

Acknowledgements:

Historical details from Essex Record Office, Sales Catalogues B4101, B5075 and B5540. Rev. Philip Morant "The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex, Vol 2".

Walk devised by Malcolm Stuart.

Layout by Matthew Johnson.

©Galleywood Parish Council, April 2005.

Little & Great Sir Hughes Walk

4 km – 1½ hours, easy. Not suitable for wheelchairs.

Mapping: Galleywood Parish Footpaths Map, OS Explorer™ 183, OS Landranger™ 167.



Start from the entrance to Little and Great Sir Hughes Lane (OS Ref: TL734028) off West Hanningfield Road at the south end of the bridge over the A12.



The name "Sir Hughes" derives from Sir Hugh de Badewe who lived at Great Sir Hughes in King Edward III's reign. However the earliest recorded owner was Robert Marscall in 1211. The 16th century barn at Great Sir Hughes is Grade II listed.

When Great Sir Hughes Farm (340 acres) was put up for sale on 16th July 1926 the auctioneers G.B. Hilliard & Son drew attention to the 4,200' frontage onto the main Chelmsford to Southend-on-Sea road "affording a unique opportunity to speculators and others in acquiring a property with good possibilities for cutting up into building plots."

Begin walking along Little and Great Sir Hughes Lane turning left after 250 metres onto FP39 which follows the farm track for 600 metres to Little Sir Hughes. Turns on this track are marked by yellow arrows on the telegraph posts. Where the track turns east-north-east, 120 metres before reaching Little Sir Hughes, you find the location of the well which used to supply the farm before mains water was laid on after the Second World War. The farm had a 1,000 gallon storage tank for water from this well.

WALK
5



Barn at Great Sir Hughes

At Little Sir Hughes the footpath proceeds straight ahead through the old farmyard and its two five-barred wooden gates.

On the east side of Little Sir Hughes the footpath turns right and follows the farm track down to the junction with FP40 and FP45. Proceed straight ahead here and follow FP45 to the underbridge which takes the footpath and Sandon Brook under the A130. Turn left as you come out of the underbridge and take FP83 alongside the A130 turning right after 250 metres at the field hedge. Follow this hedge on the north side until it ends under the grid transmission lines.

The footpath turns north-east here to join the original Southend Road but this walk returns by turning right under the grid transmission lines and following Sandon Brook south back to the A130 underbridge.

Little Sir Hughes is an 18th century farmhouse which originally farmed some 103 acres. The building is Grade II listed.

After passing through the underbridge return along FP45 to the farm track where you meet FP39 and FP40. Turn right onto FP40 and follow the farm track (rather than attempting to find the cross-field path) to the field entrance where FP40 turns right off the farm track. Keep to the farm track here going west-south-west and meet up with FP39 after 200 metres and return to the start of your walk along Little and Great Sir Hughes Lane.



Little Sir Hughes Farmhouse