

The Countryside Code

Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs

Even when going out locally, it's best to get the latest information about where and when you can go. For example, your rights to go onto some areas of open land may be restricted while work is carried out for safety reasons, or during breeding seasons. Follow advice and local signs, and be prepared for the unexpected.

Consider other people

Showing consideration and respect for other people makes the countryside a pleasant environment for everyone – at home, at work and at leisure.

Leave gates and property as you find them

Please respect the working life of the countryside, as our actions can affect people's livelihoods, our heritage, and the safety and welfare of animals and ourselves.

Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home

We have a responsibility to protect our countryside now and for future generations, so make sure you don't harm animals, birds, plants or trees.

Keep dogs under close control

The countryside is a great place to exercise dogs, but it's every owner's duty to make sure their dog is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, wildlife or other people.

More at: www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

Footpath Society

Abbots Bromley & District Footpath Society lead walks each month which are open to anyone to join. Most of these are circular walks starting and ending at the Butter Cross.

Further information and contact details can be found on the Abbots Bromley village web pages at:

www.abbotsbromley.com/walks

Additional copies of this leaflet and the associated GPS data can also be downloaded from these pages.

This is one of a group of circular walks starting and ending in Abbots Bromley and which vary in length from three to six and a half miles (five to ten and a half kilometres).

Acknowledgements

This leaflet has been published by Abbots Bromley Parish Council and the Abbots Bromley & District Footpath Society with grants from the Staffordshire County Council Community Paths Initiative. It is based on the 1993 walk revised and updated.

While every effort has been made to ensure that the details provided in this publication are correct, the publishers regret that they cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions.

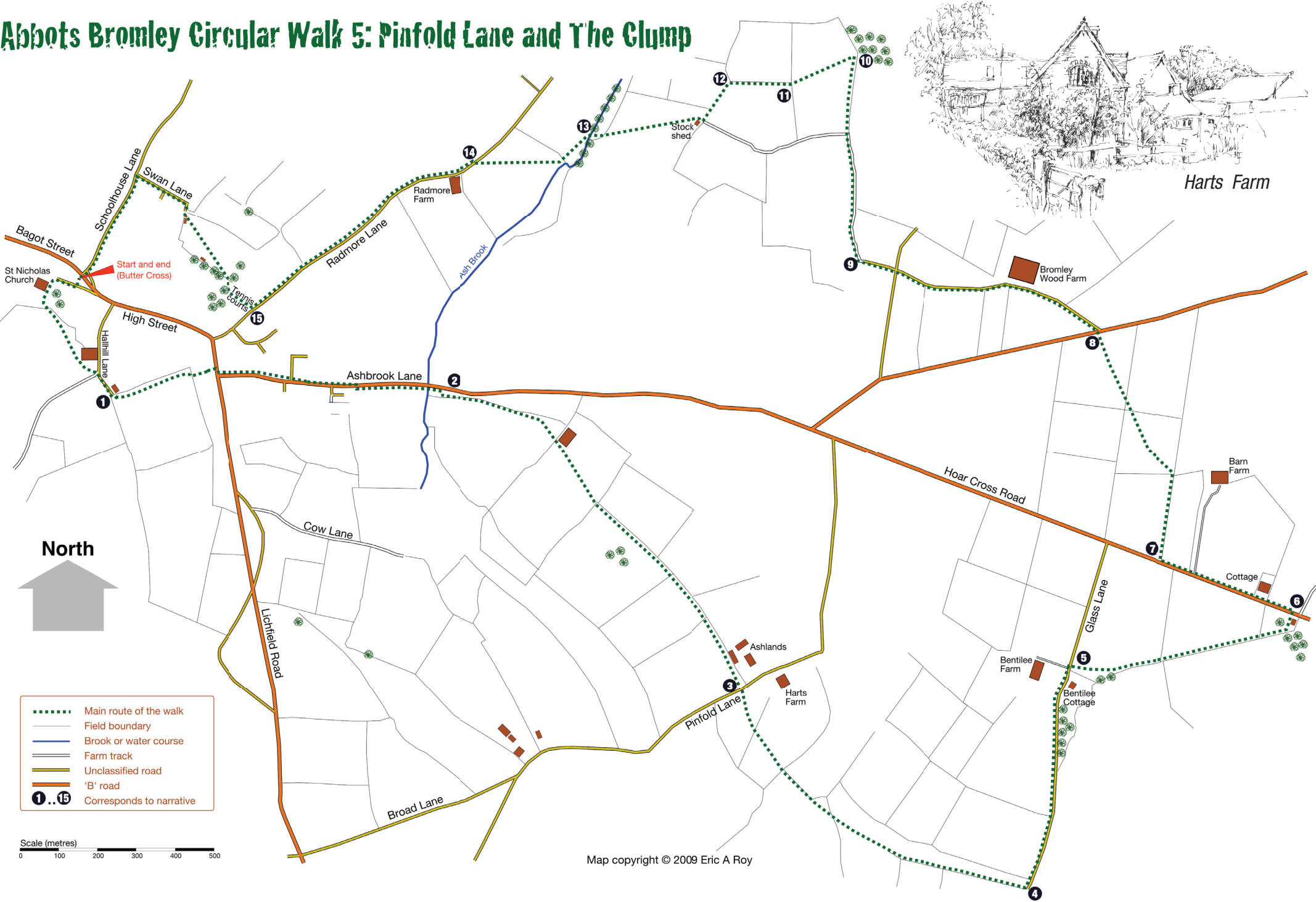
Thanks to WT Richards for allowing use of the aerial image of Abbots Bromley village and surroundings taken in 2005, and to Roger Jarman for permission to reproduce the sketches by Helen Jarman showing Hart's Farm.

Abbots Bromley Circular Walk 5: Glass Lane and The Clump

Walk information

Distance:	Approximately 6.4 miles (10.2 km)
Ascent:	150 metres
Terrain:	Mixture of roads, paths and potentially muddy fields with some stiles
Start/end:	Butter Cross, Market Place, Abbots Bromley (SK 0804 2458, WS15 3BP)
Parking:	There is limited free parking on and off road in the Market Place
OS Maps:	Explorer sheet 244: Cannock Chase and Chasewater Landranger sheet 128: Derby and Burton upon Trent
Revised:	November 2009

Abbots Bromley Circular Walk 5: Pinfold Lane and The Clump



Walk 5 start...

From the Butter Cross walk down the slope in front of The Goat, turn right and go ahead through the lych-gate into the churchyard.



Go immediately left following the path that runs parallel to the wall and hedge, to reach a stile tucked away in the churchyard behind the vicarage.

Go over the stile and left up the hill, keeping just to the right of the farm buildings. Just past the buildings, cross a stile in the hedge and straight on up the short track to another stile in front of the second of a pair of semi-detached houses **(1)**.



Straight on up a short track to a pair of houses

Here, in the autumn and winter when the afternoon light is fading, large flocks of gulls can be seen flying in to roost on nearby Blithfield Reservoir. On the skyline to the right is the wide expanse of Cannock Chase.

Cross the stile into "The Lowers", one of two playing fields belonging to the Abbots Bromley School for Girls, and follow the northern edge of the field along to the

left and down the tarmac drive to the Lichfield Road by the bus stop. Cross the road, turn right then follow the left hand side of Burton Road (Ashbrook Lane) on the pavement. Cross the road where the pavement ends and continue on the other side onto a grass verge in front of the houses. Continue in the same direction until about 100m after the bridge over the Ash Brook. Just as the road bends to the left, go to the stile hidden in the hedge on the right. **(2)**



Stile hidden in the hedge on the right of Ashbrook Lane

At this point there are two gardens which once formed part of the road. Between 1776-1831 the road became a toll road and was made narrower with a stone surface. The resulting surplus land was used as small crofts which survive as gardens today.

Cross the stile and follow the edge of the field to the left. 50m before the field corner the path to Ashlands goes off half-right to cross a stile to the left of the second tree from the field corner. Continue almost straight ahead to the right of a gate to reach a double stile and sleeper bridge. Over the second stile, follow the hedge to the left to the gateway on Pinfold Lane. **(3)**

Hart's Farm, on the south-east side of Pinfold Lane, is named after John Hart, who was the occupier in 1774, rather than after the male fallow deer. (See sketch on the map page)



Crossing fields near Hart's Farm

Cross Pinfold Lane to the gate opposite and then cross the field to a stile in the opposite hedge 20m to the left of an oak tree growing in the hedge. Continue on across the next field and over a stile then follow the left-hand side of the field. Where the hedge bends to the left, walk straight ahead, over the stiles to the right of two hawthorn trees and follow the left-hand hedge to Glass Lane where you turn left. **(4)**

The name "Glass Lane" dates from at least 1289 when it is mentioned in a charter. There was a glass-making industry in Abbots Bromley during the medieval period and remains of a glass furnace were found in Bagots Park.

At Bentilee Farm **(5)** take the footpath opposite the farm drive and follow the right-hand side of three fields to a pond and barn.

These fields form the boundary of Bentilee Park, an early enclosure. The cream cottage on your right in Glass Lane stands on the site of an assart (forest clearing) into Far Bromley Wood made before the 1799 Enclosure Act.

Turn left at the barn and go over the stiles to the Hoar Cross road where you turn left **(6)** passing a cream house on your right and then the entrance to Barn Farm.

The land between Bentilee Park and Bromley Park was enclosed by the 1799 Enclosure Act. Barn Farm was originally just buildings and yards farmed from Bromley Wood Farm which you will soon pass. By 1831 the house had been built and it was occupied as a separate holding.

Walk 5 continued...



Highland cattle alongside Hoar Cross Road

About 100m past Barn Farm drive, go over the stile on the right **(7)** and follow the right-hand side of the first field. Go diagonally left across the second field aiming slightly right of the buildings on the skyline to a stile near the corner. Cross the stile and continue left across the corner of the field, over a stile and then half right to a stile in the middle of the hedge on the Burton Road. **(8)**

Cross the Burton Road and walk up the lane facing you, passing Bromley Wood Farm and the cross-roads, to The Forge House on the right and The Cottage on the left at the bend in the lane. **(9)**

Continue on, following the bridleway around the bend between the two houses and the hedgerows, through a metal gate to a field where you keep to the right-hand hedge.

At the wood known as The Clump, the bridleway is crossed by a footpath which runs from Park Farm to Bromley Park Farm and Radmore Farm, and you will notice a stile at the edge of the wood. **(10)** Ignore this stile and turn left through 90° and head for a wooden gate 200m away. Go through this gate **(11)** and walk along the hedge on your right.

When this hedge bears right **(12)**, turn left 90° towards a stock shed. Go through a metal gate in the hedge that encloses the area in front of the shed. Cross the front of the shed and head diagonally left across the field.



Cross in front of the stock shed and then bear left

Along here you will enjoy good views across the southern half of the village, Cannock Chase to the left and, on a clear day, Lichfield Cathedral. Continue to the bottom left corner of the field and over the stile. Follow this path round to the left and cross Ash Brook at the wooden bridge **(13)**.



Wooden bridge across Ash Brook

Again go diagonally left to another stile and cross. You will see Radmore Farm in the right corner of this next large field. Cross the field to a stile and metal gate approximately 100m to the right of the farm on Radmore Lane **(14)**. Cross the stile into Radmore Lane and turn left back towards the village.

Over a bridge and up the hill to where housing starts you will find a gate on your right between two tennis courts **(15)**.



Kissing gate in Radmore Lane leading to playing field

Either follow this path past the tennis courts and diagonally right across a playing field to Swan Lane in the corner. You will then be able to retrace your steps back along Swan Lane. Or...

Alternatively, instead of going through the kissing gate in Radmore Lane, carry on along the lane to where it meets the High Street and turn right by the Coach & Horses back to the Butter Cross.