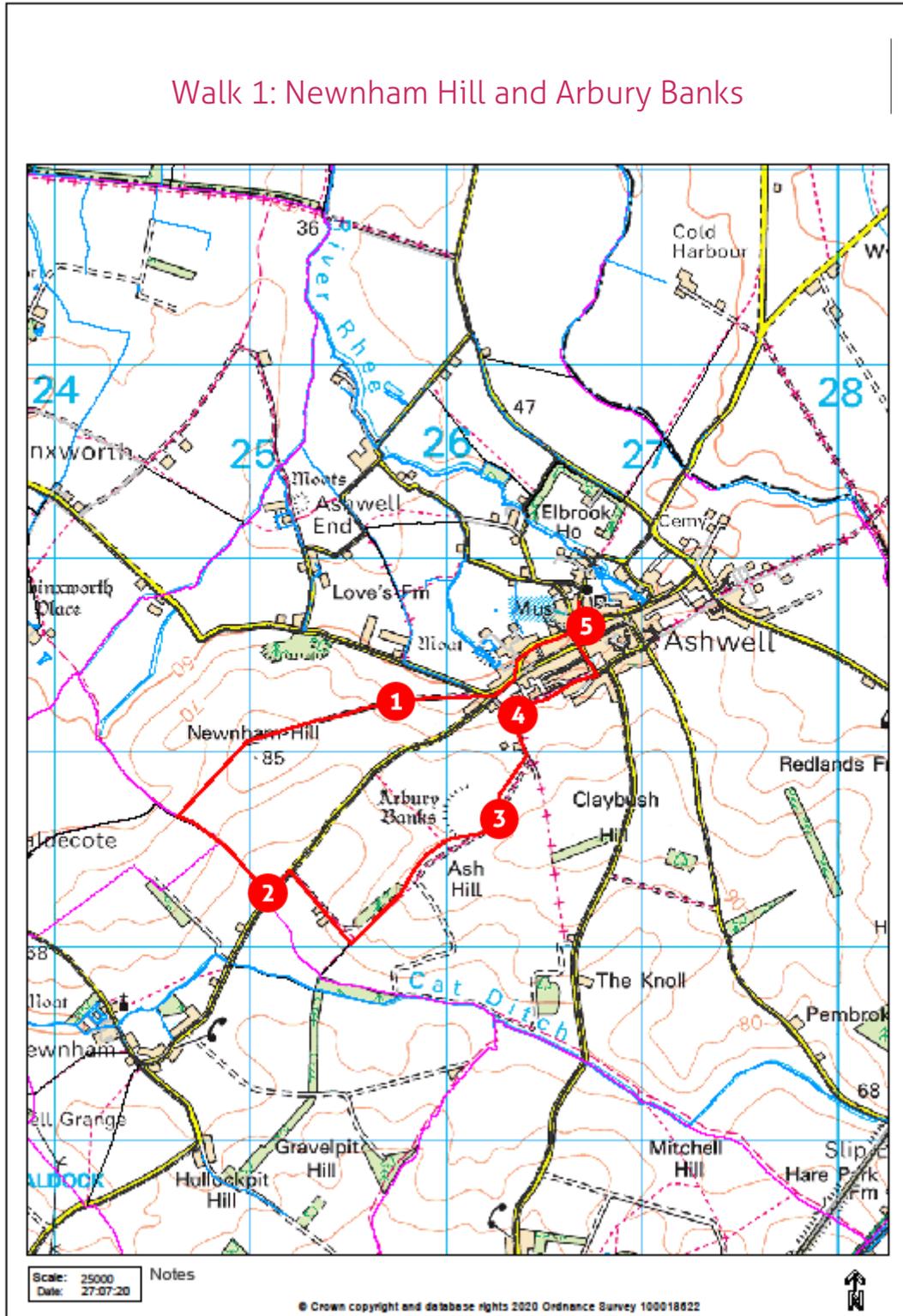


ASHWELL WALKS

Walk 1: Newnham Hill and Arbury Banks



Length and timing

6.5 Kilometres (4 miles), about 1hr 20 mins walking briskly, 2hrs at leisure.

Two gentle climbs and descents with one very short steeper section

Broad open views of working farmland. This walk passes by a pig farm.

Directions

With your back to the Parish Church lych gate head left along Mill Street, cutting through to the High Street via Alms Lane between the Parish Rooms on the left and the Museum on the right.

Turn right along the High Street and carry straight on along West End for 600 metres to a junction just outside the village. Go down the right fork, the Hinxworth Road, and take the track going up the hill.



Right Fork, then take the track uphill

1 This is Newnham Hill. Don't forget to look back at the view of the church after climbing a bit. At the top it levels off and just before going down the other side there is an expansive view to the North (right hand side) of Biggleswade and the villages of Dunton, Wendy and Croydon.

Down the hill you come to a 'T' junction. Turn south (left) up the farm track. After a few metres it goes downward towards the Newnham Road. The northern boundary of the North Baldock Chalk Uplands is

hereabouts and in a dry summer the tracks in the area can become a dazzling white. So, sunglasses needed!

2 At the road turn left and go along it for approximately 200 metres to the asphalted turn-off to the pig farm. Go straight past the farm - where the asphalt turns into a track - and up to the 'T' junction marked by a lonely-looking wooden signpost. Turn 90 degrees left up a short climb. Afterwards the track levels off as you pass a row of hawthorn trees on your left hand side.



Signpost with Bygrave in the background

To the south (right hand side) is the chalk escarpment with the small modern settlement of Bygrave and the A505 beyond that.

After passing the trees, to your left in the middle distance you will see Newnham Hill that you crossed earlier. The track then becomes a short avenue with conifers on the left and a bank on the right. Emerging from the avenue the path veers slightly right up to Arbury Banks.

3 Curve round to the left to find the information board. This site of an Iron Age fort doesn't look much these days, unfortunately, but the 360 degree view from this point is rather lovely despite the chain link fencing..

Pick up the track that descends diagonally across the field towards the junction with another bounded by hedges and small trees. Then turn left down the hill.

4 After 250 metres take the turn-off to the right. This is Ashwell Street; a path and road that runs the length of the village and continues further east to Bassingbourn cum Kneesworth.



Junction, with Ashwell Street on the right

Continue along this tree lined path, past the allotments on the left until you reach an

asphalted roadway. At the junction take the path downhill on your left past a terrace of houses and, down the steps. Go straight on at the crossroads into the lane flanked by a wall on each side. At the High Street turn right, then, just after the general store, left down Gardiner's Lane

5 The church will be in view now but the communal cottage garden on the right could be a good place to sit and take a short break.



Part of the panoramic view from the top of Newnham Hill