

The Alban Circle – Clarifications and Amendments

The Alban Circle walk was published in the Spring 2010 edition of the Ramblers' *Stile* magazine. It has already proved to be very popular and we know that several Groups have included it in their walks programmes.

Although the text was carefully checked before publication we have been told that some walkers have hesitated at certain points before choosing the correct direction and we are grateful for their feedback. We are also aware of some changes which have taken place since the description was written. This is particularly the case in the developing areas of the Heartwood Forest.

This note contains all the clarifications and corrections of which we are currently aware. The reference numbers in parentheses are the same as in the original description in *Stile* magazine. Note that the route itself has not been changed. If we receive further suggestions for clarification or corrections we will endeavour to publish an updated version.

This note and the original *Stile* magazine are available for download on the website of the Herts and North Middlesex Area of the Ramblers (www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk).

Between (1) and (2). Shortly after leaving St Leonard's churchyards in Sandridge there are two diverging tarmac paths. Take the left hand path.

Between (3) and (4). After passing between the barns at Oak Farm the stile at the opposite side of the field may not be immediately obvious. Cross the field diagonally to your right and it will become obvious. Be aware that the fence on either side of this stile is electrified.

Between (8) and (9). The wood south of Highfield Lane is Winchfield Wood as stated in the text and not Winchmore Wood as stated on the map.

Between (8) and (9). For clarity the route description needs further elaboration. After emerging from the tall trees of Winchfield Wood turn L along a tarmac path leading SW and eventually joining Highfield Park Drive at a roundabout. Continue on the foot and cycle path along LHS of Highfield Park Drive to reach a second roundabout at the junction with London Road (9).

At (12). Do not look for the Westminster Lodge Swimming Pool at this point. Cross the road into Verulamium Park keeping the river on your right and continue upstream along the river bank. The swimming pool becomes visible through the trees on your left.

Just after (15). As you approach Batch Wood along the field edge path you will see three paths. The RH path runs along the edge of the wood beside the golf course. The LH path continues around the field edge. Take the middle path which enters the wood in a NE direction and continues in that direction through the wood until you reach the playing field.

At (17). After the railway bridge the kissing gate between the bridleway and the new Heartwood Forest area has been removed to allow access by horse riders. Pass through this gap and turn right to go through the metal kissing gate into the newly planted area. Since the description was written the path through the new planting has been made into a wide clearly marked track. Follow this track diagonally across the field to where the three hedgerows meet.

May 2010