

First Fillongley Walk Number 8

Duration, 3 to 3½ hours

Park your car at the Manor Hotel or near by.

Cross the B4098 Coventry, Tamworth Road and walk up the lane beside the old Church. The small settlement beyond the first group of modern houses is called Little London. Do not go as far as the old chapel which has been converted into a private dwelling and has received a Civic Award for it, but turn right into the playing fields. The path runs up the left hand side of the field, and is paved all the way. Climb over a waymarked stile in the top left hand corner and continue straight across the next field to a gap in the hedge next to a fenced garden.

The path meanders through a delightful little wood, somewhat spoilt by dumped litter, and comes out onto Sandy Lane.

Turn right and walk up the lane past some houses in a crescent on your left. There is a large green in front of the crescent with two allotment plots on it, one at each end.

A little further along the lane, a footpath crosses and is waymarked both sides of the road. Turn left and walk up the drive which leads to a lawn mower repair workshop. Here is the most amazing collection of old mowers and parts of mowers that you could imagine.

Carry on, cross the waymarked stile into the field and walk beside the hedge on your left until you come to a most lovely pond on your left.

Cross the waymarked stile in the hedge on your left just after the pond and continue to the gateway in the left hand corner of the field. Pass through into the next field and you will see Walkers Farm ahead of you. The stile onto the road is just to the right of all the buildings, but the area round the farm can be very muddy in wet weather, so you can walk over to the right and then along the hedge to the stile.

Cross to the road, which is quite busy, turn right and walk a short distance to a very small lane on your left, just before the Weavers Arms public house.

Walk down this quiet little lane until you come to the fence of the house at its end, where you turn left into the field and walk along with the hedge on your right. Here, you will see a waymarker.

The path skirts the interesting garden of the house on your right, and eventually turns left to follow a very dense hedge which runs alongside a stream in a very deep cutting. As you continue, you will catch glimpses of the stream on your right, and it's quite dramatic gully.

Continue right into the corner of this field where the path dips down and turns right to cross the stream over an attractive waymarked plank bridge.

Before you cross the bridge, notice the field which is ahead of you on the left side of the stream. It is a beautiful example of ridge and furrow, showing that a farming community lived here in ancient times. This is indeed borne out by the next feature which we shall see, but unfortunately, are not able to visit. This is Fillongley Castle, Motte and Bailey which you will see on your left, the other side of the stream, as you walk now with the stream on your left.

The path eventually leads you to a group of small farm buildings, of which the old farm house has been beautifully restored.

Do not go through the gate into the farmyard, but turn right and double back on yourself. Walk up the track to the top of the hill and then bear left to walk up beside the hedge. Notice what a wonderful view over the enormous valley you have to your left.

Climb the waymarked stile at the top of this field and walk straight across the next, passing under the electric power lines, to the hedgerow in front of you, where you turn left and walk beside it to a large gap, through which you pass and continue with the hedge now on your left. Follow the hedge round when it turns left, and pass once more under the power lines. Walk through a gap in the hedge in front of you, in the corner of the field and then bear slightly right towards the farm gate at the bottom, leading into Fillongley Mill Farm.

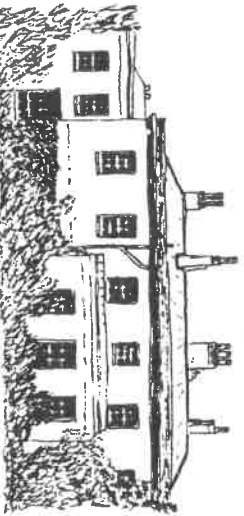
As you approach this farm, you will see an amazing landscaped garden, and all the old farm and mill buildings which have been beautifully adapted as dwellings. The old mill machinery has been used as garden ornaments.

Pass through the farm gate and walk a few yards, and you will see a waymarked stile on your right. Exactly opposite it on your left is a step to assist you over the low wall. This is the public footpath through the garden along the blue brick path, between the houses. Admire them as you pass, and then go up the drive to the Tamworth Road. Turn right and walk along the grass verge. On the other side

of the road is a house and several out-buildings. At the last of these, cross the road carefully, as this is a busy road, and climb over the waymarked stile into a field beside the garden of the house.

Walk up beside the hedge and climb an unmarked fence into the next field. Continue over two waymarked stiles and eventually you will come out on Shawbury Lane. Leave the last field by the farm gate in the left hand corner.

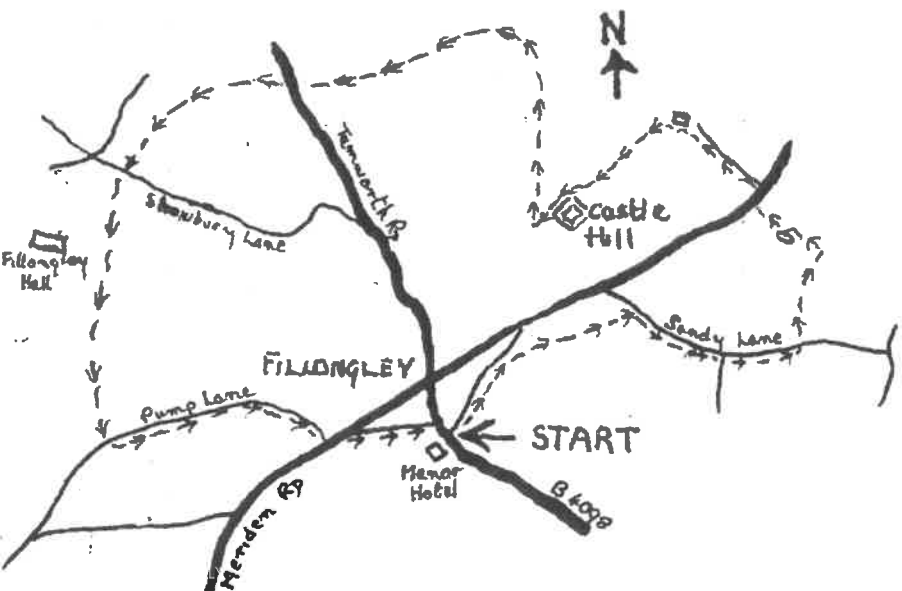
Cross the road and just to your right you will see a waymarked stile in the holly hedge. Cross it and walk beside the cricket pavilion drive into Fillongley Park with its lovely meadows and large banks of wild daffodils in the spring. Follow the path to the old hedgerow and you will see Fillongley Hall on your right.



Slightly diagonally to your right, the path goes over a waymarked stile in the middle of a sheep-wire fence, which crosses the meadow. Walk straight down from the stile to a waymarker and a little plank bridge over a stream. Cross the stream and carry straight on up the hill beside the hedge on your left until you come to Pump Lane, which is very quiet and little used. Turn left and walk down the lane until you cross Meriden Road, which can be very

busy. Cross into Ousteare Lane, which has some lovely old houses and some dreadful modern architecture, a shame in such a pretty village. Walk down the lane and turn right at the bottom where you will find the Manor Hotel and the end of this walk.

A very attractive walk, with only one potentially muddy section. Much of it is very high and has superb views. There are also some very interesting houses and farms and many unusual wild flowers



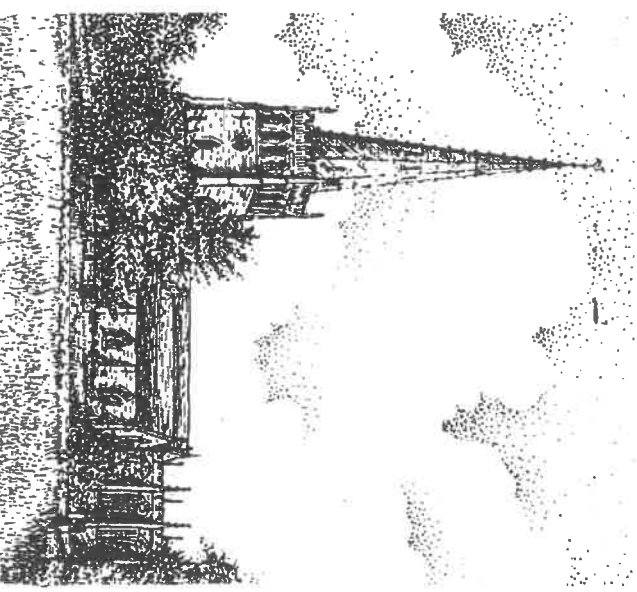
Sketches and Map by Brian Teall

COLESHILL & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

WALKS AROUND COLESHILL

First Fillongley Walk No.8

Fillongley Village circular Walk, Castle Hill, Mill Farm and Fillongley Hall



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