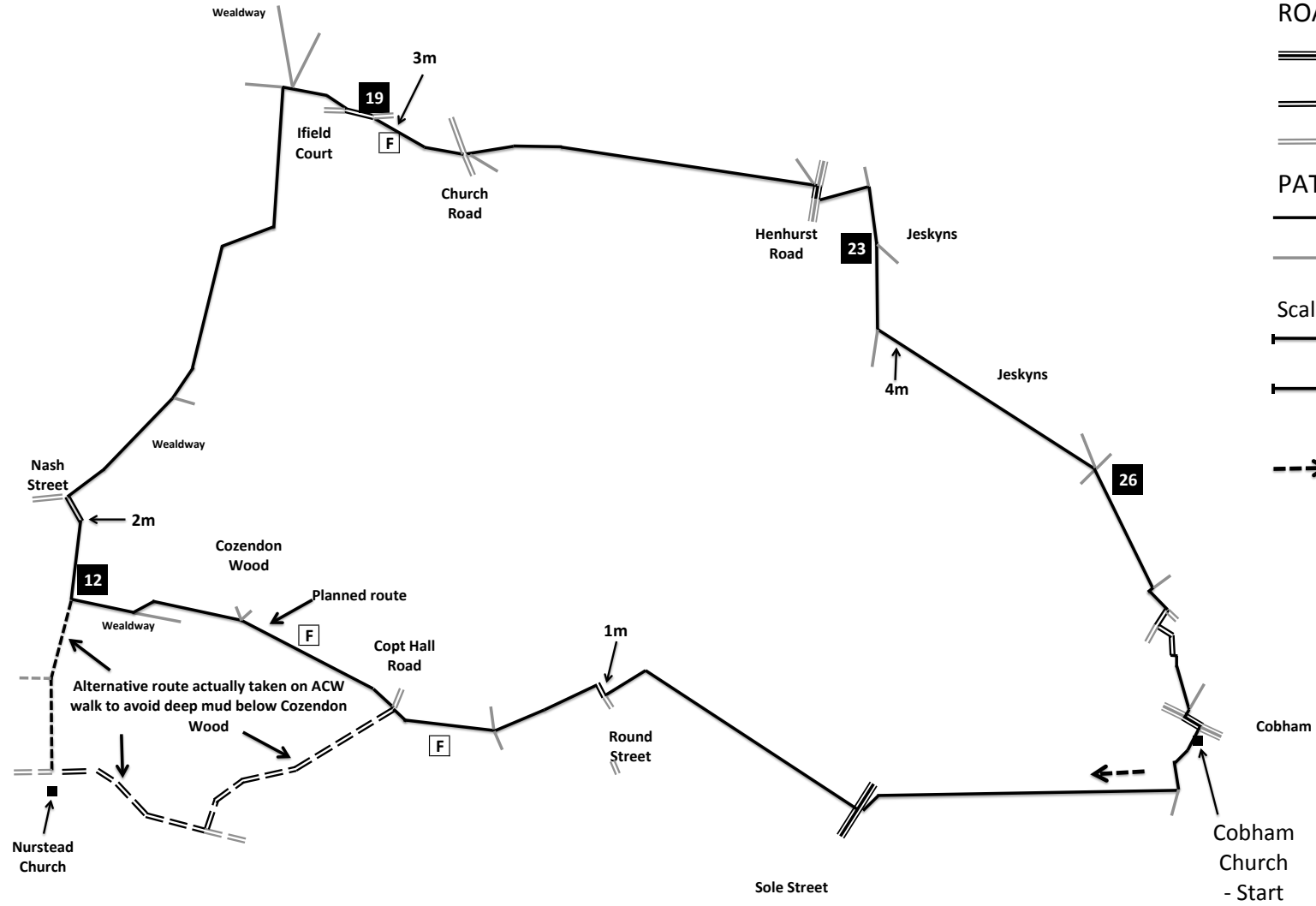


# ASH CHURCH WALKS - NO. 5



**F** Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

**88** Direction label (as in the walk notes)

## ROADS:

==== Significant roads

===== Others - on route

----- Others - adjoining

## PATHS:

———— On route

----- Adjoining

Scale (approx.):

————— 1 km

————— 1/2 - mile

---> Starting direction



**ASH CHURCH WALKS - No.5 (28 December 2013 \*\*)**  
**(Cobham - Nurstead - Ifield - Jeskyns CP - Cobham)**

\*\* Described here is the walk originally intended (the same as Rochester Church Circles Local Circuit LH3). But in extremely wet conditions we avoided the mudbath which Directions 10 and 11 would have involved, instead turning left along the road at Direction 8, following it round to Nurstead Church, and then using the track northwards to rejoin the planned route at the Wealdway junction [12].

The route features a section of the Wealdway, and finally passes through the still evolving Jeskyns Country Park.

Cobham is a good start-and-finish point for a group: car parks and three pubs.

**Roads and hindrances:**

This walk is virtually free from roads and hindrances: just a handful of minor roads to cross, and the traffic-calmed main road in Cobham.

Original notes taken: January 2012. Reviewed: December 2013.

The start and finish is at **Cobham Church** (DA12 3BG)

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the main road through Cobham go into the churchyard and start along the path around the west (right-hand) end of Cobham Church. Follow the path - the one which is a few yards to the right of the church, not the narrower one which follows the church building itself.	669 685	
2	<b>2</b>	At the first opportunity (just before a stile on the left) turn right along an unsignalled path. There is a bench on the right, and a MKG ahead. It is only at this gate that there are waymarks: go straight ahead (NS185).		
3	<b>6</b>	Carry straight on, across a wide cross-path.		
4	<b>11</b>	Cross the road. To achieve this follow the path as it swings leftwards along it, find a gate after about 40 yds., cross the road and carry on along the path opposite. Continue as near straight on as possible.		
5	<b>19</b>	Turn left through a wooden gate.		
6	<b>21</b>	At the road turn right, then after a few yards turn left along a footpath. (There is a signpost, but it is badly placed, and not visible till the last moment.)	655 685	1.03
7	<b>24</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> At a crossing of paths, go slightly right to cross a series of small fields, by means of unusual wooden gateways. Finally turn half-right over a stile (waymarked) and go on towards another stile and a road beyond it..		
8	<b>28</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Go straight across the road and continue on the path opposite.	650 685	

\* **"Mins."** is very approximate! See 'Introductory Notes' for an explanation of how this column is used.

**!!!F!!!** : Field crossing might be unmarked. See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
9	<b>30</b>	<b>!!!F!!!</b> Pass through one small cluster of trees, and on gently downhill into another, at a gap in the bottom left-hand corner.		
10	<b>33</b>	Emerge to go through a metal gate, and then down along the left-hand side of a field. This is heading towards wooden buildings in the corner, with, at first sight, no visible escape from the field past them.	646 687	
11	<b>36</b>	But near the corner, just to the left of the buildings, there is a half-hidden gate. Go through this, and follow the path to merge, rightwards, on to the Wealdway. Follow it uphill.		
12	<b>41</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> You reach a junction of footpaths. Continue along the Wealdway by turning right (faded signpost!).	642 688	1.92
13	<b>44</b>	As you approach a few houses the path becomes a metalled roadway. Just after a French road sign on the right ('Sortie de camions!') the roadway swings left, but instead follow the path (clearly indicated) to the right.		
14	<b>48</b>	Straight on, following Wealdway.	644 693	
15	<b>54</b>	After a long stretch up the right-hand side of a field, take the obvious right turn at the corner at the end ...		
16	<b>55</b>	... followed before long by the equally obvious left turn to regain the original (northward) direction.		
17	<b>59</b>	At a staggered junction of several tracks, with multiple waymarks, turn right, leaving the Wealdway.		2.88
18	<b>61</b>	At the end of the railings merge leftwards into the estate road, keeping to the left of the big corrugated metal building.		
19	<b>62</b>	<b>[Map point] !!!F!!!</b> Just after this building follow a waymark (NU32 - easy to miss) which takes you slightly right through a gate into a scrappy piece of land. Go ahead, keeping just to the right of the buildings, to another similar gate, then slightly to the right into some small trees.	649 700	
20	<b>65</b>	After going through the trees you reach a road. Cross the road to the track immediately opposite - the left-hand of the two alternatives - which sets out initially along the left-hand side of a field. And go straight ahead for about half a mile.		
21	<b>76</b>	Eventually you reach a road, converging simultaneously with the power lines above. Turn right at the road and immediately (after about 20 yds.) left into Jeskyns Country Park.	660 698	3.73
22	<b>78</b>	Next to an information panel and a bench, turn right along the gravelled track.		
23	<b>79</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> At the first junction take the right fork.		
24	<b>82</b>	Turn left, off the gravelled track, up a grassy path opposite another information panel towards the brow of the hill.	662 695	
25	<b>84</b>	Straight on, as the path becomes gravel again.		
26	<b>90</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> You reach a complex wooden gate. Go through it, cross the main track, and go (slightly rightwards) up along the grass opposite towards a pole.	667 691	
27	<b>94</b>	Go through a wooden gate. Turn right and immediately follow the path leftwards.		
28	<b>95</b>	You meet a metalled road as it turns through a right-angle. Turn right to follow it.	669 688	

\* **"Mins."** is **very approximate!** See 'Introductory Notes' for an explanation of how this column is used.

**!!!F!!** : **Field crossing might be unmarked.** See 'Open Fields' in 'Introductory Notes' for some thoughts about dealing with this.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
29	<b>96</b>	Turn left into Sarsens Close.		
30	<b>97</b>	Just before the end of this cul-de-sac, go left into the car-turning area and follow the narrow passageway out of it, going to the left of the house 'Ragstones'. (The name is there, but not easy to make out!) This winds right-left-right-left, then goes across a small rough field to a wooden gate.		
31	<b>99</b>	Turn right on to the track which leads, visibly, to the main road. Cross this and turn left along the pavement.		
32	<b>100</b>	Arrive back at Cobham Church on the right.	669 685	4.93

\* *"Mins." is very approximate! See 'Introductory Notes' for an explanation of how this column is used.*

## **FOR THOSE WHO WALK WITH THEIR DOGS**

I do not venture to give advice about walking with your dog. As well as the joys, you will be well aware of the issues involved, and particularly that relationships between dogs and other countryside animals potentially involve mutual suspicion, or worse.

**But what this footnote does try to do, in response to requests, is to give some indication of the nature of the walk from a dog's point of view, to enable you to decide whether it is suitable.**

The percentage distances on the right should be self-explanatory.

The information in the middle column (on the next page) may look a bit cluttered, but I think it should enable you (if the detail is of interest) to mark up within a few minutes a print-out of the walk notes, so that you have some idea what might be round the next corner.

The risk in all this is that **things change so quickly** in the agricultural working world; and what I describe might become misleading after subsequent changes. I have done my best, but there is no guarantee that you will find the information up to date!

<b>LOCAL CIRCUIT LH3</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	31b	1
Quiet road \$\$	13a, 18, 28-29	5
Open field with livestock	7	3
Edge of field with livestock	10	3
Field (or edge) without livestock **	2-4, 8, 9b, 15-17, 19a, 20-26, 30b	63
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1, 5-6, 11b-12, 13b, 27, 30a, 31a	17
Woods	9a, 9c, 11a, 14, 19b	8

\*\* This is not a promise, just a statement of fact - that, having walked these sections perhaps two or three times, I have found no animals or any sign of them.

\$\$ Again, not a promise that there will be no traffic to worry about. Just a personal judgement of conditions as I have found them.

**STILES (2):-** Details noted in May 2015, but **subject to frequent change:**

There are two stiles in Direction 7. The first is wired down to the ground, and has climbs of 6 ins. and 3 ft., but there is currently a big hole in the wire at an easy height. The second has easy gaps.