

# Galleywood Walk **Three**

## Crondon Hall

### Distance and time taken

4.8m/3 miles Approx. 2 hours

### Parking

The Common  
(TL703025)

### Refreshments

Shops and pubs in Galleywood Village  
The Galleywood Heritage Centre (certain days and hours only)

### Public Transport

Traveline 0870 608 2608  
Traffic Information 0845 600 0110

### Ordnance Survey Maps

Explorer 183  
Landranger 167

### Toilets

Galleywood Shops. Galleywood Heritage Centre

### Hazards

Not suitable for wheel chairs or pushchairs. The A12 slip road.  
The field crossing can be very muddy.

### Directions

**From** The Common car park turn left to walk down the Racecourse towards the approach road to Wood Farm.

**Cross** over and walk on FP81 crossing the driveway to "The Chase" and then diagonally to the A12 Slip roads.

**Take** great care when crossing the London bound slipway, there are no warning signs to oncoming traffic of walkers crossing.

**Proceed** south on **FP75** joining Stock FP3 which takes you south-east across a cultivated field from Lady Grove Copse to Oldbarn where you turn right onto Stock **FP2**, the concreted farm track from The Ship on Stock Road to Crondon Hall.

**Continue** west following the farm track **FP2** passing through the farmyard at Crondon Hall. The official route of **FP2** passes through the middle of the barn straight ahead on the approach to Crondon Hall farmyard. This barn was built in 1920 on either side of the foot-

path then a muddy dirt track. The centre section was later covered over making what was in its day a huge barn. If the barn doors are closed an alternative route to the right of the barn brings you to Crondon Hall Farmhouse.

**Continue** until you meet Margaretting **BW44**. Turn north-east (to the right) on the bridleway past Crondon House and continue on the Green Lane, **BW46** to meet Margaretting Road on the south side of the bridge over the A12.

**Cross** over the A12 and turn right onto Chelmsford **FP55** which crossed over the parish boundary to continue as Galleywood **FP46** for a short distance until it meets **BW80**.

**Return** to Galleywood Common on BR80 until it meets **BW79** by 'Farthings'.

**Turn** left at "Farthings" on **BW79** and then right at FP49 back to the start point and carpark. The site of a Napoleonic Battery Defence can be seen near to the car park. There is an information board on site. The Battery defended the main London to Maldon highway which was a possible route for Napoleon to bring his heavy guns from the Essex Coast to attack London.

*The information provided in this leaflet is accurate at the time of going to press.*

*Neither the author nor the Parish Council accepts responsibility for your personal safety. It is your responsibility to ensure you are able to do this walk and are equipped appropriately. Follow the Countryside Code at all times (see [www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk) for further details)."*

**The Walk can be started at any point and taken in either direction. Appropriate footwear should be worn. Dogs should be on leads**





## Historical Notes—Walk Three Crondon Hall

### Old Highways and Highwaymen

In the 17th and 18th centuries the roads were in an appalling state. Each district was supposed to be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the King's highway within its own borders but long stretches received little or no attention. Footpads and highwaymen abounded and Galleywood

Common was a favourite place for staging a hold-up. Farmers journeying between Chelmsford and outlying villages during the 17th and 18th centuries usually travelled in company for their protection. Dick Turpin is reported to have been very active in the neighbourhood and lived, at one time, between Stock and Widford.

### New Highways

The A12 bypass from Margaretting to Boreham was opened on 24 November 1986. This new road cut through many of the ancient rights of way and although some footpaths and bridle paths were successfully diverted, others were left in an unsatisfactory state. Some simply stop at the A12 boundary and others are diverted alongside it, making them un-



pleasant and noisy to walk. Those footpaths (Galleywood numbers 26,27,75 and 81) which terminate at the B1007 and A130/A1114 roundabouts are left in a dangerous limbo with no clear direction to walkers as to how to proceed and no warning to drivers that walkers may be crossing the footpaths.

### Crondon Hall

Crondon Hall is part of the manor of Crondon. This was a royal park until 2 October 1545, when Henry VIII sold the manor to Sir William Petre for £160. The Petre family supported the Jesuit Order and established a Roman Catholic Mission for much of the 18th century at a time when it was dangerous to admit to being a Catholic.

Like many old houses Crondon Hall has benefitted from a new frontage, the line of which can easily be picked out on the side of the wall.

Crondon Hall, which had been in the ecclesiastical parish of Galleywood since its formation in 1984, was transferred to Stock Parish in 1978



*Acknowledgements: Historical details from L Donald Jarvis "Stock—A Historical Survey of the Village" 1934 and Rev. Philip Morant "The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex" Volume 2. Walk devised by Malcolm Stuart and Gillian Parker.*

© Galleywood Parish Council. E&OE—Revision 09.12.19