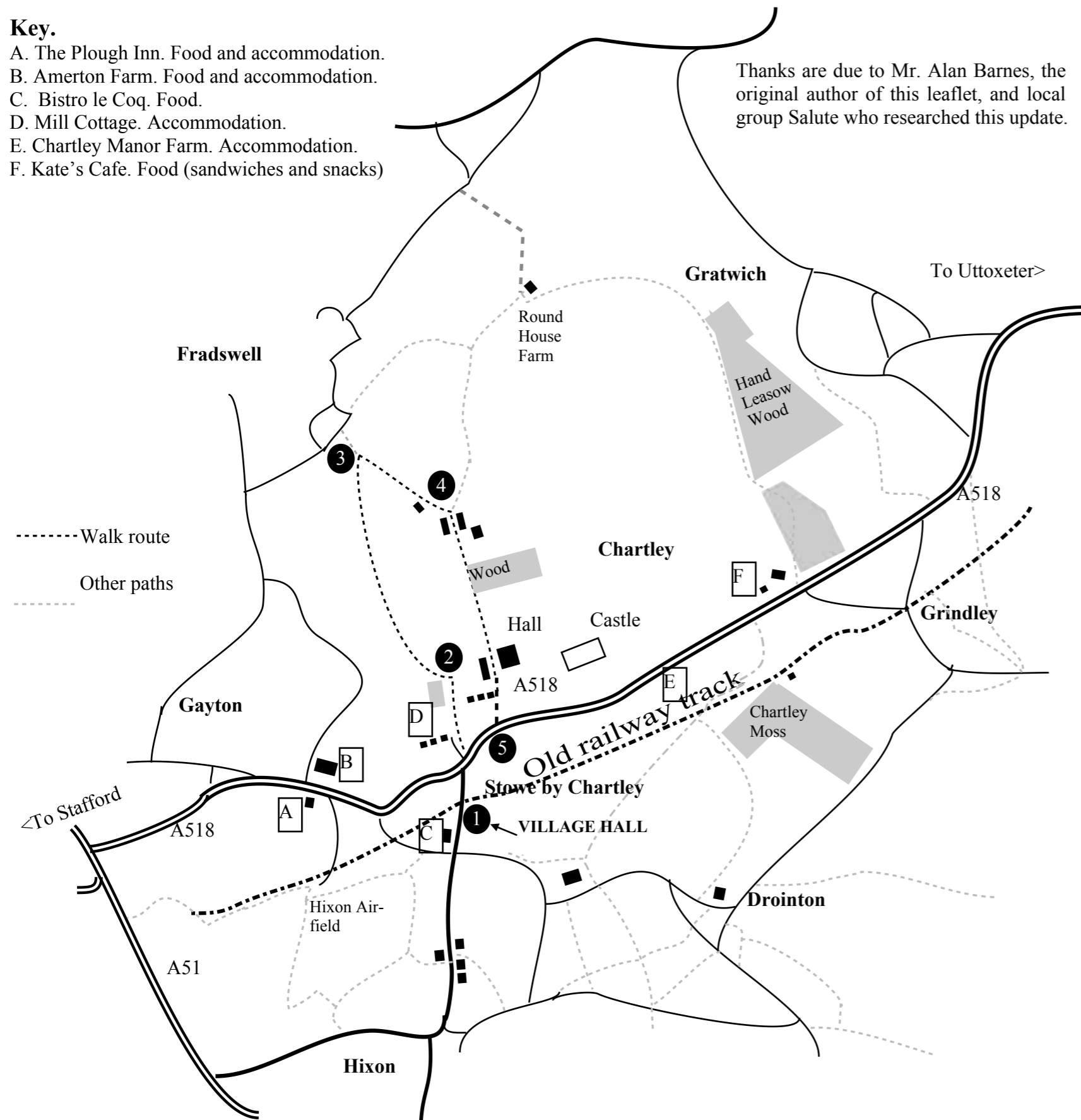


Key.

- A. The Plough Inn. Food and accommodation.
- B. Amerton Farm. Food and accommodation.
- C. Bistro le Coq. Food.
- D. Mill Cottage. Accommodation.
- E. Chartley Manor Farm. Accommodation.
- F. Kate's Cafe. Food (sandwiches and snacks)



Thanks are due to Mr. Alan Barnes, the original author of this leaflet, and local group Salute who researched this update.

Follow the road past the farm buildings noting the weather vanes on the roof tops. Pass the fine beech trees and cross the mill stream. Chartley Castle can be glimpsed through the trees to the left. The castle was built in



Stowe by Chartley Parish Council



Chartley castle from farm drive*

The Fradswell Walk

1220 by Ranulph de Blunville possibly on an existing wood and earth Saxon fortification. By 1545 the castle was in ruins but recently these ruins have been carefully restored. There is no public access to the castle.

5. Cross the main A518 road and walk to the right along the wide grass verge back to the crossroads. Just after passing a bus shelter and mile marker turn

left and, facing oncoming vehicles, retrace your steps to the village hall and perhaps some refreshment at the 15th Century Cock Inn in the centre of the village which boasts a fine bistro.

Rounding the bend Chartley Hall comes into view on the left. Chartley Hall is a fine stone building designed by Henry Ward of Stafford in the mid 1900s. The original wooden manor house, built on the site in 1450 was destroyed by fire. In 1781 a half timbered edifice was razed and, in 1847 the same fate befell the third Chartley Hall. Mary Queen of Scots was

imprisoned at Chartley Hall during 1585 and 1586 at the time of the 'Babbington Plot'. During the Plot messages were concealed and transported to and from Mary in beer barrels. Following her imprisonment at Chartley, Mary was executed in 1587 at Fotheringhay Castle in Northamptonshire.

- Please follow the country code:
- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.
 - Leave gates and property as you find them.
 - Protect plants and animals.
 - Take your litter home.
 - Keep dogs under close control.
 - Consider other people.

*Photographs courtesy Stowe Camera Club.

Historical information taken from 'The Road to Chartley' by Jim Foley.

Published by Stowe by Chartley Parish Council, 42, Old Acre Lane, Brocton, Stafford. ST17 0TW.

These leaflets are available from Stowe Post Office, The Cock Inn, Staffordshire Tourist Office or the clerk to the council at the above address or email clerk@stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk
Sept 2007

THE FRADSWELL WALK.

This is the first of three walk leaflets published by Stowe by Chartley Parish Council.

The walks in these leaflets can be linked together to make longer walks or the extension described in the end column can be added to the other routes to make a combined circular walk of 17km.

The Fradswell Walk is 6.5km (4 miles) long. There are some stiles on the route and the open fields are often muddy. As pheasants are reared on much of the land dogs must be kept on the lead.

How to get there

The village of Stowe-by-Chartley is situated some 10km East of Stafford, 600m south of the main A518 Stafford to Uttoxeter Road and 1.2km north of Hixon.

The walk starts at the Village Hall, Station Road, Stowe by Chartley, ST18 0LG (52°50'44.62"N 1°59'45.84"W or OS grid ref SK 004276). Stowe is signposted from the A518.

If travelling from Uttoxeter, take the first left turn after passing Chartley Castle.

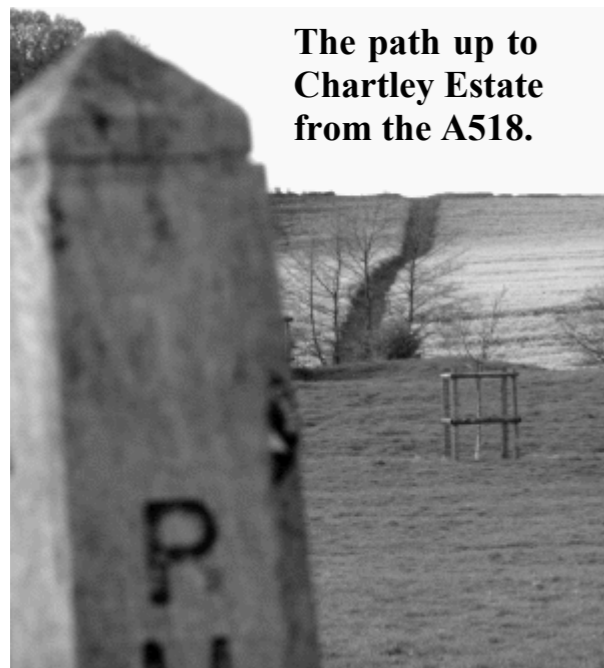
If approaching from the Weston direction, take the third right turn after passing Amerton Farm and the Plough Inn.

The Village Hall is 500m on the left. Parking is available here when the Hall is not being used.

Arriva run a two hourly bus service between Stafford and Uttoxeter which stops at Stowe by Chartley.

The route.

1. Start at Stowe by Chartley Village Hall. Leave the car park and turn right towards the A518. Walk 500m down to the main road crossing the road bridge over the old Uttoxeter to Stafford railway line. This line was known as



the Clog and Knocker. It was opened in 1867 as a Great Western Railway line but was then taken over by London Midland Scottish. It closed in 1957.

Face oncoming traffic and pay particular care as your approach the main road junction. On the left of the junction is the old toll house from which Mrs. Massey used to sell her ginger beer at 1d a glass. Opposite is a service road and to the right of that can be seen a stile and waymarker. Cross the main road and the stile and walk across the field aiming to the right of a dark tiled roof ahead. This building is close to the site of Chartley Mill. Cross another stile, cross the mill stream by means of a small bridge and then a further stile into a wet field. The stile just ahead is the next to be crossed but a detour around the fence line to the left to reach it is sometimes advisable in wet weather. Chartley Estate take particular care to mark Rights of Way. Please acknowledge this by keeping to paths and following the Country Code.

Continue on the line of the path going up to the right of Thorneybank Covert on the skyline. In October 1941 a Wellington bomber crashed into this bank with the loss of all on board. Coming over the hill and down towards the end of the wood a large stone can be seen.

2. On reaching this stone walk half left across a large field looking out for a stile in the far hedge. In their season larks, lapwings, pheasants and buzzards can be seen. Cross the stile and follow the hedge on your right across Far Star Coppy. Hares like this open country. There are extensive views to Cannock Chase to the south and across the Trent Valley to Weston Bank to the west. Cross another stile and follow the fence on the right across Four Acre Starsmore until meeting a tarmaced drive to Coppice Farm. Keep on the same line and a stile will be discovered in the overgrown hedge to the left of the farm gate. Cross the stream and the stile and again follow the hedge on the right northwards. A stile, a small bridge and another stile take you across another stream in the field corner and into Fradswell Parish. On the skyline ahead are two clumps of trees. Head due north to the left of the larger clump and pass to the left of a small pool on the hill top in Large Peas Croft. Pass a waymarker and continue to where a field corner comes in from the left by a large oak tree. Walk to the right of the fence. This leads to a hedge around a private garden. A few metres further and a stile will be found.

3. This marks the furthest north point of this

route and the walker now turns south to recross Large Peas Croft but now towards Chartley Hall. With your back to the stile look at the skyline sloping up from the right. Trees can be seen poking up above the skyline at the top and bottom of the slope. Head for the centre of the skyline that is clear of trees. Watching out for a field corner coming in from the left marked by a waymarker near a prominent gorse bush. Keeping this field boundary to the left follow it around until a stream is reached. Cross the stream into another field and into Stowe by Chartley Parish. A waymarker points back towards Fradswell. Follow this in the opposite direction across the new field and head towards Chartley Barn Farm that can be seen in the dip



ahead. Aim for the left hand side of an isolated house as it comes into view. From the side of the house a large wooden barn can be seen ahead. Walk up towards the barns and a waymarker with two fingers on it will come into view on the right hand side of the large barn.

4. The Chartley Walk leads off to the left but to continue Fradswell Walk pass through the gate and walk between the front of the large barn and a smaller barn further on to the right. This leads into the farm track which takes you back to the main road. On the way you will pass Twenty Acre Wood on the left hand side and after this, on the right, a tall red brick wall of what was once a kitchen garden. The field to the left is said to be the site of the ancient village of Stowe. Follow the road looking out for the Old Park cattle with their distinctive black muzzles, ears fetlocks. These are known



locally as 'Chartley Cattle'. There is supposed to be a curse associated with the Chartley Cattle and

that when the herd died out so would the owners of Chartley Hall.

Extension to combined walks.

Follow the Stowe Walk route to the corner of the perimeter road but instead of turning right down the footpath turn left and follow the perimeter road along the field boundary. Follow the field boundary round to the right and walk towards a tall steel mesh gate. To the right of the gate is a short path which gives access through a patch of woodland to the lane beyond the gate. This lane used to go to Shirleywich before the airfield was constructed. Follow the lane to the main A518 road and turn left. On the right is Amerton Farm, a tourist venue, which has food and accommodation. Walk past Amerton Farm and turn right into a narrow lane bounded by a stream. This is a delightful lane but take care to watch out for traffic. After a little over 2km a T junction is reached. Turn right and after 550m take the lane to the right, signed Fradswell. After another 600m the lane splits at a grassy triangle. Take the right fork and follow the lane round for about 200m. Turn up a track opposite a waymarker. Follow the path, passing close to the left of the house and turn left just before the garage to join the Fradswell Walk route at its most northerly point.

