



Mill at Point F

The now converted mill at **Point F** was built in 1890. It stood sixty feet high with floors above the grounds and had double shutter sails. Later steam power was added. The mill last worked in 1917, following that, permission was given for its conversion to a house. The Mill now provides Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

Carefully cross the road being especially aware of speeding traffic on this section. Immediately opposite cross a wooden bridge and turn left. Follow this permissive footpath around the field margin as it soon turns right running parallel to Mill Road. Just before you reach a house, bear left and emerge onto Mill Road. Again take care of speeding traffic as you cross the road and onto a path opposite. Follow this path, hedgerow and field edge as it turns left then right following the field margin down the hill in the direction of Thurleigh. At the tree line at the end of the field, turn right still following the field margin.

Turn left at the first waymarker making your way through a tree line and bearing slightly left make for a girder bridge and ascend the steps in the bank. At the top of the steps turn left to follow the track that soon turns right for a few yards, then turn left along a field edge.

At this point the field edge should be on your right. Soon you pass above a small lake known as Westminster Pond below on your left. Lads from the village used to keep cool in the summer by swimming here. At the end of this path, cross an access track and heading in the same general direction make your way across an area of scrub/meadow towards the Church and a waymarker on the far side. Passing the side of the Church, emerge onto the road opposite The Jackal. Now if you have timed it right is the perfect opportunity to head into the Pub for some refreshment.

To complete the walk, head uphill back to The Village Hall.

Historical information provided with special thanks to Lillian Wildman and Judy Stanton who wrote *Thurleigh Through The Ages*. Additional information provided by Kevin and Jules at The Jackal, and also John and Sue Barton who formerly ran the village Post Office and shop. For more historical information on Thurleigh, the book *Thurleigh Through The Ages* is recommended. I hope you have enjoyed this walk, further walks and current information about Thurleigh can be found by visiting www.thurleigh.net

While in Thurleigh why not visit Thurleigh Airfield War-time Museum dedicated to the American 306th Heavy Bombardment Group. See <http://www.306bg.co.uk> for opening times and more information. Also while in the area how about a visit the nearby Glenn Miller Museum, see www.twinwoodairfield.co.uk for all the information.

So much to see and do in and around the peaceful village of Thurleigh

Jointly written by Ian Soaft and fellow members of Thurleigh EIN

Circular walks

No. 11

A Heritage and Countryside walk in and around Thurleigh

Less than 2 miles easy walking



Just before you reach the bottom of the hill turn left on a signposted path across a sleeper bridge and follow the path to the road at **Point B**. At the road you will see St Peters Church opposite.



St Peters Church

There has been a church on this site since Saxon Times. However the church has been re built several times and appears now much as it has done since the 15th Century. Turn right and pause for a while outside the Jackal at **Point C**.



The Jackal Pub

The pub itself dates from the 17th Century with the original indenture hanging proudly in the Restaurant from the sale of the land dated 1653. The pub was a Jarvis outlet before it was bought by Wells. Kevin and Jules the current licensees, have researched the name, and they believe that the current name is a corruption of Jack's Hall. Before it became a pub, it was the village Blacksmith (one of many) and the Washhouse.



Red Lion House

Opposite you will see Red Lion House. This was formally one of four Pubs in the Village and was named The Old Red Lion House. The house had an annex which housed a Club Room, which for a small monthly subscription members received sickness benefit. Any monetary balance at the end of the year was shared out and in addition provided a feast for members and their families at Christmas. The whole building was extensively rebuilt following a fire in the 1960s.

Now carry on down the hill and up to a road on your right at **Point D**. Opposite you will see the old Village Post Office. This was originally built with a thatched roof being replaced with a tiled roof following a fire. This housed the Post Office and general store for 60 years before sadly closing in 2007.



Old Village Post office

Turn Right up Church End and carry on up here as it becomes Whitwick Green Road. Follow the road uphill for a further 150 metres. Now look for a footpath sign near the end of the hedgerow on the left. Take this path crossing a sleeper bridge. After about 50 metres stop at **Point E** and look to your left, you will have a good view of St Peters Church and a view of Thurleigh which has likely been unchanged for a couple of hundred years.



View of St Peters Church

Ignoring a path from your right continue to follow the path in the same direction until you reach a deep field drainage channel. Follow the path round to the left for about 100 metres until the path turns right across a bridge and the drainage channel. Follow this path as it at first goes right and immediately left towards the road in the general direction of the old Mill.

Circular walks



A Heritage and Countryside walk in and around Thurleigh

Less than 2 miles easy walking (not suitable for wheelchairs etc.) If wet, walking boots recommended but not essential.

The starting point for our walk is at **Point A**, the Village Hall. As you face the Hall, take the footpath to the left and walk down the path, passing the rear of the Lower School.

There is mention of a school as far back as 1558. By 1841 a new school was erected on the site where the Village Hall stands. The present school was completed in 1877 with new classes being added in 1973. This footpath follows the route of the original main road through the village.



Key

- The walk
- Public Footpath
- Public Bridleway
- Permissive Path
- Woodland
- Points of Interest