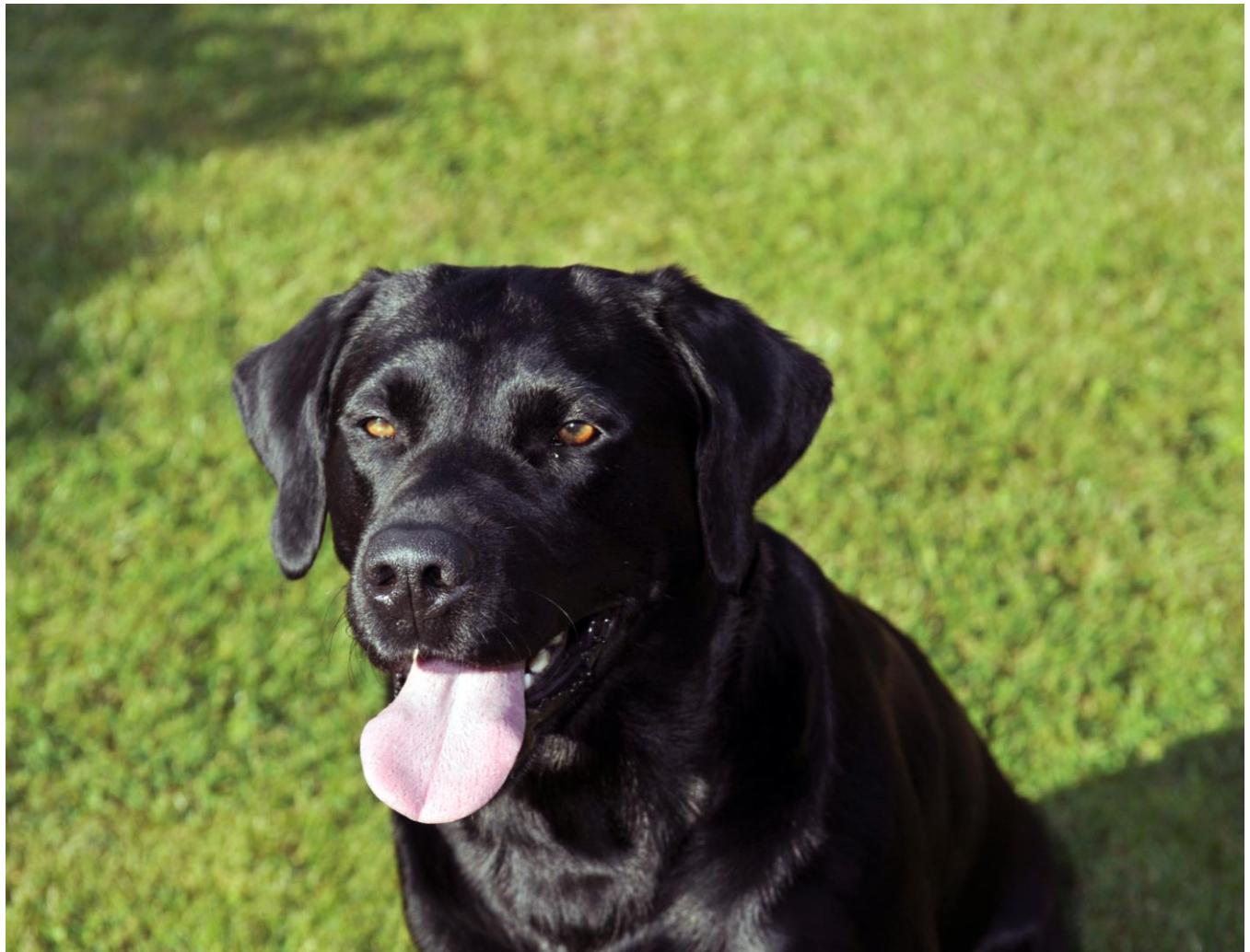


# Circular Walk Six - Baxters Circuit:

## Named after the road and our dog



***This walk at the south-eastern end of the village, is approximately 3.7 miles (6 kms) and around one hour's duration. The starting point is close to the junction of Baxter's Lane and Brooke Road, a few yards towards Shotesham Village at Footpath 22 that heads west from this point, marked by a finger post on Brooke Road. Explorer UK Grid Reference TM 26276 97652***

Our walk starts on 50 yards of cross field path that is generally easy walking but can be muddy after rain. This becomes a field-edge grassy track by a ditch and hedge. Here the fields on both sides are planted with one of the usual mix of local crops, either rapeseed, grass, broad bean, wheat or sugar beet. To your right, you can just see the church tower of St. Mary's Shotesham in the far distance. At the end of the first field, look for the tree on your right with a hollowed out trunk. In bright sunlight and when the fields are green, the telegraph wires that cross the

fields here the copper in the wires can appear green themselves, a curious phenomenon.

At this point you have views over the fields on both sides of the glacial valley and of Little Wood on the far side of Market Lane to your right. Follow this track downhill along the side of a second field towards Market Lane.

The opening here onto Market Lane is wide without a gate or stile. Turn right and walk 30 yards to the first metal gate on your left. Here you will find a stile and finger post marking Footpath 17 heading west-southwest to the edge of Little Wood, the rare hornbeam wood, just 50 yards along this path. Here, you will note a crossing of footpaths and whilst Footpath 17 carries straight on along the southern border of Little Wood as part of the Boudicca Way, to the right is Footpath 16, also part of Boudicca Way leading towards Shottesham village and to the left, Footpath 19 a cross field path taking us south. Look for a way-mark at the hedge dividing this field from the next. Our path continues to a stile on the edge of a small copse at the back (south side) of Market Lane Farm, the only building in this area. This stile, although there is some barbed wire, is quite easy for dogs to negotiate.

Continue through the copse and along a field edge that looks as if it is the bottom of Market Lane Farm's garden. At the south eastern corner, you will find another stile, more difficult for dogs this time unless they are good jumpers and there are some small gaps in the hedges either side of the stile that most dogs that cannot be carried, should be able to negotiate if the drainage dykes in front of the hedges aren't too full and the dog can be safely let off the lead.

On the far side of this stile is a continuation of Footpath 19, cross field again, to an opening in the hedge back onto Market Lane.

Cross straight over the road and you should see a finger post marking the continuation of Footpath 19. Follow this field-edge path as it meanders southeast. To your left across the fields, you can just see the buildings along Baxter's Lane. At the end of the field you will find 2 wide wooden planks across a dyke. Cross here into the next field that is usually a mix of grassy meadow on one side and maize on the other for pheasants and partridges. Please keep dogs under close control here or better still, on a lead. The path leads to the left side hedge and continues as a field edge path or track passing along the southwestern border of another wood used for rearing pheasants.

Shortly after, you will come to Fylde Road. Here, you cross straight over to find Footpath 21 that runs down the southwestern border of the barn of Woodton Farm. This is not always easy to find and is only partly shown on the County Council map of Shottesham footpaths. Follow this path that bears slightly right after the farm buildings to curve to the left round a pond and then heads east to the corner of this first field. Then head directly southeast with woodland named Deal Plantation on your left. At the end of the wood the path turns 90 degrees left to head to Woodton Road.

The rest of this walk is on country lanes. First turn left to follow Woodton Road to Spot Cottage where you turn left onto Fylands Road. Take the first right onto Baxters Lane and walk the whole length, around 3/4 of a mile. You are then at the junction with Heath Road to the right and Brooke Road to the left and just a few yards from your starting point.