






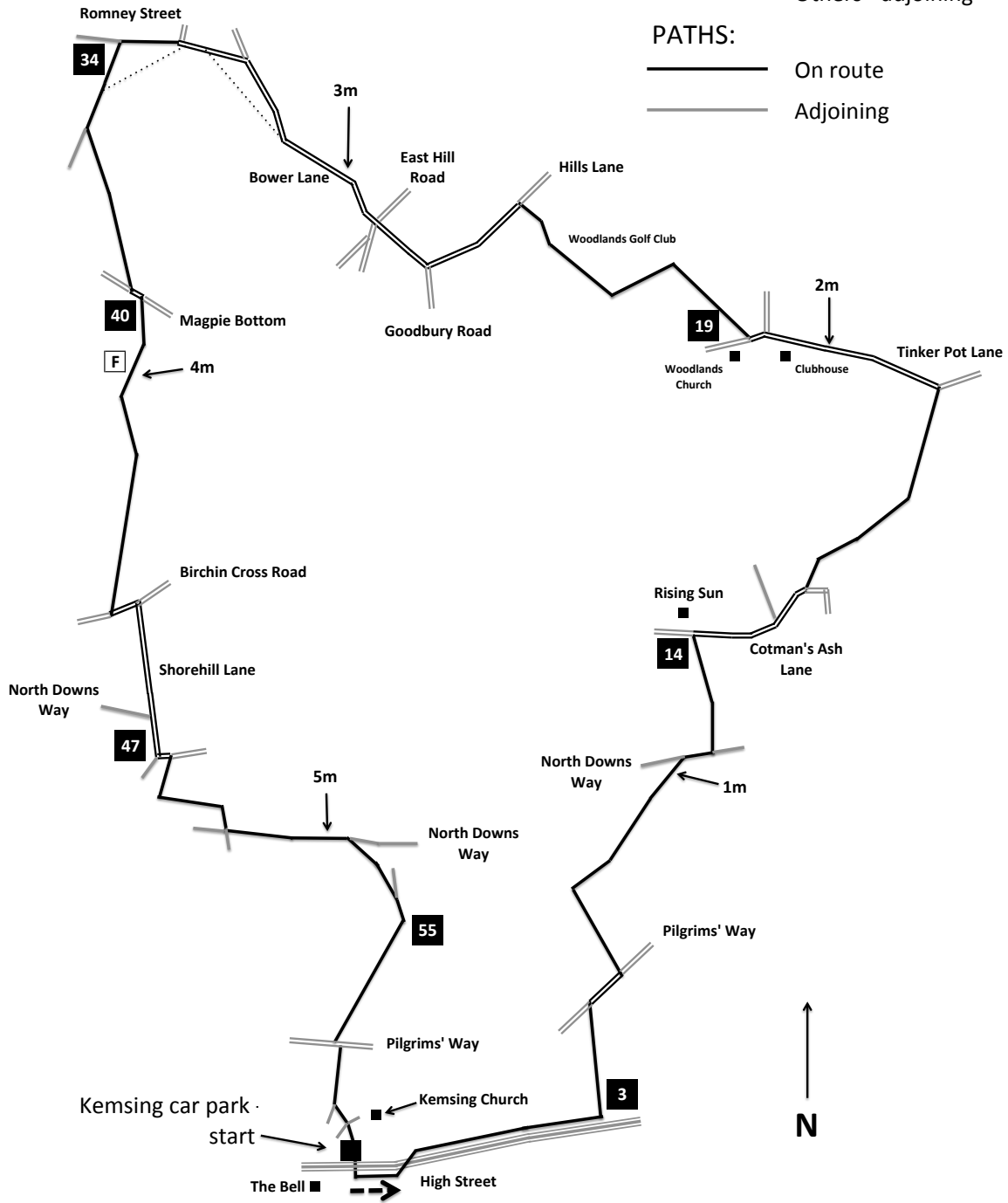
ASH CHURCH WALKS - NO. 16

ROADS:

-  Significant roads
-  Others - on route
-  Others - adjoining

PATHS:

-  On route
-  Adjoining

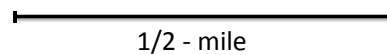
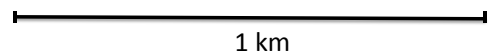


 Starting direction

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

Scale (approx.):



ASH CHURCH WALKS - No.16 (16 July 2017) - 5.53 miles (Kemsing - Woodlands - Romney Street - Kemsing)

Beautiful southward views were agreed to be ample compensation for the couple of tricky woodland tracks and the one fairly steep climb. The final drop into Kemsing was fun, and the hospitality at The Bell was appropriate reward.

Roads and hindrances:

The few roads are not a particular issue.

The woodland tracks, as above, need care, being either rutted or seriously muddy, depending on recent weather. The golf course needs a bit of care, both navigationally to keep on the right of way, and in relation to balls on the fairways. Some of the stiles (though not a problem for dogs - see the footnote) are on the awkward side for humans, but not impossibly so.

Notes taken: February 2018

The start and finish is at the **main car park in Kemsing**. This is just east (i.e. in the Heaverham direction) from The Bell (TN15 6NB).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Leave the car park by way of the main vehicle access road (next to the toilets - usually open!) walking towards the main road.	555 587	
2	1	Turn left along the road. Use the pavement, first on the right, then on the left.		
3	8	[Map point] Immediately after tennis courts and their access road, turn left along the bridleway.		
4	12	Turn right along the road at the top.		
5	13	Just before the road bends to the left, turn left up the footpath (signposted, though the sign is rather hidden). Immediately cross a stile. Follow the path between fences, as it turns right and left, then eventually right, at the corner of a huge garden.	561 591	
6	22	After an uphill walk through trees, go through a metal gate into the open. Turn slightly left, alongside the fence to your right.		0.95
7	25	At the top of the field, go through another gate, and on up into the trees, following the path as it bends right and left.		
8	26	Go through another gate, and beyond it turn half-right, still uphill over an open area.		
9	30	At the top, after following the trail very briefly between a few trees, turn right for a few yards along the North Downs Way.	563 597	
10	31	Turn left immediately after a wooden barrier and gate, to go gently uphill along the left-hand field-edge.		
11	32	At the top, go through the wooden gate, and on ahead.		
12	34	Pass a redundant stile, and continue ahead alongside a field.		
13	35	Cross a stile and still go straight ahead.		
14		[Map point] Turn right along the road.		
15	38	Ignore the footpath which goes over a stile on the left. <i>(This would actually take you on a more direct route, but one even more unpleasant than the difficult track you are about to encounter!)</i>		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
16	39	Immediately before the road bends sharply to the right, turn left along the signposted byway. <i>(There is no escaping the fact that the next few minutes are tricky underfoot, and not enjoyable!)</i>		1.49
17	49	At the bottom turn left along the road.	569 605	
18	54	Pass the entrance to the Woodlands Manor golf club, and shortly afterwards continue slightly leftwards at the road junction.		2.11
19	55	[Map point] About 100 yds. after the road junction, turn off, beside a gate and redundant stile, to the path on the right, steeply uphill.		
20	60	Continue uphill, now on a cinder path.		
21	61	You now start your progress over the golf course, guided by yellow-topped marker posts. First, continue uphill across the grass for about 30 yds. towards such a marker. Then go on, bending slightly right, to another one, and then along a gravel path.		
22	64	At the top, swing left, to go alongside the trees on your left, keeping a green on your right. Go straight on on this line until a bit of the adjacent vegetation juts out to meet it.		
23	65	At this point turn right to cross the fairways, with due care. (Balls can come from at least one out-of-sight tee on your left.)		
24	67	At another marker, next to a mound on the right, and water beyond it, go very slightly right, towards another distant marker, keeping to the right of another little mound, next to a ditch.		
25	68	From this marker go across, slightly to the left, to the next one.		
26	69	Here turn right, to go anti-clockwise along the edge of another green. Go perhaps one-fifth of the way round its circuit, then spin off to the right down to another marker visible among trees, where you leave the golf course.		
27	70	Follow the winding path down through the trees.		
28		Reaching the road, after some steps, turn left along it.	559 610	
29	74	Turn right at the T-junction.		2.82
30	77	Go straight across at the crossroads, to go along Bower Lane.		
31	80	Swing right with the road. (We ignored the stile and the footpath which would have slightly cut off the corner: the field was too rough to justify the marginal saving of distance.)		
32	83	Turn left along Romney Street. (Nearing its far end we again ignored a corner-cutting path across the field, for the same reason.)		
33	86	At the end go straight ahead through a metal gate at the side of a stile.		
34	88	[Map point] At a junction of paths, turn left.		
35	91	Carry on, ignoring the path coming in from the left.		3.54
36	92	Pass to the left of a gate, then bear left to pass, by way of a stile, to the right of the left-hand of the two gates. In doing so you will in effect have taken a left-fork: now continue ahead along the left-hand side of a field.		
37	98	At the end cross the stile and continue along the right-hand edge of the next field.	549 609	

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
38	100	About halfway along keep right to go over a stile and then down a narrow, enclosed path.		
39	101	At the road, turn left for a few yards.		
40		[Map point] After about 50 yds. turn right over another stile on to a rising field. [!F!!] The direction is now straight up the middle of the field. (Bearing 179.) (Taking stock at the stile at the start, it is a more or less straight continuation of the line from the pole behind you to where you are, or if anything slightly to the right of that line.) Before long a yellow waymark comes into view up ahead. Aim about 10 yds. to the left of this.		
41	104	From the crown of the hill drop down along roughly the same line, without straying very far from the fence on the right.		
42	106	This leads to a wide gap, with a gate which is sometimes open. If not, use the stile alongside. Then angle somewhat to the left, quite steeply downhill, towards trees at the bottom.		4.05
43	110	Here find a gap, with a stile. Cross it and embark on another rough and rutted path (similar to the one before, at Direction 16, but not quite so difficult because not downhill).	549 603	
44	117	At the end turn left along the road.		
45	118	Turn right along Shorehill Lane.		
46	122	Continue along the road, as the North Downs Way joins from the right.		
47	123	[Map point] Follow the roadway which leads into the premises of Oak Hall.		
48	124	After about 60 yds., fork right, through a gate, on to a footpath, and follow it as it turns from side to side.		
49	129	After one set of gently descending steps, and before another, keep over to the left.		
50	130	Immediately after passing a bench, with a splendid view, go through the wooden gateway and turn left, alongside the fence on the left.	552 595	
51	132	Go up through a MKG, next to a Kent Wildlife Trust sign, and continue upwards across an open area.		4.92
52	136	Rejoin the fence, and about 30 yds. further on fork right (now leaving the NDW) to traverse another open area which falls away on the right.		
53	139	Enter the trees.		
54		Go through a wooden kissing gate, and beyond it merge into a path coming down from the left.		
55	141	[Map point] Reach another wooden kissing gate, and turn a little to the right to begin the sweep directly down the hill towards Kemsing. Head towards a wooden kissing gate at the bottom with a house directly in the line of sight beyond it.		
56	145	Carry on down towards another wooden kissing gate.		
57	146	Then down some steps to reach a road.		
58		Cross the road and carry on down the metalled passageway which goes down, very slightly to the left, between fences..		

* **"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
59	149	After passing the school on the right, turn left along a narrow path (unless The Bell is your preferred destination, in which case follow the passageway as it bends slightly to the right).		
60	150	Beyond a crossing path, reach the car park, the starting point of the walk.	555 587	5.53

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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.16	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	2	7
Quiet road \$\$	4, 14-15, 17-18, 28-32, 39, 44-47	29
Open field with livestock	40-42	5
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	6, 8, 10, 12, 19, 36-37, 50-52, 55-56, 59	18
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	1, 3, 5, 11, 13, 20-26, 33-35, 38, 43, 57-58	27
Woods	7, 9, 16, 27, 48-49, 53-54	13

** 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 (8) – Details noted in February 2018, but **subject to frequent change**:

The stiles in Directions **13, 37, 38** and **43** have easy gaps; and the one in **40**, though itself a complex construction, should not be a problem as there is a big gap under an adjacent gate.

The stile in **5** has rises of 1 ft. and 2 ft., and the one in **36** of 18 ins. and 2 ft.

The trickiest stile for a dog will be the one in **42**, if the gate is not open. Its rises are of 1 ft. and 30 ins.