the T junction, turn left and follow the track to a set of converted farm buildings and light industrial/storage units at Greensbury Farm. The bridleway follows the drive through the units and past the large white farmhouse on the left down to the road at a bend. Carefully turn right and walk along the road for about 200yds taking care as there is no pavement. After the road bends right, leave the road by turning left and joining the bridleway accessed beside some rusty iron gates.

C. Walk along this track towards the derelict Crowhill Farm. Before the farm buildings, and after a small copse on your right, leave the hard surfaced track and follow a grassy track to the right of the buildings aiming at a yellow marker post. Having passed round the ivy clad derelict farmhouse and buildings you continue on the track which opens out into a wider grassy way as you near its end. Follow this wide grassy track to a T junction. Turn left, keeping to the track, and then with the buildings of Brook Farm just in view in the dip in front of you, and at the end of the hedge on your left, turn left at a yellow marker post. Walk downhill with the hedge on your left and at the end of the field make your way through the undergrowth at the end of the hedge down to the brook.

D. Cross the wooden bridge over the South Brook. Immediately turn left and follow the stream. Very shortly a good view of Bolnhurst Church appears in front of you. The view of the church disappears as you continue but at the next yellow marker post (almost hidden in the hedgerow but near the end of the field) the church is seen again through the hedge. Turn left through the hedge-line and head across the field to the corner of the churchyard. Turn left and walk past the church with the churchyard hedge on your right.* Continue to the end of the hedge and then straight ahead and downhill to the brook. Turn right and shortly cross the road to join a track with the brook on your left. Follow the track until it peters out.

Continue with the hedge and brook on your left and, making sure to stay in the same field, ignore the vehicle bridge on your left. After a further 150yds turn left over the much smaller pedestrian bridge marked with a yellow marker post. Immediately turn right following the stream on your right and passing a small reservoir on your left. Several different water-birds are often seen at this point as well as muntjac deer and the occasional fox. After the reservoir step down a slope to the last bridge. Please be careful here if it is wet as the steps are missing, leaving a slope which can be slippery. Continue with the stream on your right until you reach the lane.

E. Turn right and follow this lane up the hill until you return to the Old School

*NB You can divert and visit the churchyard on your right and having enjoyed the peace and solitude there walk down the drive to the road turn right and walk along this road to the B660 where, by turning right and continuing for a couple of hundred yards you can refresh yourselves at The Plough www.bolnhurst.com. Come back to the churchyard to continue your walk.

For full details of walks and rides throughout Bedfordshire, visit www.letsgo.org.uk

Public Transport (As at Autumn 2011)

Bus Route 28 (Bedford) **Bus Route 29** (St Neots)
Both operated by Grant Palmer Ltd (01582 600844)

Accommodation

There are a number of bed & breakfasts in the area. Please contact: Bedford Tourist Information Centre
Tel: 01234 221712.

We are indebted to the following for their support:



Walkers undertake the routes marked at their own risk. While each one has been walked, unexpected hazards do occur.




Hidden Britain
NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE WOLDS

Gateway to the Wolds

**SOUTH BROOK WALK,
BOLNHURST**



South Brook Walk, Bolnhurst

Local History

Bolnhurst (Bulehestre or even Bolehestre in the past) is a village which has always been dominated by the farms within its boundaries and the parish church of St Dunstan's. This gentle stroll gives the walker the opportunity to see several of the farmsteads and the church itself. The village was mentioned in surveys as long ago as 1086 and farms such as Greensbury (Grymsbury) can trace their origins back through the centuries although in common with others the actual name changes over the years. The farms of Mavourne, Brook End, Crowhill, Blacklands and Tilwick (not in Bolnhurst parish) formed the Franklin Estate for several centuries whilst Brayes Farm became in latter years The Plough. The church, part dating from the first half of the 13th century contains a medieval wall painting as well as a fine marble monument to Sir John Franklin. The village school closed in 1951 but the school log contains many glimpses into the lives of the villagers from the late 1800s – of interest on this walk is that the children were given half day holidays to pick the cowslips which abounded around Crowhill particularly and these were sold by the 'pint' to be turned into wine!

The Walk

This is an easy 4½ mile walk in undulating North Bedfordshire countryside, mostly on good footpaths and bridleways. A short section behind Bolnhurst Church which crosses open cultivated land, the track behind Crowhill Farm and that by the Brook itself can be muddy in wet weather.

Start

The walk is described from the Old School in School Lane (limited parking). School Lane is situated west off the Bedford/Kimbolton Road (B660) opposite the turn to Bushmead. Alternatively the owners of The Plough (01234 376274) are happy to allow patrons to leave their cars in The Plough carpark and then this walk can be accessed by walking to the Church of St Dunstan's as described in the directions. (NB. School Lane appears on many Satnav systems as Church Lane for reasons no-one knows!)

