

ASH CHURCH WALKS - NO. 9

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

ROADS:

==== Significant roads

==== Others - on route

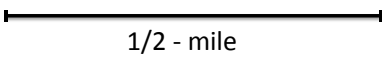
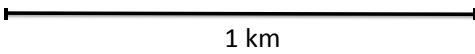
==== Others - adjoining

PATHS:

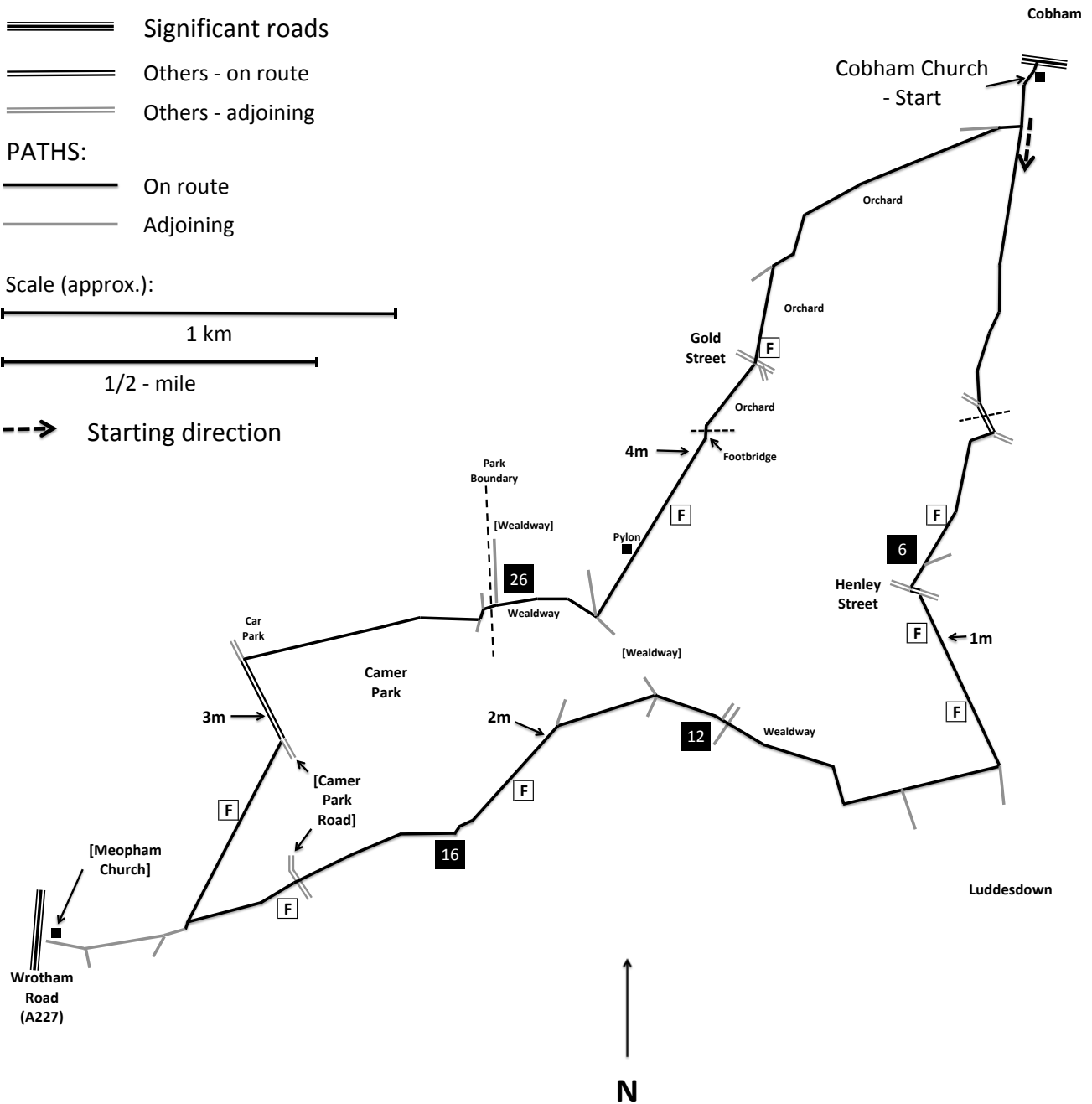
— On route

— Adjoining

Scale (approx.):



---> Starting direction



ASH CHURCH WALKS - No.9 (27 December 2014)
(Cobham - Henley Down - Henley Wood - Camer Park - Cobham)

A gentle walk, a bit muddy in winter but otherwise easy. Fine view down to Luddesdown, pleasant progress across Camer Park, and transit of orchards to finish.

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 2014.

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 <u>Cobham Church</u> . 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	2	Ignore the path on the right, and continue ahead to go down the left-hand side of the graveyard.		
3	3	Go ahead through a small metal gate to a track which leads all the way down the right-hand side of a large field.		
4	11	At the corner at the end, go slightly right to join the road. Turn left on to it, go over the railway bridge, and about 40 yds. after it turn right, along a track which leads through a MKG along the left-hand side of a field.		
5	14	At the end of this stretch, go through a metal gate on the left, then through two MKGs. !!!F!!! After the second of these, go about 30 degrees to the right across the large field, aiming towards a pole - the fourth, and last visible, of a line leading down to houses (and perhaps camouflaged against one of them).		
6	17	[Map point] Go past the pole, and then go ahead down a narrow path between fences.		
7	18	You reach another road. Ignore the waymark directing you to the right along it, but turn left, and after a few yards right, over a stile into the bottom of a field. !!!F!!! Walk up diagonally to the left, to another stile darkly visible in the upper corner.	666 671	0.86

* **"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
8	20	Cross this stile and continue along the same line, through a wooden kissing gate at the end of some trees, then out into a large field. !!!F!!! The line, still more or less the same, leads upwards across this field, aiming somewhat to the left of the highest point of the hill ahead.		
9	27	Just after the path starts to drop, you see a wooden kissing gate immediately ahead. Go through this, and a few trees, to emerge next to a bench commemorating the silver jubilee of the local rights-of-way group. Enjoy the view towards Luddesdown, then turn right to go along the top right-hand edge of a field, (The Wealdway - 'WW' waymarks - soon comes up from the left to join the route at a post.)		
10	33	Follow the path (and waymark) to the right, up some steps and into trees. Then go through a wooden kissing gate and along the left-hand side of a field, with woods and a fence to the left.		
11	35	In the corner at the end, go through the MKG into trees and out again. Here follow the waymark, going slightly to the right, alongside trees to the right with a scrubby field to the left.		
12	39	[Map point] Straight ahead following the blue NS225 waymark, ignoring paths to right and left.		
13	41	As the Wealdway swings right, part company with it by turning left along the yellow-waymarked path. This is roughly a 60-degree turn, not the sharper one which, as clearly indicated, is not a right of way. The path now leads along the left-hand side of fields.	660 668	1.80
14	45	In the corner at the end, merge leftwards into another path, then go slightly right, virtually regaining the original direction. !!!F!!! The track then leads across the width of a huge field, going slightly on a leftward diagonal, toward trees.		
15	49	Reaching the trees, follow the path (and waymarks) slightly down and up and left and right.		
16	50	[Map point] Then on ahead along the left-hand side of a field.		
17	51,52	Carry straight on, ignoring a couple of tracks to the left: there is an escape ahead, though not yet visible!		
18	55	It is tucked away slightly to the left - the remnants of a metal gate. Pass this, cross the road to an equally fragmentary gate opposite, !!!F!!! and continue ahead on to a track which, 150 yds. or so further on, becomes the path along the right-hand edge of a field.		
19	59	At the end of this stretch, as you approach the corner, turn sharp right on to a narrower track just as the main one starts to swing left. !!!F!!! This path takes you diagonally across the field, converging on the road to your right. Aim at a direction post about 70 yds. to the right of a distinctive tree - the most prominent one by that roadside (pale colour, dead).	648 662	2.66
20	65	Turn left on to the road.		

* "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
21	68	Turn right into the Camer Park car park. Keep to the right of the compound ahead, with its barrier, then go straight ahead – or if anything very slightly to the right - to arrive at the start of the grass areas: a medium-sized one first, and then the main expanse which opens out ahead and to the right.	649 670	
22	70	Go ahead along the left-hand side of the grass, keeping close to, and just to the right of, assorted benches, bins and protected young trees. Then, looking ahead after a distinct dip, you will see more benches. Continue immediately to the right of those dedicated to John Harold Raven, Eileen Martin and, finally, to 'our dear son Neil'.		
23	75	Here continue ahead, briefly along an identifiable avenue of sorts, into the trees. This then merges leftwards into a broader track. (If you reach a bench dedicated to 'Donna' you have gone a bit too far to the right.)		
24	76	After about 60 yds. on that broader track, fork right and follow a short winding path to a MKG.		
25	77	Go through this MKG, which takes you out of Camer Park, and, going straight ahead on the broad track, briefly on to the Wealdway.	656 670	
26	79	[Map point] Near the third pole (after the Wealdway swings to the right), !!!F!!! turn left on to a waymarked path across a big field. It is the less sharp of the two left-turns at this point, along a line which goes about 20 yds. to the right of the pylon in the field.		3.78
27	86	Go over the railway on a footbridge. <i>From here all the way to Cobham you go diagonally through the serried ranks of orchards. You go across - against the grain of - these rows, which have staggered gaps cleverly calculated to create the diagonal path for you.</i> Start this process, immediately after the railway, by turning about 30 degrees to the right.		
28	89	Cross the road to the track immediately opposite. !!!F!!! Cut off the corner of the field straight away and aim at the first gap nearby on the right, to continue your diagonal progress. The line tends slightly, but never dramatically, to the right: at no point do you use the bigger lanes (easily big enough for trucks) which you cross a couple of times. Your track is just a footpath.		4.26
29	100	At a meeting of paths, at the far right-hand corner of the orchard, go slightly right through a MKG and past a bench to reach another junction a few yards ahead. Turn left here to retrace your steps to Cobham Church.		
30	102	Arrive back at the starting point at Cobham Church.	669 685	4.96

* *"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.

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 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!

ASH CHURCH WALKS - No.9	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road		0
Quiet road \$\$	4a, 20	4
Open field with livestock	5, 7	4
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	3, 4b, 8b-10, 11b-14, 16-19, 21-22, 26	62
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1-2, 6, 25, 27-29	24
Woods	8a, 11a, 15, 23-24	5

** 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:**

The stiles in Directions **7** and **8** both have easy gaps.