

# Shotesham

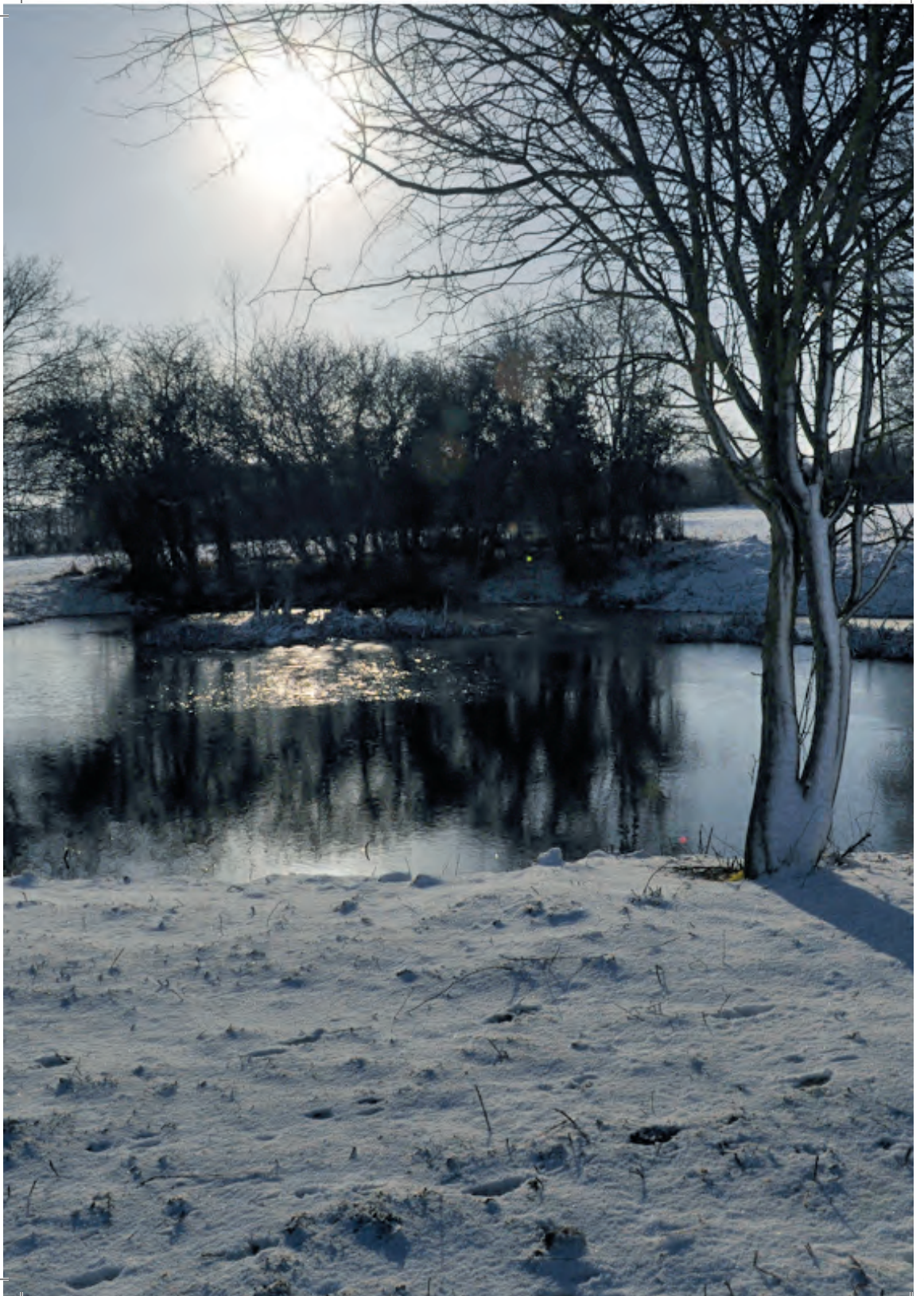
## CIRCULAR WALKS

Six walks with an  
introduction and maps



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# Introduction

The area around Shotesham in Norfolk is very fortunate to have a large number of footpaths from the famous Boudicca Way that runs from Diss to Norwich, to Public Footpaths, Parish Walks and a Bridleway that provide a wonderful amenity for walkers. Whether you are a serious Rambler, dog walker or like an occasional stroll, a glance at the Ordnance Survey map for this area will reveal a high density of footpaths, possibly more than anywhere else in Norfolk.

In order to get the most out of them, it helps to know roughly where they go and how to get back to where you started. The purpose of this booklet is to assist you with just that. This is not an exhaustive description of the route of every footpath in Shotesham, all 22 of them plus a bridleway, but to give you choice from a number of circular walks, trying to keep road walking to a minimum, not always completely successfully and pointing out what you may expect to see on the way. The footpath numbering is from Norfolk County Council's parish footpath maps.

The countryside around Shotesham is generally flat with a little undulation from the glacial valley, making for easy walking. The scenery comprises fields and woods, streams, ponds and meadows. Typical crops are cereals, hay, beet, maize, oilseed rape and field beans. There are a few cattle and sheep from time to time. This is shooting country and in many places birds are being reared, so dogs should be kept under close control near to pheasant rearing areas.

Local farmers also value the network of footpaths and do a great deal to keep them in good condition. Many of these are cross-field footpaths.

In this booklet Explorer UK Grid References are used to indicate the start of each walk. Approximate distance and durations for an average walker are also given. Web references have been used for points of interest such as churches and are listed at the end of each section. All the walks can be varied to make them longer or in some cases shorter, according to taste. A narrative of what you might expect to see on the way accompanies each walk. For a more detailed heritage history of Shotesham, follow the link<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF1597-Shotesham-\(Parish-Summary\)](http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF1597-Shotesham-(Parish-Summary))[http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF1597-Shotesham-\(Parish-Summary\)](http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF1597-Shotesham-(Parish-Summary))

## CIRCULAR WALK ONE

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### Market Lane



This circular walk, over easy paths, takes in woodland, open fields and lovely views over Shotesham.

**DISTANCE** Just over 4 miles (7 kms). **DURATION** About one hour and a half.

**START POINT EXPLORER UK GRID REFERENCE** TM 25807 97599.

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Start at Market Lane at the stile and metal gate, recently removed, on the road near the eastern corner of Little Wood (Shotesham Footpath 17 on the attached map). Walk along this west-southwest path up a gentle slope to the base of Little Wood. Turn right onto Shotesham Footpath 16, part of Boudicca Way, the famous footpath that runs from Diss to Norwich.<sup>1</sup>

Here the stile has recently been removed and there is an open gateway. Walk along the north eastern boundary of Little Wood, a precious hornbeam wood and Site of Special Scientific Interest.<sup>2</sup>

Little Wood itself is maintained by the farmer owner with help from grants from Natural England. The adjacent area is maintained by the Shotesham Conservation

Group who have cleared areas of dense undergrowth to allow light to enter and new habitat to develop, restoring some of the old woodland floor and allowing some of the overgrown ponds to come back to life. There is a mass of wildlife here in Little Wood including deer, hares, rabbits, pheasants and numerous species of birds. The path takes you north towards the northeastern edge of the wood. In May, there used to be a carpet of bluebells here, but the area is currently a little overgrown. Cross the stile where you will see open fields and in front of you in the distance just to the left, Great Wood. Ahead lies Stubbs Green and the gable end of a white house poking through the trees.

Continue straight on to that house that you leave on your right, pass a hedge on the left and you will see in front of you a lovely meadow that is quite spectacular in early summer with masses of wildflowers including orchids. (See separate aerial map of Stubbs Green.) Continue close to the hedge on your right for thirty yards and then on your left you should see Stubbs Green pond. Here, you can walk around the pond and sit on the little bench overlooking it with views over Shotesham. Further north, through the trees, you can see the tower of Saint Mary's Church. When you have sat enough, go back to other side of the pond, the Shotesham side and follow the northerly path Shotesham Footpath 5, that gently turns to the right with a tall hedge on your left. This follows the continuation of the meadow, with a house tucked away on your right and proceeds towards the



Stubbs Green aerial view (base picture Google Earth ©)

village end of Market Lane. However you don't go quite that far. At the bottom of the meadow slope, turn left over a planked walkway into the next field along Shotesham Footpath 6. This area is owned by Shotesham Park Estate, bought in 1731 by William Fellowes, founder of the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital.<sup>3</sup>

The land here also grows a rotation of crops, including linseed that displays sheets of blue flowers in June.

Continue your northwest direction up the slope of the field. At the end turn right to follow the edge of the field and then left at the end of the hedge. These fields can be very muddy in winter and boots are certainly essential then. As you proceed, you will see to your right the backs of the houses along The Street in Shotesham. These views are particularly pretty on a snowy day in winter.

To your right the houses are much closer now and you can see how the fields slope to a former glacial valley that caused this formation. A small stream, The Beck, runs along the base of the valley through Shotesham and across the village Common to join the river Tas.

Now the scenery changes slightly as you'll find a tree-lined hedge to your right that marks the southwestern border of The Old Rectory. To your left, gently sloping upwards, there are still open fields of crops. Straight ahead Saint Mary's church is coming into view and in front of Saint Mary's you may just be able to see the ruin of St Martin's that was recently cleared and made safe following work from the Conservation Group and a fundraising effort by local people.

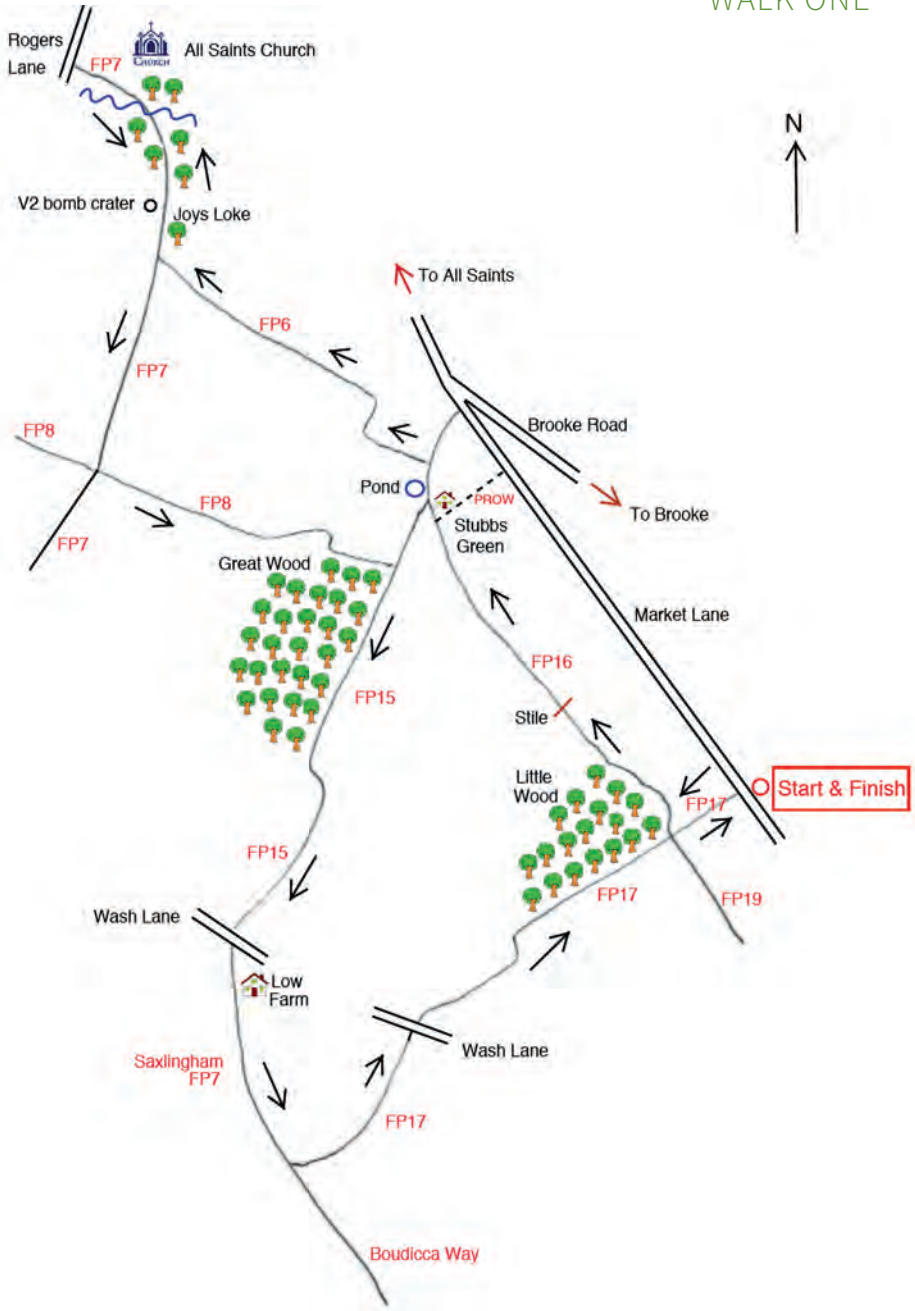
Follow this field edge path until the end of this hedge and you will come to a footpath that crosses north to south. This is part of Boudicca Way, Footpath 7 on the map. To the right you could take a small diversion from the circular route, down a wooded path, Joy's Loke to the stream, The Beck, mentioned earlier. There is a wooden bridge across and the path goes on a short way to Rogers Lane with All Saints Church on the right.

If you take this diversion, when you have done, retrace your steps coming back up Footpath 7 on Joy's Loke. Our circular route takes you south south-west still on Footpath 7 to follow Boudicca Way for just 2 fields, first a cross-field path, then through a gap in the hedge to a field edge path continuing in the same direction. In the distance to your right stand St Mary's church, St Martin's ruin and the barn conversions at Hawes Green opposite St. Mary's.

At the end of this second field, there is a crossing of paths as Shotesham Footpath 7 crosses Footpath 8. Turn left onto Footpath 8 keeping to the Boudicca Way. Great Wood, fifty-six acres of deciduous trees, is on your right. Follow this path back to the south end of Stubbs Green meadow. The final stretch differs from the official footpath map in that it follows the edge of Great Wood much more closely and passes through an almost invariably muddy twenty metre tree and bush lined stretch to the meadow on your left.



# WALK ONE



CIRCULAR WALK ONE MARKET LANE 7

Follow the edge of the wood to its northeastern corner and turn right onto Shotesham Footpath 15. Follow this field edge path for one field, then you have a little twenty metre left and right skip to a plank bridge that crosses a dyke and into the next field to the south, where you continue to follow the edge of Great Wood. By now Low Farm on Wash Lane, very much an eco-barn, will have appeared and its wind turbine will probably have been the first part of it that you saw. This building has extensive solar panels as well as the turbine. Now there is another left and right dog-leg before Shotesham Footpath 17 descends cross field to Wash Lane.

At Wash Lane, turn right and after a few yards, find a way-mark with a path to the left, Saxlingham Nethergate Footpath 7. Follow this behind Low Farm on the south side, with open fields to the right and cross a wooden plank bridge then continue eastwards with a dyke on your left.

You are about to rejoin Boudicca Way and at the way-marked T-junction (currently hidden by undergrowth), turn left to head northeast and join Shotesham Footpath 17, whilst to the south-east, Boudicca Way heads off towards Saxlingham Green.

Cross Wash Lane following the way-mark onto the cross-field path opposite still on Footpath 17 and there are some lovely views over the eastern end of Shotesham and over towards Brooke with Brooke Wood to the east north-east. The cross-field path takes you to the south end of Little Wood and its hornbeams and follows the edge of the wood to its most easterly tip, crosses a planked bridge, turns left and after 20 yards turns right, to continue following the edge of Little Wood. As you descend, to your right you can see Market Lane Farm and surrounding paddocks. This attractive path will take you back to your starting point at the bottom of the slope on Market Lane.

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- 1 [http://boudiccaway.co.uk/bw\\_spaw2/uploads/images/Boudicca Way Route Full.jpg](http://boudiccaway.co.uk/bw_spaw2/uploads/images/Boudicca Way Route Full.jpg)
  - 2 [http://www.english-nature.org.uk/citation/citation\\_photo/1004212.pdf](http://www.english-nature.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1004212.pdf)
  - 3 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=153-fel&cid=-1#-1>

## CIRCULAR WALK TWO

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### All Saints and Naiden's Lane



This is an easy walk taking in some of Boudicca Way with a little bit of a climb early on and takes in views over Shotesham and Howe and a walk over Shotesham Common.

**DISTANCE** just under 2 miles (3 kms). **DURATION** 45 minutes.

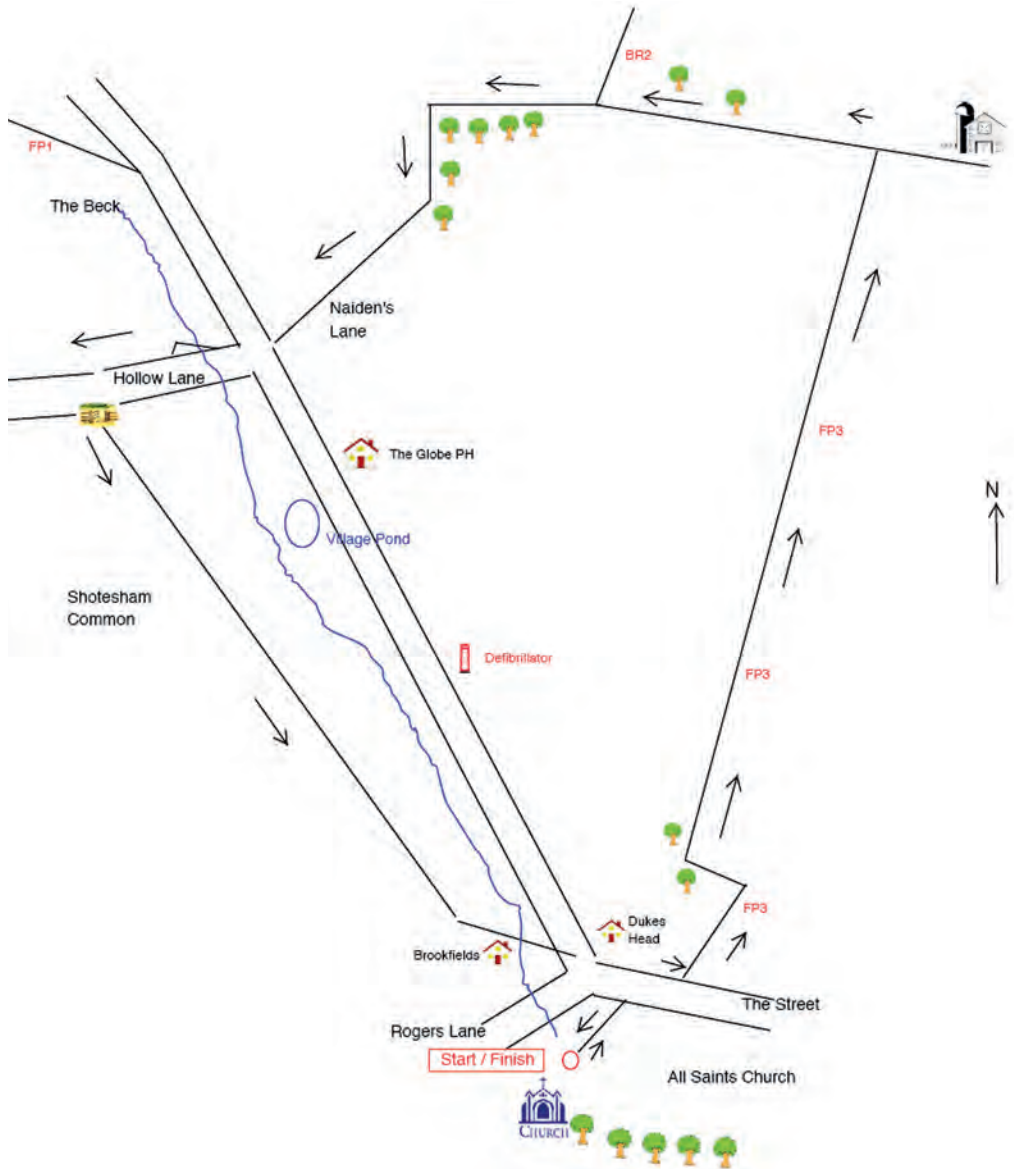
**START POINT** All Saints Church, Shotesham.

**EXPLORER UK GRID REFERENCE** TM 24682 99056.

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This walk starts at All Saints Church<sup>1</sup> where there are some parking spaces if needed. Walk back down the access road to The Street and turn right. After a few yards you will notice a sign on your right marking Hayles Cottage. At this point cross the road and you will see a way-mark at the start of a footpath going uphill, Shotesham Footpath 3. This is part of Boudicca Way<sup>2</sup>. Follow this narrow path as it goes north east through a wooded area between gardens and then opens out onto fields.

# WALK TWO



10 CIRCULAR WALK TWO ALL SAINTS AND NAIDEN'S LANE

Now turn left and follow a field edge path that turns right in front of a wood and then heads out as a cross-field path towards two grain stores that you can see in the distance, still following Footpath 3. This is real open countryside, as yet without any notable views. The path heads North East until you reach some chicken sheds. Here the path meets a track called Naiden's Lane (called Maiden Lane on Norfolk County Council footpath documents) and you turn left onto it and follow this hedge-lined track for some distance, passing Shotesham Public Bridleway 2 that goes off to the right to the parish boundary and Stoke Holy Cross. This is easy and pleasant walking. At various times of the year the hedgerows are full of blossom or berries. Shortly you will reach a point where there is a gap in the hedgerow on the left and you now have views across the rolling fields to Hawes Green and St Mary's Church in the distance.

Continue along Naiden's Lane as it curves gently to the left and starts to descend. As it winds and you pass a copse of trees on the left, St Mary's Church and Hawes Green open up in the distance this time to your right through a gap in the hedge. Your path now descends back to the village and becomes a lot steeper. It comes out onto The Street between some houses. For those requiring refreshments, The Globe public house is 50 yards to the left, just a short detour.

The route actually takes us across The Street and onto Hollow Lane. After just a few yards follow a narrow path on your right parallel to the lane to bridge over the ford. If you are walking a dog that likes swimming, this may present an opportunity.

Cross the road and open the gates to the common, not forgetting to close it behind you. Head across the common towards All Saints Church, taking one of the numerous paths, but keeping The Beck on your left so that you don't get trapped. At times, the common can become very boggy and this is an area requiring good walking boots or gumboots.

There are some lovely houses lining The Street, some of them thatched. The village has also retained its red telephone box, now housing a community defibrillator. On the common itself is a house called Brookfields. As you get to Brookfields, follow the path to the left and back to The Street. Turn right towards the church and back to your starting point.

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1 <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/shotesham1/shotesham1.htm>

2 [http://boudiccaaway.co.uk/bw\\_spaw2/uploads/images/Boudicca%20Way%20Route%20Full.jpg](http://boudiccaaway.co.uk/bw_spaw2/uploads/images/Boudicca%20Way%20Route%20Full.jpg)

## CIRCULAR WALK THREE

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### Backwood Lane



This walk takes in some road walking, but is compensated by a lovely woodland walk from Backwood Lane to Grub Street and varied scenery.

**DISTANCE** 4 miles (6.4 kms). **DURATION** An hour-and-a-half.

**START POINT** Brooke Road close to the junction with Baxter's Lane.

**EXPLORER UK GRID REFERENCE** TM 26305 97646.

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The starting point is the junction of Baxter's Lane and Brooke Road, just as the latter becomes Heath Road. This is the northwest tip of Baxter's Wood. The route takes us east northeast along Heath Road towards Brooke, tree lined on both sides at this point before it opens up a little. After about 750 yards, the road turns 90 degrees left. Look for a way-mark indicating a footpath on the left at the start of Backwood Lane. Follow this path, the start of Howe Footpath 7, west across a field, and enter a wood where our path turns immediately right and heads north. This is a quite lovely woodland path. Take your time to meander along this path that links nicely with the Shotesham footpaths to make our circular walk. Initially

to our left is Privett Plantation and Pye's Covert. Then you can see the back of Hengate Farm and its chicken sheds. The path runs parallel to Backwood Lane on the right, with Brooke Wood running along the first two thirds of its length.

Halfway along the path on the right is Scott Pasture, a farm and clump of trees. The whole path is quite long, around 1500 yards in total and opens up on its last section, before coming to a large, modern white house on the corner of Grub Street. Here turn left along Grub Street with a little more road walking, heading west, past a number of houses and a farm on the right. The road bends gently to the right and there are views towards Poringland on the right. The red flashing lights on the radio masts at Upper Stoke are quite a landmark and can be seen for many miles. The fields here can be a riot of yellow in the years when rape is grown.

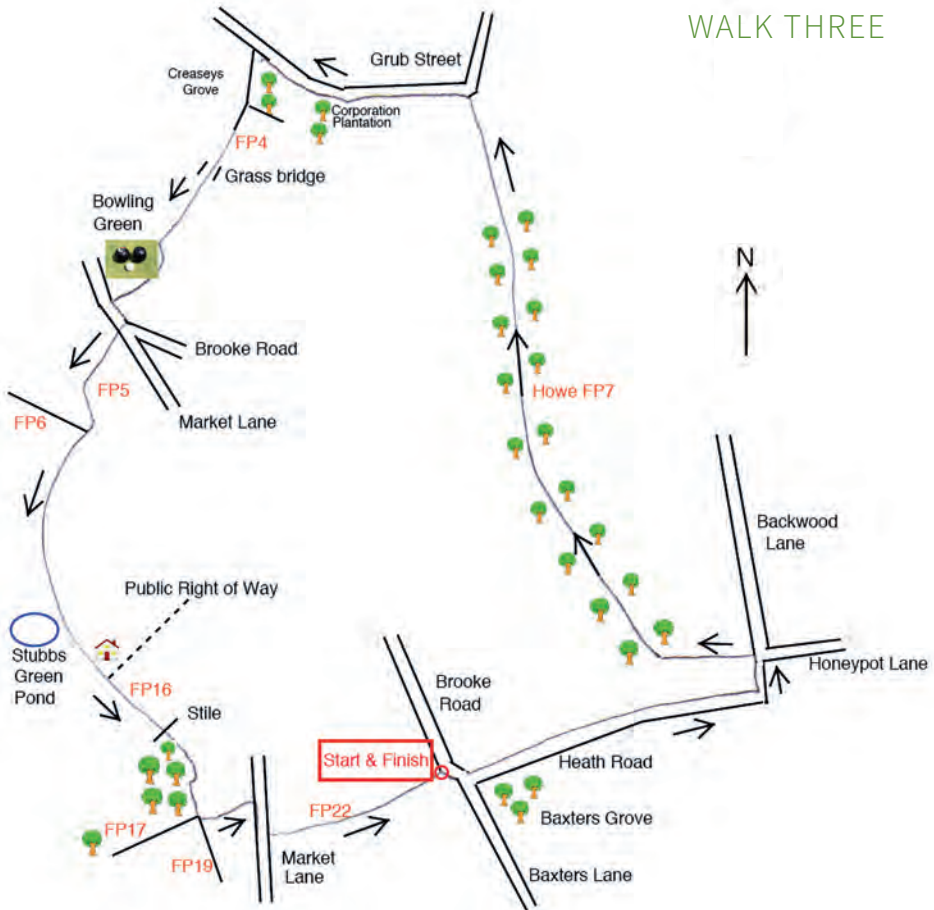
Now walk past the first little wood on the left named Corporation Plantation. You are looking for the next wood on the left called Creasey's Grove. At the end of this wood, look for a way-mark on the left indicating Shotesham Footpath 4. Look carefully as it is not that easy to find. Follow the path south along the western border of the wood. But take care, this is where it gets tricky as the signage isn't always easy to follow and the path can be sometimes a bit obscure if not walked frequently. As you walk along this western edge of Creasey's Grove, the path appears to turn 90 degrees to the left but the actual footpath proper is indicated by a waymark and goes off to the right in a south-southwest direction across two fields that are often muddy, sloping down to Brooke Road by the Bowling Green in Shotesham. The first time we walked this path a few years back, we spent an age looking for the gap in the hedge and ditch from the top field to the bottom field. Now we know that it is a grassy strip close to and just to the left of the telegraph pole. That should help.

Footpath 4 starts quite high up so there are some good views of the village to the right and Valley Farm to the left. The path takes you to the northeast corner of some gardens of houses along Brooke Road. Keep their boundary hedges on your right as the path curves left and then turns right for the final 25 yards alongside Shotesham Bowling Green to rejoin Brooke Road.

Turn left and continue for 40 yards until you reach the fork with Market Lane. Take the right fork onto Market Lane then almost immediately turn right after crossing the ford onto Shotesham Footpath 5. You are heading first southwest and then south to Stubbs Green and this path is again very picturesque with the stream on your right and trees on both sides.

The path is marked by an iron gate with the legend 'Stubbs Green Cottage' (currently missing) but this is still the footpath and the gate has been rather broken for a good while. Cross a small footbridge over The Beck that runs along the base of the old glacial valley and eventually drains into the River Tas further west. A newish wooden fence is on your left, the land is sometimes boggy and bushes are on your right.

## WALK THREE



We now get to the base of a lovely sloping meadow in spring and summer full of colour from wildflowers and orchids. Shotesham Conservation Group has done a lot of work to open up and preserve the beauty of the area. Ignore Shotesham Footpath 6 that goes off to the right and walk south up the slope of the meadow on Shotesham Footpath 5 towards Stubbs Green Pond where a number of footpaths converge. In spring this area to the left of the meadow on the upward slope, the south side, by the 5 barred gate and beyond, is a riot of yellow with buttercups.

At the south end of Footpath 5 at Stubbs Green the configuration is not as per the official maps so please refer to the Google Earth aerial map in this booklet and you will see that Footpath 5 becomes Footpath 16 heading southeast.



When we arrived in the village, in 2006, the Stubbs Green Pond area was so overgrown that we couldn't find the pond at all. Now, thanks to the work of the Award Winning Shotesham Conservation Group, it makes a beautiful sight all year round. Sit here for a while if you wish on the little bench on the other side of the pond on the south slope. Incidentally, you have now joined Boudicca Way<sup>1</sup> on Footpath 16 that comes into Stubbs Green from the west and you are going to walk along it for a short way heading east.

So, leaving Stubbs Green pond, head east past the lovely house on your left. The hedges on both sides open out into fields and there is a wide, grassy path heading southeast to follow the length of this first field towards the northernmost corner of Little Wood. At this point, if you look to your left, you will see that considerable work has been done by landowners by field edge planting specific wildflowers to encourage butterflies and bees. Cross a stile to the next field. Note that nearly all the stiles are dog friendly in that there is always a gap somewhere for a dog to get through without having to do battle with barbed wire.

Continue southeast on Boudicca Way along the northeastern edge of Little Wood, the historic hornbeam wood<sup>2</sup>, until the gap in the hedge at the end of the field. There we turn left onto Footpath 17 and walk down the slope to Market Lane. Horses or sheep sometimes graze in the field to your right depending on the time of year. Blackberries abound in late autumn. Cross the stile here or open the gate to go through as it is rarely locked and is usually open (currently missing).

Turn right and walk about 25 yards on Market Lane before turning left onto a well-marked footpath FP22, that heads east-northeast along the side of two fields. The first part of this wide, grassy path is quite a steep slope (by Norfolk standards) but very short. At the top, you can still see to the west the tower of St Mary's church in the far distance and the scattered farms and houses at the east end of Shotesham about you. The part of the path by the second field is still a grassy bank until about 30 yards from its end, then it becomes cross-field that can be a bit muddy. Pass out of the entrance and back onto Brooke Road and your starting point.

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1 [http://boudiccaway.co.uk/bw\\_spaw2/uploads/images/Boudicca%20Way%20Route%20Full.jpg](http://boudiccaway.co.uk/bw_spaw2/uploads/images/Boudicca%20Way%20Route%20Full.jpg)

2 [http://www.english-nature.org.uk/citation/citation\\_photo/1004212.pdf](http://www.english-nature.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1004212.pdf)

## CIRCULAR WALK FOUR

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### Five Church Walk (including two ruins)



This walk takes in the four churches in Shotesham, two that are very much in use and two ruins, plus one church in Saxlingham on a spur, so this walk is not strictly circular. Included please find some links to historical information about each of the churches.

**DISTANCE** Just over 4.5 miles (7.5 kms). **DURATION** Two hours, plus browsing time.  
**START POINT** All Saints Church in Shotesham. **EXPLORER UK GRID REFERENCE** TM 24682 99056, where there is some space for parking.

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For a brief description of the church, see the link to an article written in 2006 by Simon Knott on the Norfolk Churches Site.<sup>1</sup> The church is open daily. Do have a look around as visitors are welcome.

When you are ready, descend the driveway from the church to The Street. Cross the road, turn left and walk along the pavement in front of The Dukes Head<sup>2</sup>, a grade II listed building that closed as a pub in 1918 and is now a private home. Go past the junction with Rogers Lane and after some twenty-five yards, look

for an entrance gate on the other side of the road that is also the driveway into Brookfields, a listed, probably 16th century former farmhouse. We are now entering Shotesham Common. Cross the bridge over The Beck and turn right in front of Brookfields.<sup>3</sup> There are a number of different paths across the common, none of them the numbered official Shotesham footpaths, so you won't see any finger posts or way-marks here.

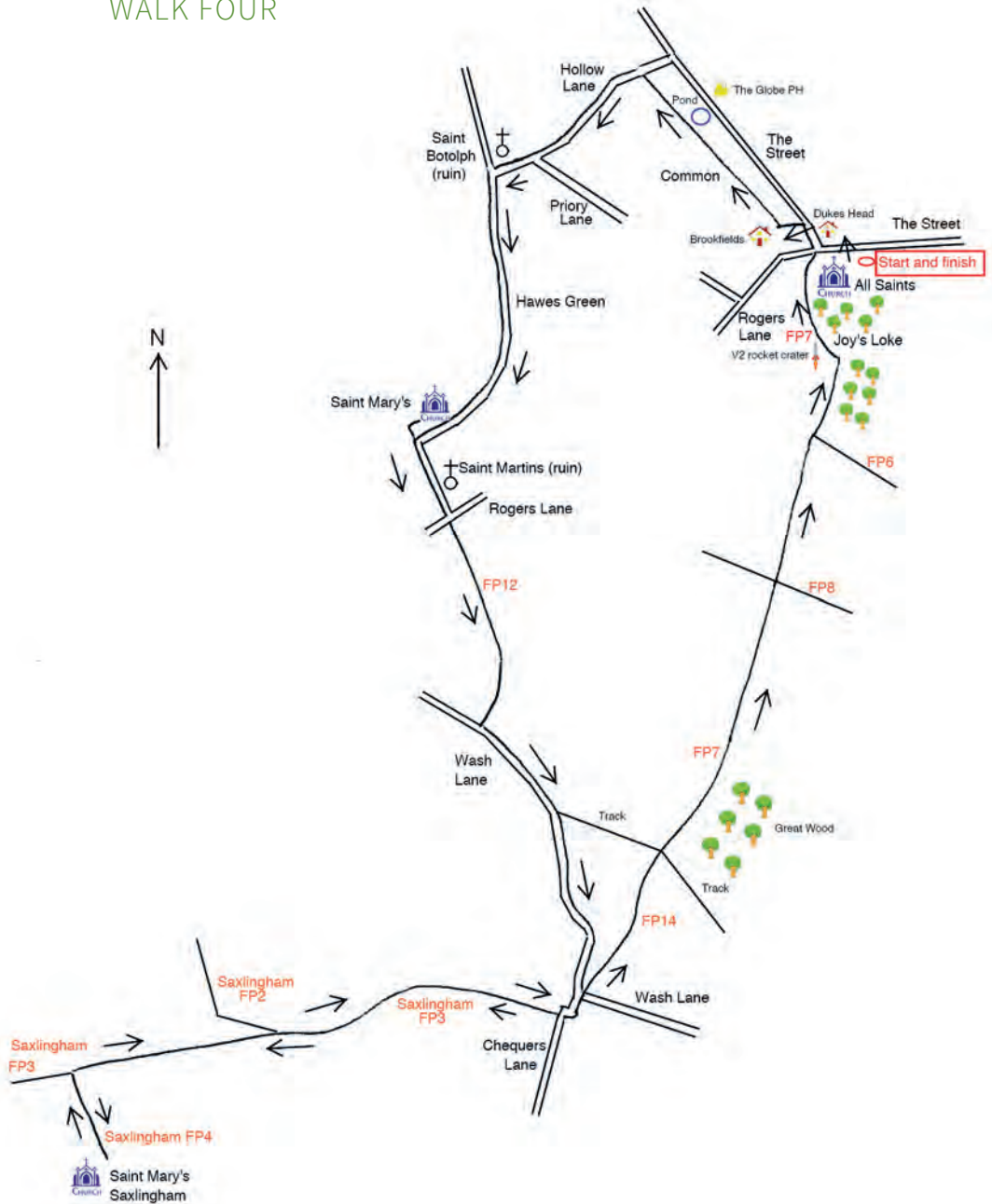
Cross the common heading west-northwest until you reach Hollow Lane. On arrival there, turn left and walk up the hill, passing Botolph Cottages on the right. At the top of the road, there is a junction with Hawes Green. Turn right and you will see a gate immediately on the right that is the entrance to the cleared area that contains what remains of the ruins of St Botolph Church,<sup>4</sup> mostly the base of the tower. Walk over to the bench overlooking the valley beyond and enjoy excellent views over Shotesham.

In due course, go back out of the gate, turn left (don't go back down the hill) and follow Hawes Green south to St Mary's and St. Martin's. En route, pass Doctor's House and Nurse's House and then you will pass Oak Lodge on the left, a former mortuary and on the right, The Infirmary, now Archers House that housed mentally disturbed people. These buildings mark the site of possibly the very first Cottage Hospital in England.<sup>5</sup> As the row of houses ends the road opens out to views over the west side of Shotesham to the left and the two churches ahead. First of all we will come to St. Mary's on the right. The path to the church is on the corner of the road on the right or you can simply walk a little further round to main entrance. For details of the church and opening times see footnote.<sup>6</sup> The only recent update is the arrival, after many hundreds of years, of electricity.

When you are ready, walk the few yards south farther along Hawes Green to see the ruin of St Martin's Church, the grounds which have been cleared recently by the Shotesham Conservation Group and the tower made safe from irreparable decay following the raising of significant funds. For details of St Martins see the Norfolk Churches website.<sup>7</sup>

Now you are off to the fifth church, St Mary's in Saxlingham, a neighbouring village to the south, whose footpaths join up with those of Shotesham. From St Martin's head south-east to Rogers Lane. Cross straight over and follow the quite short Shotesham Footpath 12 across a field and then right along the field edge to its end. This path then joins Wash Lane where you turn left and follow the road as it winds down with quite steep banks past farm buildings. Just before a ford, Wash Lane turns ninety degrees to the left but continue straight on along Chequers Lane across the ford. Chequers Lane goes ninety degrees right and then immediately ahead you will see a finger post pointing directly west that is Saxlingham Footpath 3. This is the spur to Saxlingham, so the walk is not strictly circular, as we shall return to this point along the same path.

# WALK FOUR



Follow a wide verdant easy walking path all the way to Saxlingham. St Mary's Church can be easily seen in the distance just off to the left and is reached by turning left onto Saxlingham Footpath 4 before you reach the main street. Saxlingham Footpath 4 continues on past the church. Enter through the churchyard. Here is the link for church details.<sup>8</sup>

Retrace your steps back to Saxlingham Footpath 3. Go back to the junction with Wash Lane, a straight easterly route. Turn left to re-cross the ford and look for a finger post on the right side that marks Shotesham Footpath 14. This path climbs diagonally up the field going to the right until you are following the western side of a hedge. This meets a track going east to west that you cross heading diagonally to the right to enter the next field, which does occasionally have cattle grazing. On the right, to the east, is the western edge of Great Wood. Cross this field either following the field edge or diagonally, depending on crops. The exit and junction with Shotesham Footpath 7 is at the northeastern corner of the field. There is a bit of a jumble of concrete and iron stile with some barbed wire, so it often easier to walk round a few paces to the right and cross through the bushes, which is what we have to do if we have a dog with us.

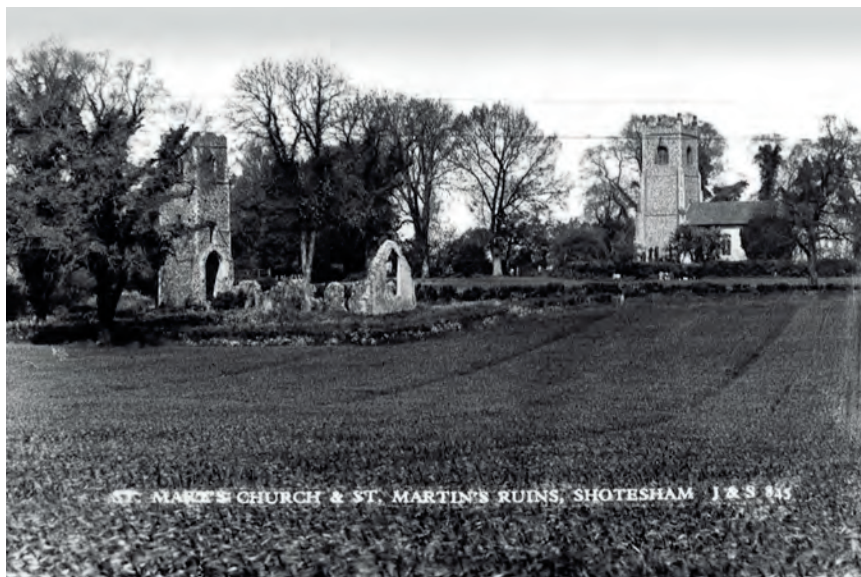
There are some lovely views again with St Mary's and St Martin's to the left with Hawes Green behind and you can often just see the flagpole and flag of St George on All Saints straight ahead.

Keep going straight on across two fields still on Shotesham Footpath 7, joining Boudicca Way after the first field, then down Joy's Loke with the V2 rocket crater<sup>9</sup> on the left, marked by a plaque, over the stream, through the copse until you are back at All Saints and the starting point.

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- 1 <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/shotesham1/shotesham1.htm>
  - 2 <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-226691-the-dukes-head-shotesham-norfolk#VcIjsxNViko>
  - 3 <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?MNF53497-Brookfields-Shotesham-Common&Index=46266&RecordCount=56734&SessionID=e40fb513-48d2-4d11-949d-d09788f234c9>
  - 4 <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?MNF9632-Ruins-of-St-Botolph%27s-church-Shotesham&Index=8978&RecordCount=56734&SessionID=8a9a261d-20c3-4fb6-9840-33e3f61d2e9e>
  - 5 <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?MNF31206>
  - 6 <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/shotesham2/shotesham2.htm>
  - 7 <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/shotesham3/shotesham3.htm>
  - 8 <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/saxlinghamnethergate/saxlinghamnethergate.htm>
  - 9 [www.worldwar2heritage.com/en/page/9069/144/V2-Crater-Site](http://www.worldwar2heritage.com/en/page/9069/144/V2-Crater-Site)

## CIRCULAR WALK FIVE

### St Mary's



This walk starts at St Mary's Church with splendid views.

**DISTANCE** 4 miles (6.4 kms). **DURATION** About two hours.

**START POINT** Explorer UK Grid reference TM 23775 98784.

The walk is not strictly circular with a spur in order to avoid a busy main road that is not suitable for walkers.



There is parking at St Mary's if needed. This is a medieval church, only recently fitted with mains electricity and still used regularly for services.<sup>1</sup>

Start the walk in front of the south door. Facing the door, turn right and walk around the church to the east side and follow the footpath that goes straight ahead and through a gap in the surrounding hedge. You are now on Shotesham Footpath 12 and about to meet the junction of Footpaths 9 and 10. At this junction turn left onto the spur (see map) and follow footpath 10 over a stile and into the first field. The settlement of Hawes Green is on your right and to your left is the

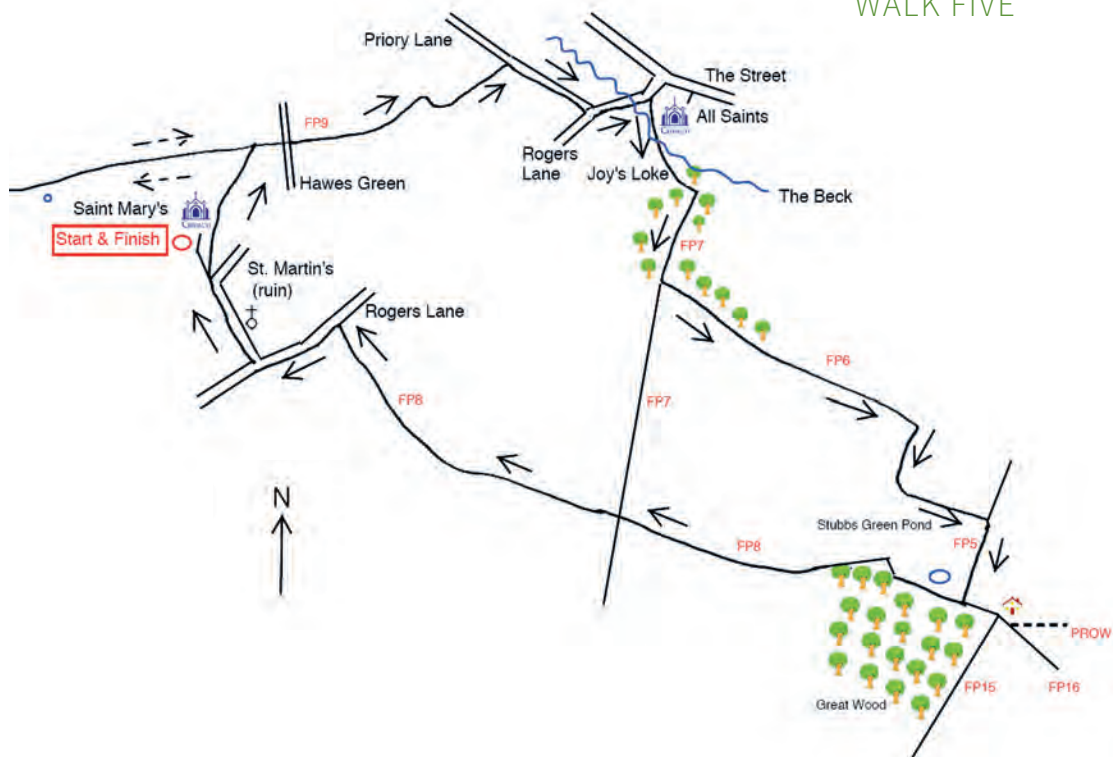
moated Shotesham Old Hall, a beautiful building, the south wing of which dates back to the 1580's, one of many grade II listed buildings in the parish. Around the Old Hall was the now ruined village of Shotesham St Mary where numerous earthworks have been discovered. Refer to the Norfolk Heritage Site.<sup>2</sup>

The cross-field path heads due west with a pond on your left at the end of the field. Cross the stile into the next field that again has a cross-field path at the end of which is another and larger pond with a beautiful tree lining.

Further on is the busy Norwich Road, so turn back here to return along Footpath 10 across the two fields to near St Mary's. Only this time, once you cross the second stile, do not turn right but continue straight on to the east and cross Hawes Green onto Footpath 9 that descends the valley, past a copse on the right, crossing a little wooden footbridge and descending left to get to Priory Lane. Look back from the lower part of Footpath 9 to see on the right the picturesque houses of Hawes Green, the site of England's very first cottage hospital.<sup>3</sup>

Turn right onto Priory Lane and walk southeast to the end to meet Rogers Lane. Turn left and after about 30 yards cross the road to a footpath that is marked as part of Boudicca Way. As you will see, you are also at the foot of the mound of All Saints Church, open every day to visitors.<sup>4</sup>

## WALK FIVE



Follow this part of Boudicca Way, Shotesham Footpath 7, called Joy's Loke, as it traverses a small wood, crosses The Beck, the stream at the base of the glacial valley here and climbs up to open fields. Note on your right the plaque marking where a V2 rocket landed in 1944.<sup>5</sup> At the start of the open fields, turn left onto Shotesham Footpath 6 and follow this path east-southeast, initially with the hedge of The Old Rectory on the left, then the backs of the houses along The Street become visible. Your path turns right heading south-southwest to halfway along the western border of the next field and then turn left to take a cross field path at the end of which is an opening and wooden footbridge meeting Shotesham Footpath 5. Turn right on Footpath 5 and walk up the meadow keeping to the path on the right until you reach Stubbs Green pond. Walk round the pond to the south side to the southern edge of Great Wood. The configuration of the footpaths here actually differs from the official maps so please see the Google Earth map of Stubbs Green in this booklet. A great deal of clearance work has been taking place here as part of the conservation of Great Wood. Turn right onto Footpath 8 and keeping on this track, cross Footpath 7 until you reach Rogers Lane. Along the way, there are views of both Hawes Green ahead and Shotesham All Saints<sup>6</sup> to the right.

Turn left at Rogers Lane and walk a few yards up the lane until you meet the road to Hawes Green on the right. Follow this back past the ruin of St Martin's to your starting point.

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1 <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/shotesham2/shotesham2.htm>

2 [http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF1597-Shotesham-\(Parish-Summary\)](http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?TNF1597-Shotesham-(Parish-Summary))

3 <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?MNF31206>

4 <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/shotesham1/shotesham1.htm>

5 <http://www.worldwar2heritage.com/en/page/9069/144/V2-Crater-Site>

6 <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/shotesham3/shotesham3.htm>

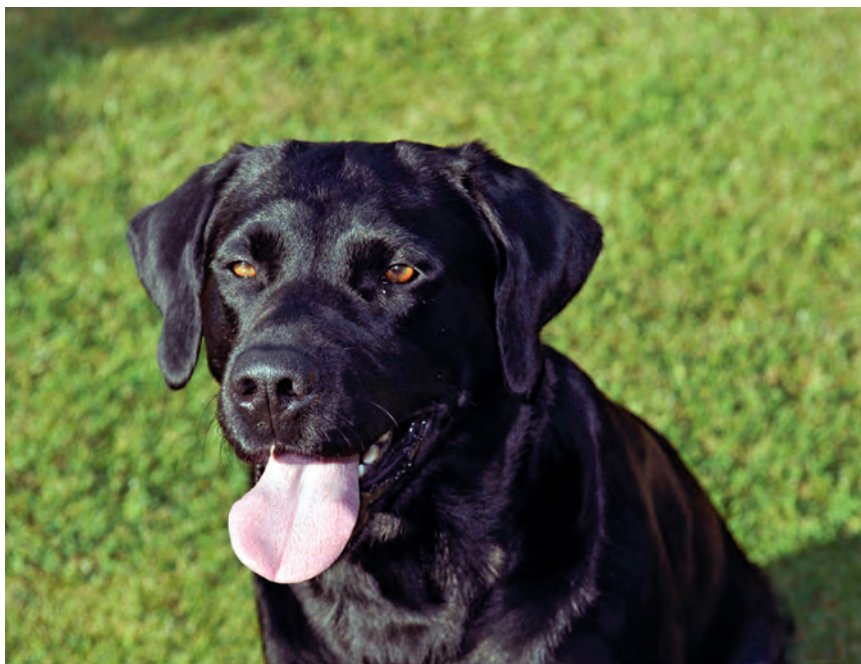


## CIRCULAR WALK SIX

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### Baxter's Circuit

(named after the road and our dog)



This walk is at the south-eastern end of the village. 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.

**DISTANCE** Approximately 3.7 miles (6 kms). **DURATION** Around one hour and a half  
**EXPLORER UK GRID REFERENCE** TM 26276 97652

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This walk starts on Shotesham Footpath 22 with 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, field 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 the telegraph wires that cross the fields here can appear green from their copper content, 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.

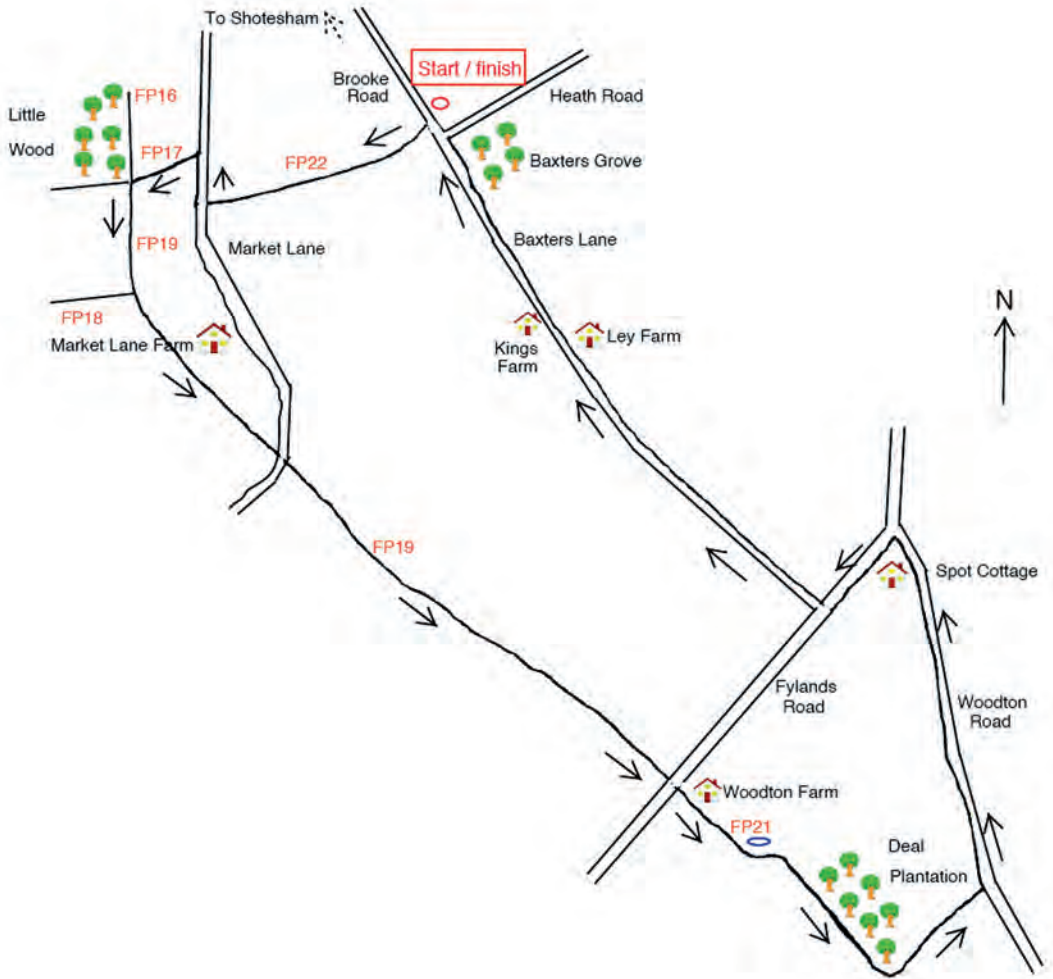
The opening here onto Market Lane is wide without a gate or stile. Turn right and walk 30 yards to the first field opening on the left, where a metal gate has recently been reset. Here you will also find a stile and finger post that marks Shotesham Footpath 17 heading southwest to the eastern edge of Little Wood, the rare hornbeam wood, just 50 yards along this path. Here, you will note a crossing of footpaths and whilst Shotesham Footpath 17 carries straight on along the southeastern border of Little Wood as part of the Boudicca Way, to the right is Shotesham Footpath 16, also part of Boudicca Way leading towards Shotesham village. But you turn left onto Shotesham Footpath 19, a cross-field path taking you south. The waymark indicating this path is somewhat buried in the opposite hedge. Heading south, at the end of the first field, look for a way-mark at the hedge dividing this field from the next. By an oak tree Shotesham Footpath 18 goes off to the right and is not always easy to see, but ignore this anyway and continue on Footpath 19 to a stile on the edge of a small copse at the back (south-western side) of Market Lane Farm, the only building in this area. This stile, although there is some barbed wire on the sides, is quite easy for dogs to negotiate.

Continue through the copse and along a field edge that looks as if it is at the bottom of Market Lane Farm's garden. At the south eastern corner, you will find another stile, more difficult for larger dogs this time but there are some small gaps in the hedges either side of the stile that most dogs 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 Footpath 19 continues southeast, so follow it 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 further continuation of Footpath 19. Follow this field-edge path as it meanders southeast. It is often quite uneven underfoot. To the left across the fields, you can just see the buildings along Baxter's Lane. At the end of the field you will find two 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.

# WALK SIX



Shortly, you will come to Fylands Road. Here, turn right and after just a few yards, on the left, find a finger post marking 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 Shotesham footpaths. Please refer to Map 6 in this booklet. Follow this path that curves slightly to the right after the farm buildings, then curves to the left round a pond and heads southeast to the corner of this first field. Passing a row of trees on your left, cross through a gap in the hedge at the end. Turn left to head directly southeast along a field edge path, then take a little left and right into the next field. Although the official footpath is cross-field, as on the map, here there is actually a clear route along the field edge, turning 90 degrees right at the north-eastern corner of the field with a wood named Deal Plantation on your left. At the end of the wood the path turns 90 degrees left along the next field edge to head towards Woodton Road. The last hundred yards take you in a near semi-circle along the field edge to the finger post at the road.

The rest of this walk is on country lanes. First turn left to follow Woodton Road towards Spot Cottage. On Woodton Road there is a Norfolk County Council roadside nature reserve particularly for the Dyers Greenweed plant. At Spot Cottage turn left onto Fylands Road. Take the first right onto Baxter's Lane. In spring note the display of primroses in the ditches. Walk the whole length, around  $\frac{3}{4}$  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.

## PARISH OF SHOTESHAM

### **Footpath No. 1 (Norwich – Saxlingham Nethergate Road to Shotesham – Stoke Holy Cross Road).**

Starts from the Norwich – Saxlingham Nethergate Road by a field gate immediately to the north of Bath Plantation, and runs south eastwards crossing the beck by means of a one plank bridge, then continues south eastwards across Shotesham Common to enter the Shotesham – Stoke Holy Cross Road.

### **Bridleway No. 2 (Maiden’s Lane to Parish Boundary).**

Starts from Maiden’s Lane, and runs northwards, then north eastwards, then north eastwards, and then northwards again to the parish boundary where it joins Stoke Holy cross Bridleway No. 7.

### **Footpath No. 3 (Maiden Lane to Old Smithy).**

Starts from Maiden Lane at a point approximately 80 metres west of the north-eastern corner of O.S. field 55 and runs south-westwards to the south-west corner of OS field 75 then south-eastwards to the north-east corner of OS field 102 and then turns south-westwards again to enter the public highway at a kissing gate near the Old Smithy.

### **Footpath No. 4 (Creasy’s Grove to Malthouse Farm).**

Starts from the public highway at the north western corner of Creasey’s Grove, and runs south westwards along the western boundary of this plantation to a hurdle, then runs south westwards across four fields to enter the public highway north of Malthouse Farm.

### **Footpath No. 5 (Malthouse Farm to Footpath No. 8).**

Starts immediately to the south of Malthouse Farm, and runs west south westwards along Wash Lane, passing through a wicket gate and crossing the ford by means of a footbridge, then turns south south westwards passing the southern end of Footpath No. 6, and then turns southwards to join Footpath No. 8.

### **Footpath No. 6 (Footpath No. 7 to Footpath No. 5).**

Starts from Footpath No. 7, and runs south eastwards along the northern boundaries of three fields, then turns south south westwards along the eastern boundary of the third field, and then runs south eastwards again across a fourth field and through a field gate, then turns southwards for a short distance to join Footpath No. 5.

**Footpath No. 7 (Falgate Farm to Footpath No. 14).**

Starts from the public highway north east of Falgate Farm, and runs south south eastwards, then turns south south westwards, passing the north western end of Footpath No. 6 and crossing Footpath No. 8, to join Footpath No. 14 west of Great Wood.

**Footpath No. 8 (Roger’s Lane to Market Lane).**

Starts from Roger’s Lane, and runs south eastwards through a field gate to a second field gate, then runs east south eastwards crossing Footpath No. 7 and passing the southern end of Footpath No. 5 and the north eastern end of Footpath No. 15 to join the north western end of Footpath No. 16.

**Footpath No. 9 (Hawes’ Green Road to Priory Lane).**

Starts from the public highway at Hawes’ Green Road opposite the eastern end of Footpath No. 10, and runs east north eastwards, then south south eastwards for a short distance, and then east north eastwards again to enter Priory Lane by a stile

**Footpath No. 10 (Saxlingham Road to Hawes’ Green Road).**

Starts from Saxlingham Road by a field gate, and runs east south eastwards, then east north eastwards, passing the north eastern end of Footpath No. 11 to enter Hawes’ Green Road by a kissing gate opposite the western end of Footpath No. 9.

**Footpath No. 11 (Entrance to Old Hall to Footpath No. 10).**

Starts near the entrance to Old Hall, and runs northwards to enter St. Mary’s Churchyard, then runs north eastwards through the churchyard to join Footpath No. 10 at a stile

**Footpath No. 12 (Roger’s Lane to road leading to Greatwood Farm).**

Starts by a gap from Roger’s Lane, and runs south south eastwards, then southwards, to enter the public highway leading to Greatwood Farm.

**Footpath No. 14 (Wash Lane to Footpath No. 7).**

Starts from Wash Lane at the parish boundary, and runs north eastwards across two fields to join Footpath No. 7.

**Footpath No. 15 (Footpath No. 8 to Wash Lane).**

Starts by a field gate from Footpath No. 8 and runs south westwards, then south eastwards for a short distance to the eastern corner of Great Wood. From this point the path runs south westwards again across two fields to enter Wash Lane.

**Footpath No. 16 (Footpath No. 8 to Market Lane).**

Starts from Footpath No. 8 and runs south south eastwards along the western boundaries of three fields, and then along the north eastern boundary of Little Wood to join Footpath No. 17. From this point the path runs southwards to join the north eastern end of Footpath No. 18, and then turns south south eastwards again to enter Market Lane opposite the north western end of Footpath No. 19.

**Footpath No. 17 (Market Lane to Wash Lane).**

Starts by a field gate from Market Lane, and runs west south westwards to join Footpath No. 16 at the eastern corner of Little Wood, then runs south westwards along the south eastern boundary of this wood, and then bears south south westwards across a field, to enter Wash Lane by a field gate opposite the north eastern end of Footpath No. 20.

**Footpath No. 18 (Footpath No. 16 to Lathgreen Farm).**

Starts from Footpath No. 16, and runs south westwards then south south westwards to a field gate, and then turns south eastwards to enter the public highway opposite Lathgreen Farm by another field gate.

**Footpath No. 19 (Market Lane to Oak Plantation).**

Starts from Market Lane by a field gate opposite the south eastern end of Footpath No. 16, and runs south eastwards across seven fields, to enter the public highway by a field gate at the southern corner of Oak Plantation.

**Footpath No. 20 (Wash Lane to Parish Boundary).**

Starts from Wash Lane opposite the south western end of Footpath No. 17, and runs south westwards to a stile at the parish boundary where it joins Saxlingham Nethergate Footpath No. 8.

**Footpath No. 21 (Oak Plantation to Long Lane).**

Starts opposite Oak Plantation, and runs south eastwards through the yard of Woodton Farm to a field gate at the south eastern boundary of Deal Plantation, then runs north eastwards to enter Long Lane at the parish boundary by another field gate.

**Footpath No. 22 (Market Lane to Brooke Road).**

Starts from Market Lane by a field gate, and runs east north eastwards along the northern boundaries of two fields, then crosses a third field to enter Brooke Road by a field gate.

# Shotesham

## CIRCULAR WALKS



This booklet has been produced by  
Shotesham Village Association  
to promote the local network of footpaths.  
Grateful thanks to the many contributors  
and proof readers.

*Text and some pictures by Anthony Lister*

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