

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

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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.

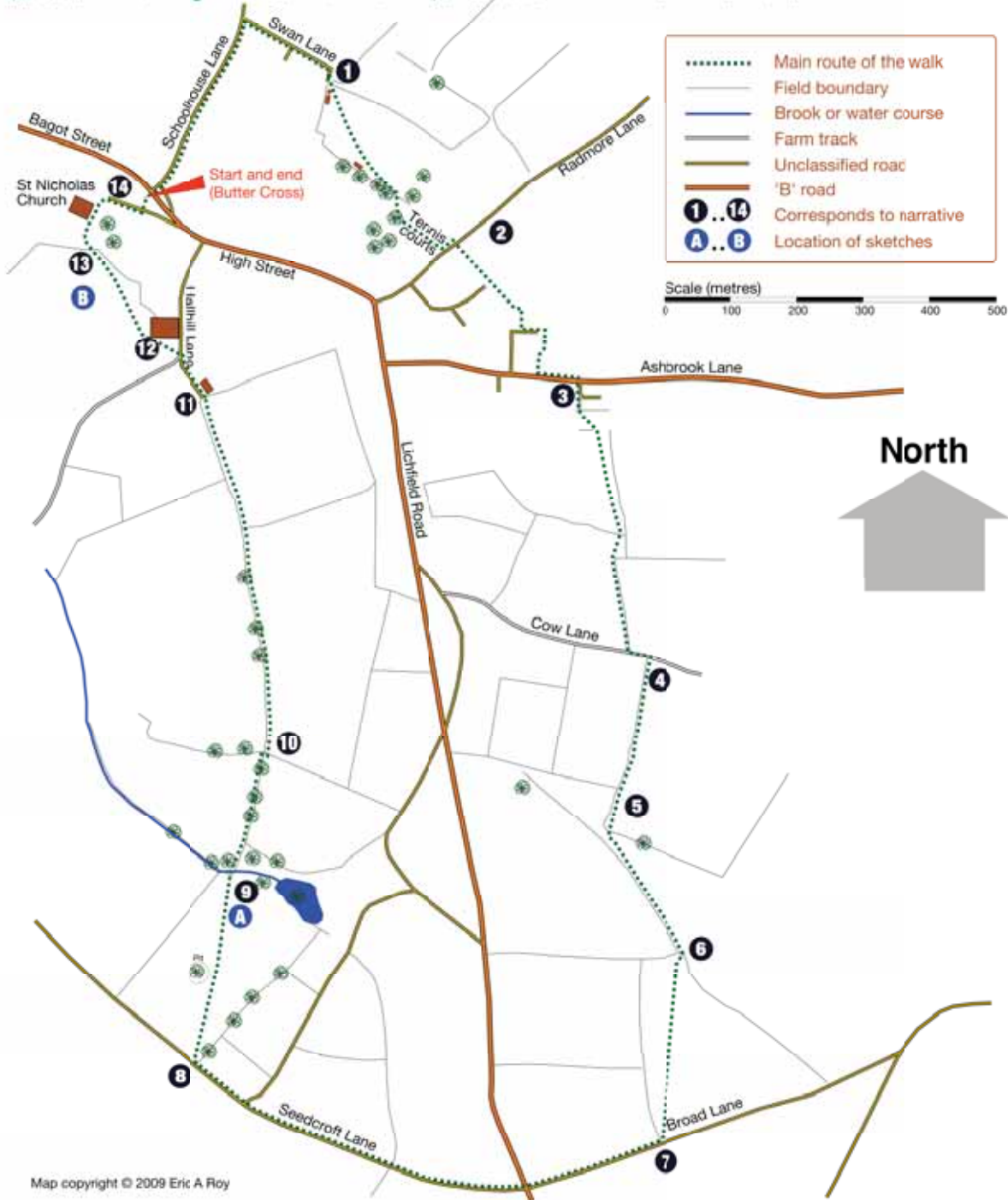
Thanks to WT Richards for allowing use of the aerial image of Abbots Bromley village and surroundings taken in 2005, and to Roger Jarman for permission to reproduce the sketches by Helen Jarman showing the Mill Green and St Nicholas Church.

Abbots Bromley Circular Walk 2: Ashbrook Lane and Seedcroft

Walk information

- Distance:** Approximately 2.75 miles (4.4 km)
- Ascent:** 50 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:** April 2009

Abbots Bromley Circular Walk 2: Ashbrook Lane and Seedcroft



(A)

Mill Green



(B)

St Nicholas Church



Walk 2 start...

From the Butter Cross walk up Schoolhouse Lane opposite, passing Richard Clarke First School on the right and the surgery on the left.



Standing at the top of Schoolhouse Lane behind a wall on the left is the former Richard Clarke Free Grammar School. Richard Clarke was an Abbots Bromley man who prospered in London and left £300 in his will of 1606 to found a Free Grammar School for the boys of his home village. The building was erected in 1699, existed as a school until 1875 and is now a private house.



School House - formerly the Free Grammar School

Turn right into Swan Lane and walk to the end to a kissing gate on the right at the edge of the Anglesey Playing Field (1).

This is one of the two playing fields belonging to the Abbots Bromley School for Girls. Previously known as the School of S. Mary and S. Anne, School was formed from separate schools with S. Anne's opening in 1874 and S. Mary's in 1882. The two amalgamated in 1921. A former headmistress, Miss Marcia Alice Rice, wrote a history of Abbots Bromley which is much sought after but now long out of print.

Go diagonally across the playing field to the far corner, keeping to the left of an old sports pavilion. If there is a games lesson or village cricket match in progress, go round the edge of the field to the right to join the path near three coniferous trees. Leaving the playing field, follow the path, which goes between the tennis courts.



Radmore Lane - looking towards kissing gate

On reaching Radmore Lane, turn left, walk 15m, turn right through a kissing gate (2) and follow the path to a gate in the corner behind a bungalow. Go between the bungalow and the house, turn left at the pavement, go down the steps at the end of the cul-de-sac and follow the path to the Burton Road. (Ashbrook Lane).

Turn left and after 15m cross the road into Nancy Talbot Close (3) and walk straight ahead onto a footpath to the right hand side of house number 5. This leads via a stile onto the field at the rear of the houses.



Nancy Talbot Close - leading to the footpath

Cross the field diagonally left to the far corner through a wide gap. Follow the left hand side of the field, over stiles at either end of a bridge.



View at stile towards Cow Lane - hedgetops on the horizon

From the stile, continue straight ahead, keeping to the left of the next field, to join the usually muddy Cow Lane.



View along Cow Lane towards the stile

Behind the hedge facing you are the remains of a brickworks, owned by the Marquis of Anglesey estate and now marked by a marshy hollow.

Turn left and, after 25m, turn right over a stile (4) follow the right hand side of the field to a stile and bridge a few metres in from the corner of the field (5).

Hares can often be seen in the fields in this area, and, in Spring, curlews can also be occasionally seen and heard hereabouts.

Walk 2 continued...

Go over the stile and bridge then follow the path round to the left. Here the path continues with a hedge on the right and fencing to the left.



Path continues with hedge on the right and fence on left

Continue until a sharp right hand turn leads to another stile and bridge which you cross **(6)**. Go diagonally left across this next field, keeping about 30m to the left of the pole in the opposite hedge, to reach a stile in the far corner onto Broad Lane **(7)**.



View along Broad Lane towards Lichfield Road

Turn right along the lane, cross the Lichfield Road with care and continue along Seedcroft Lane opposite. 75m after passing the end of Mill Lane, which is unnamed and the first lane on the right, go over the stile on the right **(8)**.



The inner hedge parallel to Seedcroft Lane

Just after crossing the stile notice an inner hedge to your left. This marks the boundary of the former road which was narrowed when a road improvement was carried out in about 1800.

Walk diagonally across the field, keeping to the right of the pole and nearby pit, towards the large school building on the horizon just visible through the tree line.



Gap through to stile and the bridge over brook

Close by is Mill Green, the site of a water mill, and the pool is visible from the path. This pool often plays host to a small party of Canada Geese and the occasional waterfowl.

Cross over the stile and brook in the far corner **(9)** and walk towards the village along the right hand hedge to a stile hidden in the corner **(10)**.

It is possible that this hedge is planted on the embankment of an earlier millpool dam.

Once over this stile, follow the hedge, keeping to the left all along the edge of The Loweres - the second playing field belonging to the Girls school, then over the stile by a pair of houses, **(11)** towards the Church.

Walk along the track until it reaches the junction with Hallhill Lane where you will see a stile opposite you **(12)**. Go over the stile into the field keeping to the left of the farm buildings.



Approaching the churchyard from Hallhill Lane

Aiming for the church tower, cross the stile into the churchyard **(13)** and onto a tarmac path. Following the path with the vicarage hedge and wall close on your right, you will reach the lych-gate **(14)** which you pass through. After this take the first left turn to return to the Butter Cross.



Lych gate leading back to the High Street and Market Place