

ASH CHURCH WALKS - NO. 23

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

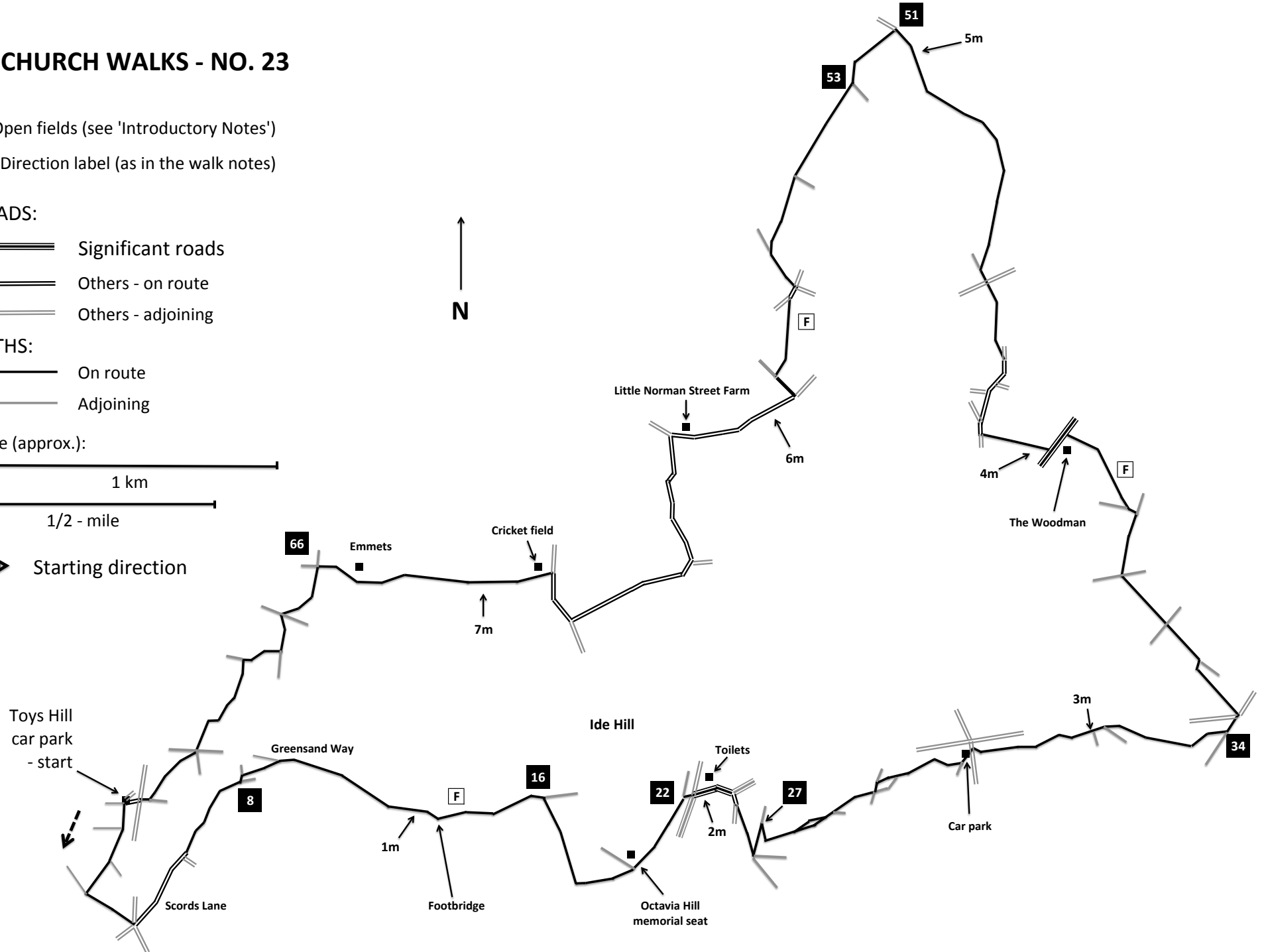
— Adjoining

Scale (approx.):

—————
1 km

—————
1/2 - mile

---> Starting direction



ASH CHURCH WALKS - No.23 (26 August 2019) - 8.02 miles
(Toys Hill - Greensand Way - Goathurst Common - The Woodman - Manor Farm - Emmetts - Toys Hill)

A pleasant walk, taken at a gentle pace at the height of the summer heat. Based on the eastern section of the Octavia Hill Centenary Trail, but tweaked to include The Woodman for a lunch stop - wonderfully welcoming and efficiently organised on a busy bank holiday. Emmetts also provided welcome refreshment towards the end. A little more hilly than usual, but well worth it for some lovely views.

Roads and hindrances:

The main roads around Ide Hill (Directions 24-25 and 61) can be quite busy: normal care required.

Notes taken: August 2019

The start and finish is at the National Trust car park at Toys Hill (TN16 1QG - no charge).

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the Toys Hill car park, start at the far left-hand corner, assuming you have driven in - next to an information board, a number of waymarks, and some steps leading up leftwards into the trees. Go up these steps and follow the winding woodland path ahead.	470 517	
2	3	Go between the barriers and take the left turn.		
3	4	Continue straight ahead ignoring path to the left.		
4	5	At the next waymark post turn left, remaining in the trees.		
5	6	Reaching the road junction at the bottom aim for the road which goes down more or less straight ahead (Scords Lane) and start out along it - first down, then up.	470 513	
6	13	Pass the sign saying 'No road for vehicles' and continue ahead (very slightly right), past the house 'Little Chart', and on.		
7	14	Passing the driveway to Little Scords, the road comes to an end. Continue ahead along the path.		
8	15	[Map point] Initially bear left to avoid the gateway into private property, but then after a few yards turn right to go parallel to that private roadway.		
9	17	Merge right into a broader path, now gently downhill. (Though not signalled, this is now the Greensand Way (GSW).)	474 518	
10	19	Pass a bench and a view, and continue ahead down the steeper, narrow and uneven path.		
11	20	At the bottom go through a spring gate, and then to the left along the edge of the huge field.		
12	21	At a waymark post go slightly right, down towards the obvious gap in the trees at the bottom.		0.94
13	24	At the gap pass the redundant stile and continue along the field, near the right-hand edge. Head towards the far right-hand corner, ignoring the stile on the right a little way before it.		

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
14	25	In the corner go through the gate and over the footbridge, and then ahead !!!F!!! , just slightly left, to face the climb, initially parallel to the left-hand edge.		
15	28	As that edge goes away to the left, maintain your line over an open area, and then go straight on, up more steeply, alongside the hedge on the right. Continue ahead all the way up as far as is for the moment visible, ignoring, for now, promising-looking gates on the right.		
16	34	[Map point] Leave the GSW (temporarily), only after the path has bent to the right at what has appeared to be the top. Here go through a gate to the right, leading down, along a narrow path enclosed by a barbed-wire fence.		
17	36	Near the bottom go into trees and follow the main path, right then left.	484 515	
18	37	Swing left, steeply uphill.		
19	40	Follow the right fork, with the waymark.		
20	43	Ignore the paths on the left (including the Greensand Way, now rejoining).		
21		After a few yards pass the Octavia Hill memorial seat, and another few yards further on take the right fork, downhill to start with. The path then rises and falls and rises again.		1.68
22	48	[Map point] On the way down from this second rise, fork right, as waymarked, towards the road which has become increasingly evident below.		
23	49	At the bottom cross the first road and go ahead to the car park. (There are toilets in the block on the left, currently open.)		
24	50	After continuing along the length of the car park, go over the road which crosses at its end. Consider also crossing the main road to your right, as will be necessary before its bend in any case: going early makes for a better sightline, though a less satisfactory verge.		
25	51	Having, sooner or later, crossed the main road, turn right, away from it, as signposted for the Greensand Way. And after a further 40 yds. or so take the left-fork footpath.	489 517	
26	54	Reaching a more open area with several alternatives and waymarks, turn very sharp left uphill.		
27	56	[Map point] Near the top of this rise, turn very sharp right, uphill again. Then follow the path at the top as it swings back to the left. The first fork in the path after this is not significant: both branches come together, visibly, very soon.		
28	60	But at the second one, follow the right-hand alternative, slightly downhill.		
29	62	At an angled crosspaths, take the left fork as waymarked (still GSW), slightly uphill to start with.		
30	63	At a more open area, keep right for a brief drop, and at the bottom merge left into another path. Then, reaching a car parking area, go leftwards over it and cross the minor road just to the right of its far left-hand corner.		2.63

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

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
31	67	Then continue along the GSW, as signposted, parallel to the main road on the left.		
32	73	Continue ahead, ignoring the narrow path down to the right.		
33	74	There is a fork in the path, where there is wooden board, currently broken. The implication of the remaining portion is that GSW walkers (as opposed to other users) should keep right here. Do not do this, but keep left, as you are about to part company with the eastward GSW – permanently this time.		
34	80	[Map point] After consistently following the main track through all its windings, merge left into a wide crossing path. Then very soon reach the road which has been over to the left for a while; cross it; and opposite, about 10 yds. further right, enter the trees on the other side and follow the footpath signposted there.		
35	83	Emerge to turn leftwards on to a rough roadway.		3.32
36	84	Continue ahead, back among trees.		
37	85	And still ahead, straight across, at the crosspaths.		
38	87	Swing right with the main track, uphill now.		
39	91	Turn left, as waymarked, at the crosspaths.	502 526	
40	92	And fork right, again as waymarked.		
41	93	!!!F!!! Emerge to go ahead, very slightly right, over the field.		
42	97	At the far end, pass to the right of a gate, and go ahead to the main road.		
43	98	Turn left along it and pass the entrance to The Woodman on the left.		3.93
44	99	Opposite and just beyond The Woodman’s car park, turn right along a narrow signposted footpath between fences.		
45	102	At the end, after passing between houses, turn right along the road.		
46	103	Keep right alongside the green.		
47	104	At its end, keep ahead, ignoring the minor roadway on the right.		
48	105	Leave the road by forking along a footpath on the left, beside a redundant stile. Keep to the main path as it winds.	498 531	
49	109	Go straight across a rough roadway.		
50	110	After about 100 yds. fork right, down a broad path., and follow it all the way down to dilapidated buildings at a point where a road begins.		4.49
51	122	[Map point] At these buildings, and immediately before the road begins, turn left, uphill, along a very narrow track.		5.08
52	123	Continue ahead through a squeeze-gate, and continue along the left-hand edge of the field, following it as it bends further left.		
53	128	[Map point] The field narrows to a funnel. At this point turn right between a gate and a currently fallen waymark post, and continue the gentle climb along the left-hand edge of the field.		
54	134	At the top of the field, turn slightly left into trees.	491 537	
55	138	Merge leftwards into another path.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
56	140	Where paths and a roadway come together, first turn right down the roadway, but !!!F!!! almost immediately strike out down the huge field on the left, heading along the line of the distant Ide Hill church, and making for the far left-hand corner of the field at the bottom.	491 533	
57	144	Reaching the trees at the bottom corner, turn half-left along the broad path.		
58	145	At the end turn right along the road.		5.94
59	150	Just after Little Norman Street Farm, turn left at the triangle.		
60	156	Swing right with the road.		
61	162	At the T-junction at the end, turn right.		
62	164	Turn left off the road at the signpost to go alongside the cricket ground, then continue ahead up the hill.		6.85
63	173	Nearing the top on the approach to Emmetts, merge left into another roadway.		
64	175	Reach the Emmetts tea room (with toilets, currently open). Go ahead on the path which goes immediately next to the building along its left-hand side, and then up a short slope, into trees. (From here to the end follow waymarks for the Octavia Hill Centenary Trail.)		7.24
65	176	Go through the gate and ahead, ignoring the nearby small paths off to right and left.		
66	177	[Map point] Reaching a significant crosspaths, at a post with many waymarks, turn left, and then follow this path when it swings down to the right.		
67	181	At the next crosspaths, take the track which leads half-left (ignoring those to the right and sharp-left), uphill to begin with.		
68	183	At the next crosspaths turn right, uphill, on path which then swings further right briefly, and then left near the top.	475 522	
69	185	Pass between barriers and carry on ahead.		
70	186	At another crosspaths turn left as waymarked.		
71	191	After a brief more open area, and then continuing into trees once more, reach a crossing of several paths. Here take the one which goes half-right.		
72	194	Merge rightwards into another path.		
73	195	Cross the road and go ahead into the car park immediately opposite.		
74	196	Reach the information board at the far left-hand corner, the starting point of the walk.	470 517	8.02

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FOR THOSE WHO WALK WITH THEIR DOGS

See footnote on next page.

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.23	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	23-24, 43, 61	3
Quiet road \$\$	5-6, 30b, 45-47, 56a, 58-60, 62-63	21
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	1b, 11-13, 14b-15, 35, 41, 52-53, 56b, 70b	15
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	10, 14a, 16, 25, 44, 51, 57, 64a,73	7
Woods	1a, 1c-4, 7-9, 17-22, 26-30a, 31-34, 36-40, 42, 48-50, 54-55, 64b-70a, 70c-72	54

** 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: There are currently no stiles on this walk.