

## Newtown, The Gully



HAMPSHIRE  
COUNTRYSIDE  
SERVICE

Distance: 1.5 miles

Start: Jonathan Hill car park

The Parish of Newtown lies in the very north of Hampshire and adjoins the border with Berkshire at the River Enborne. The medieval borough of Newtown was created by the Bishop of Winchester in the year 1218, forming part of his estate along with Highclere and Burghclere. In 1224 the bounds of the village were defined by a ditch nearly a mile long and you may see the remaining traces of this on your walks.

St Mary and St John the Baptist, the village church which you will pass on the Arbuthnot Woods walk, built in 1865 by the church architect Henry Woodyer, is built in flint and features a square tower with a shingled broach spire. Notice the wild flower, ferns, and buttercup on the column capitals typical of his style.

Newtown Common is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation with a wide range of heathland and woodland plants and animals. The mixture of open heath, together with areas of pine and oak woodland and birch scrub on the common gives a variety from which many species benefit.

### Directions

***This walk explores the western side of Newtown Common and includes both heathland and a woodland walk.***

From the car park on the corner of Jonathan Hill cross the road and follow the path for 150 yards or so and take the right fork leading downhill towards the gully, this part can be slippery in wet weather.

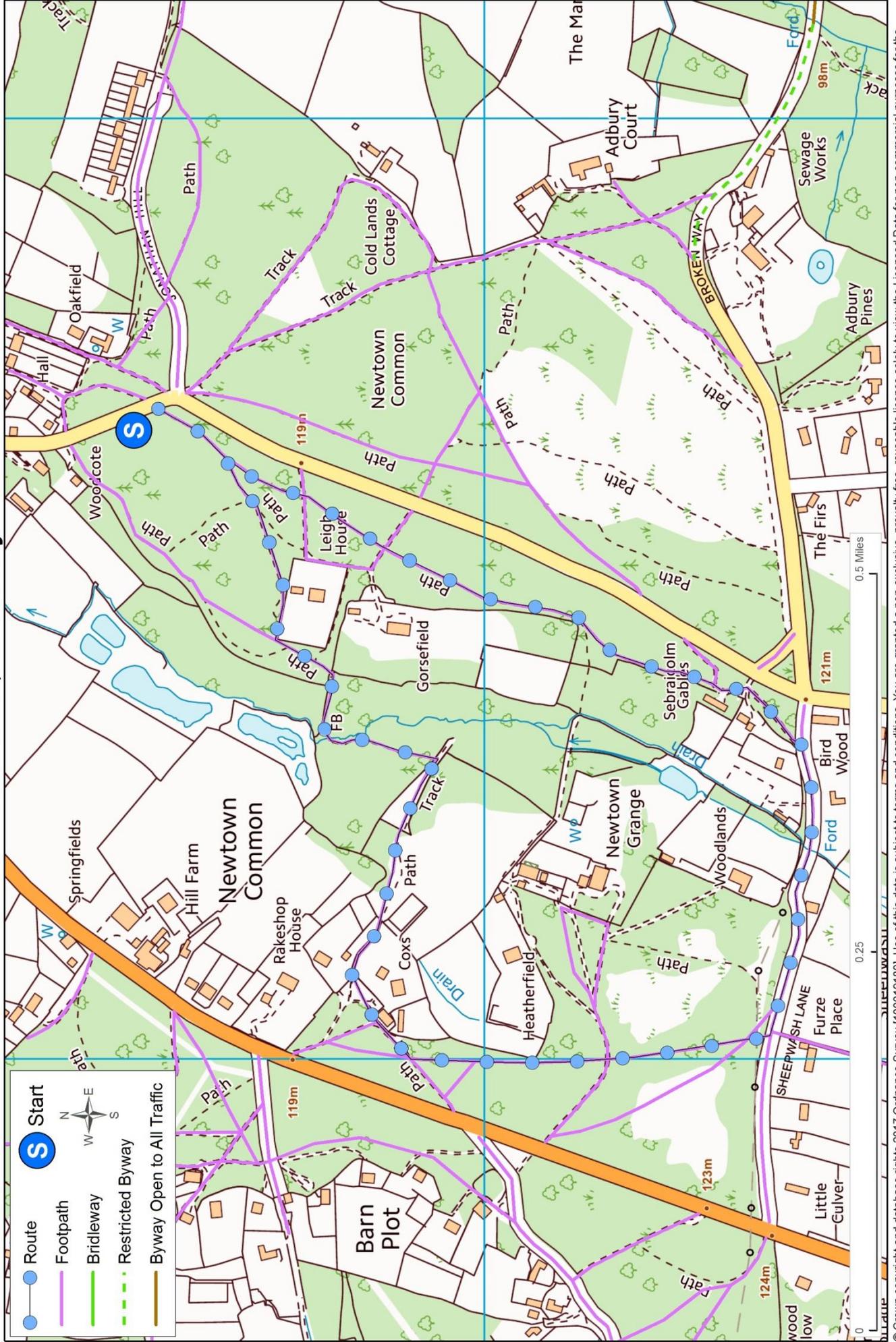
After crossing a small stream, follow the path through, turning right when you reach a gate "Private"; just before this you notice the rare Purple Toothwort your left. You should soon reach kissing gates on either side of a small field.

After the second set bear left at the end of an uphill, sunken path, passing cottages on your left. Follow path through woodland, across heathland and a narrow, tarmac lane reach Sheepwash, an unmade road.

Turn left and follow this downhill and over a footbridge to a ford. Follow this road as it climbs until you see a footpath branching off left just short of the brow of the hill and the Newtown to Burghclere road.

Follow the path through mixed woodland, past occasional houses on your left, until you emerge on the corner opposite Jonathan Hill.

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