



Stephen Ford

Author and long-distance walker **Stephen Ford** and Andrew Stuck are walking through woodland beside open fields with traffic on the A3 rushing past half a mile away.

It's not the first time that Stephen and Andrew have met to record an interview. Six weeks ago they had walked across Esher Common together and much to Andrew's embarrassment he discovered that his voice recorder's hard drive was full to capacity, so much of the interview wasn't actually recorded.

Stephen forgave him this 'schoolboy error' and this time proposed that they walk on common closer to Claygate. As you will discover from their conversation, there's a necklace of publicly accessible common in this part of Surrey, that is much frequented by dog walkers and joggers. The interview opens with Stephen talking about where it is they are walking. 21'59" 10.3MB

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded on common land close to Claygate, Surrey in December 2024 and published in December 2024. <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Long Distance Walkers Association: <https://ldwa.org.uk/>

Stephen is a member and walks secretary of the Surrey group of the LDWA: <https://ldwa.org.uk/Surrey/W/2341/our-history.html>

They hold Challenge routes of considerable distances, as much as 100 miles: https://ldwa.org.uk/challenge_events/events_list.php?list_type=M&event_type=N

Commons interconnected in the part of Surrey include: Claygate, Oxshott, Esher, Epsom: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/countryside/management/common-land>

Stephen's first novel published in 2023: *Destiny of a Free Spirit*: <https://cinnamonpress.com/destiny-of-a-free-spirit/>

Stephen has been influenced by the writings of George Orwell https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell, H G Wells [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H. G. Wells bibliography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H._G._Wells_bibliography), and C S Lewis [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C. S. Lewis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._S._Lewis) (The Chronicles of Narnia in particular: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Chronicles_of_Narnia).

Stephen's second novel published in early 2024: *Walking out of this World*: <https://cinnamonpress.com/walking-out-of-this-world/>

And third published novel: *Glastonbury Triangle* (September, 2024). <https://cinnamonpress.com/the-glastonbury-triangle/>

He has two further books written and to be published next year, including one that lampoons the political Left and is a commentary of Donald Trump's successful presidential campaign: *No Free Speech for Hate* repurposes Eton College <https://www.etoncollege.com/> as Slough University.

Stephen suggests two walks:

1. Walk beside the Regent's canal from Paddington basin, to Kings Cross via Camden Lock: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/canals-and-rivers/regents-canal>
2. Book a guided group walk in the Carpathian Mountains of Romania: <https://www.exodus.co.uk/trips/romania-holidays/wildlife/carpathian-walking-bears/>