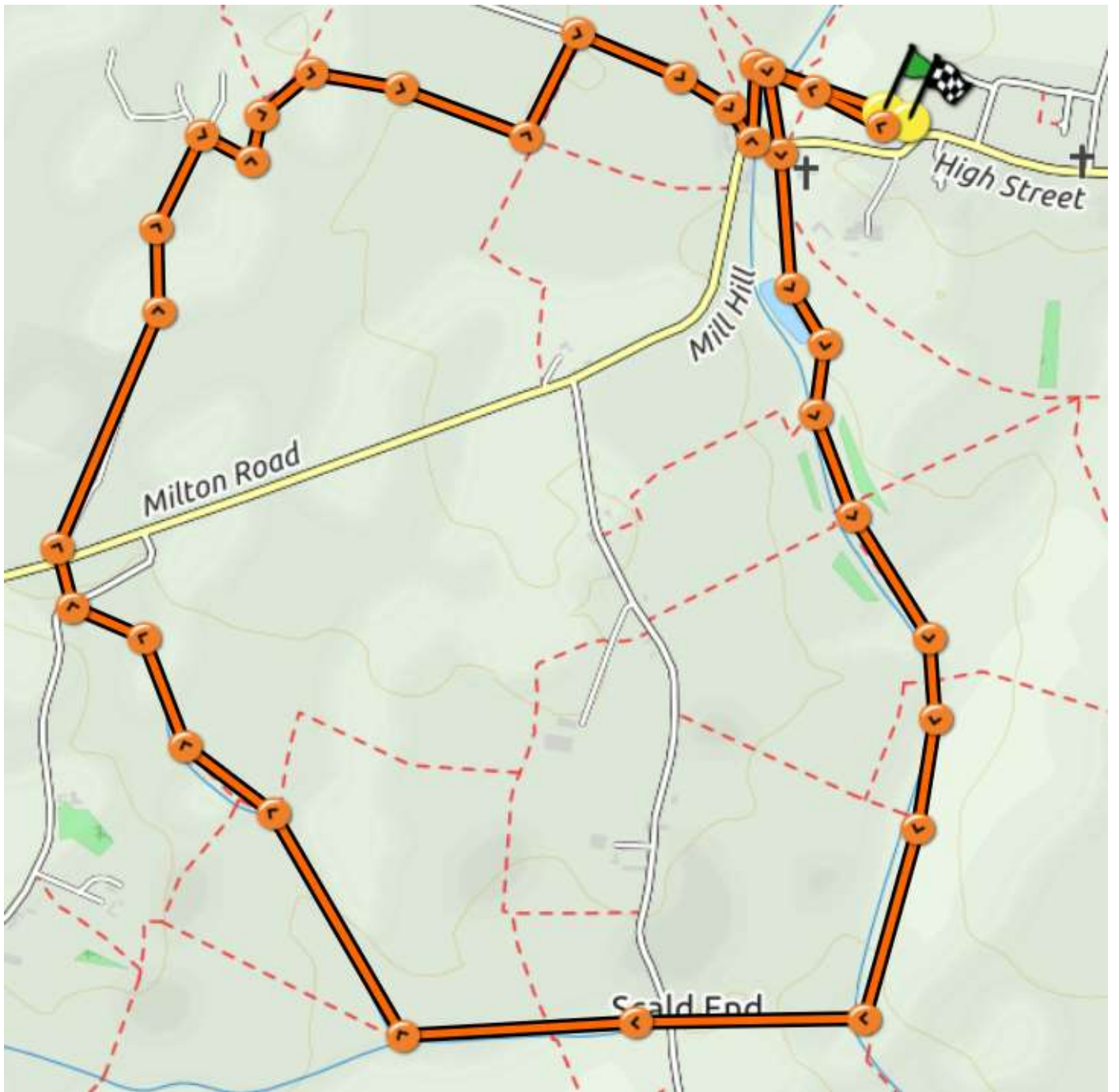


3 ½ Mile Circular Countryside Walk from Thurleigh Village Hall





Important. Please note part of this walk goes passed fields with sheep. All dogs should therefore be kept on a lead fully under control where sheep are present.

Leave the Village Hall Car Park heading downhill on the Tarmac path. Follow it as it becomes a grassy track behind the School.

About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down the hill turn left crossing a sleeper bridge. Cross the road towards The Church and up the footpath directly opposite.





Follow this path crossing two fields. Bearing right follow the wide track. You will soon see a path going down steps to your right. Ignore that continuing straight ahead.



Continue on this path passing a crossway with a bridge on your right.



Keep straight ahead though and go through a single width gate.

Head downhill in the same direction passing a collection of bee hives.



Near the bottom of the hill bear right and follow the track to where you will cross Mill Road.



Go straight ahead through a gate and keeping the tree and hedge line to you left make your way to a stile in the far corner of the field.



Ignoring the path to the left, cross the Stile continue in the same direction until the next stile is reached.



Currently the Stile is blocked by a fallen tree. It is in hand for clearance so hopefully will be cleared by now.

Whether it's cleared or not, turn right just before the stile and again following close to the treeline make you way a few hundred yards to the next Stile.

Here you will find two Stiles close together. Cross both.



Making your way to a Metal Farm Gate.



Go through the Gate and immediately cross a lowered section of strung fence and turn right onto a cut path. Take this path where it follows the tree line eventually heading away from the fence to the far corner of the field, crossing a sleeper bridge to emerge into Old Milton Road.



Crossing the road, head straight uphill to trees where a path had been cut at the top. Follow this and head downhill, cross a drainage ditch and cross the road continuing straight ahead towards Blackburn Hall Farm and Star Hire.

On reaching the entrance to Star Hire, turn right by the earth Bunding. Straight ahead you will have a good view of what was The Windmill, now a house, minus the Sails. Following this round to the left, and cross a stream.



Immediately turn right. With the stream on your right in about 60 yards a Waymarker is reached. Turn right and cross the sleeper bridge, follow the path diagonally left across a field to the distant Hedgerow. Thurleigh Church can be seen in the distance. There has been a church on this site since Saxon Times. However the church has been re built several times and appears now much as it has done since the 15th Century. The Church is normally locked, but the Churchyard is well worth a visit



When you reach the distant Hedgerow, take care as there are a number of rabbit and badger holes. Passing to the far side of the hedgerow turn immediately left and head up a narrow path to emerge into Whitwick Green Road.



Turn right downhill into Thurleigh. Turn left into the High Street and almost immediately left again and follow this path until it crosses a brook. Up the steps opposite continuing straight ahead uphill passing the path on the right you went down earlier and back to the Village Hall.



Written by Ian Soaft, Thurleigh Walking Group.