

ASH CHURCH WALKS - NO. 24

F Open fields (see 'Introductory Notes')

88 Direction label (as in the walk notes)

ROADS:

==== Significant roads

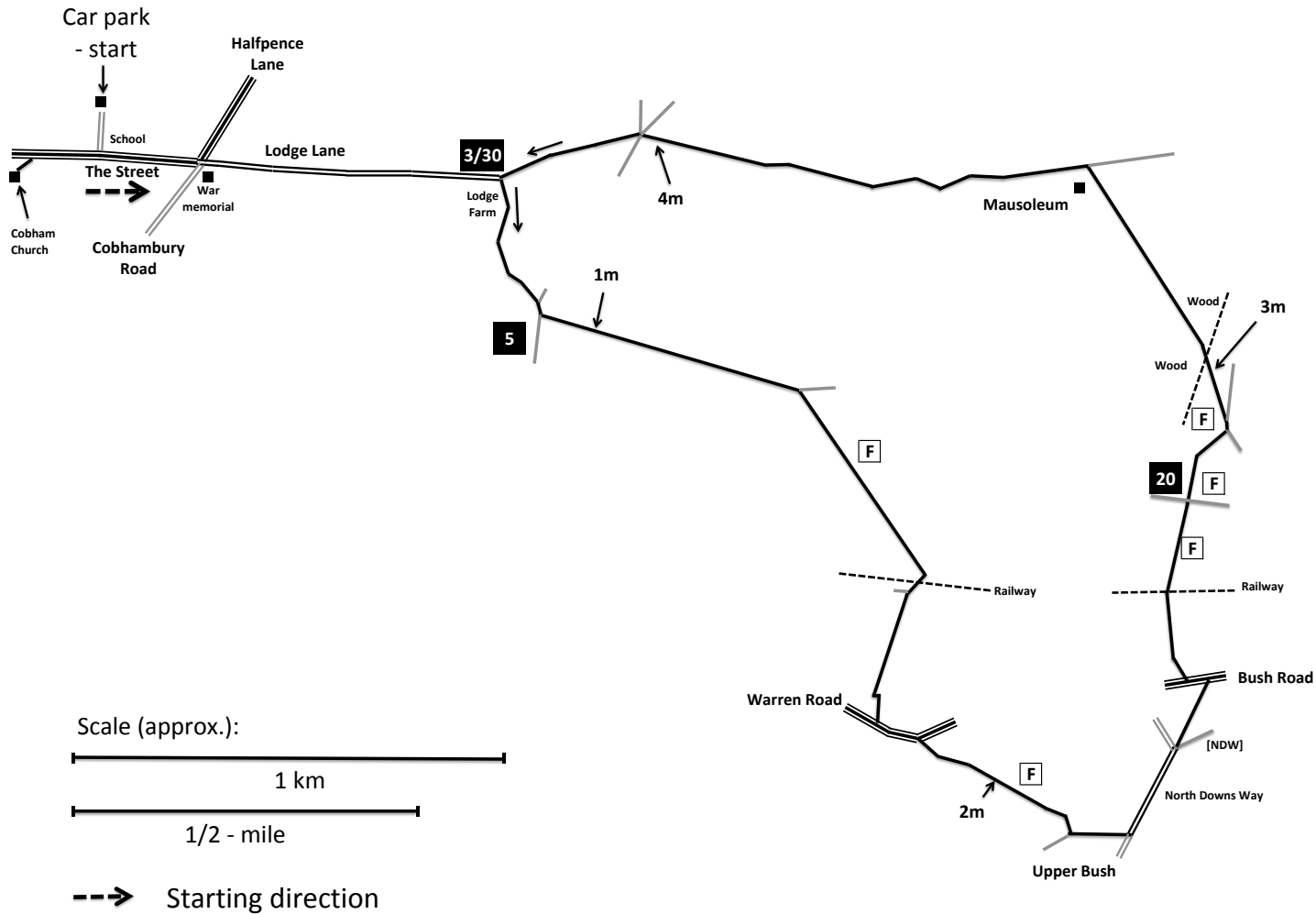
==== Others - on route

==== Others - adjoining

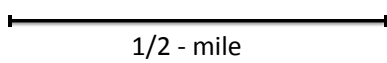
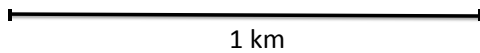
PATHS:

— On route

— Adjoining



Scale (approx.):



---> Starting direction

ASH CHURCH WALKS - No.24 (30 December 2019) - 4.87 miles (Cobham - Upper Bush - Mausoleum - Cobham)

Essentially the same as Local Circuit LC1, though cutting off a corner to ensure a finish before dusk. There are some fine views before, between and after the two crossings of Warren Road / Bush Road; and the intriguing mausoleum towards the end.

Roads and hindrances:

The only hindrance on the day was the impossibly deep mud in Direction 22, which we circumvented, as described. On other occasions this has not been a problem here.

The climb up from Bush Road (18-200 is quite steep, but the view at the top rewarding.

Notes taken: December 2019 and February 2020

The start and finish is at the car park next to the bowling green behind **Cobham** Primary School, next to Cobham Cricket Club, DA12 3BN. (There is an adjacent overflow area.) It is at the end of a short lane off The Street, opposite Lawrence Drive.

	Mins.*		OS	Miles
1		From the car park go along the roadway alongside the school and at the end turn left along the main road.	671 685	
2	4	After crossing Cobhambury Road, keep to the left of the war memorial, and (as the main road turns to the left) keep straight on along Lodge Lane.		
3	12	[Map point] After the most of buildings of Lodge Farm, turn right, opposite an information board, down the signposted byway.		0.66
4	13	After passing a barn, go slightly left along the broad path (but not further left through the gate marked for the Darnley Trail).		
5	15	[Map point] Take the second left turn, past the remains of a MKG, on to a broad track, next to a 'Plotlands' information board.		
6	20	Ignore the path on the left.		
7	23	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.	688 679	
8	29	Go through the bridge and swing right with the track.		1.59
9	30	Turn left beside a metal gate, and walk along the bottom left-hand edge of a sloping field.		
10	33	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.		
11	34	Turn left along the road and follow it uphill.		

* "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
12	35	!!!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.		
13	41	At the bottom keep the gate on your left, and turn steeply uphill into the trees.	694 669	
14	42	At a T-junction of paths at the top turn left along a rough roadway between farm buildings.		
15	45	Turn left at the 'Upper Bush' sign, briefly joining the North Downs Way.		2.24
16	47	When the road bends to the left, leave it, and also ignore the NDW which forks away to the right, by instead going straight ahead on the narrow path along the field edge.		
17	49	Reaching the road turn left along it.		
18	50	After about 80 yds. turn right along the signposted footpath (RS161) and go ahead through the metal gate and up the steep hill.		
19	55	Go through a MKG next to a metal gate, and ahead under the railway bridge. On the other side go through another MKG at the side, and then !!!F!!! on in the same direction up a faintly visible track.		
20	61	[Map point] !!!F!!! As the steepness eases a little, continue ahead over a crossing path and past a bench.		
21	63	At the top, next to a waymark post, bend slightly to the right, to go down along the edge of the trees on the left.		2.87
22	64	!!!F!!! Go through the swing gate at the bottom left-hand corner. Here, after a bit of a right-turn, the main path would take you down a long straight descent to the valley; but instead descend about 30 degrees to the left of that line, towards a MKG at the edge of woodland (bearing 347). <i>[In the event this direct 30-degree line to the MKG was across virtually impassable mud. We instead picked our way along the field edge – left along the top at first, then turning right down the far side to reach the MKG in a gap on the left.]</i>	698 678	
23	66	Go through the MKG, and begin a climb through the wood, on a rough, winding path.		
24	67	Meeting a crossing path, go briefly right, then left, roughly on the original line.		
25	70	Go straight across at another crosspaths.		
26	74	After more uphill windings, reach and go through a MKG, with the mausoleum in sight beyond it. Continue ahead with the mausoleum on your left, to meet a wide crossing path.		
27	76	Turn left along this path, soon entering more trees.	694 684	3.36
28	84	Leave Cobham Wood through a MKG next to a gate and cattle grid.		
29	89	At crosspaths with multiple waymarks, simply continue ahead.		

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	Mins.*		OS	Miles
30	93	[Map point] At the start of the farm buildings, go ahead through a MKG beside a big gate, and along the roadway, now retracing your steps from the start of the walk.		4.21
31	102	Reaching the main road next to the war memorial, cross Cobhambury Road and go ahead along The Street. Pass the school on the right-hand side, and immediately turn right along the narrow roadway leading back to the car park.		
32	106	Reach the car park at the bowling green, the starting point of the walk.	671 685	4.87

* ***“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 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.24	Direction numbers	% of walk
Busy road	1, 11, 17, 31	11
Quiet road \$\$	2, 14-15, 30	23
Open field with livestock		0
Edge of field with livestock		0
Field (or edge) without livestock **	7, 9, 12, 16, 18b-22, 26-27a, 29b	31
Path (hedged, or otherwise forced)	3-5, 8, 10, 13, 18a, 28-29a	20
Woods	6, 23-25, 27b	16

** 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.