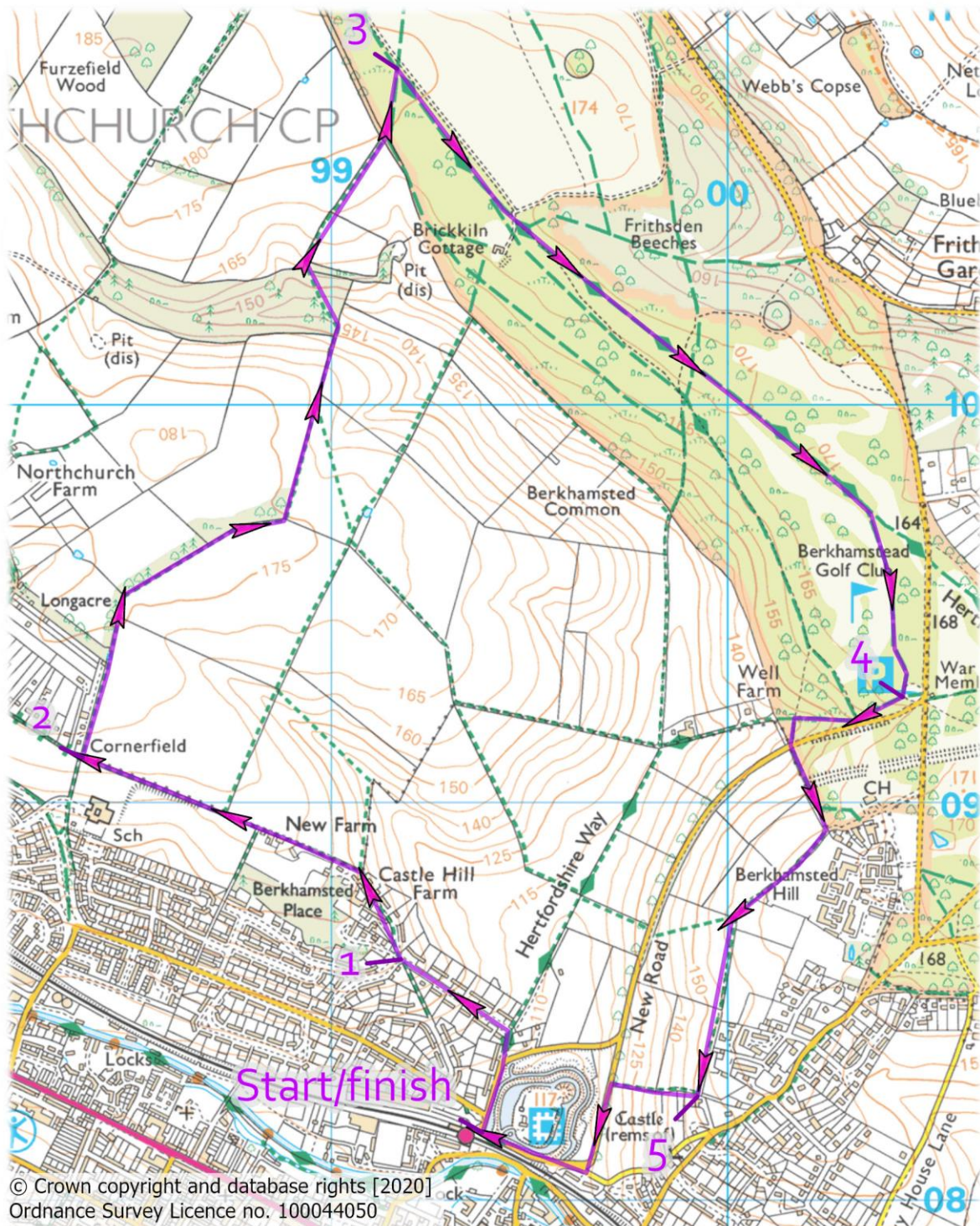


Berkhamsted and Ashridge
By Geoff Wiggett, Chiltern Society

Summary

This walk takes in some great views of the urban landscape, valleys and woodland to the north and west of the historic town of Berkhamsted. Wide, field-edge paths make it perfect for people that need to create space between each other and the woodland paths are also wide. About 10 gates (easily negotiated with gloves) and no stiles.



Length:	5 miles
Terrain:	Easy stile-free walking on level paths with just two short uphill sections.
Start & finish:	Berkhamsted station, Station Approach, Berkhamsted HP4 2AR
Food & drink:	Plenty of pubs and cafés in Berkhamsted
Maps:	OS Explorer 181, Chiltern Society 17 & 20
Parking:	Plenty of car parking in Berkhamsted
Local transport:	Berkhamsted is served by many bus routes. Berkhamsted station is on the main line between Euston and Birmingham

Route

Leave the station from the Long Stay car park exit. Cross straight over the access road and Bridgewater Road, turn right to the mini roundabout. Turn left up Brownlow Road and, where that bends right, continue straight ahead up Castle Hill. Follow the road round to the left to a junction at the top

Waypoint 1. Fork right, walk between newly built houses and continue along the field edge through a series of three gates to a path junction.

Waypoint 2 – Turn right at the junction and walk along a wide field-edge path with the hedgerow on the left. Follow the path as it veers left, continue onto a narrower path and then through a wooded area (Alpine Meadow). Walk along another field-edge path, go through three gates and turn left to a 'T' junction

Waypoint 3 – Turn right and keep following this path in the same direction, ignoring left and right turns, to reach a golf course and then a car park.

Waypoint 4 - Take the path at the back of the car park and turn right downhill. At the second path junction turn left to a road. Cross and follow the path up towards a large house. Turn right where the path meets another and follow this elevated path at high level until it turns right at a row of trees.

Waypoint 5 – There are two options at this point. To follow the official right of way, turn right down through a gate, cross the road and turn left along the path. Follow the road round to the right with the elevated railway line on your left to reach the station. To follow the local path, go under the row of trees to reach the road, cross and turn left to rejoin the main route to the station.

Points of Interest

Waypoint 1 – Puddingstones are a 'conglomerate' of rounded flint pebbles in a matrix of fine sand all cemented together by silica.

Waypoint 2 – After turning right there great views across fields and valleys. Alpine Meadows is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) run by Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust. It's a chalk grassland rich in wildflowers and butterflies from spring to autumn.

Waypoint 4 – From the elevated path there are fantastic views of Berkhamsted town.