

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 1992 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 sketch by Helen Jarman showing the view towards Bagot Park.

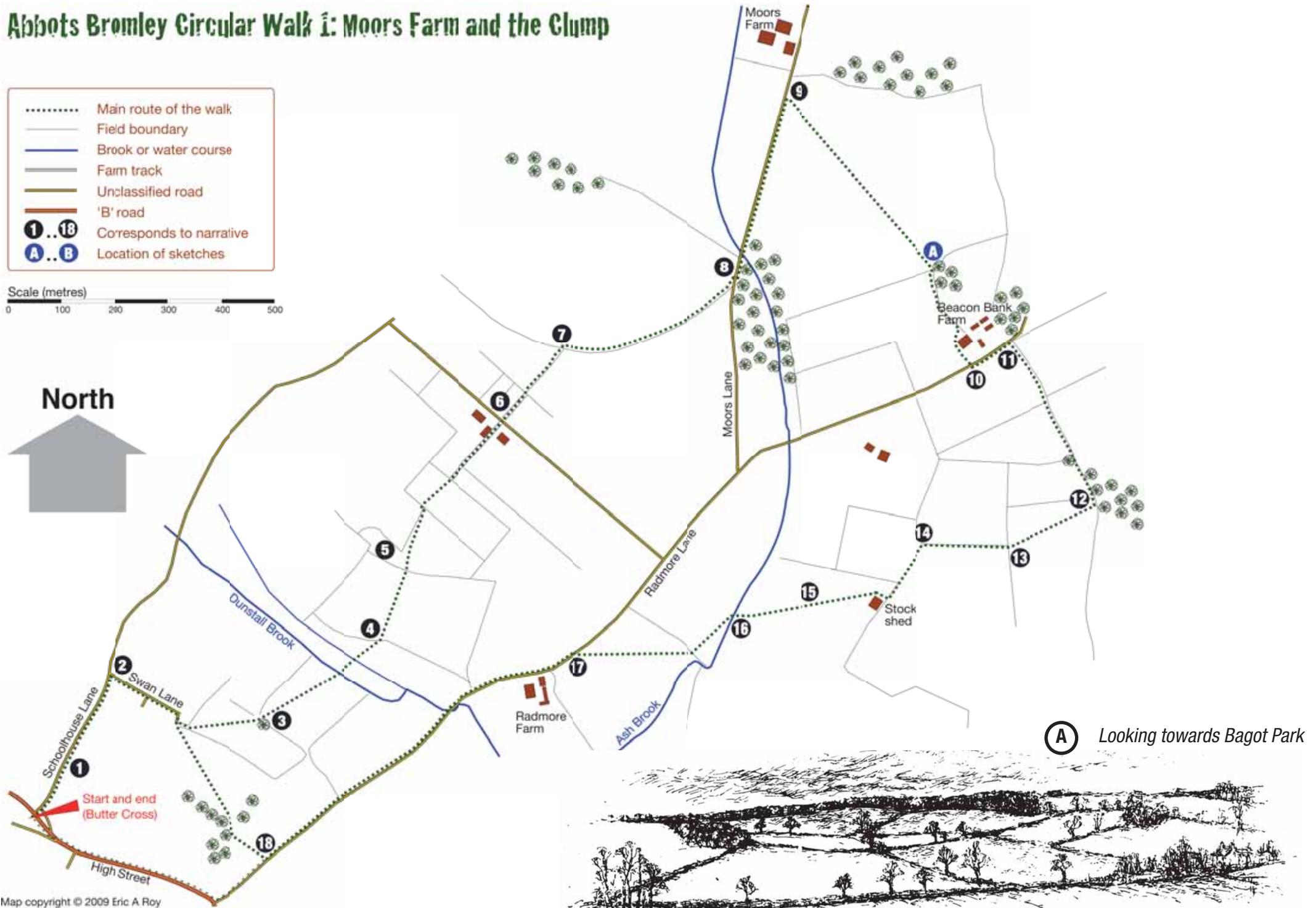
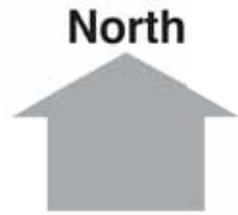
Abbots Bromley Circular Walk 1: Moors Farm and the Clump

Walk information

- Distance:** Approximately 4 miles (6.5 kilometres)
- Ascent:** 120 metres
- Terrain:** Mixture of roads, paths and potentially muddy fields with several 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:** April 2012

Abbots Bromley Circular Walk 1: Moors Farm and the Clump

- Main route of the walk
- Field boundary
- Brook or water course
- Farm track
- Unclassified road
- 'B' road
- 1..18 Corresponds to narrative
- A..B Location of sketches



Walk 1 start...

The starting point of the walk is the Butter Cross in the centre of the village. Opposite here is Schoolhouse Lane heading slightly up hill.



Cross the road and walk up the Lane (1) passing Richard Clarke School on your right.

Continue up the hill until you reach the first turning on your right which is Swan Lane (2).

Go to the end of this Lane where on the right you will see one kissing gate leading to the cricket field and to its left another. Ignore the first kissing gate and go through the kissing gate on the left side of the hedge.

Head diagonally to the left aiming for a gap by a holly tree (3). Continue diagonally down to a bridge known locally as "Cowboy Bridge" on the Dunstall Brook.



Cowboy Bridge

Cross the bridge and head diagonally for another stile next to the big oak tree (4). Cross here and go directly across the field to a stile in the hedge.

This hedge until 1799 marked the boundary of the enclosed fields and you are now entering

what was Bromley Near Wood. Once over this stile you may notice a depression a small way up the slope on the left (5). Close by is the site of a small brick and tin house here until the early 1930's.

Climb the short hill keeping the hedge immediately to your left. At the corner of the field, cross a stile on your left by a water trough and immediately right over another stile. Cross the field and over a stile next to a field gate.



Stile next to a field gate leading to "green road"

Carry on along this "green road" with layered hedges either side. After about a hundred yards you will cross a metalled road. (6) Before crossing however, and at the appropriate time of the year, look out for the array of daffodils along the verges. You will also note the wide verges and straightness of the Enclosure Act Road.



Look for the gap in left hedge which leads to the stile

After crossing this road, and some 40m down the track, go over the stile on the left into a field. Keeping the hedge and the farm on your right go down the slope to a stile in the fence.

Go over the stile (7) and turn right. Follow this hedge for some 400m and cross a stile onto Moors Lane (8), opposite Mack's Plantation, the site of a noisy rookery in Spring.



View towards Moors Farm

Turn left along this lane for about 300m. Shortly before reaching Moors Farm, go right through a gateway (9). Head for farm buildings on the skyline diagonally across the field to a stile in the far hedge, some 400m distant.



Go diagonally across the field to a stile

This field is of 38 acres belying the idea that Enclosure Act fields were always small and square. If you turn and look back over the field you have just crossed, you will see a view looking towards Bagots Park.

Walk 1 continued...

After enjoying this view turn back again and cross this stile and keep to the hedge on your left. You are now approaching Beacon Bank Farm. Pass to the right of the farm using two stiles and then over a third stile into Radmore Lane.

Beacon Bank Farm was originally known as Netherwood Gate Farm i.e. Farm by the gate into Bromley Park.

Turn left at Radmore Lane **(10)**. In 50m turn right through a metal gate **(11)**. Keeping close to the left hand hedge continue on this path through two other latched gates until you come to a stile at the edge of the wood known as the Clump **(12)**.



The Clump on the left. Turn away from stile beyond the gate

Ignore this stile and turn right through 90° and head for a wooden gate 200m away. Go through this gate **(13)** and walk along the hedge on your right.

When this hedge bears right **(14)**, 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.

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.



Cross in front of the stock shed and then bear left

As the ground starts to fall away **(15)** you are returning to the pre-enclosure landscape. Continue to the bottom left corner of the field and over the stile.

When high winds are blowing large numbers of birds seek shelter in the trees and hedgerows of this field which lies in a small sheltered fold of land.

Follow this path round to the left and cross Ash Brook at the wooden bridge **(16)**.



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 **(17)**.

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 kissing gate on your right between two tennis courts **(18)**.



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.