

Dovecote Circular Walk No.1

This is one of our favourite short walks around Capel. It'll take you through orchards, bluebell woods, fields of grazing sheep and you can pop into our lovely Church of St Thomas à Becket, where you can see the 13th century wall paintings and a yew tree under which Becket himself is supposed to have preached.

Distance: 3.1miles/5km

Duration: 1-1.5 hours

Route: Public Footpaths & Country Lanes



The Route

1. Turn right out of the Dovecote and walk down Alders Road for 100m past the white cottages
2. Turn right onto the footpath at the metal gate. The path crosses the field and then heads into the woods parallel with the Alders Stream. Keep going parallel with the stream until you get to a gate.
3. Go through the gate into an old orchard, climbing gently. Follow the path through the orchard and past the pond until you get to the gate onto the Amherst Bank roadway.
4. Cross Amherst Bank and follow the path that runs upwards to the left hand side of the cottages and continue along the path at the edge of the orchards past the fishing pond.
5. When the path splits take the right turn following the path down into the dip and back up the other side through the orchard.
6. Sharp left up towards the house at Bouncers Bank.
7. Go through the style and drop onto Distlingbury Road (also known as Half Moon Lane).
8. Turn right and walk down Distlingbury Road/Half Moon Lane until you reach Half Moon Cottage.
9. Just past Half Moon Cottage take the path on the left down into the Woods. If you're there in April, enjoy the Bluebells! Keep Following the path down through the woods.
10. Cross the bridge and follow the path which skirts the grounds of "The Plants" House
11. When you get to the drive, turn right and follow it until the end at Alders Road.
12. Turn right and walk along Alders Road, keeping an eye open for traffic.
13. When you reach the Churchyard turn left up the path to the Church.
14. Spend some time looking around Capel's Church of St Thomas à Becket. It is open to visitors daily from 10am to 4pm. At other times during reasonable daylight hours call at the white farmhouse opposite for the key. It has notable 13th century wall paintings, and a yew tree under which Becket himself is supposed to have preached. When you've finished follow the path onto Church Lane and turn left.
15. Take the path a little further down on the right and follow it across the field until you reach Sychem Lane.
16. Turn left and head along Sychem Lane towards the houses.
17. Take the next right and follow the path past the stables.
18. Turn right at Brook Cottage and into the fields, following the path along the fence line.
19. Cross the stream at the bridge and keep following the stream.
20. Where the path meets Alders Road at the gate, turn right and walk back up to the Dovecote.



Location 3. In the woods next to Alders Stream



Location 5. Looking down towards through the fields and orchards towards 6

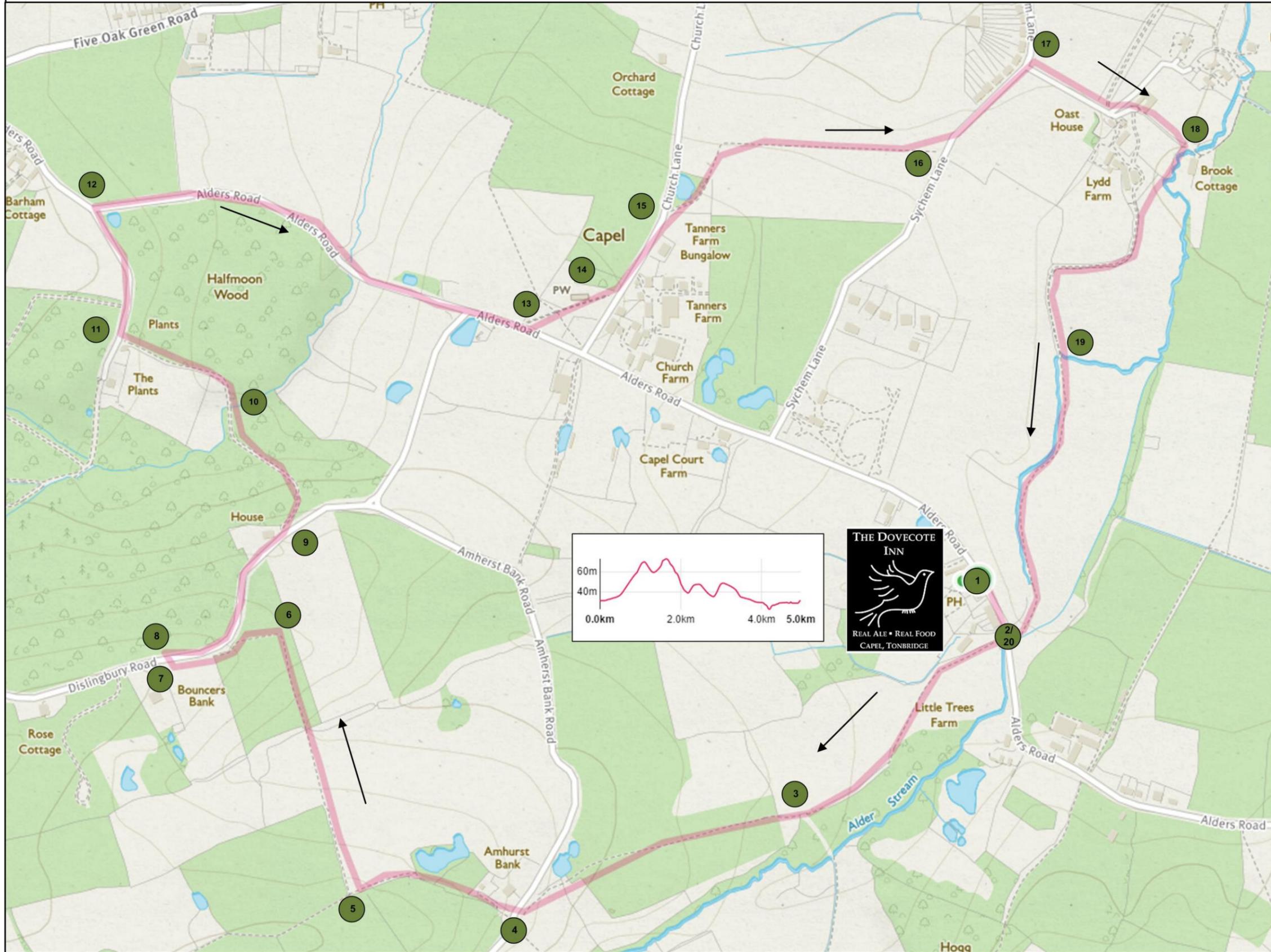


Location 9. Bluebells in the Woods



Location 14. Capel's Church of St Thomas à Becket

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