

Bromley Pub Walk No. 15

Biggin Hill to Downe

A walk through woodland, farmland and a golf course and passing Charles Darwin's Down House

Please read the Bromley Pub Walks [introductory notes](#) for explanation about information provided in these walking guides



Bluebells in Leasons Wood

Approx. Distance:

- 2 miles

Approx. Time:

- 45 minutes

Gradients:

- Very short section with a gradient at the north boundary of the golf course

Type(s) of path(s):

- Mostly paths through farmland or woodland and grass across the golf club

Stiles / Gates:

- This route has several kissing gates, stiles and steps

Road Walking: (ie. roads without footway)

- A section of West Hill, the access lane to the golf club, does not have a footway (approx. 200 yds.)
- The slightly shorter alternative route in Downe from near Down House has a longer section of (busy) road without footway. This alternative is not recommended



Livestock or crops:

- This routes includes fields which may contain livestock or crops

OS Grid References:

- Biggin Hill: TQ 418595
- Downe: TQ 432616

Maps:

- OS 1:25 000, No. 147
- Part of the area of the route is covered on Bromley Council's 'Leaves Green Circular' walk leaflet (includes map)

The **Bromley Pub Walks** guides have been prepared and published by Bromley CAMRA to encourage members and others to enjoy walking in the rural areas of Bromley and to visit the many pubs and clubs on the routes.

If you have any comments about the Bromley Pub Walks guides please send an email to:

walking@bromley.camra.org.uk



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Connection to other Bromley Pub Walks:

- From Downe:
 - 04 to Keston
 - 06 Leaves Green
 - 08 to Farnborough
 - 11 to Green St Green
 - 12 to Pratts Bottom
 - 13 to Cudham
 - 14 to Berry's Green
 - 54 to Knockholt Pound
- From Biggin Hill (Black Horse):
 - 16 to Berry's Green
- This route follows some of the same paths as:
 - 06 Downe to Leaves Green



Pubs:

- Biggin Hill:
 - [Black Horse](#), 123 Main Road, Biggin Hill, TN16 3DX
- Downe:
 - [George & Dragon](#), 26 High Street, Downe. BR6 7UT
 - [Queens Head](#), 25 High Street, Downe. BR6 7US

Public Transport:

- Biggin Hill (Black Horse)
 - 320 Catford to Biggin Hill via Bromley
 - 246 Bromley North/South to Westerham
 - 464 New Addington to Tatsfield
 - R2 Orpington to Biggin Hill
 - R8 Orpington to Biggin Hill (via Downe)
- Downe:
 - 146 Bromley North/South to Downe
 - R8 Orpington to Biggin Hill

Notes:

- If you do this walk during the spring you should find some of the woods to be a mass of bluebells
- The recommended route avoids the section of Luxted Rd without a footway. The slightly shorter possible alternative route via Luxted Rd is NOT recommended due to the volume of traffic and a sharp bend within the section without a footway 
- This route passes the 'back gate' of [Down House](#), the former home of Charles Darwin, which is open to the public (admission charge) 


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The Route:

Starting at Biggin Hill (Black Horse)

- The route starts at the War Memorial, adjacent to the bus stop, close to the Black Horse pub and to the junction with Jail Lane
- Walk down the left hand side of Jail Lane until reaching a footpath on the left (between Nos 81 and 83)
- Turn left and follow this footpath, passing between houses, then over a stile and on through fields and woodland, until reaching a golf course
- *In two places this path crosses greens. Take care to check for golfers before crossing the greens*
- Follow the signed path straight across the golf course then uphill to the boundary hedgerow
- There is a crossroads of paths at the boundary of the golf course, at this junction continue straight ahead, and on up approx. 10 steps to a stile
- Cross over a stile and go diagonally left through a wild flower meadow
- This path takes you up to the kissing gates adjacent to the brick wall and back gate of Down House
- *NB. There is a slighter shorter route directly into Downe, by taking a left turn at the (above-mentioned) path junction on the golf course, however this alternative misses out passing Down House*

Down House

- *If you wish to visit Down House, the back gate into the garden is open during opening hours. Visitors are asked to walk through the garden to the main entrance in the house*
- To continue the walk, turn left through 2 kissing gates and go along the narrow path between houses to join West Hill (access road to the golf course) and then turn left. This track has no footway
- *The shortest route from this point into Downe village involves turning right onto West Hill, however this route is NOT recommended due to the volume of traffic and a sharp bend on Luxted Rd, within the section without a footway* 
- After approx. 200 yards, as the road starts to drop down the hill, turn right up onto a path
- After a few yards, turn sharp right at a 'T' junction of paths. Follow this path through several kissing gates, passing through fields and former orchards into the outskirts of Downe village

Downe village

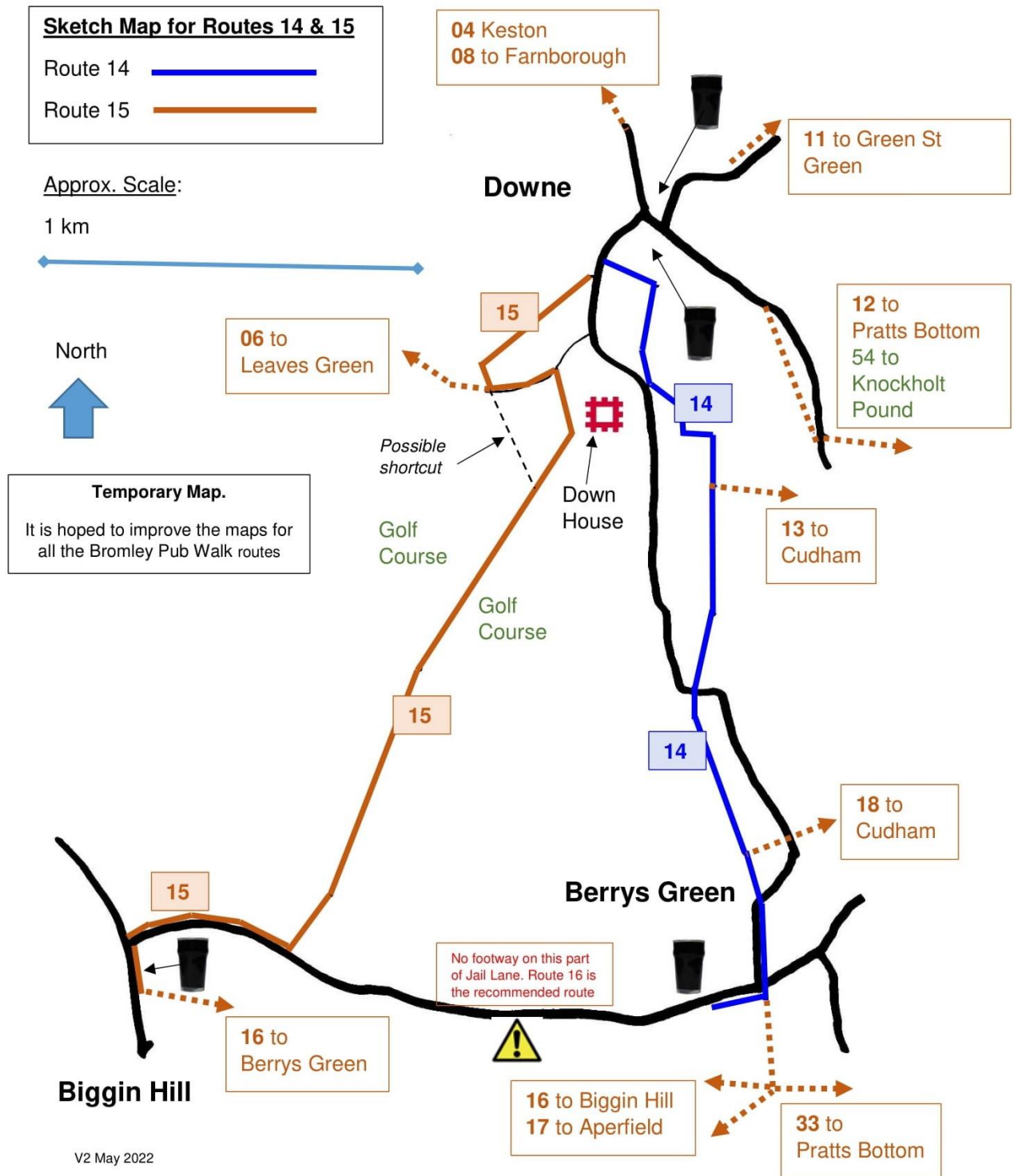
- Turn left when reaching Luxted Rd and follow the footway along the road into the village, where both pubs are close to the church

Starting at Downe

- Leave the village via Luxted Rd. Then, almost directly opposite the point where the footway ends, take the path through a metal gate

Date of survey / updates
- Surveyed July 2019
- Updated v2 June 2022

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V2 May 2022