

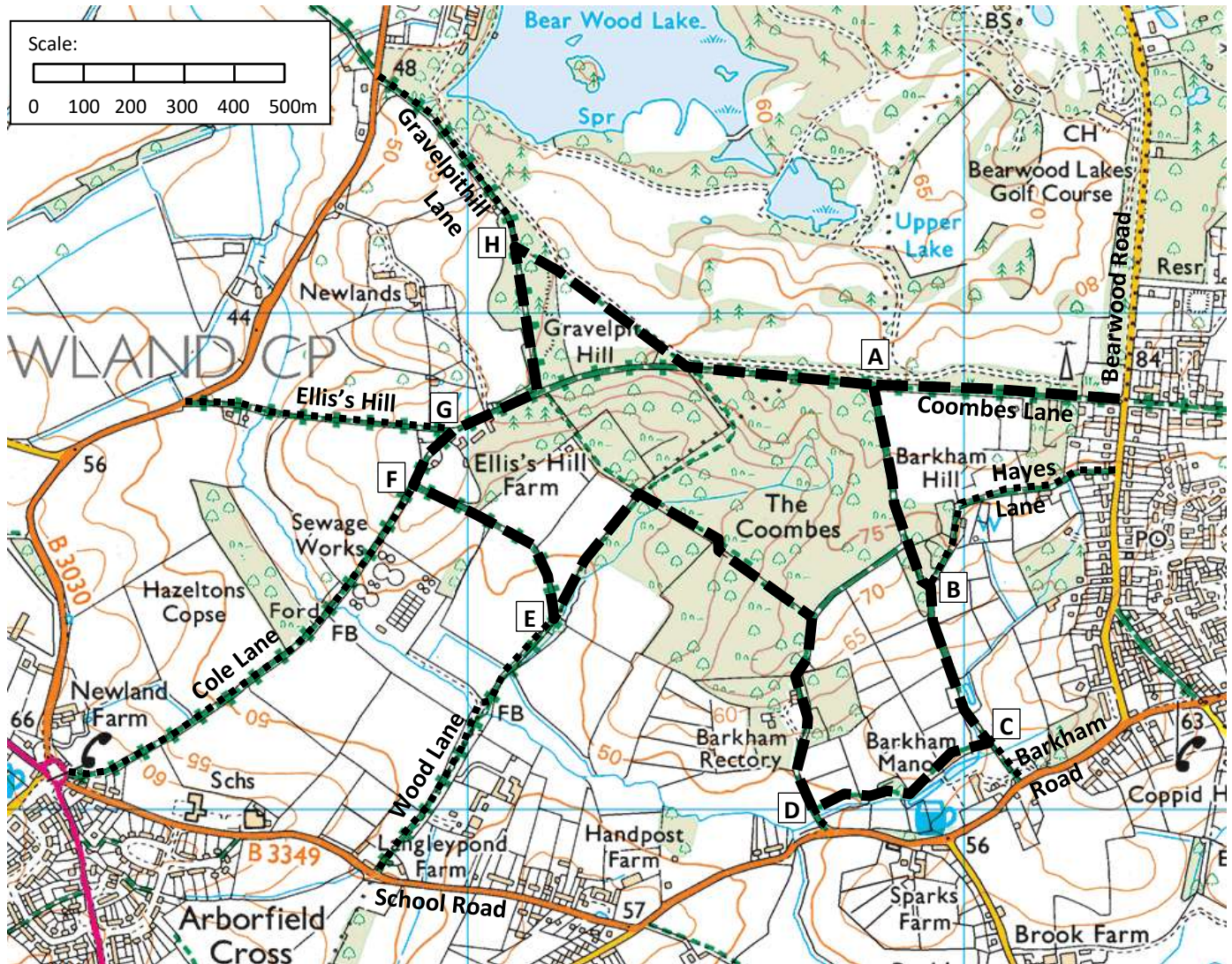


## The Coombes Circular Walk

The Coombes is an area of woodland lying to the north west of Barkham.

The Coombes Circular Walk uses a mix of public footpaths, bridleways and byways to lead the casual walker around a beautifully varied loop through The Coombes and adjacent countryside. The way is signed to guide walkers around the walk in either direction.

The circular part is 2.7 miles or 4.3km in length and can be accessed via any of the eight rights of ways from the surrounding roads, creating natural extensions to a walk. Typically, it takes an hour to an hour and a half to complete.



The above map is based on the Ordnance Survey Explorer series and has the points A to H marked along The Coombes Circular Walk that are served by public rights of way from the surrounding roads.

- [A] along Coombes Lane, a byway, 510m from Bearwood Road
- [B] along Hayes Lane, a bridleway, 520m from Bearwood Road
- [C] beside Barkham Manor entrance, 100m along a bridleway from Barkham Road
- [D] along the bridleway towards the Old Rectory, 60m from Barkham Road, to east of Barkham Bridge
- [E] along Wood Lane, a byway, 640m from School Road
- [F] along Cole Lane, a byway, 950m from Arborfield Cross Roundabout
- [G] along Ellis's Hill, a byway, 550m from the B3030
- [H] along Gravelpithill Lane, a byway, 460m from the B3030

Note that there is no public right of way with motorised vehicles along footpaths or bridleways. Not all of the byways are passable by car.

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## Directions

Point [A] on the map can be found 510m along Coombes Lane from Bearwood Road at the far corner of an open field where the Coombes woodland starts. Its Ordnance Survey grid reference is SU778679 and directions are as follows:

### Clockwise

#### **From [A] to [B], 430m**

Head south towards Barkham Manor along the edge of the woods, keeping the field to your left. 100m beyond the end of the field is a bridleway junction. Continue straight on for a further 100m to point [B], the junction for Hayes Lane.

#### **From [B] to [C], 350m**

Head south, down the hill, towards Barkham Manor. After 300m, with the road ahead visible, a small stable yard can be seen on the right. Immediately beyond this is a small gated opening to the right. This is point [C].

#### **From [C] to [D], 410m**

Go through the gate and follow the bridleway that runs westwards behind Barkham Manor, which is visible on the left. Just over a small bridge is point [D] a junction with a wider bridleway.

#### **From [D] to [E], 1200m**

Follow the wide bridleway north away from the road and skirt to the right of the house entrance where the bridleway narrows. Continue up the hill beside some brick buildings. 100m after the wood on the right becomes open fields, there is a signposted junction. Turn left, NW, towards Ellis's Hill and continue broadly straight on for 450m through some dips and the woods beyond. Shortly after a wooden bridge, two footpaths cross. Turn left and walk 420m SW with the open field to your right to point [E] where the footpath meets a byway.

#### **From [E] to [F], 450m**

Follow the byway northwards up the hill towards Ellis's Hill to point [F], a T junction with another byway.

#### **From [F] to [G], 140m**

Follow the byway NE up the hill to point [G] by the entrance of a cottage at a junction with another byway.

#### **From [G] to [H], 500m**

Follow the byway NE up the hill for 190m, with farm buildings on the right. At the byway junction, turn left, northwards, and keep straight on for a further 300m. 50m before the bend is point [H], where a footpath appears on the right.

#### **From [H] to [A], 810m**

Take the footpath off the byway SE through the woods and into the open alongside a golf course on the left. After 430m, the path emerges onto a byway. Turn left and follow the byway eastwards between the woodland and golf course to point [A], the corner of an open field to the right.

### Anticlockwise

#### **From [A] to [H], 810m**

Head west towards Ellis's Hill, with the woodlands to the left and golf course on the right. After 380m, a short way beyond a signposted footpath on the left, turn right, NW, along a footpath to keep the golf course on the right. Continue through a copse to emerge at point [H] on a byway.

#### **From [H] to [G], 500m**

Follow the byway gently upwards, south, for 310m to a T junction with another byway. Turn right, west, and follow the second byway downwards to point [G], a junction at the entrance to a cottage on the right.

#### **From [G] to [F], 140m**

Take the left fork, SW, between the cottage and the farm to reach point [F] at a byway junction.

#### **From [F] to [E], 450m**

Take the side turning off the straight byway and head SE down the hill, keeping the farm buildings on the left. This leads to point [E], a signposted junction with a bridleway.

#### **From [E] to [D], 1200m**

Follow the footpath NE for 420m to where 2 footpaths cross. Turn right, SE, and continue broadly straight for 450m towards Barkham Bridge, soon crossing a wooden bridge and later through some dips. At the junction with a bridleway, turn right, south, down a hill towards Barkham Bridge, passing brick buildings on the right. The bridleway widens at the entrance to the house. Continue along the bridleway for a further 150m to point [D] where there is a small bridge at an opening for a bridleway to the left.

#### **From [D] to [C], 410m**

Go over the small wooden bridge and follow the bridleway eastwards, later running behind Barkham Manor, visible on the right. Just after a stable yard on the left, through a gate, is point [C], a junction with a wider bridleway.

#### **From [C] to [B], 350m**

Follow the larger bridleway northwards up the hill to point [B], a signposted junction with a turning towards Bearwood Road via Hayes Lane.

#### **From [B] to [A], 430m**

Follow the bridleway northwards towards Coombes Lane. After 100m, at a bridleway junction, continue straight on towards Coombes Lane. Where the bridleway meets a byway is point [A].