Willoughton / Hemswell Maypole Walk

3.5 Miles

START: Willoughton Village bus shelter. Please park carefully in the roads around the main square.

THE WALK:

- 1. Leave the bus shelter, heading along Church Street towards St.Andrew's Church, but take the first right into and along Middle Street.
- 2. At the road junction turn left, shortly cross the road, turning right into and along the Long Lane.
- 3. Passing the racing stables on the right, at the end of the tarmac lane follow the public footpath sign into and through a belt of trees for over a mile.
- 4. At the end of the tree belt, a gate leads into a paddock, cross and through another gate, bearing diagonally right to a gate at a lane corner.
- 5. Once in the lane, bear left towards Hemswell, on reaching houses, bear right to a road corner (junction of Dawnhill Lane & Brook Street).
- 6. Turn left along Dawnhill Lane to the end at a road junction.
- 7. Turn right into Church Street, proceeding to the Maypole at Maypole Street.
- 8. Turn right into Maypole Street.
- 9. At the end of Maypole Street, bend right along Brook Street to the junction at Dawnhill Lane, retracing your steps to Point 5. Turn left onto the lane/track known as Southfield Lane. Follow this to its junction with Corringham Road at Willoughton.
- 10. At the road junction go straight on along Templefield Road, past the Stirrup Inn back to the start.

TERRAIN: The area of the walk is basically flat below a parallel ridge. The footpaths can be muddy in winter especially Southfield Lane. All roads have pavements except the quiet Long Lane and a short stretch of Templefield Road near the Stirrup Inn. Find the public footpath at point 3; the wide track is used as a gallop for racehorses. There may be movement of strings of racehorses on most of the route (not between 1-2, 3-4, 7-8-9-6). Dawnhill Lane, Hemswell has another stable. There are 3 stiles between 4 and 5.

TIME: Allow 1 ½ - 2 hours at a leisurely pace.

MAPS: O.S. Explorer 281 Ancholme Valley.

