

Walks around the Redditch Area

Church Hill Walks (s1)

Circular Walks 1 and 2

Walk1: Ikniel Street and Bomford Hill

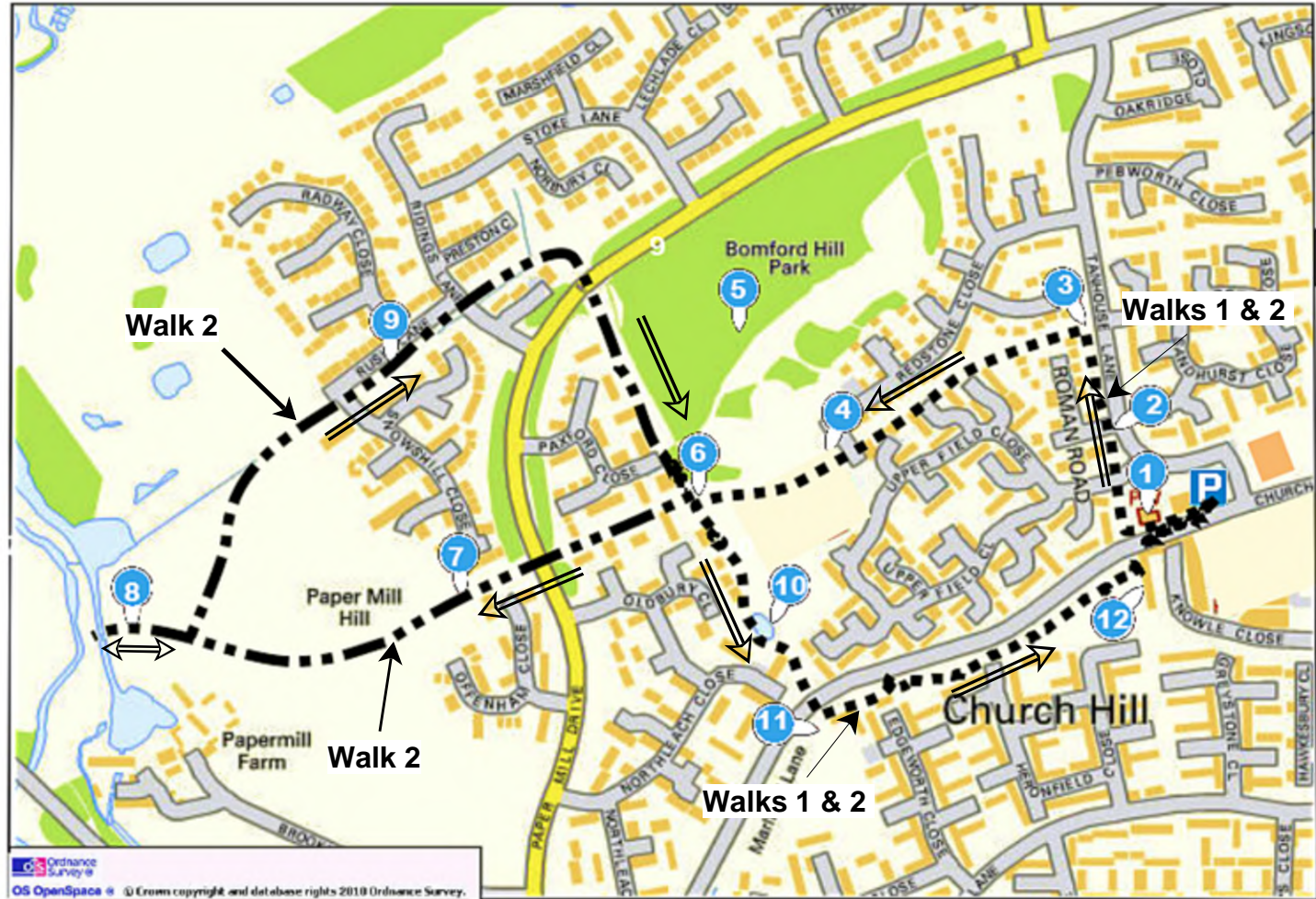
Walk2: Walk 1 extended to Papermill Pool



These walks have been created in association with the Church Hill Big Local initiative on local walking trails

www.redditchwalks.org.uk

www.churchhillbiglocal.org.uk/



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Design, additional graphics and text by **Anthony Green**.

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Distance: Walk 1 approx 1 mile (1.6 km)

Walk 2 (includes Walk 1) approx 2.1 miles (3.4 km)

Terrain: Urban Footpaths and pavements. Level terrain with slight inclines

Parking: Car Park at Church Hill centre

Bomford Hill

Bomford Hill Park is a large open green park area in the North part of Church Hill. It sits between Redstone Close, Paxford Close and borders on to Paper Mill Drive at the north and the old Icknield Street Roman road to the north west.

This open area was developed by Redditch Development Corporation for the benefit of the residents of the area and most of the planting was carried out at that time.



Bomford Hill is a typical example of the 'hills' in this area and very locally others are found at the top of Offenham Close / Snowhill Close and Ridings Lane / Marshfield Close. More obvious examples are 'Beoley Hill, with St Leonard's Church at the summit, and the Redditch Cemetery with the Crematorium at the Summit.

The Redditch area was at the limit of the last, or Devensian, ice age period and these are typical features of glaciation. This indicates that the feature which we know as Bomford Hill is probably 12,000 years old.

The 'ridges' on the slope are most likely due to medieval 'ridge and furrow' ploughing, which can be found in various places in the area.

Walk 1 (and walk 2)

Leaving the car park begin at the front of the Shopping Centre. Walk turn right and follow the path along the bus route, passing St Andrews Methodist Church until you reach the footpath which is Icknield Street (Roman Road). Turn right and continue down the 2000 year old historic route. Passing the junction with Tenbury Close, after about 100 metres take the path to the left along the ancient hedgerow.



Continue along the path crossing Redstone Close and on the right you will see Bomford Hill (see box for additional information). Continue on to the path 'crossroads'. For **Walk 2**, continue straight on.... For **Walk 1**, take the path to the left. After a short distance on your left is a marl pit (usually filled with water). These were created when the clay (marl) was removed for use to spread on the land before fertiliser became freely available.



Continue on and cross the bus road and turn left and follow the wide path. After a short walk you will see on your right an L shaped building (Scout Hut). This is Marfield Barn and was part of Marfield Farm which was located in this area. Continue on to the top and turn left, returning to the start by re-crossing the bus route.

Walk 2

Continue along the path and cross Papermill Drive on the footbridge. Bear left on the path to arrive at the top of the hill. Near the top, the field to the right shows clear evidence of ridge and furrow created by a system of ploughing used in the medieval period. There are similar examples in the area including Bomford Hill. Continue down the tarmac path and you will arrive at Papermill ponds. The paper mill and the farm has been converted into private dwellings. There are two pools which originally fed the mill which are full of wildlife. Returning along the path take the right fork.



Following the path you will arrive in Rush Lane. To the left is a hedge which follows an original field boundary line. Hopper's hypothesis is that the number of woody species in a 30 yard length of hedge equals the age of the hedge in centuries. Looking back, on the skyline can be seen the steeple of St Stephen's, in the town centre, one mile away. Continue along this path and pass through the underpass going under Papermill Drive.

At the path 'crossroads' continue straight on and rejoin Walk 1.



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