

# Whitechurch Maund, Upper Holbatch and Venn's Green

*Easy walking including quiet lanes and bridleways offering wide views to the south*

**7.5 miles (12 km.)**

**Start:- Car park at Bodenham Parish Hall, or England's Gate Inn (S) opposite**

**Explorer 202 or Pathfinder 994 GR 545 514**

From the Parish Hall turn right, or left from England's Gate Inn (S) for about 200 metres on the A417 to cross a stile in the hedge on the left at Calderwell (R). Follow the hedge on the right to a stile in the hedge ahead and turn left down Ketch Lane to the tee junction. Turn right for 50 metres to a kissing gate on the left. Follow the hedge through two more gates and across the field to a fourth gate. Bear left to a footbridge into Orchard Close and cross the road into Chapel Lane. Continue to the road junction.

Here, with no appreciable difference in distance, you have a choice of two routes. You can either continue ahead to Pool Head and, via Watery Lane and Maund Common, to the road junction as described in Walk 18 para 2 or take the route described below and turn right.

Follow this lane passing Moor Court to the tee junction and turn left continuing on through Rowberry Court to the next tee junction. Turn right and follow the lane to a metal footpath sign in the hedge on the right opposite Upper Maund Farm. Go through the gate and follow the hedge on your right bearing slightly left as you near the top of the field to a stile in the hedge ahead which you cross into the bridleway and turn right.

There can be a muddy patch here after heavy rain but the bridleway is grass covered and the few other occasional patches of mud that you may encounter are more easily negotiated.

With wide views to the south of this green lane, including the adjoining grounds of Rosemaund Research Centre (X), reach the lane at Upper Holbatch Farm and follow it past the entrance to Vennwood on your right. After a further 450 metres cross a stile on your right opposite to the second house on the left, Oakridge. Cross the field heading to the right of the electricity pole to the bottom right corner just to the right of the white cottage, and cross into the track which you follow to the drive and on to the road. Take the lane to Venn's Green just left of opposite and after 500 metres, just before Venn's Green Farm, take the stile on the right. Head across the next two fields to reach a lane which you cross and mount the hedge bank opposite. Follow the hedge on your left to a stile in that hedge, cross it, turn right and bear slightly left to another stile and on to a track. Pause here for the view. Continue then along the track to another stile and then cross another in the hedge on your left just before Ash Grove Farm. Follow the fence on your right to the next stile and bear right to the farm drive on which you turn left to reach the road. Turn right down Cuddy Meadow Hill, locally corrupted

to God Almighty Hill, said to be an exclamation induced by the sight of its steepness, until you reach the road junction where you turn left into Smeadal Lane opposite the electricity sub station. Follow this lane to the tee junction by Bodenham Bridge (G), turn right along Millcroft Road and left at England's Gate Inn (S) to your starting point.

