

ASH CHURCH WALKS - NO. 20

Sheet 1 (first and last sections)

Bowling Alley

Sheet 2

Sheet 2

Sheet 2

6m

Wingate Wood

North Downs Way

F

1m

Buckland Road

6

F

F

7m

F

Scrub Wood

46

44

North Downs Way

8m

Holly Hill
Car Park
- start

N

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

Scale (approx.):

1 km

1/2 - mile

--> Starting direction

ROADS:

Significant roads

Others - on route

Others - adjoining

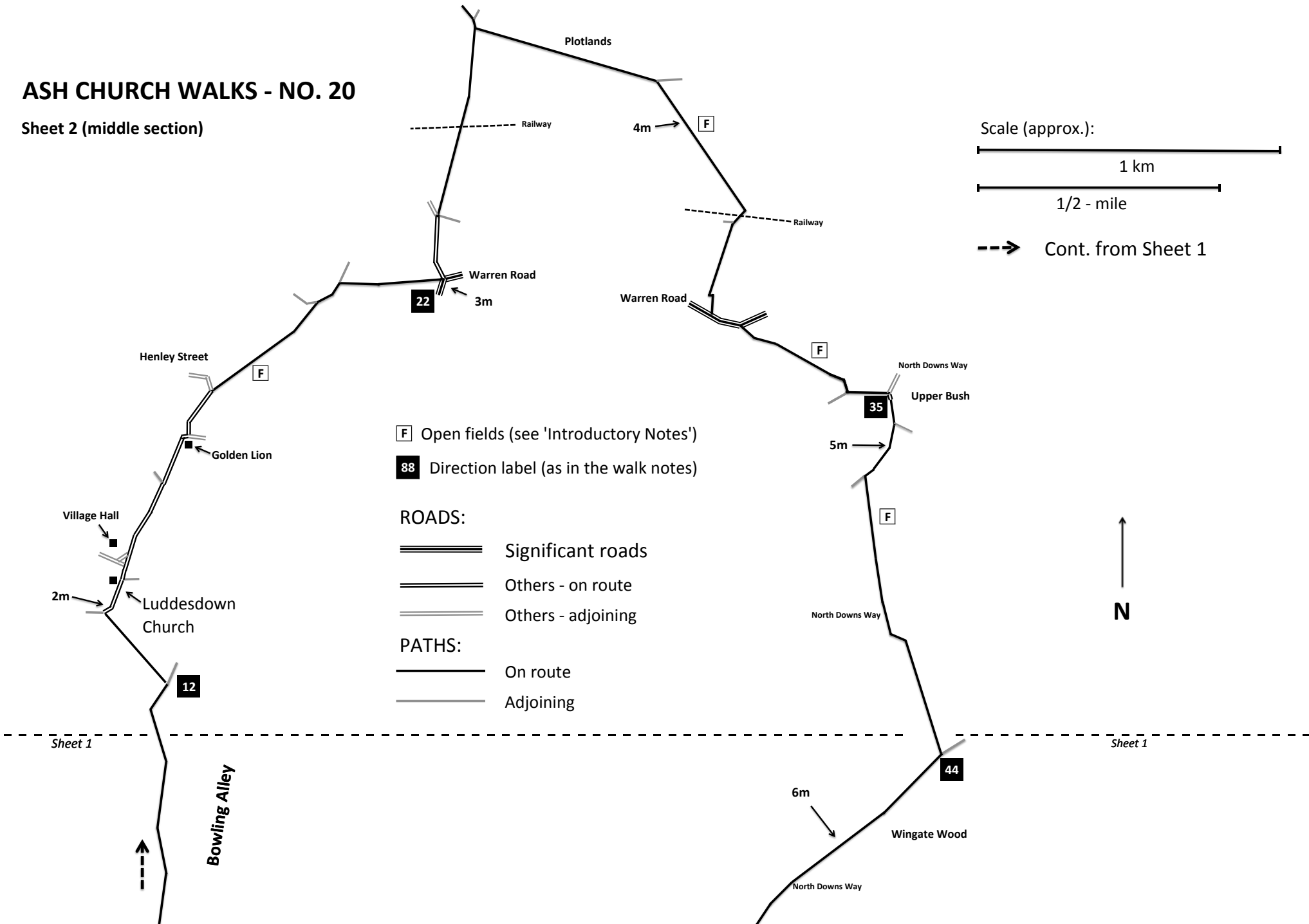
PATHS:

On route

Adjoining

ASH CHURCH WALKS - NO. 20

Sheet 2 (middle section)



ASH CHURCH WALKS - No.20 (27 August 2018) - 8.54 miles (Holly Hill - Luddesdown - Upper Bush - North Downs Way - Holly Hill)

Descending into Luddesdown (with or without its 'e') from either side is always rewarding. On our all-day walk, we went on to enjoy a warm and efficient welcome for lunch at the Golden Lion (pre-booked), followed by some more ups and downs on the edges of Cobhambury Wood and Plotlands. Briefly crossing Bush Road, there followed Upper Bush, and, following the North Downs Way, the rather stiff pair of ascents to the Cuxton ridge; and then the unexciting but easy woodland return to Holly Hill.

Roads and hindrances:

No issues. The section along Bush Road (Direction 31) is very short and not very busy. The other roads are generally very quiet.

Notes taken: February 2019

The start and finish is the Holly Hill car park (free - near DA13 0UB).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		Leave the Holly Hill car park by the main exit on to the road, and turn left along it - part of the North Downs Way.	670 629	
2	4	Soon after Holly Hill Cottage and its grounds, continue ahead ignoring the footpaths leading away on both sides.		
3	6	Ignore the NDW as it veers off on the right, but continue ahead, quite steeply downhill.	670 634	
4	11	At the T-junction at the bottom, turn right along a rough roadway.		
5	19	Carry straight on at the road junction.		0.87
6		[Map point] Go down through a gap on the left (signposted 'Wealdway', which you have now joined). !!F!! Then cross a stile and turn about 60 degrees to the right to start on a long and gentle climb, diagonally up and across the large field. There is usually a marked track, but if the direction is unclear head initially for a metal gate, just about visible, about 200 yds. to the right of the field corner (bearing about 005).		
7	27	!!F!! Go through that gate and continue in the same direction, going under power lines and converging on a rather scanty line of trees up on the left, towards another gate.	671 650	
8	30	!!F!! Go through the fence at that gate and slightly further to the right, so that you are almost parallel to it. Head for the next gate, about 20 yds. to the left of this field's bottom right-hand corner.		
9	31	!!F!! After the gate, continue in the same general direction, cutting across the next field, slightly down then slightly up, towards the end of a thick row of trees ahead.		
10	33	Reaching those trees, keep them on your left as you follow the left-hand field-edge.		

* **"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
11	37	After a gentle descent, cross a stile, then climb gently ahead towards another stile.		
12	39	[Map point] Cross the stile, then turn right, towards a metal gate in the right-hand hedge, about 30 yds. to the left of the corner. Ignore the gate, but bear left to go steeply down the grassy field along the hedge on your right.	671 659	1.82
13	43	Just after the lowest point, go through a wooden kissing gate, and on up ahead.		
14	44	Go through another gate and turn right along the cobbled roadway, following it as it swings gradually to the left.		
15	45	Continue along the roadway, ignoring the turning area on the left.		
16	46	At the wooden gates, where the left-turn leads into the churchyard of Luddesdown Church, continue ahead.	670 662	
17	47	Keep right at the grass triangle and continue down the road.		
18	52	Reaching the Golden Lion, turn left up the road at the junction.		
19	55	[!!F!!] At the start of the road's leftward bend, leave it through a gap on the right, and strike out over the field, passing about 20 yds. to the left of a pylon.		
20	61	Meet the left-hand edge at a stile and cross it. <i>(Or go down a further 80 yds. or so before simply crossing the hedge through a gap.)</i> Then turn right, downhill.	676 671	2.82
21	63	At a junction of paths, turn right, as waymarked.		
22	67	[Map point] Passing beside a gate, emerge at a junction of roads, and follow the one which turns to the left.		
23	69	As the road bends left, leave it on a path forking right (bearing 015 - not the one turning sharp right).		
24	73	Continue ahead under the railway bridge.		3.40
25	78	Turn right, past the remains of a MKG, on to a broad track, next to a 'Plotlands' information board.	682 680	
26	83	Ignore the path on the left.		
27	86	At the top of a rise, look for a gap on the right. Go through it, and soon afterwards through a metal gate. [!!F!!] Then turn half-left, down across a vast field, heading towards a railway bridge at the distant bottom left-hand corner.		
28	92	Go through the bridge and swing right with the track.		
29	93	Turn left beside a metal gate, and walk along the bottom left-hand edge of a sloping field.		4.36
30	96	Near the end, look out for a metal gate in the fence on the left, go through it and turn right alongside the fence. Then go ahead over grass to reach a road.		
31	97	Turn left along the road and follow it uphill.		
32	98	[!!F!!] Maintain more or less the same direction to follow a footpath on the right (leaving the road as it bends to the left). The line more or less contours to start with, staying above the steeper drop on its right, then drops gently towards a gate in the distant bottom-left corner, reached by passing about 25 yds. to the left of a pole – the fifth one counting across from the left.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
33	104	At the bottom keep the gate on your left, and turn steeply uphill into the trees.	694 669	
34	105	At a T-junction of paths at the top turn left along a rough roadway between farm buildings.		
35	108	[Map point] Turn right at the 'Upper Bush' sign, joining the North Downs Way (which will lead all the way to the finish).		
36	109	After following the broad path between the houses, and passing High Birch on the right and The Old Bakery on the left, abandon the path as it bends right and go straight ahead, following the narrow path downhill between fences, bending gently leftwards.		5.01
37	110	Leave the trees at the fork at the bottom, and follow the right-hand path along the right-hand edge of the large sloping field.		
38	112	[!!F!!] As the field-edge bends increasingly to the right, turn left at the waymark to go across the field, and upwards before long, towards the trees.		
39	117	Reaching the trees, there is still some climbing to come! Continue ahead into them, now up along a winding path.	695 663	
40	122	Not long after the path finally starts to drop, bend slightly to the right to go through a wooden kissing gate, then walk down between the fences.		
41	124	At the bottom go round an enclosure by way of little right-left bends.		
42	125	After a pair of wooden kissing gates, begin another climb, again between fences.		
43	129	Once again, entering the trees does not mean the end of the climb. Reaching them, step up to go through a metal gate, then climb steeply up a series of steps (thirty-one!), and then a little further to reach a waymark post and a crossing path at the top.		
44	131	[Map point] Turn right along the path.		5.77
45	141	Go on, over a briefly more open area and under power lines.		
46	146	[Map point] Continue ahead at the crosspaths.	689 648	6.51
47	154	[!!F!!] Emerge from the trees and swing slightly right to cross an expanse of heath-land, aiming first at a waymark post in the middle. (Bearing 261.)		
48	156	The post is at a crosspaths. Continue straight ahead.		
49	158	Continue ahead into a rough area of bushes and trees.		
50	160	Bear right at a waymark post.		
51	163	[!!F!!] Meet another path at an angle, cross it, and go ahead opposite past a redundant MKG and into another area of heath. (Bearing 273.)		
52	165	Go ahead into more woodland.	677 644	
53	167	[!!F!!] Go over another crossing path, with stiles across black railings before and after, then first down, then up over another rough area, passing under power lines. (Bearing 250.)		7.46
54	172	Again into trees, and a few yards afterwards again cross a stile over black railings. Then immediately turn left along a broad woodland path.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
55	186	Step over a road barrier and merge leftwards to return to Holly Hill along the road used at Directions 1-2.		8.26
56	189	Continue ahead ignoring the footpaths leading away on both sides.		
57	193	Reach the entrance to Holly Hill car park on the right.	670 629	8.54

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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.20	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	22, 31	2
Quiet road \$\$	1-2, 4-5, 14-18, 34, 55-56	18
Open field with livestock	8, 13	1
Edge of field with livestock	12	2
Field (or edge) without livestock **	6-7, 9-11, 19, 23, 27, 29, 32, 37-38, 47-48, 51, 53	32
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	24-25, 28, 30, 33, 35-36a, 40-42	10
Woods	3, 20-21, 26, 36b, 39, 43-46, 49-50, 52, 54	34

** 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 (7) – Details noted in February 2019, but **subject to frequent change**:

The stile in **6** has a dog gate.

The stile in **11** is tall with rises of about 1 ft. and 2 ft., but there is gap of about 1 ft. to the side at ground level.

The one in **12** has easy gaps.

The one in **20** is another tall one, with rises of about 18 ins. and 2 ft., but there is currently a huge gap underneath (as well as the gap in the hedge further down, mentioned in the notes).

The two stiles in **53** and the one in **54** have easy gaps.