

1). Start at **The Plough** public house (A). Looking north, cross over Church Street and walk up Station Road past the **Manor House** and **St. Mary's Church (B)** on the left. Carry on past the village shop and post office on your right. After approximately 320m you reach a footpath sign tucked in the hedge, on the right hand side of the road.

2). Go through the **field gate**, walk diagonally left across the field in a north east direction towards a stile in the hedge.

3). Cross the **stile** and continue in a north east direction (left) across the next field to another stile (*there are a few on this walk, not all have underpasses for dogs.*)

4). Cross this **stile** and follow the left edge of the field round to the far corner to a further **stile**. (*This is by an insulated section of the electric fence.*)

5). Continue diagonally left to the middle of the opposite fence and **cross a bridge** over a ditch, into the next field.

6). Bearing left, head towards a **timber post** with a waymarker. Go through the **hedge**. *The hedgerows which define the agricultural landscape around Marsh Gibbon comprise hawthorn, blackthorn, willow, ash and elderberry - they encourage birds which feed across the fields and seek shelter and food along the field margins.*

7). Walk up the right side of the next field, parallel to an electric wire (very muddy.) You need to pass over the electric wire, and carry on through the **open gate** in the hedge.

8). Walk towards the hedge to the right, to a gap about 100m up. This field is a **wildflower meadow** with two small ponds - it is very attractive in summer. Go over a **stile** and then cross a plank bridge over a ditch. *The ground here can be quite marshy.*

9). Follow the path round the edge of the field - pass a waymarker. Continue heading uphill until **five paths meet**.

10). This is the side of **Windmill Hill**. Note: the ground undulations indicating *ridge and furrow* (see back of leaflet.)

11). Take the path across the middle of the **crop field** to the corner, and go through the gap and over the bridge.

### Did you know?

**Ridge and furrow**, as seen along the walk at, for example, point 10 by Windmill Hill, is an archaeological pattern of ridges (Medieval Latin *sliones*) and troughs created by a system of ploughing used in Europe during the Middle Ages. It is typical of open field systems. Other names for this are 'reens and butts' - the rean being the furrow between two butts.

Ridge and furrow topography was a result of ploughing with non-reversible ploughs on the same strip of land each year. It is visible on land that was ploughed in the Middle Ages, but which has not been ploughed since then.

**Parking** : Available at The Plough Public House, and at the Village Hall.

**Buses** : Please check Oxfordshire and Aylesbury bus websites for current timetables.

**Footwear** : Many of the paths on the walk can be wet and muddy at any time of the year. Waterproof footwear is, therefore, recommended.

**Maps** : This information leaflet can be used in conjunction with Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer Sheet 192.

### When in the countryside please follow the Countryside Code.

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep your dogs under close control
- Keep to public paths across farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Take your litter home
- Help to keep all water clean
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Take special care on country roads
- Make no unnecessary noise

**LEAVE ONLY YOUR FOOTPRINTS  
TAKE ONLY PHOTOGRAPHS**

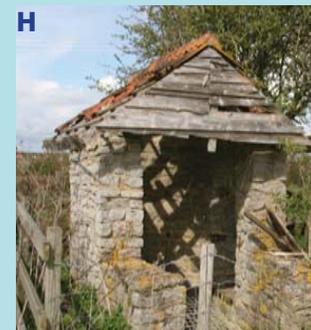
If you have any suggestions for new walks or amendments to this leaflet, please email: [clerk@marshgibbon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marshgibbon-pc.gov.uk)

Marsh Gibbon Parish Council is grateful to the volunteers who wrote and produced this leaflet, in particular Applied Landscape Design Limited for designing and printing. November 2012.



A long walk around the historic village and surrounding countryside of

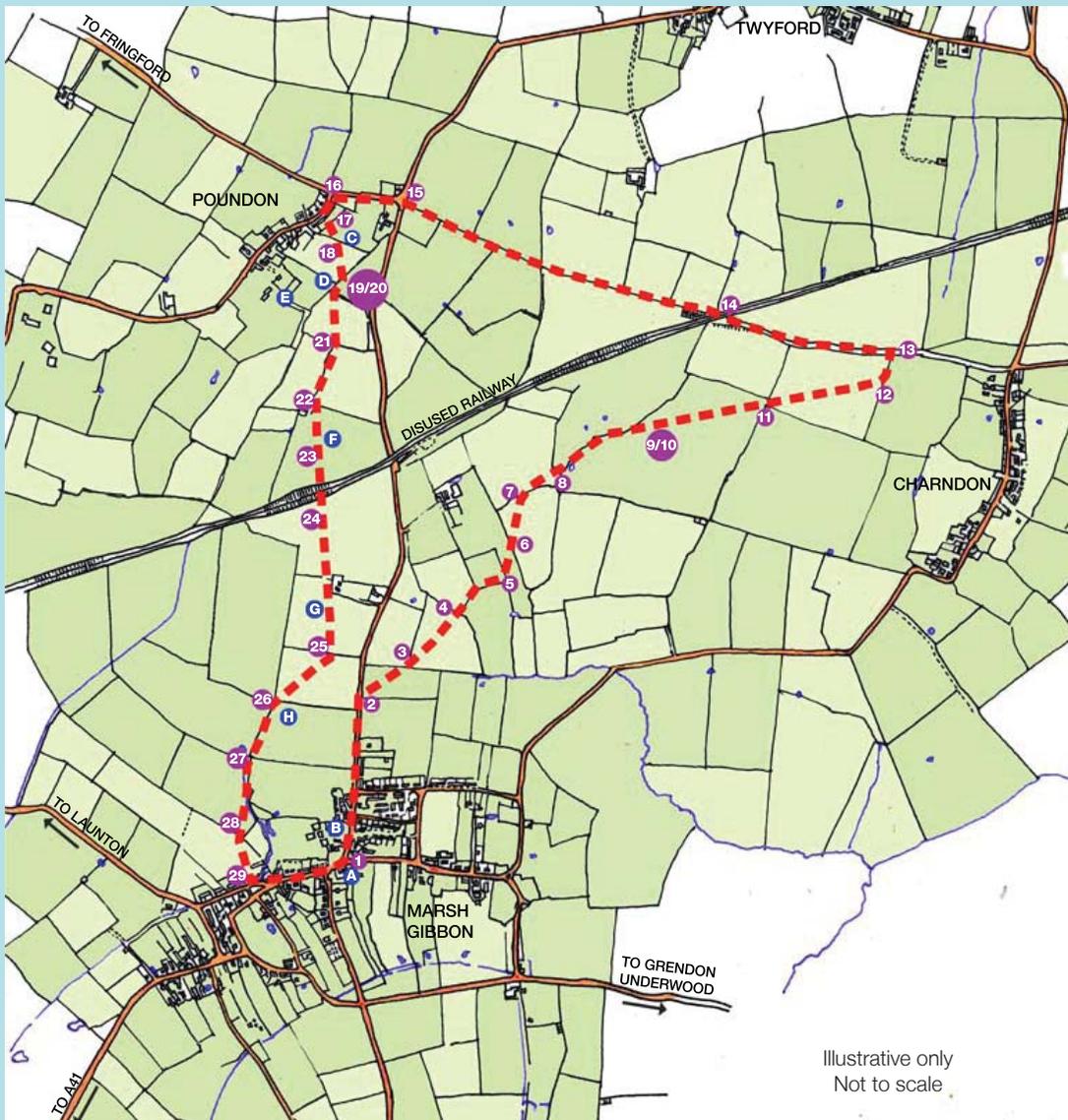
# Marsh Gibbon



### Walk 2

**Distance:**      **Approx 6 miles / 10 km**

**Duration:**      **3 hours**



**12.** Cross the ridge and furrow field, which can be marshy under foot, and walk towards the gate diagonally on your right - but do not pass through it. Instead, go left past the pond to the **gate** in the left corner.

**13.** Turn left, walk along the **green lane** towards Poundon. This could have been part of an **old drovers' route**.

**14.** Walk over the **railway bridge** past the large pond, up to Home Farm. The ground can be very muddy as you approach the farmyard.

**15.** Cross the road from Poundon to Marsh Gibbon. Walk towards Poundon to a post marking the **Cross Bucks Way path**. (If you choose to continue further up the road you will reach the **Sow and Pigs public house**. The path can be rejoined in the village at Hampden Villas by a signed footpath through a garden.)

**16.** Take the path, left, here and cross over a small field towards a **steep stile**. **17.** After this stile, walk along the left edge of the field, to a further **stile** directly opposite. Cross over. **18.** Then walk diagonally left to a **gate/stile (C)**.



**19.** Bear right across an **electric wire and stile** in the corner of the field by a small woodland copse (native trees.) Cross over the next field to another **stile (D)**.

**20.** Looking right you will see the back of **Poundon House (E)** which is now a venue for events and weddings.

**21.** Bear right to a gate waymarked **Bernwood Jubilee Way**. You will pass a pond with an information board. Take a moment to enjoy the panoramic views of **Beacon Hill**.

**22.** Walk across the middle of the next field past an isolated house. Continue along the Bernwood Jubilee Way across Beacon Hill - take in views over **Brill and Muswell Hills, Graven Hill, Quinton and Waddesdon**.

**23.** Continue down towards a **small gap** in the hedge (**F**) which marks steep steps down to the railway cutting. In the distance is the village of **Marsh Gibbon**.

**24.** After crossing the **railway**, climb **steep steps** on the other side to a **stile**. Bear left, and then turn right and continue (crossing back into the parish of Marsh Gibbon) across a crop field, where the path is clearly defined, to a **stile** and another crop field (**G**). This will take you past the rear of **Barnwell Farm**.

**25.** Go over a plank bridge, and a **stile**, and follow the path to the right towards the burnt out barn in the next field.

**26.** Follow the right field edge to the corner past a round water trough towards the burnt out barn. Go past a small pond and cross another plank and stile. **Stump Well (H)** is visible in the next field, off towards your left.

**27.** Keep straight on where several footpaths cross. The path leaves the Bernwood Jubilee Way here. Follow the left edge of the field towards the **double gates** in the hedge.

**28.** Cross the small field to the metal (sometimes muddy) gate marking the back of **Ware Leys Close**.

**29.** Bear left along the road, past the telephone box and **Ware pond** and continue back to your starting point at The Plough public house.

**Finish (.....and did you count how many stiles?!.....)**