

# Walk 3

## Studham to Whipsnade

Studham is an attractive village grouped around a green with its War memorial and pub. It was once the centre of the straw plait industry for the manufacture of hats and other articles transported from Dunstable and Luton to the rest of the UK. This walk takes you from the village green to the church and then over rolling Bedfordshire countryside to Whipsnade, returning along a different route.

**Distance:** 4 miles (allow 2 ½ hours)

**Start:** Park near the War memorial on the village green, opposite the Red Lion pub. Bus service.

**Access Information:** Level walk. The path running alongside Whipsnade Zoo (between 2 and 3 on the map) can be muddy in wet months.

**Refreshments:** Two pubs in Studham village and a pub in Whipsnade. Refreshments are available at Dunstable Downs and the new visitor centre is due to open in Autumn 2006.

### Route:

From the car park near the War memorial 1 walk along Church Road, past the Red Lion Pub on your right and the green on your left, and follow it for half a mile almost as far as the church. About two hundred yards short of the church you will see a brideway sign on your left, marked Icknield Way. 2 Turn left here to follow the path along the edge of a wood, and then along the signposted Chiltern Way, through fields, eventually reaching the perimeter fence of Whipsnade Zoo on your left.

When you reach a crossing track (Studham Lane), 3 turn left along it (marked Icknield Way/Chiltern Way). Where the lane forks, keep right and then immediately turn right along a footpath waymarked as the 'Chiltern Way'. 4 At a gate, 5 ignore the path on your right, instead go through a gate on your left to cross a field to reach Whipsnade church. 6

Go through the churchyard if you wish to visit Whipsnade village and the Tree Cathedral, but return to the church to continue the walk.

Return the same way but on reaching Studham Lane continue along it until you reach a public footpath on your right 7 shortly before meeting a road. Follow this footpath through a staggered barrier and across fields until you meet a crossing path which runs behind Studham church. 8 Turn left along this path and then right to go through the churchyard of Studham's beautiful 13th century church. Pass through the church gates and follow Church Road back to the car park.

Note: there are other stile-free walks in nearby Studham Common which can be downloaded from our web site [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org)

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