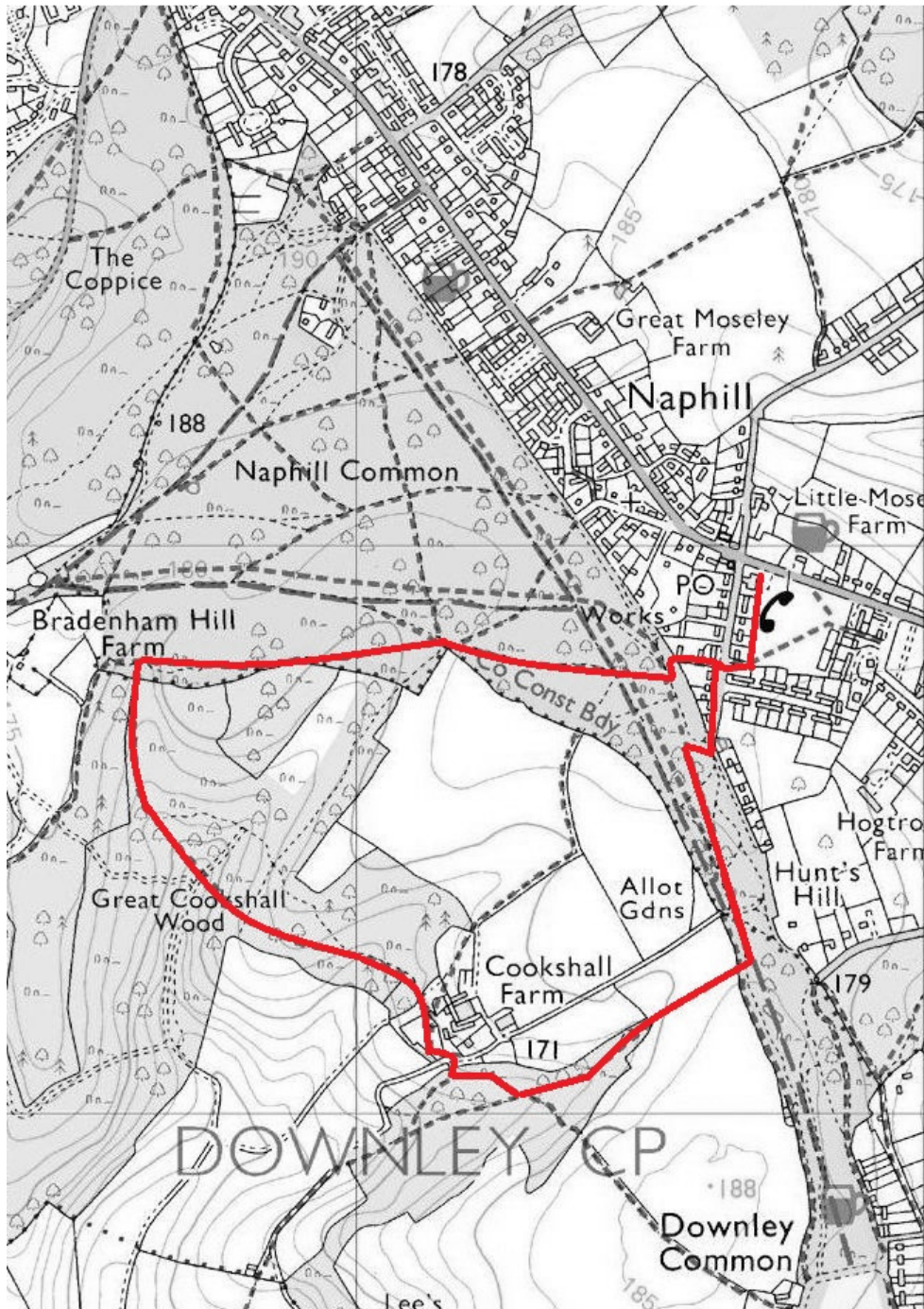


Friends of Naphill Common – Short Walk 1 – Great Cookshall Wood



Starting from the Village Hall, walk down Downley Road passing Pickup's Pond on your left. Head into the common on the footpath that bears slightly right. After a few yards turn sharp left onto the footpath that heads toward Daisy Pond and Downley. Pass Daisy Pond on your left and cross Cookshall Lane (a private road to the farm).

Continue along the H12 footpath for about 80 yards and then turn right onto the marked footpath through the kissing gate and across the field. The kissing gate into the further wood is not immediately visible, but after a short while it will come into view. Follow the footpath through the wood for about 150 yards when a path joins from the left. A few yards beyond the private track to the farm take the footpath uphill and to the right*. This will bring you to a gate at the edge of the wood in front of Cookshall Farm.

The visible parts of the farmhouse are mid-late 18th century, though there is an older range to the rear. From in front of the farmhouse there are fine views down to West Wycombe, with the Dashwood Mausoleum, the gold ball on top of the tower of St Lawrence's Church and the House all visible.

Pass the front of the farm and take the path into Great Cookshall Wood. There is only one footpath through the wood, though it crosses several private tracks. It also crosses three small valleys, the third of which involves quite a steep scramble down – take care if the path is wet or muddy. The path then goes gently uphill to the gate into Naphill Common.

Turn right and follow the path (H3) uphill. At the Five Ways crossroad take the middle path (H22) through the 'green tunnel'. After crossing the H12 footpath, a narrower path continues to where the H11 path emerges onto the common. Follow H11 up to Downley Road and the Village Hall.

* If a longer walk is desired, continuing along the footpath leads eventually to West Wycombe village. From there it is possible to return along another footpath that eventually passes along the edge of Bradenham Hill Farm.