

Walk 1 Fulford to Stallington

Distance: 2 1/2 miles **Time:** 2 hours

Refreshments and Parking: Shoulder of Mutton at start and end of walk (Meadow Lane, Fulford)

Terrain: Largely rural walk across fields and some small lanes. There is normally cattle and sometimes horses in the fields en route. A number of stiles, mainly fairly easy to cross with care.

Route information:

1. Starting at the Village Green, Fulford.

Head down from the Green, past the semi-detached houses on the right hand side and Ivy House Farm (which was being renovated at the time of writing) - note the unusual chimney stacks on the top of the old cottage and the elaborate stone lintels - the various periods of extension give it a fairly unique character.

Follow the road down for approximately 100 yards, past the paddock on the left hand side, and as the road starts to climb and turn left, you will need to pass up a short flight of steps and a kissing gate on the right hand side (next to a telegraph pole).

2. Follow the footpath through the coppice, to the left, and cross over a stile on the edge of the coppice into open fields beyond.

Alternatively, you may wish to have a look at St. Nicholas' Church, which is up the lane on the right hand side. You can walk through the graveyard, over a small stile (with a victorian metal hand post to help parishioners over the stile) and a concrete bridge at the rear of the graveyard to step into the field as per walk above.

The footpath crosses to the left of the Oak Tree, past an old boundary fence on the left hand side - heading for the far right corner of the field, where you cross another stile into a larger field beyond.

This second field affords great views to your right of the Staffordshire Moorlands, towards Cheadle and Draycott in the Clay

In front of you is a hedge-line - you are heading for a stile at the right hand end of the hedge. Cross this stile and follow the field edge directly in front of you, past some old Oak and Ash trees, to drop down into a low dip, with a stile and fence.

Cross over this stile and then head for the far right hand corner of the field diagonally opposite, crossing over a high stile and emerge through a narrow gap onto Stallington Lane.

3. At Fulford Lane, the remains of Stallington Hall are in the housing estate directly opposite.

Turn left, to follow Fulford Lane back towards Fulford - after about 1000 yards, you will pass the Fulford football club on your left where the lane narrows with high hedge banks each side. You will then emerge onto Fulford Dale at a cross roads, with a water pumping station opposite you.

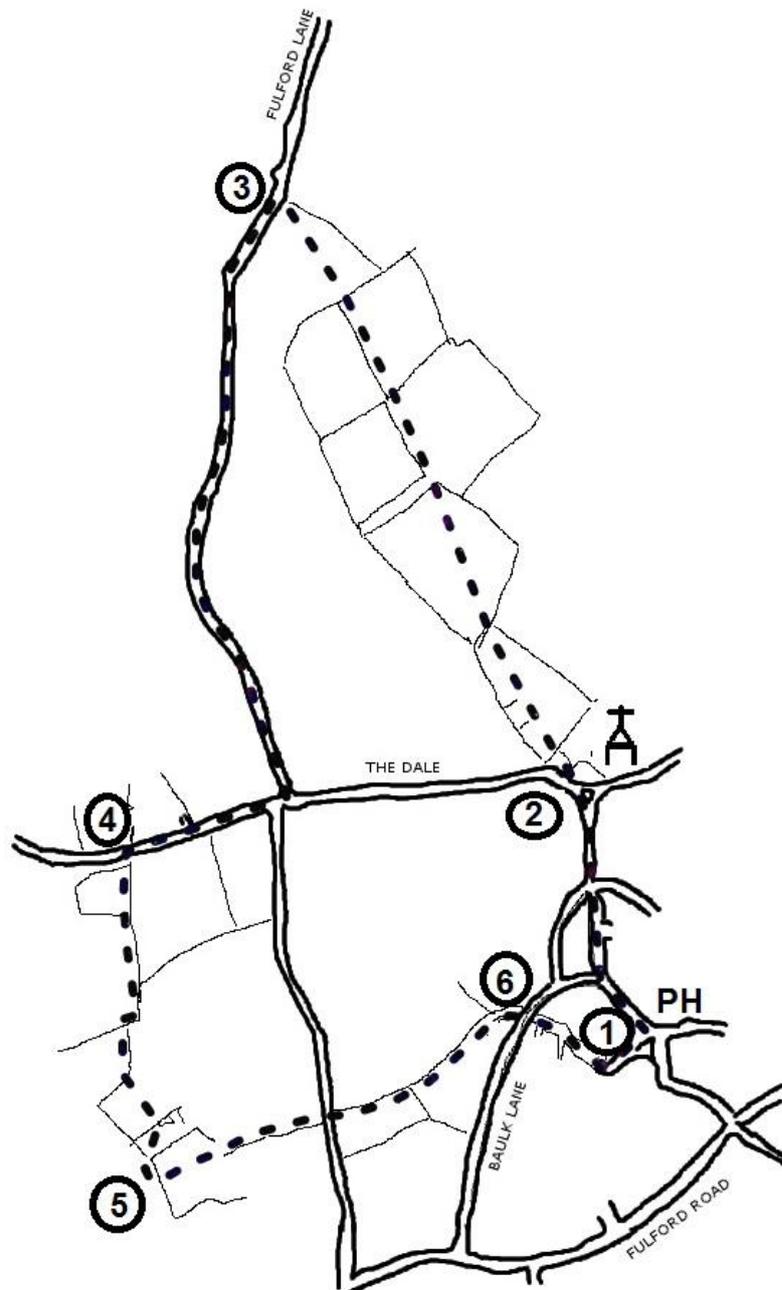
Turn right onto the Dale, keeping the pumping station on your left hand side. This lane can flood after heavy rain, so take care.

4. After some 200 yards, there is a farm driveway on your right, you need to turn left up the footpath directly opposite, which crosses a small bridge and passes through some trees to lead into an old quarry. Follow the tree line on the left hand side to find a large flight of steps leading out of the quarry. Take these steps up and then cross over a stile, then right through the hedge-line to emerge into a steep field beyond.

Immediately as you emerge into this field, turn left along the hedge line and to find a stile next to a field gate. Cross this stile and then turn right along the fence line, to pass through a series of cattle gates. The fence line is now on your left hand side - follow this to cross over another stile on your left hand side to cross into another field, with a cottage beyond.

The footpath passes through two gates alongside this cottage - so please be courteous as you walk past the cottage to turn right onto their driveway. Follow the tarmaced drive as it leads up and turns left, where you will find a stile next to a field gate, opposite the edge of Stallington Heath (a private woodland).

5. Cross over this stile and head down through this field to find another high stile and steps into the next field down. Cross this second stile and keep the fence line on your right hand



side for around 100 yards. The path then emerges through a squeeze gap next to a barn, onto Brooms Lane.

Cross over Brooms Lane and cross the stile to the left of the field gate on the other side.

As you cross this stile, follow the hedge-line to your left as you pass through a gap into a second field (with a farm building directly in front of you). Keep following the hedge-line to your left, and you will then cross a stile at the end of some metal railings. The footpath here runs alongside the metal railings (which are to your right) and then over a stile which is under the trees, as it curves right and meets Baulk Lane after about 30 yards.

6. Once you emerge onto Baulk Lane, you will need to go up the concrete steps which are facing you, to follow the footpath at the rear of some bungalows. As the tarmac footpath turns right, continue straight on over the grassed area, to meet another tarmac footpath. Follow this footpath around to the left, to emerge back on the village green (adjacent to a tudor timber-frame house).