

Running to ground the monks of Monks Horton.  
(Monks Horton-Monks filthy muddy farmstead)  
Understanding English Place Names.

- Date & Time** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 am.
- Meeting at** Boldens Wood, Fiddling Lane, Stowting, Nr Ashford  
TN25 6AP. Grid Ref TR 113405
- Duration** About 3 hours.
- Distance** 4 miles
- Refreshments** Late lunch back at my house (Boldens Wood) Bring some sandwiches  
I'll make some soup.
- Footwear** We will be walking mainly on lanes but one section is on a bridle  
path and then a footpath which may be muddy(see above!)

This is a circular walk to the South of Boldens Wood. We start off past the Black Horse pub and then go SW down Southenay Lane. After a mile we cut across the fields towards the SE. This is a bridle path called Priory Lane and gives access to the Priory land. We skirt the Priory grounds on the West side on a footpath which leads to Moorstock Lane. Then we turn East on the lane to the first T junction where we turn North past Lower and Upper Cockash and back to Boldens Wood.

This route takes us from Gault Clay to the Folkestone and Sandgate beds of the Lower Greensand and back to the Gault again. However, we will often be walking on over-lying deposits of Head Brickearth and Alluvium.

We will be looking to see if the changes in the geology are significant in the landscape and if the different soils affect the cropping decisions of the farmers in this area.

There are several ponds en route which may have interesting origins, and the water in the streams which we will encounter emanates from springs we saw around Stowting last year. We will be walking in part through land belonging to Horton Priory. This is a magnificent building which has been of considerable local importance in the past. It dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was first owned by Henry 1<sup>st</sup>. Then it became a Cluniac Monastery until it was seized by Henry XIII. It currently has new owners who paid in the region of £5M for it. They are having various works done, including extending a pond, during which procedures, some interesting historical items have been found by archaeologists.

Last year several people who came on the walk were rather taken by my llamas and alpacas. This being the case, I thought that maybe they could accompany us on our walk this year. They are very well behaved and do not spit. They walk nicely on a lead rope and would be very happy to stand and browse while we consider the landscape. The smaller alpacas are ideal for children to lead. If there are people on the day who would like to have a llama or alpaca to lead for part of the walk, they would be happy to be available.

Alison Taylor