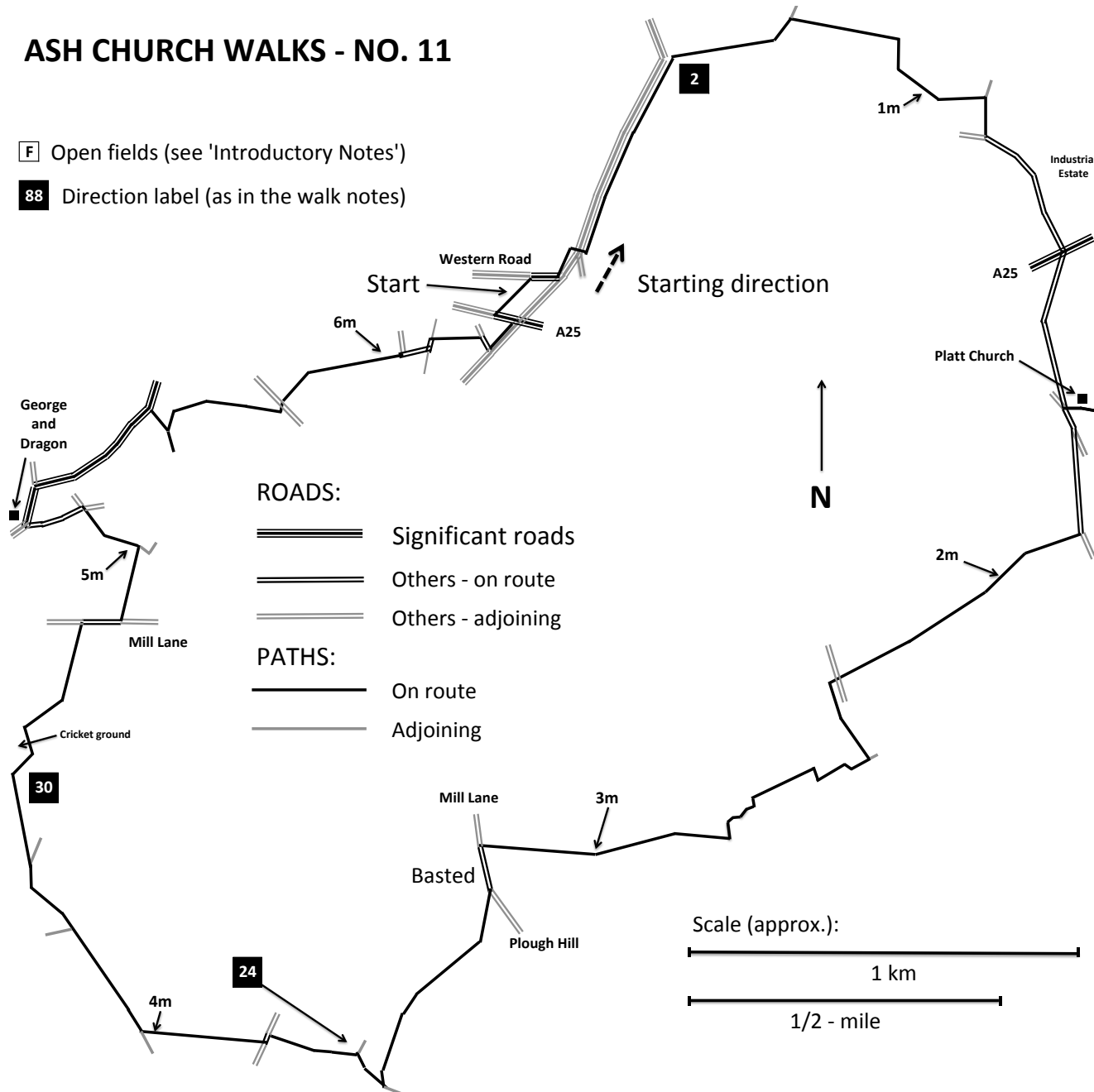


# ASH CHURCH WALKS - NO. 11

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

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



## **ASH CHURCH WALKS - No.11 (12 July 2015)** **(Borough Green - Platt - Basted - Ightham - Borough Green)**

Essentially the same walk as Local Circuit PW2. Somewhat suburban and then briefly industrial for the first mile or so (be prepared for temporary variations round the quarry in Directions 4-7), but the route soon emerges into pleasantly scenic countryside alternating with woodland. The views from Ightham Warren (around Direction 29) are particularly fine.

### **Roads and hindrances:**

The main road in Ightham (A227) is tricky and, whether or not you cross to the George and Dragon, will need extra care. Otherwise, the roads you walk along are either reasonably quiet or have safe walkways.

The crossing and re-crossing of the A25 (Directions 12 and 44) are moderately busy but should present little difficulty; and the two or three minutes through the industrial estate (9) require no more than ordinary care.

At all costs avoid getting drawn on to the A227 south of Ightham (30), but take one of the cricket-field options described.

Notes taken: June and July 2015

The start and finish is at **Borough Green, Western Road car park** (TN15 8AL) – currently £1.20 for 6 hours, free at weekends and on bank holidays.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Leave the car park by the main vehicle exit into Western Road and turn right, crossing when convenient. At the end turn left along the main Wrotham Road and use the crossing to go along the right-hand pavement. Go ahead out of Borough Green, passing Stone Court, The Avenue and Wye Road on the right. (Between Stone Court and The Avenue you can briefly escape the main road by using a grassy area alongside.)	608 573	
2	7	[Map point] Then, at a lamp-post just after last houses on both sides, and just before the road swings decisively to the left, look for a metal swing-gate in the hedge to the right. Go through it and over a footbridge into an open field. [!!F!!] Go slightly to the left across this field towards a stile and wooden footbridge (next to a prominent water installation).	612 579	
3	10	Cross these and go ahead along a grassy path with a barbed-wire fence on the right.		
4	13	(Currently) turn left, as directed, around quarry workings.		
5	14	Turn right alongside the barbed-wire fence, with a big field to your left.		
6	17	Follow the path as it turns right with the fence, with a ditch now on your left.		0.92
7	18	Turn left with the path, into trees.		
8	21	At a T-junction of paths turn right towards a big metal gate.		

\* *"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>22</b>	Go to the left of the big gate, through the remains of an old kissing gate, and merge leftwards into the roadway.		
10	<b>24</b>	Swing right with the road, to leave the industrial estate.		
11	<b>25</b>	Cross the railway bridge.	621 575	
12	<b>27</b>	Cross the A25 (good sightlines) and continue along Grange Road immediately opposite.		
13	<b>32</b>	Pass <b>Platt Church</b> on the left.		1.63
14	<b>33</b>	Fork right along Long Mill Lane.		
15	<b>36</b>	After the house 'Dales' turn right down the signposted bridleway.		
16	<b>37</b>	Continue along the left-hand edge of a field.		
17	<b>44</b>	The track becomes a roadway between hedges. Continue along it.		
18	<b>47</b>	Cross the road and turn left. It is not necessary to walk down the road itself: there is a parallel track in the trees a few yards beyond.		
19	<b>49</b>	Turn right along a forest path which winds back and forth before descending, at a right-swing, to go alongside a field.		
20	<b>56</b>	Follow the path along the edge of the trees to the right and the field, beyond the fence, to the left; then continue past houses on the left towards the road at Basted.		
21	<b>62</b>	Turn left along the road.		
22	<b>66</b>	As this road (Mill Lane) swings left after Bridge House to become Plough Hill, instead go straight ahead along the signposted byway, and on after the last house into woodland.		
23	<b>73</b>	When the path swings decisively to the left, instead turn right, through a gate next to a redundant stile, and follow the grassy path uphill, swinging slightly leftwards.	604 553	
24	<b>75</b>	<b>[Map point]</b> Where the grassy path swings right, instead fork left, keeping to the left of a tree which currently shows a 'public footpath' signpost. Continue ahead along a fenced track towards houses.		
25	<b>77</b>	At the road turn left for about 20 yds., then right, by way of a stile next to a gate, up a rather surprising footpath along the left-hand edge of a private garden, through one gate, and then another further up.		3.82
26	<b>83</b>	Emerge from the trees, and about 40 yds. later turn right on to the pathway, metalled initially, through the orchard.		
27	<b>87</b>	After the brow of the first hill go ahead, ignoring the right fork marked 'Private'.		
28	<b>88</b>	At the farm buildings continue straight ahead uphill.		
29	<b>90</b>	Keep straight on on the public right of way, alongside the line of trees on the left (not forking to the right).		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
30	<b>93</b>	<p><b>[Map point]</b> Reach the top edge of the cricket field.</p> <p><i>[Strictly speaking the mapped right of way goes all the way to the left and down on to the hazardous A227 before climbing back and returning along the far boundary! This is unreasonable. At worst it would make sense, if discouraged by cricketers in the clubhouse, to go to the left and then clockwise round the field, adding about one minute to the stated time; but the following direct route is surely not one which could seriously be objected to.]</i></p> <p>Go ahead to pass the cricket clubhouse and go on to the far right-hand corner of the field.</p>		
31	<b>95</b>	Continue along the left-hand edge of the field.		
32	<b>99</b>	Go down steps and turn right along the road (Mill Lane).		
33	<b>100</b>	Just after Mill Lane House on the right, turn left down the footpath (currently unsignposted).		
34	<b>103</b>	At the T-junction of paths at the end, turn left. Follow the path as it goes steeply up, then down, and then down some steps alongside a road merging from the right.		
35	<b>106</b>	After the steps turn left at the minor crossroads.	597 567	
36	<b>108</b>	After the road swings to the right, reach the war memorial. To continue along the route, turn right along the main road's right-hand side – on the whole the safer side as you carefully negotiate its windings. On the other hand the George and Dragon is opposite, which might encourage you to cross. If you do, select as safe a place as possible afterwards to cross back over to the right-hand side of the main road.		5.19
37	<b>109</b>	Once the road straightens out, follow the right-hand pavement.		
38	<b>115</b>	Turn right along a broad path immediately before Orchard House. Then, ignoring the gates and path ahead, turn left along an unsignalled footpath along the side of Orchard House.		
39	<b>120</b>	Immediately after a wide wooden footbridge, swing round up a bank to cross the road and continue along the footpath opposite.		
40	<b>124</b>	Continue ahead as the track becomes a metalled alleyway.		
41	<b>125</b>	Merge left into a road. Then, just after house number '1', turn right into a narrow passageway, which goes over a driveway, then on towards a road.		
42	<b>127</b>	Turn right along the road, then sharp left (in front of chartered accountants) along the major road.		
43	<b>128</b>	Pass Borough Green Church and continue ahead towards the crossroads.		
44	<b>129</b>	At the junction, cross the main A25 (Sevenoaks Road) and turn left along its right-hand side. (To reach this point if the roads are busy a short detour to the right (the 'wrong' way) at the junction to use the crossing will be worthwhile, at the cost of an extra minute or two.)		
45	<b>130</b>	After going through a gap in the brick wall on the right, reach the Western Avenue car park, the starting point of the walk.	608 573	6.27

\* *"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 (on the next page) 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!

<b>ASH CHURCH WALKS - No.11</b>	<b>Direction numbers</b>	<b>% of walk</b>
Busy road	1, 9-11, 36-37, 42b-44	19
Quiet road \$\$	12-14, 21, 32, 35, 40-41a, 42a	12
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	2-3, 5, 16, 26-27, 29-31	20
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	4, 6, 8, 15, 17-19a, 20b, 24-25, 28, 33-34, 38-39, 41b	30
Woods	7, 19b-20a, 22-23	18

\*\* 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 July 2015, but subject to frequent change:**

The stile in Direction 2 has easy gaps.

The stile in 25 is wired down, but the fence to the left of it has easy gaps.