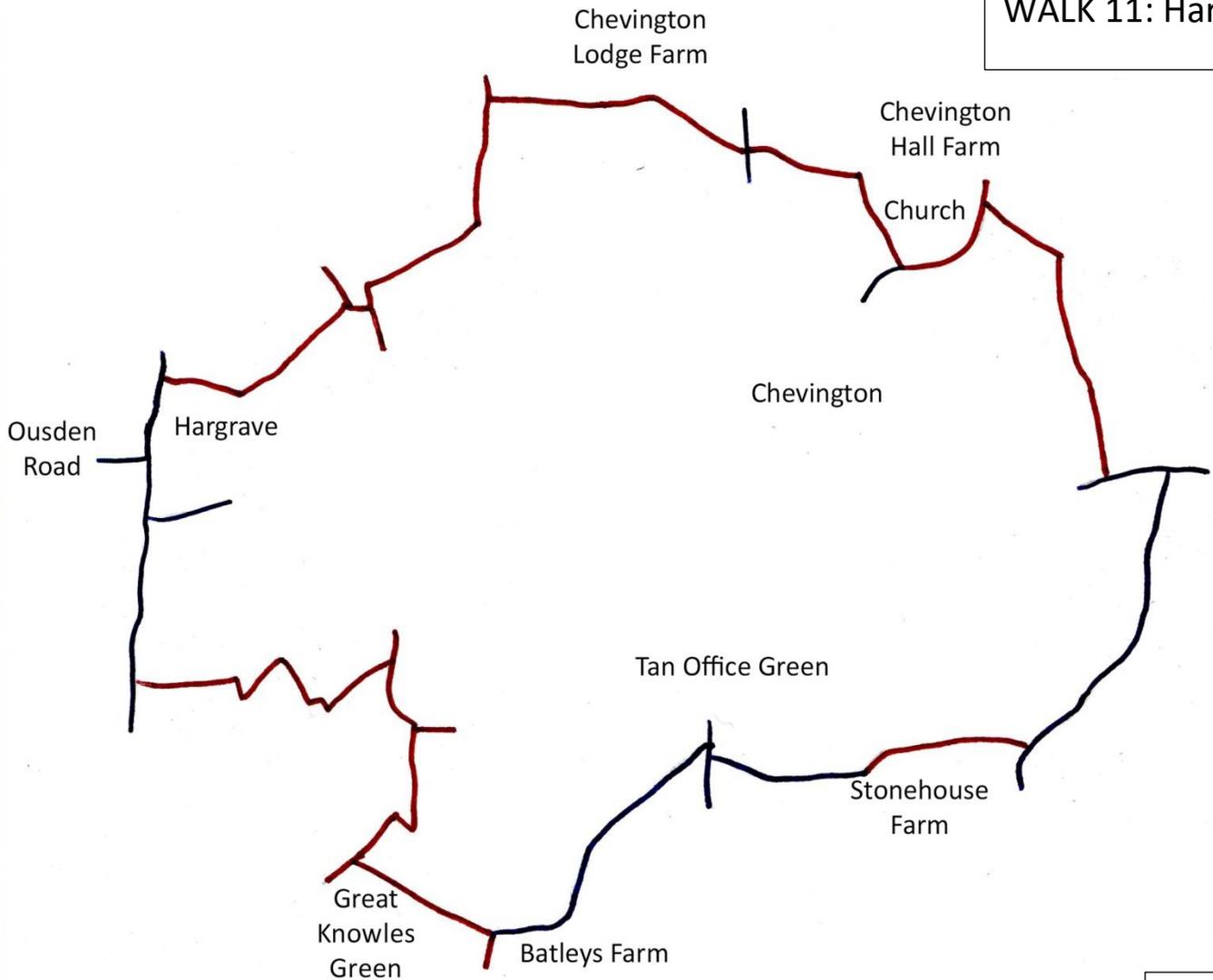


WALK 11: Hargrave



Blue = roads
Red = footpaths

This is a pleasant walk of a little under 6 miles along footpaths and occasional quiet roads: do it in a clockwise direction, starting from the bus shelter in Hargrave, close to the junction between the road through Hargrave and Ousden Road (see map). Opposite the bus shelter there's space for a few cars to park. From here set off up the road (ie northwards) on the right hand side of the road and immediately after a house called 'Dhoonmead' follow a narrow path between gardens and then down the left hand side of a field beyond. At the bottom you cross another path and a footbridge takes you over a stream and you turn left to the edge of the field and follow it uphill. At the top the hedge on your left changes direction and a footpath sign indicates that you should go through the hedge to the next field. Don't do this – you'll only be brought back into the field you're in a bit further on! As you go down the field there will be an opening through the crop and you take a right angle right, going across the field, heading for a gap in the hedge on the far side. The path crosses two more fields, with the buildings of Chevington Lodge Farm on your left, before going through another hedge-gap to reach a road with a cottage directly opposite. Cross the road – you'll find that the path continues there, going along the left-hand side of this property. They have a small field at the back, where you can either go over a stile and cross diagonally to the exit, far right. Or you can simply walk by the fence outside the field and turn right at the end. Either way you end up in a meadow which leads towards Chevington church. Exiting the churchyard via the main entrance, head down the road for a few yards past the old school and then turn left along a private road which is also a public footpath. This road curves round steadily to the left: keep right at a fork and then strike off right through the next opening. It's a clear track and crosses three fields before meeting a road at a point where there are a couple of cottages opposite. Turn left down a slope and after a few hundred yards go right at a junction. Follow this lane with scattered houses on the right to begin with. You'll be going gently uphill after a bit and then, just before the road bends to the left, you need to turn right through a wide gap in the hedge, to follow along the right hand side of a field. You're heading towards Stonehouse Farm: when you reach it, keep going in the same direction as the track becomes a narrow road. Shortly there'll be a few houses as you approach a cross-roads in Tan Office Green. Go across to take Depden Lane and follow this dead-end road to the end – passing on the way (or stopping at if you like) a nicely positioned bench with a fine view. Batley's Farm is at the end: you walk past it and there are two footpaths at the end of the road. Take the right one of the two, barred by a gate, and proceed along a track straight ahead for a while, till you pass a derelict barn on the left and another gate leads into a meadow. Turn immediately right in the meadow and walk down towards the corner where you'll find a stile. Go over and follow the footpath signs into the next field where you skirt round to the right and then walk along the right hand side of the field as far as the end of this field, marked by a hedge with trees. Make quite a sharp backwards angle to the left and when you come to a copse ahead of you, there'll be another footpath sign directing you to the right, through the copse and across the next field towards the right hand corner of the next field. Turn left at this corner and continue following the field edge and you'll soon come through another copse to a road. Turn right: you're now back in Hargrave and there are houses on both sides. Follow the road, past a turning on the right and you'll shortly be back where you started.