

My First Class Journey, 30th and 31st September 1961

This is a transposition of the log of my Boy Scout First Class Journey undertaken aged 14.

Instructions for the Journey from the District Commissioner

FIRST CLASS JOURNEY (2)

The District Commissioner wants you to report on Roman Villa at O.S. 159 785854. Investigate camping conditions around 772890 and if favourable camp thereabouts.

He would like to know as much as possible about FAWLEY, approximate population whether there is a Church there, post office etc., Sketches would help. Memorials etc. Find your way back to base avoiding main roads as far as possible.

My companion for the journey was S.George.

Journey = Henley – Mill End – Hambleden – Luxtor's Farm – Fawley – Henley

Kit

Personal Kit

Sleeping bag, pyjamas, knife, fork, spoon, two plates, mug, first aid kit, torch, teacloth, matches, soap, flannel, towel, toothbrush and paste, tin opener, cape, comb, mirror, money, dishcloth, soap powder, notebook and pencil.

Other Kit

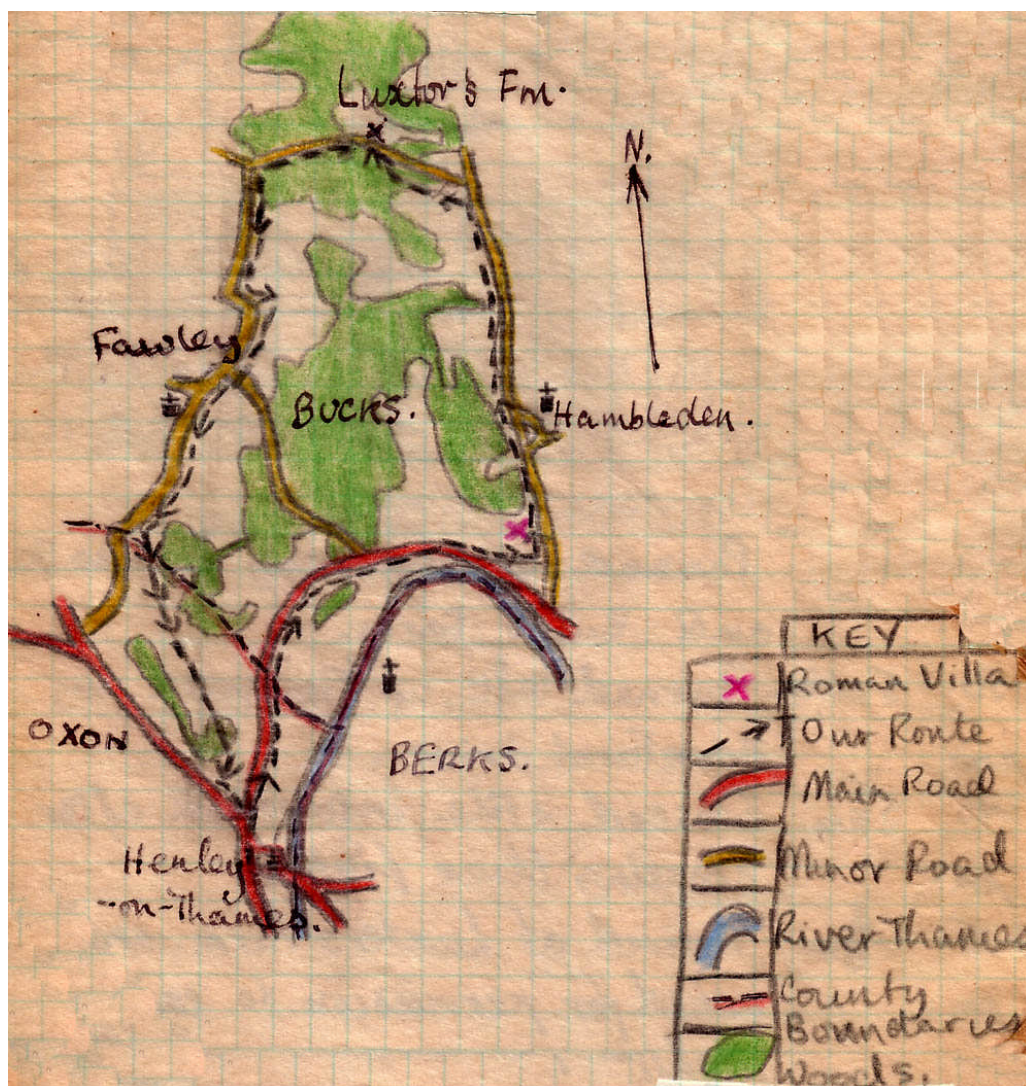
Tent, groundsheet, food, milk, two saucepans, kettle, frying pan, axe, paper, compass.

Camp Menu

Tea = sandwiches, fruit salad

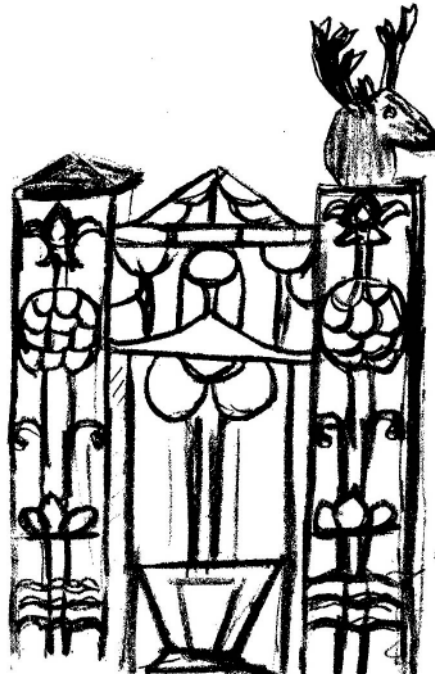
Supper = Steak casserole, tomatoes, boiled potatoes; tea

Breakfast = Bacon, tomatoes, fried bread; tea



Our hike route

<u>Time</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
11.00 am	0	Left Henley from Northfield End by the A4155, passing Phyllis Court on the right and Swiss Farm on the left. Weather dull and misty.
11.18 am	$\frac{1}{2}$	Passed the Divine Mercy College, Fawley Court. It had started to rain and we were offered a lift by a van driver (H.Tilner), but refused.
11.25 am	$\frac{3}{4}$	We passed the Sewage Disposal Works, Marlow Road, while it was still drizzling. We could see that, on the same side as the sewage works, the left, a stream about three feet wide ran by the side of the road. This originates from the days when Henley Park land had deer on it and, to keep the deer off the road, a ditch was dug by the high iron fence.
11.30 am	1	Entered Buckinghamshire and could see a football match being played at the Divine Mercy College, on the right.
11.35 am	$1\frac{1}{4}$	We were at the 'Big Oak' opposite another entrance (the north gate) to the Mercy College when we were offered a lift back into Henley, but we were going the other way. We stopped here for ten minutes to shelter from the rain and to sketch the gates opposite us. It was here that the stream turned away from the main road.



The left hand gatepost at the north entrance to the Divine Mercy College, opposite the 'Big Oak'.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
12.00	1 ⁷ / ₈	Passed, on the left, Fawley Court Farm.
12.05 pm	2	Stopped by the turn to Fawley to the left and saw, a little way up this road, the Rendezvous Point for the Fire Brigade signposted.
12.10 pm	2 ¹ / ₈	Passed, on the right, the main entrance to Greenland's Administrative Staff College. It was still wet.
12.20 pm	2 ¹ / ₄	A Wynne's Transport lorry carrying an Electric Plant and escorted by Police passed us on its way to Henley.
12.21 pm	2 ¹ / ₄	The rain came on worse and we stopped under an overhanging tree, by a fence, to shelter for ten minutes.
12.45 pm	2 ³ / ₈	Passed the staff entrance to the Administrative College, on our right, and, on looking at a paper bag I had been carrying, saw my sandwiches had gone. I therefore went back to find them and found them twenty-five yards back untouched by the rain.
12.55 pm	2 ¹ / ₂	We left the road and took a footpath to the left across three fields.
1.15 pm	3	After crossing the fields we arrived at the road, by farm buildings, and investigated the site of the Roman Villa. The Roman Villa at OS 159 772890 had, as far as we could see, been filled in and the ground levelled over. At one end were a bonfire and a small rubbish dump. Also on the site we saw piles of other earth.
1.20 pm	3	Left the site in a northerly direction, towards Hambleden.
1.30 pm	3 ¹ / ₄	Arrived at Hambleden and sheltered there for a further ten minutes because of rain.
1.50 pm	3 ⁵ / ₈	We met the Hambleden Scoutmaster who offered us a camping site, but we explained we had one.
2.00 pm	3 ⁵ / ₈	Bore left and could see, to the left, the Rectory at Hambleden.

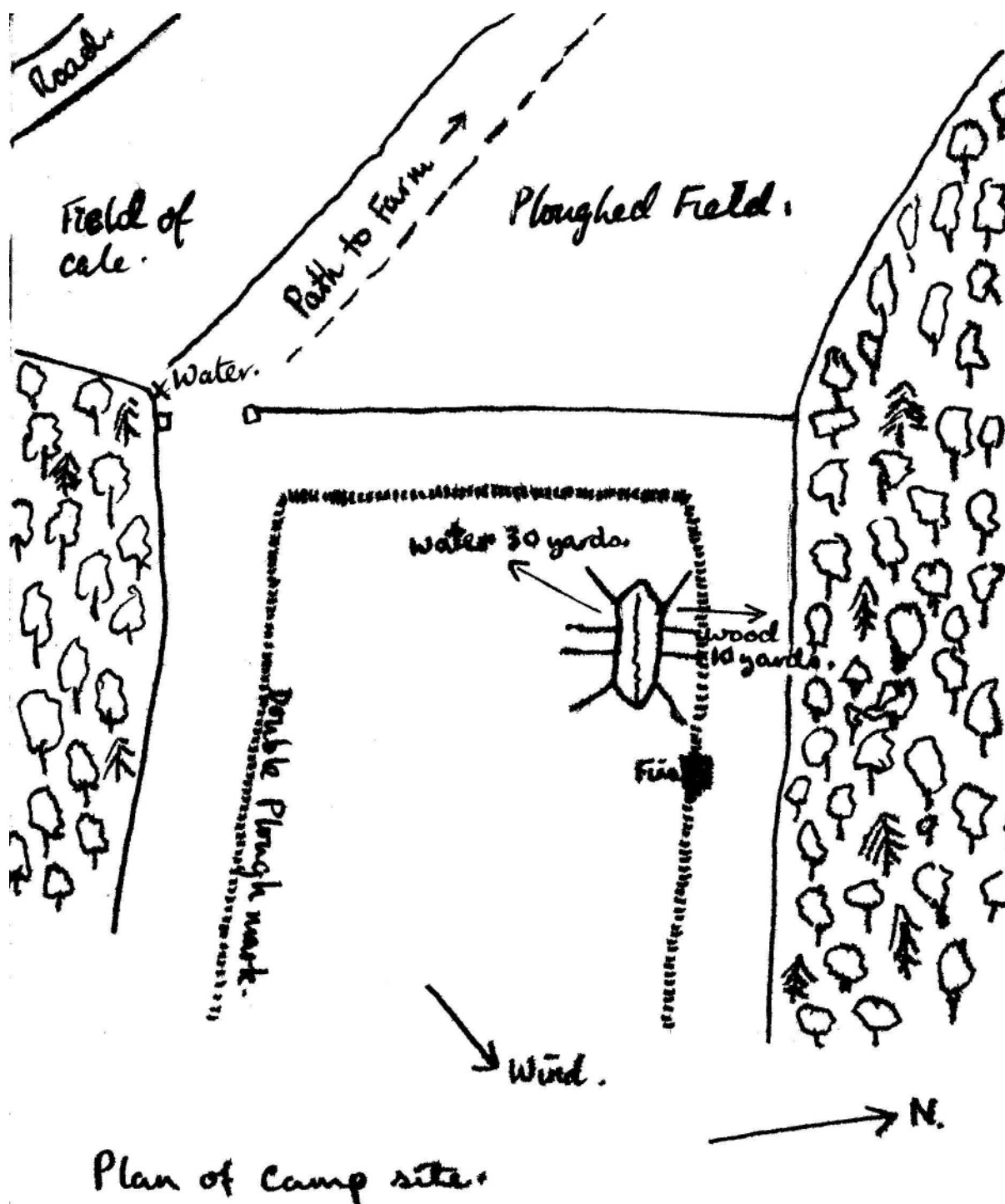


The Rectory as we saw it.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
2.20 pm	4 ¹ / ₈	Left Hambleden, signposted. The weather had changed and the sun was shining.
2.40 pm	4 ⁵ / ₈	Passed, on the left, Bacres Farm and Built Farm.
2.50 pm	5	Turned left, up a footpath, by Howe Farm's drive.
3.15 pm	5 ⁵ / ₈	Crossed a stile into a wood after crossing three fields.
3.35 pm	6 ³ / ₈	Arrived at Luxtor's Farm and asked for permission to camp the night.
3.40 pm	6 ¹ / ₂	Arrived at our campsite on the farm.

Activities at Camp

4.00 pm	We had the tent up by this time.
4.15 pm	The fire was ready.
4.30 pm	Had our tea.
5.00 pm	Lit a fire for washing up water.
6.30 pm	Prepared our supper.
7.30 pm	As it was getting dark, we went to bed. During the night it rained heavily but this did not disturb us too much and we slept well.
7.00 am	Got up.
7.15 am	Prepared our breakfast.
8.45 am	Took the tent down, dismantled the fire and did a general tidying up of the site.
9.25 am	Left the campsite and thanked Mr O'Brien, the owner of the farm, through a farm hand. (There is a report on the campsite at the end.)



<u>Time</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
9.35 am	0	Left the campsite and turned west. Passed through a beech wood in sunny weather.
9.50 am	1	Turned left at the end of the wood, signposted 'Fawley'.
10.15 am	2½	Arrived at The Walnut Tree public house, Fawley, owned by Henley Brewery.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
10.20 am	2 ³ / ₄	Came to the Post Office, Fawley and telephone kiosk (telephone number 1004). Opposite the village hall we stopped to sketch the village hall.
10.30 am	3	Bore left and arrived at the church after fifty yards. Stopped here to sketch a memorial and the church. Met the Rector.
10.47 am	3 ¹ / ₂	Passed four council houses and Dobson's Stud on the left.
10.53 am	3 ³ / ₄	Bore right at a signpost.
11.00 am	4	At the Pond House, recently sold, we turned left down a private road.
11.15 am	5 ³ / ₈	Passed through a kissing gate into the deer park, after passing Henley Park house.
11.27 am	6 ³ / ₈	We were able to see Henley in the valley. It started to rain.
11.35 am	6 ⁵ / ₈	Went through a kissing gate into a small wood.
11.37 am	6 ³ / ₄	Passed over a stile and turned immediately right at the end of the wood.
11.45 am	7	Went over a stile opposite Fairmile Court (flats) and to the left.
11.50 am	7 ¹ / ₄	Just before The Sun Inn we turned left down an alley, then right at the road.
11.55 am	8 ¹ / ₈	Arrived at New Street, Northfield End and departed.
Total:	Total:	
24 hrs 55 mins	14 ³ / ₈ miles	

Report on the Campsite

Luxtor's Farm is owned by Mr. O'Brien who has recently, we were told, let 30 Scouts camp on his ground.

The site we had had fresh water not far away and a good wood supply.

The one main disadvantage with the site for many tents is that there is a public footpath across the field.

The shape of the field was long, wooded on three sides and slightly hilled. The width was between 40 and 55 yards.

Report on the Village of Fawley

Approximate population = 225

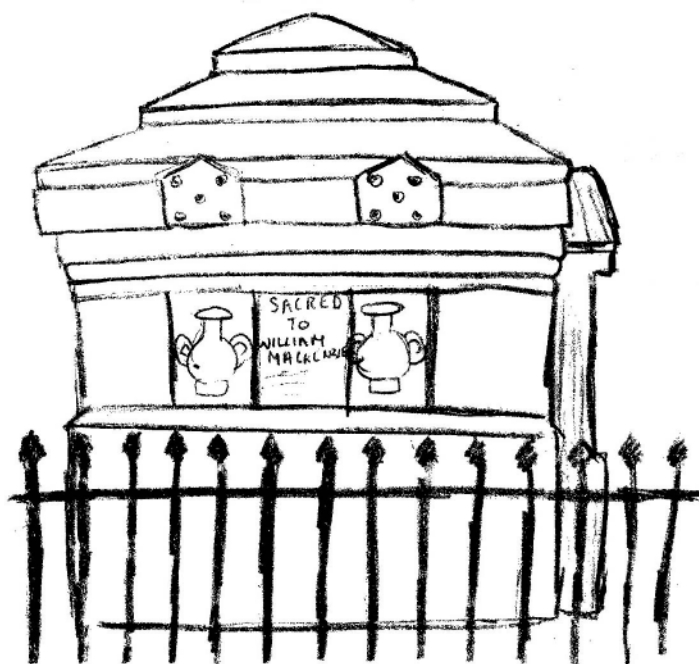
Public House = The Walnut Tree

Telephone kiosk = Henley 1004

There is at the village a church, post office, a village hall and a memorial, the latter is to: 'William Mackenzie and S.Mackenzie of Fawley Court'. It is in the churchyard.



Fawley church looking
north (built 1632)



Fawley church
memorial, looking west



Fawley village hall

Fawley is a very scattered village and is on a hill. It is served by a mobile library and Houses buses, from Watlington. The village hall used to have a library.

One unusual feature of Fawley is the Round House – a house with a round tower at one end.

The District Commissioner's Comments

Thank you very much for a very good log. You make it very easy for me to visualise the hike and carried out your instructions well.

I hope you enjoyed yourselves. B.-P. meant this hike to be a test of all round Scouting with a bit of 'stickability' and endurance thrown in. The rain added a little more to the test and I hope, by contrast, it added to the enjoyment of the sun when it appeared.

You have passed this test well. Next year no doubt other members of your Patrol will be going on this hike so it will be for you to pass on to them all the hints and tips you can.

Good luck to you in your future Scouting and good camping.

M.R.Burge 15.10.61