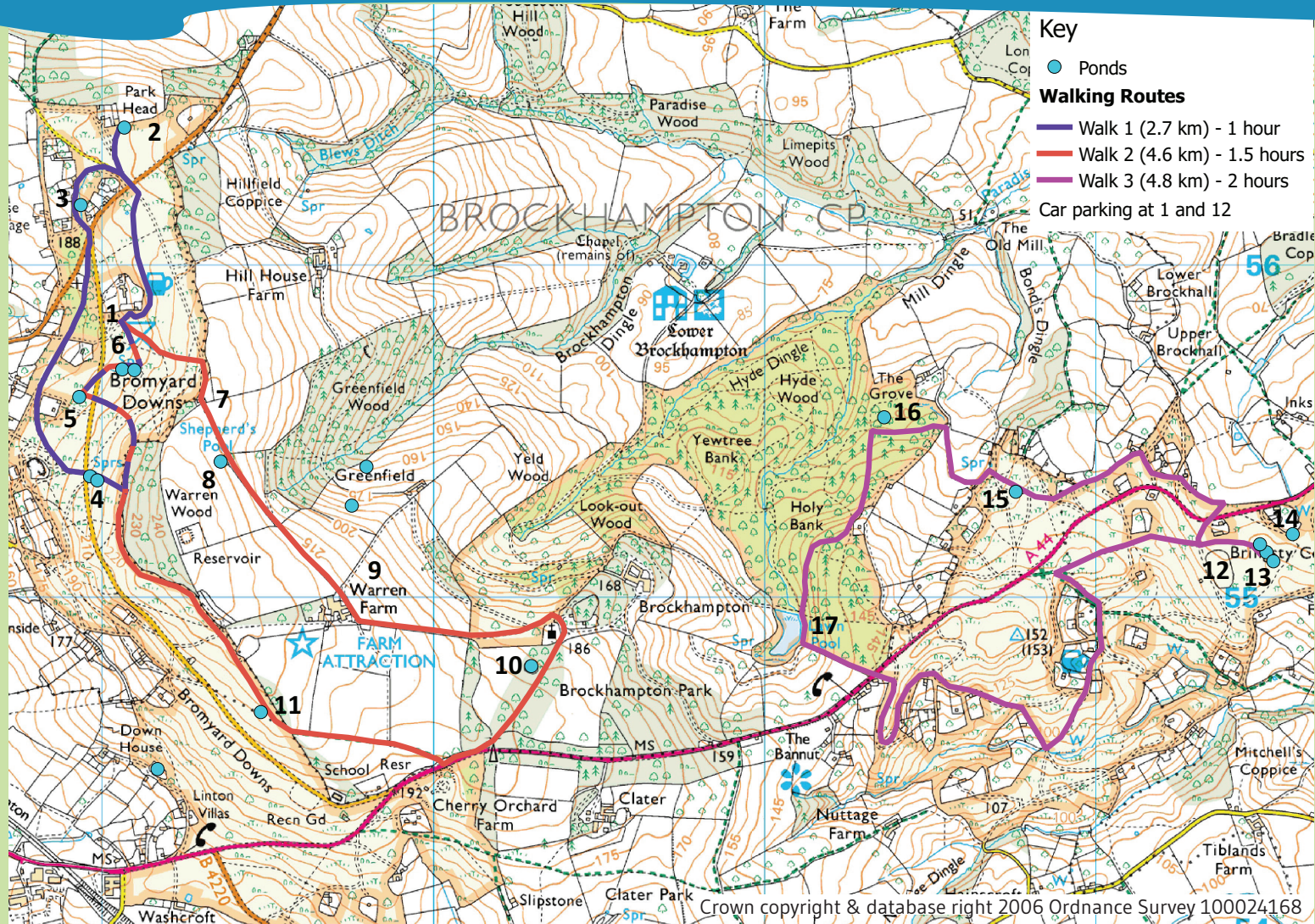


Pond Trail

Bromyard, Bringsty & National Trust Brockhampton



1) Bromyard Downs Main Car Park: Free parking with on-site information.

2) Park Head Pond: The most northerly pond restored in the Pooling Together Project. This area is a hot spot for wildlife – look out for newts in the pond and common lizard and grass snake in the surrounding scrub.

3) Golf Course Cluster: The restored ponds are part of a larger wetland network that helps amphibians and other aquatic species move across the landscape.

4) Orchid Pools: Named after the displays of orchids during the summer in the surrounding hay meadows. Look out for an abundance of toads and breeding smooth and palmate newts.

5) Rod's Pond: Named in memory of Rod Alexander, a local resident who gave so much to the Downs. Keep an eye out for breeding palmate newts when they rise to the surface

6) The Butts: Frogs and toads are present in these ponds. The dead hedge provides a natural barrier against poaching from animals.



Building communities. Transforming lives.

7) Shepherds Cottage: Stop to admire the interesting sculptures at Shepherds Cottage which is owned by National Trust. This marks the boundary between Brockhampton Estate and Bromyard Downs.

8) Shepherds Pool: An old drovers pond on the side of an old track. These ponds were used as watering holes for livestock on their way to market.

9) Warren Farm: National Trust owned farmhouse. Situated over 700ft high at the top of the Bromyard Downs, on a clear day you can see the Clent Hills. On a cold day winds are direct from the Urals.

10) Park Pond: Situated within National Trust Brockhampton Estate Registered Parkland. Stunning mature trees surround the pond.

11) Copse Pool: This heavily overgrown pool was restored, trees and scrub were removed to provide more open water and light for aquatic invertebrates and amphibians.

12) Bringsty Common: Parking and refreshments at Bringsty Café.

13) The Three Splashes: Re-profiling and digging three small scrapes has created a series of small ponds and better habitat for plants and animal such as newts and invertebrates.

14) The Drovers Pond: This pond was restored as part of a previous project. For more detail see the interpretation board next to the pond.

Head back to the Three Splashes and Bringsty Café to cross the very busy A44.

15) Paul's Folly: Part of a National project called PondNet, delivered by the Freshwater Habitat Trust. Look out for smooth and palmate newts. This pond is being monitored for the presence of great crested newt by a team of volunteers.

16) The Grove: The Grove is the educational base created by the Pooling Together Project with a pond dipping platform, compost toilets and education shelter. A permissive footpath has been created between the Grove and Bringsty Common. Please take care around livestock and close gates behind you.

17) Lawn Pool: Created between 18th and 19th century in the Brockhampton Estate, used for fishing and duck shooting in its heyday.

Head back to the car park next to the Three Splashes through Bringsty Common.

Bringsty Common is 220 acres (89 ha) of common land in Herefordshire spanning the A44 close to the Worcestershire border. Bringsty Common is a perfect place for a walk. In the spring, it is thick with bluebells, and in the winter if snow has fallen, the views of the common are stunning.

Bromyard Downs Common is 114ha registered common. It has long been common land, manorial waste of the ancient Manor of Bromyard, and has for generations provided an agricultural resource for the local farming community, as well as a place of recreation, both formal and informal, for the local community and visitors alike. Indeed, the unimproved nature of the Downs attracts walkers from near and far who come to enjoy its peace and wildlife. www.bromyarddowns.co.uk

National Trust, Brockhampton Estate is a traditionally farmed estate and medieval manor house. At the heart of this 687-hectare (1700 acre) farmed estate lies Lower Brockhampton, a romantic timber-framed manor house dating back to the late 14th century. The house is surrounded by a moat and is entered via a charming timber-framed gatehouse, built 1530-40. There are miles of walks through the park and woodland, featuring ancient trees, the picturesque Lawn Pool and various sculptures depicting parts of the history of Brockhampton and the local area. There is a rich variety of wildlife, along with historic farming breeds such as Hereford cattle and Ryeland sheep. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/brockhampton-estate

PondNet is an exciting new national volunteer survey to collect information about trends in pond quality and pond species, including rare plants and animals. It is the first habitat-based volunteer survey network of its kind. It aims to provide much-needed information about the condition of ponds and the species they support. www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk