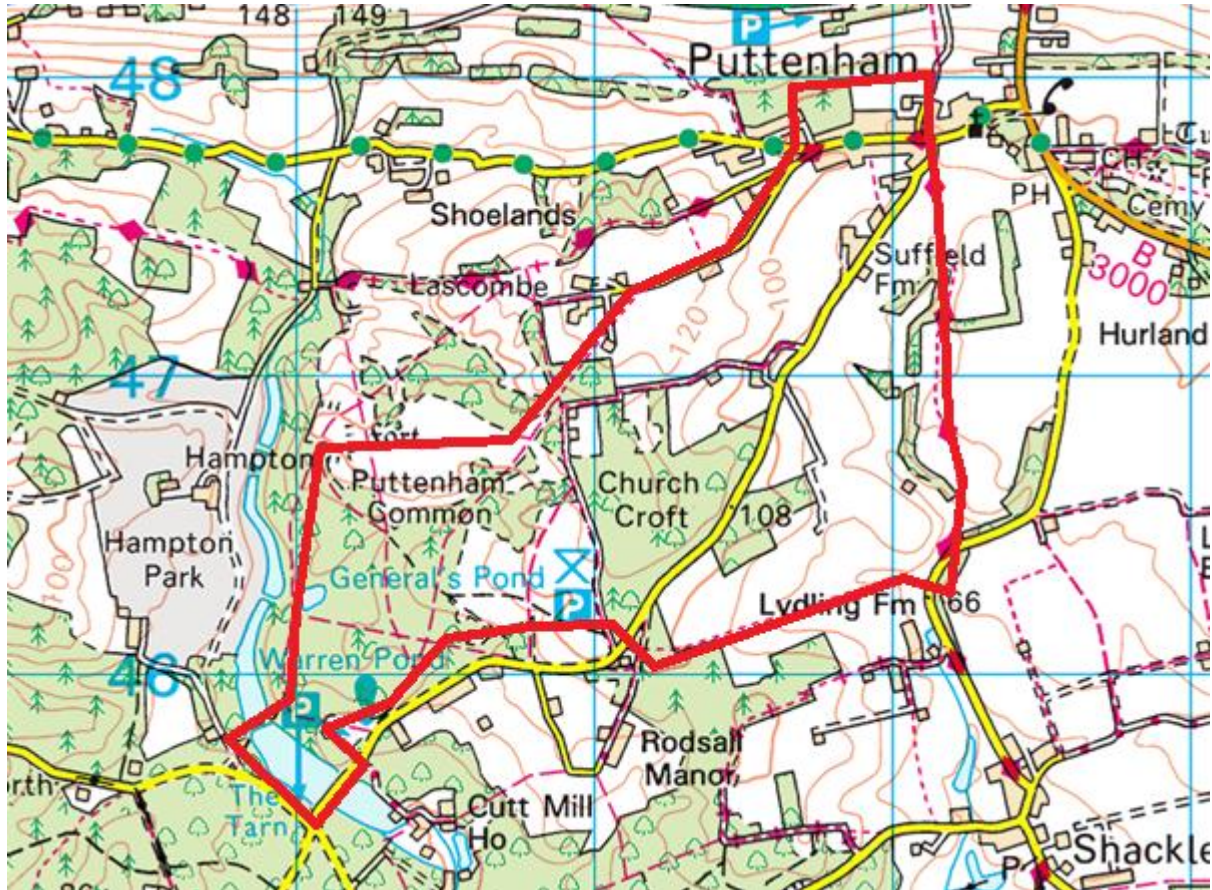


GCCC Winter Walk 2017

35 GCCC members, and four dogs, mustered at the Good Intent in Puttenham just after 9 on Sunday 12th Feb for a 9:30 start. We set off in good spirits heading north out of the village towards the Hog's Back before turning West past the village school.



We initially made good pace, and after a short excursion through the southern edge of the hop garden, we headed cross country towards Puttenham Common. The dogs were let off their leashes and hared off into the distance.



Wispa, refusing to sit still for the camera...

As we descended into the woods around Lascombe, we started to be overtaken by a local orienteering club who were very patient in navigating past our much slower moving traffic.

At this point, the ground started going soft as some members started to get bogged down in mud as those of us who cared less for our footwear (or were simply better prepared) started to draw ahead.

As we came on to Puttenham Common, the vanguard paused and waited for the bulk of the group as they negotiated a couple of tricky stiles.



Crooked man not pictured

As we approached our turnaround point at Warren Pond the ground continued to get increasingly muddy, causing much hilarity as the group tried to find increasingly tortuous routes through the mire.



Good for the skin, apparently. Luckily, no-one found out the hard way

We eventually managed to find safe passage and regrouped on Cuttmill Rise for the final loop back towards Puttenham and the warmth and safety of the Good Intent. There was some discussion about whether to head further into the country for a quick detour to Rodsall Manor, but by this time stomachs were starting to grumble and the lure of an early lunch and a well earned pint or two was simply too tempting.



Our glorious leader