



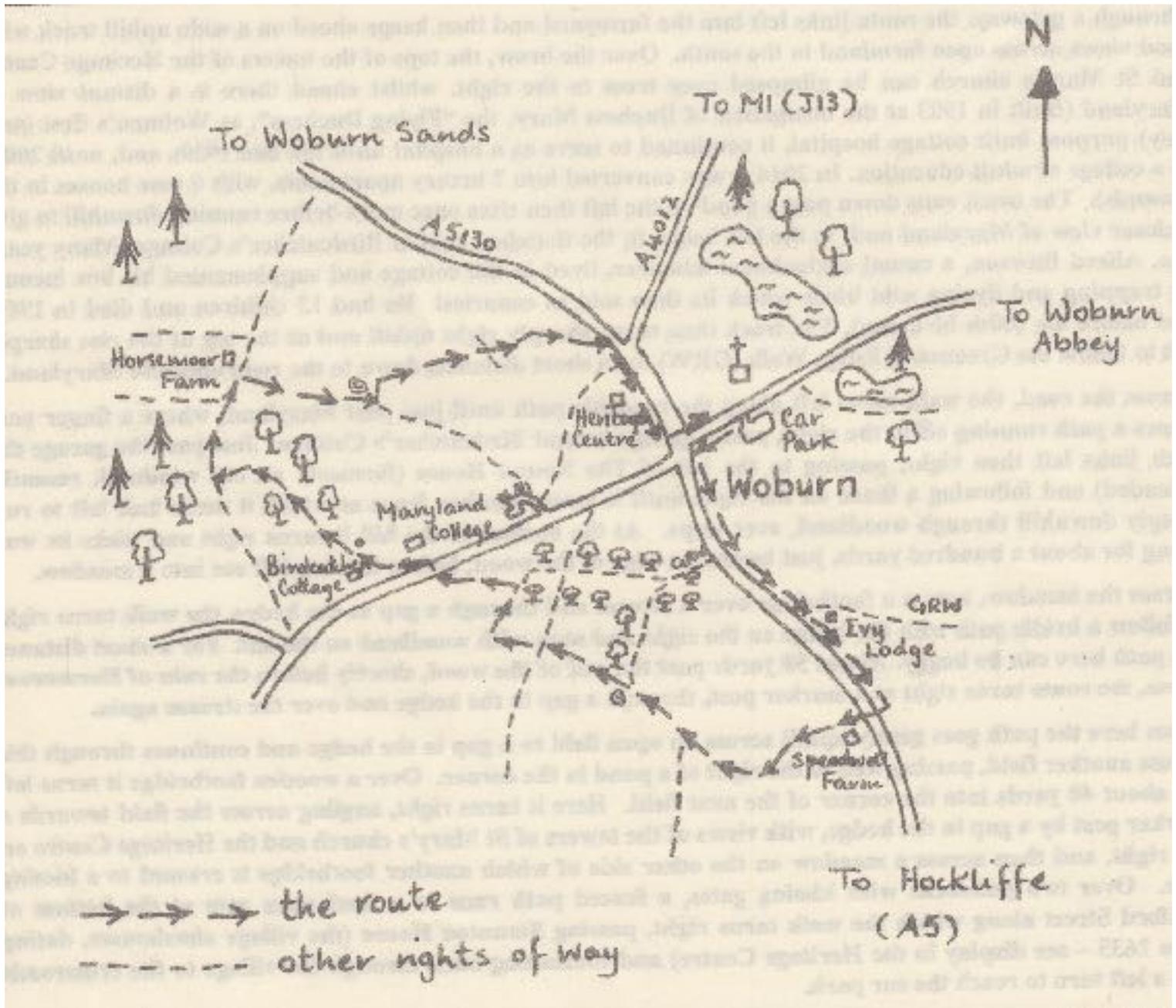
Woburn Walk Number 3

The Brown 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: 3+ miles (5kms) approx

Time: 2 hrs



PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

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

The Brown Walk:

From the car park turn left, up to the crossroads, and left again, along George Street. After first passing the Woburn Hotel (originally The George, hence the name of the street, and more recently The Bedford Arms, then the Inn at Woburn) the Fratelli Restaurant formerly the Royal Oak is passed on the other side of the road. (At the height of the coaching era Woburn supported twenty-seven inns and hostelries and the population exceeded 2,000).

Further along, the road crosses the wide, tree-lined avenue of Wayne Close, giving a good, distant view of the west front of Woburn Abbey to the left. Continue past Ivy Lodge for about 250 yards, cross the road opposite a pair of white cottages, continue along the grass verge for a further 50 yards and turn right at a finger post to take the footpath leading up beside the barn belonging to Speedwell Farm.

Through a gateway, the route jinks left into the farmyard and then keeps ahead on a wide uphill track with good views across open farmland to the south. Over the brow, the tops of the towers of the Heritage Centre and St Mary's church can be glimpsed over trees to the right. whilst ahead there is a distant view of Maryland (Built in 1903 at the instigation of Duchess Mary, the "Flying Duchess", as Woburn's first (and only) purpose built cottage hospital, it continued to serve as a hospital until the late 1930s and, until 2003, as a college of adult education. In 2014 it was converted into 7 luxury apartments, with 6 new houses in the grounds). The track runs down past a pond on the left then rises once more before running downhill to give a closer view of Maryland and, to the left below it, the thatched roof of Birdcatcher's Cottage (Many years ago, Alfred Dawson, a casual agricultural labourer, lived in the cottage and supplemented his low income by trapping and dyeing wild birds which he then sold as canaries. He had 13 children and died in 1919, just before his 100th birthday). The track then turns sharply right uphill and at the top of the rise sharply left to follow the Greensand Ridge Walk (GRW) for a short distance, down to the road opposite Maryland.

Across the road, the walk turns left along the roadside path until just past Maryland, where a finger post shows a path running off to the right, past a garage behind Birdcatcher's Cottage. Just past the garage the path jinks left then right, passing to the left of The Round House (formerly an old windmill, recently extended) and following a fence on the right until it meets another fence at which it turns half left to run steeply downhill through woodland, over steps. At the bottom of the hill it turns right and picks its way along for about a hundred yards, just inside the edge of the wood, before turning left out into a meadow.

Across the meadow, across a footbridge over a stream and through a gap in the hedge, the walk turns right to follow a bridle path with the hedge on the right and soon with woodland on the left. For a short distance the path here can be boggy. About 50 yards past the end of the wood, shortly before the ruin of Horsemoor Farm, the route turns right at a marker post, through a gap in the hedge and over the stream again.

From here the path goes gently uphill across an open field to a gap in the hedge and continues through this across another field, passing well to the right of a pond in the corner. Over a wooden footbridge it turns left for about 40 yards into the corner of the next field. Here it turns right, angling across the field towards a marker post by a gap in the hedge, with views of the towers of St Mary's church and the Heritage Centre on the right, and then across a meadow on the other side of which another footbridge is crossed to a kissing gate. Over two paddocks with kissing gates, a fenced path runs to a final open gate at the bottom of Bedford Street along which the walk turns right, passing Staunton House (the village almshouses, dating from 1635 - see display in the Heritage Centre) and continuing back through the village to the crossroads and a left turn to reach the car park.

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