

Galleywood Walk **Four**

World War II

Distance and time taken

9km/5½ miles Approx. 3 hours

Refreshments

Shops and pubs in Galleywood Village

Public Transport

Traveline 0870 608 2608

Traffic Information 0845 600 0110

Parking

Brook Lane—Limited
Avoid the farm access gate
(OS Ref TL733028)

Ordnance Survey Maps

Explorer 183

Landranger 167

Toilets

Hazards

Not suitable for wheel chairs or pushchairs.

Some muddy patches in wet weather.

Slip road crossings under the A12.

Livestock at Great Mascalls Farm

Directions

From the top of Brook Lane at the junction with West Hanningfield Road. Go left along West Hanningfield Road for 200 metres turning left onto **FP30** just before the farm cottages.

Follow FP30 along the field hedge down to Galleywood Brook then continue on the cross-field path to Vicarage Lane. If your eyesight is good you should be able to see the white-topped sighting post. Turn left on Vicarage Lane and then right into Brook Lane passing Mapletree Cottage (still called Willow Cottage on some maps) 350 metres along Brook Lane turn right onto **BR29**.

The Bridleway re-joins Vicarage Lane at Lawn Cemetery which is within the Civil Parish of Galleywood but administered by Great Baddow Parish Council. Opposite the Cemetery is the

old Marconi Tower which acts as a landmark for walks on the south-east side of Galleywood.

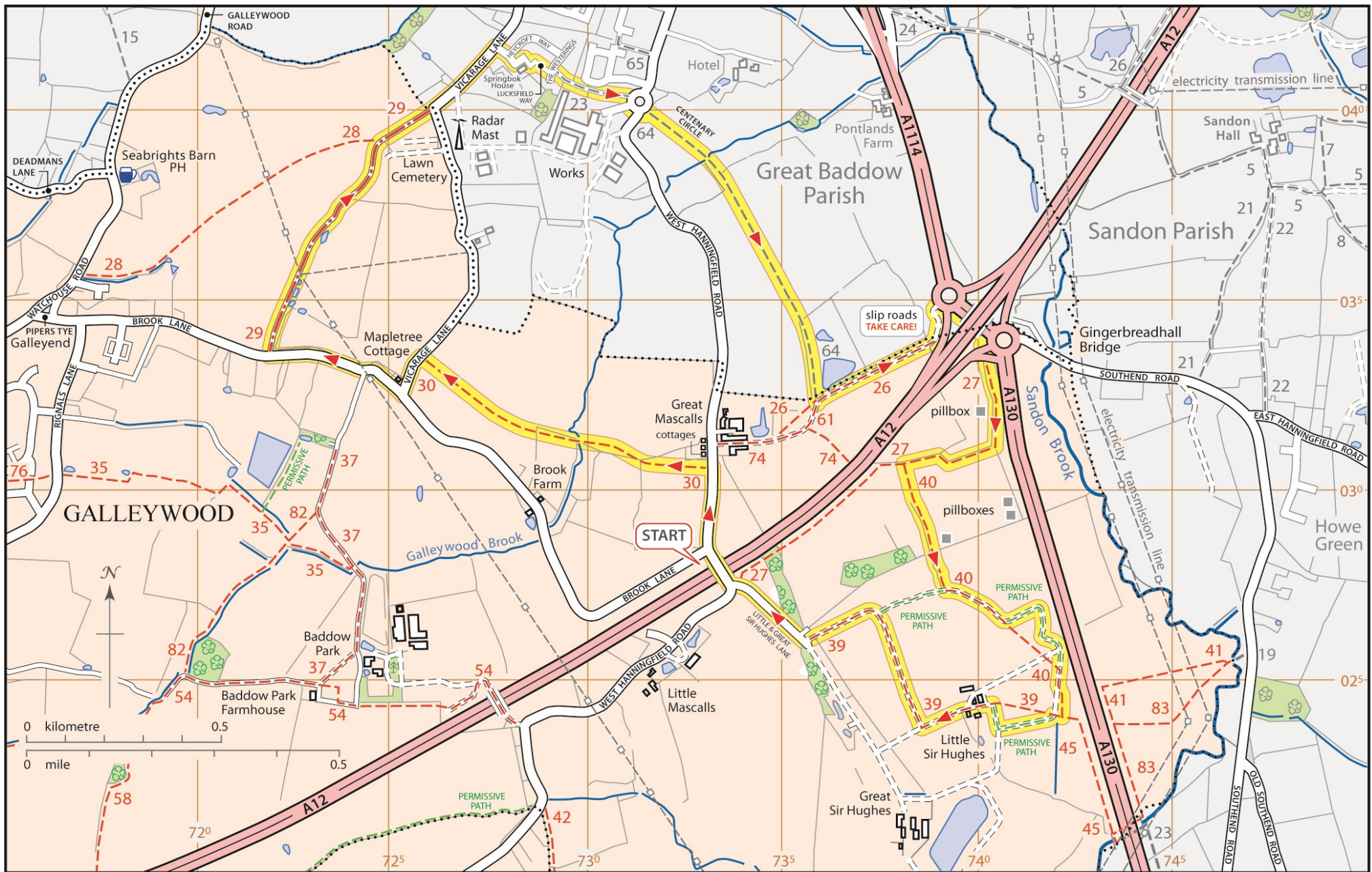
Continue north-east along Vicarage Lane turning right after 100 metres into Heycroft Way take the path to the left of Springbok House into the housing estate. Walk up Lucksfield Way and cross Westerings to **FP23** at the side of house no 25 (almost opposite). Walk along by BEA industrial area to a mini roundabout. Take **FP64** on the opposite side of the roundabout and continue for 800m across the fields to **FP26**. Turn left at field corner onto FP26 and follow the hedge along the parish boundary to a stile which takes you onto the A12 slip road. **Take great care** crossing at the traffic lights. Go under the A12 bridge and over another two slip roads. Meet **FP27** coming up the bank from the A130 and go through the gap in the fence. (WWII pillbox on your right).

Approximately 100 metres after the pillbox **FP27** turn right and follow the south side of the field hedge for 200m where it meets the start of **FP40** which goes south-south-east as a field crossing for 250 metres where, at the edge of the field, you will pass another pillbox on your left. Continue straight ahead with the field hedge on your right until you meet a farm track after 100 metres. Turn left following this farm track to the junction with **FP39** and **FP45**.

Turn right onto **FP39** and proceed through Little Sir Hughes farmyard (via two five-barred wooden gates) and continue on the farm track until you join Little and Great Sir Hughes Lane where you turn right to re-join West Hanningfield Road and cross the A12 to return to the start of your walk.

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 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 Four World War II

The Chain Home (CH) Transmitter Tower

The tallest structure in the City of Chelmsford area is the 360 feet high former Second World War Chain Home or AMES (Air Ministry Experimental Station) Type 1 aircraft early warning radar tower at the BAE Systems research centre in Great Baddow.

The Great Baddow Chain Home Tower originally stood at Canewdon near Rochford as part of a coastal network of anti aircraft radar stations. The tower was relocated to the then 'Marconi Research Centre' and present BAE Systems site in 1959.

It is the only *unmodified* World War Two Chain Home tower left standing in the UK as a listed building or structure so its long term future is always going to be in doubt.



World War II Bombing

On Wednesday 30 October 1940 German planes en-route or returning from London raids at 7.15pm, dropped 2 high explosives and 1 incendiary on Great Sir Hughes. Later at 10.30pm more damage was done by 5 high explosives and 2 incendiary bombs. In Skinners Lane 4 people were killed and 2 fatally wounded.

Pillboxes

Pillboxes were constructed during the Second World War for defence against a possible German invasion.

The map shows that the pillboxes were not scattered throughout the Essex countryside but arranged in defensive lines. The two encountered on his walk being part of the GHQ line from Saffron Walden to Basildon passing just east of Chelmsford.



*Acknowledgements: Historical detail from Jane Olivia Lee
'Chelmsford—Birthplace of Radio'
Chelmsford at War 1939—1945, Essex Chronicle
Map of World War II Defences—Fred Nash, Essex County Council
Walk devised by Malcolm Stuart and Gillian Parker
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