

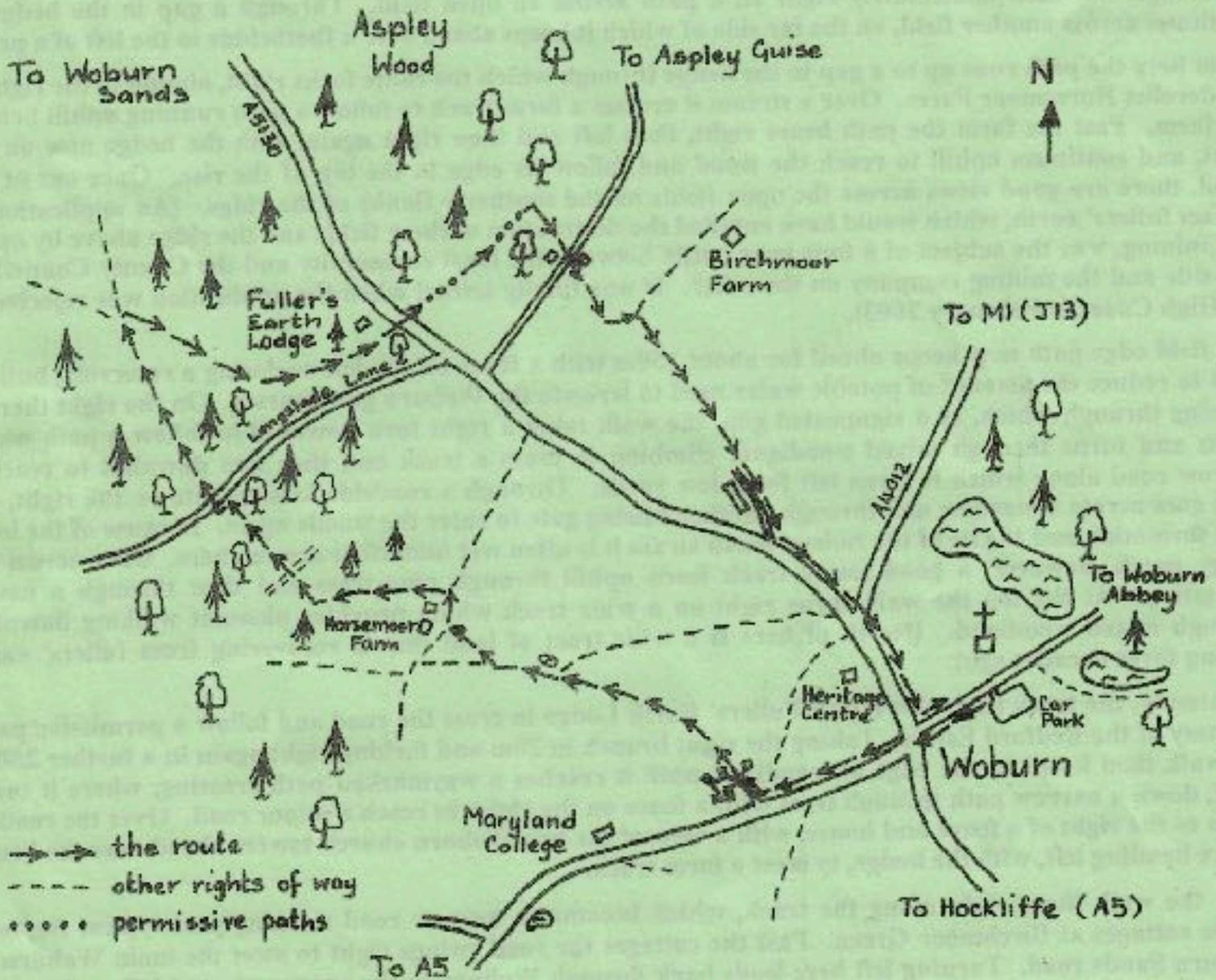
Woburn Walk Number 2

The Green Walk

One of a series of circular walks each starting at the FREE car park in Park St. Woburn
The walk is way marked by white arrows with the Woburn Walk logo in green.

Length of Walk: 4 miles (5.9kms) approx

Time: 2 + hrs



PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

Dogs must be kept under control at all times and gates securely closed

The Green Walk:

From the car park the walk turns left up to and across the crossroads (at busy times it is easiest to use the pedestrian crossing a few yards to the right along Bedford Street). The Victorian old town hall on the corner was once the hub of village life, providing accommodation for anything from a library or the Band of Hope to Saturday night hops or the village clinic. Now, it houses shop units selling antiques and a monthly auction is held on the first floor.

Continue out of Woburn along the right hand side of Leighton Street, passing the old fire station on the opposite side of the road and, in about a quarter of a mile, turning right down Timber Lane. Turning right again in 100m, as the road swings left, down to and along a fenced path past the last of the new houses, which are built on the site of what was once a timber yard and gas works, the walk turns left over a footbridge and then immediately right on a path across an open field. Through a gap in the hedge, it continues across another field, on the far side of which it keeps ahead over a footbridge to the left of a pond.

From here the path runs up to a gap in the hedge through which the route forks right, aiming to the right of the derelict Horsemoor Farm. Over a stream it crosses a farm track to follow a path running uphill behind the farm. Past the farm the path bears right, then left and then right again, with the hedge now on the right, and continues uphill to reach the wood and follow its edge to the top of the rise. Once out of the wood, there are good views across the open fields on the southerly flanks of the ridge. (An application to extract fullers' earth, which would have entailed the destruction of these fields and the ridge above by opencast mining, was the subject of a four year battle between the local community and the County Council on one side and the mining company on the other. It was finally settled when the application was rejected in the High Court in February 2003).

The field edge path now keeps ahead for about 150m with a fence on the left enclosing a reservoir, built in 2103 to reduce the amount of potable water used to irrigate the Woburn golf courses. On the right there is a hedge through which, at a signposted gap, the walk takes a right turn downhill to follow a path which twists and turns through mixed woodland, climbing to cross a track and then run downhill to reach a narrow road along which it turns left for a few yards. Through a roadside kissing gate on the right, the path goes across a meadow and through another kissing gate to enter the woods again. Because of the local land formation and the lie of the fullers' earth strata it is often wet underfoot around here. Once across the boggy patch, however, a good sandy track leads uphill through pine trees and then through a newer plantation. At the top the walk turns right on a wide track which provides pleasant walking downhill through mixed woodland. (North of here is a wide tract of land that is recovering from fullers' earth mining three decades ago).

Eventually, the track leads down past Fullers' Earth Lodge to cross the road and follow a permissive path, courtesy of the Bedford Estate. Taking the right branch in 20m and forking right again in a further 250m, the walk then keeps to the edge of woodland until it reaches a waymarked path crossing, where it turns right, down a narrow path through trees with a fence on the right, to reach a minor road. Over the road, it keeps to the right of a fence and house, with a view of the two Woburn church towers ahead over the brow, before bending left, with the hedge, to meet a farm track.

Here the walk turns right along the track, which becomes a narrow road running past typical Bedford Estate cottages at Birchmoor Green. Past the cottages the road swings right to meet the main Woburn to Woburn Sands road. Turning left here leads back through Woburn to the crossroads and left again to the car park.

Woburn Heritage Centre gratefully acknowledges the help of Bedford Estates, Woburn Parish Council and local volunteers in creating the Woburn Walks