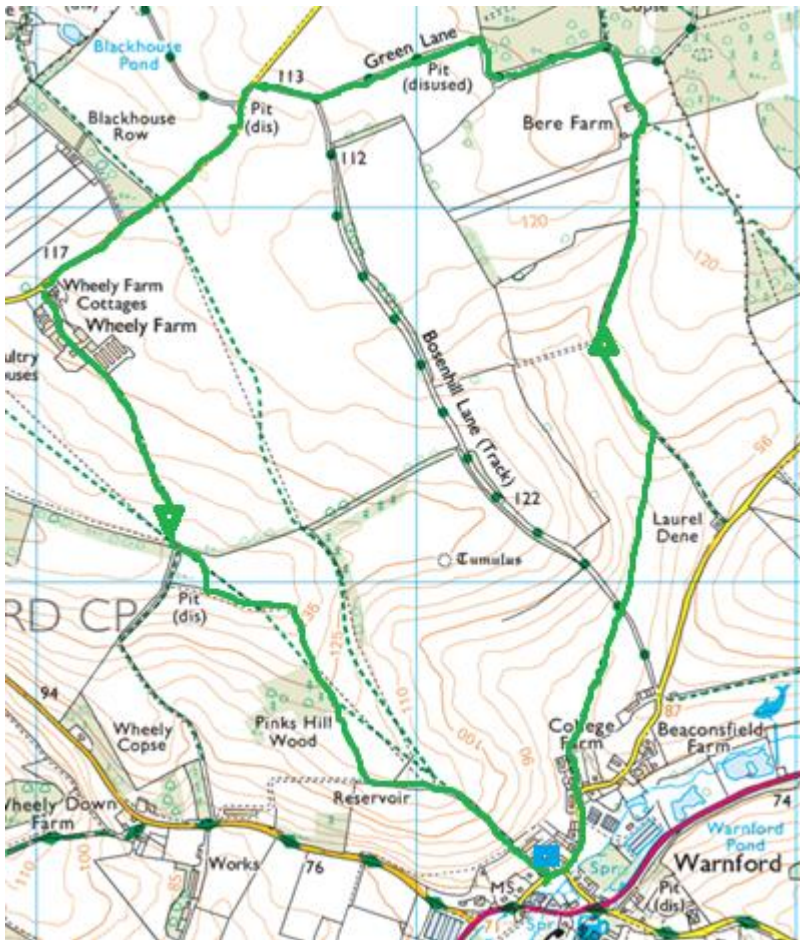


Walk 2 – Bere Farm and Wheely Farm (4¼ miles; no stiles; easy walking)



This walk stays entirely within the Parish and includes some of its most secluded and beautiful parts.

Walk north along Lippen Lane. Bear left after Hanover Cottages and at the end of the road keep straight on along the marked path across Bottom Field.

Cross straight over Bosenhill Lane. Here was once the Warnford Barn and a cottage or two. Continue on across the arable land, the path rising gently. At the tarmac lane turn left.

On the skyline to the left are the wooded strips along Bosenhill Lane. Up the slope to the right is Grove Copse. As you climb, the view across the valley behind opens up, with Old Winchester Hill and the northward ridge towards West Meon in clear sight. Before Bere Farm on the left is “Doodlebug Field” where a V1 flying bomb landed in 1944.

The drive arrives at the gate of Bere Farm, one of the quietest and most peaceful places in the Parish. Continue through the farmyard (now a very well kept garden). Please keep dogs on a lead here, as there are peacocks and guinea fowl about. At the second gate the tarmac runs out. Follow the track for about 100 yd to a track junction.

Turn left into Green Lane. Brockwood Copse (bluebells in early May) is on your right, with the old fields of Bere Farm (now part of the Warnford Estate) on your left. At the sharp right hand bend is the site of Bere Farm Cottages. Bere Barn was a hundred yards away across the field.

Keep on along Green Lane for about ¼ mile. The gently sloping hill on your right is Hurst Down, an old name not shown on the OS map but still reflected in the field names. Look for a track coming out on the left. This is the top of Bosenhill Lane. You can use this for a shorter return to Warnford if you don't mind ruts and mud.

To follow our route, keep on along Green Lane for another 200 yards until it comes out in Riversdown Road. Turn left and follow the road for nearly ½ mile. At Wheely Farm turn left onto the concrete farm road and follow this up through the farm buildings. When this runs out keep straight on. The footpath follows an overgrown green lane between fields, lined by old trees.

Towards the top is a lovely area for spring flowers – primroses, wood anemones, violets and bluebells. Enter the wood and look for a footpath turning left off the track – it can be overgrown and hard to find at times.

When you come into the open, turn right and follow the field edge round the corner of "Little Hayes" and along until you get to the "Lone Oak" at the end of the hedge line. (You can take the official footpath line which runs diagonally across the field on the other side of the hedge, but it involves two stiles and a field of cattle). 50 yards straight in front of you is a seat, next to (one day it will be under) one of the Parish's Jubilee Oaks, planted in 2012 (the other is in the playground). Here is one of the best views in Warnford, with the valley laid out in front of you.

When you have taken it in, go back to the Lone Oak and turn left, following the track down past Pinks Hill Copse. The view opens southwards towards Beacon Hill. Keep on down until you get to the village hall.