

farmlands to the right. On reaching the guidepost 'footpath to Housham Hall' at the end of the Moor Hall hedge (2 miles), pass through the opening into the field on the left. The path—beside the left-hand hedge—is under tillage, and the going may be rough. Where the hedge bears to the left the way lies across the field towards Housham Hall seen ahead. Cross the ditch through a wide gap in the hedge and continue across the second field towards a gate, by the two cottages seen to the right of Housham Hall, out into a farm road.

Bearing left, carry on past the cottages and Housham Hall to a swing-gate, from which a cartway is followed. There is a good view of the farm and its barns now—an ancient homestead, for Housham, as well as Ovesham, is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Pass through another gate, and then forward over undulating tillage, first with the ditch on the right, and then, after passing some hawthorns, with the ditch on the left, to a hedgerow. Bear right for a few yards, and then left along a hedge-enclosed cartway up to a lane ($3\frac{1}{4}$ miles). Bear right here for 700 yards, past some thatched cottages and round (right) to Newman's End ($3\frac{3}{4}$ miles).

Turn left at the Newman's End grass-plot, and take the right-hand path, which runs half-left over tillage and in 700 yards reaches a lane. To the left is MATCHING ($4\frac{1}{2}$ miles).

With the Hall on the right, follow the road through the gateway, and at once take the swing-gate on the right. Keeping near the moat of the Hall in the first field, bear left, through a gap, into the second, and so forward. On crossing a fence-stile by a gate in the far corner of the third field, a cartway takes up the course. This veers right, to the fifth field, where the way lies *left*, along to a lane. A quarter of a mile to the right is MATCHING GREEN ($\frac{1}{2}$ miles).

Walk 9b

MATCHING GREEN TO CHIPPING ONGAR (7 miles), BY HIGH LAVER, MORETON, BOBBINGWORTH AND GREENSTED.

From the far end of the road by which the green was reached, bear forward at the guideposted fork, along a narrow lane that passes old thatched barns and, in half a mile, leads to a stile, by a plank bridge. Continue beside a wire fence until the track nearly rejoins the lane by a stream (1 mile). Bear right through a big poultry farm—and over the field beyond—through a gate into the road by High Laver Grange (a farmhouse nowadays). Turn left here, by a lane that has willow-trees beside it and reveals, away to the left, the white-painted windmill of Little Laver. Shortly a left-hand by-lane (the first) is taken to HIGH LAVER (2 miles).

Leaving the churchyard, turn left to a right-hand kissing-gate. From here continue forward (south) over fields. Keeping the line of trees on the right, go through another kissing-gate (left in a narrow field) to a gap by a big oak. Then bear *right*, past the rectory, and so out into a lane. Turn right now, and then left at the fork, past Bushes and through the swing-gate of this 15th-century moated homestead, now a farmhouse. Following the farmroad, turn right at the cart-sheds and, crossing a fence-stile (by a gate), carry on by the cartway. This is divided by gates and discloses the North Weald wireless masts to the right. Where the cartway turns right by a cottage continue forward to a gate left of an oak (*beyond* the cottage). Moreton, on a ridge above a willow-set vale, is seen ahead. Continue into the next field to a gate, then half-left over the Cripsey Brook to MORETON ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles).

Turning right at the White Hart (Guildhall Cottage is now on the left, by the shop), cross the Cripsey Brook again. Bear left for 50 yards beyond the fork to a right-hand 5-bar gate. From this a path runs south beside a hedge over four fields into a green lane. Left here for 100 paces, and then through a *small* hedge-gap on the right.