



**14** Cross over the stile and follow the path straight ahead up the left edge of the paddock. Note the examples of medieval field terracing on your left as the path heads steeply uphill (see overleaf). On reaching the stile climb over it and then up eleven steep steps leading into a field beyond. This was one of several open or common fields until the early part of the 19th century.

**15** Turn right at the top of the steps and follow the field edge to the corner. Cross a stile into a narrow field known as the Slipes, with power lines overhead. Continue down this field looking out for the stile in the right bottom corner. Beyond the stile the path is bounded by post and rail fence and hedge. At the end of this field a stile beside a gate leads to Vale Road. Turn left, and taking care of traffic on this narrow and sometimes busy road, walk along about 100m to return to the Black Horse Inn and car park.

**1** The walk starts from the car park of the Black Horse Inn. Cross over the road from the car park and take the bridleway directly ahead. The bridleway climbs gently passing a row of garages as it curves slightly round to the right before again straightening. At this point the walk passes over the parish boundary into Ashley Green.

**2** Continue along this track until, at a sharp right-hand bend, turn left and take the footpath to the left of the gate and enter a field known as Long Malm. The path runs up the edge of the field and alongside the wood known as Butchers Grove. There are views of Little Pressmore Farm below in Hawridge Vale and over to Chesham with Fullers Hill in the distance.

**3** Walk uphill and at the signpost turn right into the wood up a well-defined path. Shortly, a track joins from the right. Continue on, emerging at the corner of a large field. Follow along the left hand edge of this field bounded by the wood. The path continues straight on where the wood ends passing beneath a large isolated oak tree between two large fields.

**4** A short distance further on meet a hedge end-on, where a farm track crosses. Turn left along this track which cuts across the field towards woods. On reaching the wood, the path turns right following the wood edge until, at a signpost, it turns left into woodland comprising mainly cherry and beech trees.

**5** The path continues slightly downhill. Violets, followed by bluebells and



primroses flourish here in the spring. Arriving at a stile note the remains of an ancient hedge to the left defining the woodland edge. Beyond the stile the path descends steeply between paddocks and there are views across Hawridge Vale. Re-enter Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards parish by climbing over the stile at Nut Hazel Cross (see Beating the Bounds overleaf).

**6** To the right is the pumping station (see overleaf). Go over the road junction and take the path opposite which heads up between a weatherworn brick wall and hedge. A stile gives access to a field. The path continues more steeply uphill following the hedge on the right. A further field is reached from the next stile. The path continues to the top of the hill, known in the past by locals as Hawridge Mountain! Here skylarks can be heard overhead and swallows are often seen swooping in summer.

**7** Turn right where the path running along the ridge crosses, and continue through a large gap in the hedge on a well defined track along the crest of the hill. On the 19th century tithe map this field is called Broad Baulk. The path was an alternative route to Chesham before Vale Road was built in the 19th century (see overleaf). At the next hedge cross the stile into a smaller field and continue straight on.

**8** Before and after the next stile notice on the right the ramparts of Hawridge Court (see overleaf). A little further on take the spur to the right of the main path which leads to a stile. Beyond the stile continue for a short distance between a brick building and a hedge, through which the moat of Hawridge Court can be seen. Emerge onto a tarmac driveway with St Mary's Church ahead (see overleaf) and Hawridge Court with its lych gate to the right.

**9** In the graveyard of St Mary's are several graves of the Baldwin family, important landowners in past centuries. Retrace your steps past Hawridge Court. After the stile turn right along the main path. Take care as fields ahead may contain highland cattle.

**10** Follow the path beside post and rail fencing to a stile, leading into a large field called Pinnocks Leath with hedge and then barbed-wire fence on your right. Continue straight on to a stile which leads onto Hawridge Lane (see Walk No. 2). Turn left down this track, which can be muddy. At the bottom a path crosses. Turn left here over the stile.

**11** Follow the path which is along the parish boundary with Chartridge, passing on the left a fenced thicket called a 'spring' to reach the left corner of a strip of trees. Keep these on your right as you pass through the narrow gap to the next field. This field and the next two, with stiles between, are recorded on the tithe map as White Malm, Long and Little Lince respectively. Management under a Countryside Stewardship grant has resulted in a wide variety of spring and early summer wild flowers, which have benefited from the grazing by highland cattle. The strip of woodland to the right, known as Bottom Spring, is over a kilometre long and is full of bluebells, badgers, rabbits and squirrels.

**12** Enter a further field, Great Lince, over a stile by a decaying stump, and follow the path which heads towards the wood edge diagonally to the right. Continue along the edge of the wood, known as Peppers Hill Plantation, until a signpost indicates the path enters the wood at a stile. Beyond the stile the path almost immediately meets a well-defined track joining from the right. This is Ramscote Lane, one of several old tracks in the parish. Follow it to the left. It soon turns right and then immediately left.

**13** In the paddocks on the left, known as White Hawridge Bottom, look out for ostriches. Here, if the lane becomes very muddy, you may wish to deviate slightly off the lane into the woods on the right. If you do this follow along close to the edge of the wood, keeping the lane below you to the left, rejoining where the lane becomes passable. If it remains impassable, continue straight on, leaving the wood onto a downhill path coming from the right. Turning left brings you back to the bottom of Ramscote Lane. Either route brings you to a stile by a gate.

**Note:** Numbered sections refer to numbers on the map. Parts of this walk may be muddy at certain times of the year. Apart from one steep climb this walk is across undulating countryside but there are a number of stiles to be negotiated. Please leave all gates as you find them. Please keep dogs on a lead near cattle and sheep.