

A WOOD GIVEN FOR EVER

In 1932 the Mayor of Canterbury, Alderman Frank Hooker, presented 107 acres of woodland known as Larkey Valley Wood to the City Council in order that it should be "reserved to the public for ever". The wood is a relic of an ancient and much larger forest. In the past it has been subjected to coppicing, a very common method of woodland management in Kent, which consists of cutting trees at ground level to obtain the timber and then allowing the stools to regenerate and produce a further crop every 10 to 15 years. This system has been found to be beneficial to wild life and has now been restored as part of the wood management plan. The importance of the wood as a wildlife habitat has been recognised and the site designated as one of Special Scientific Interest.

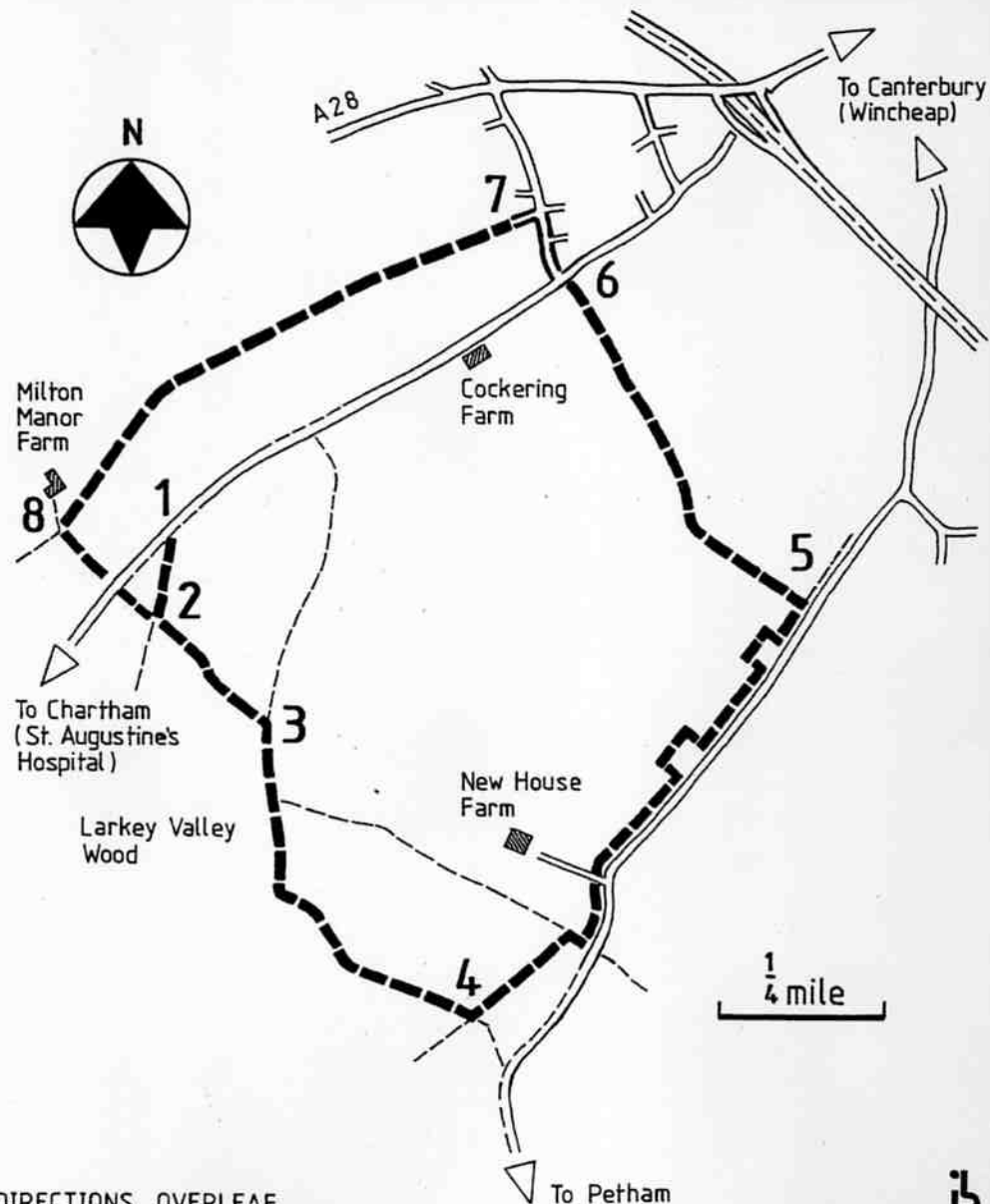
START: Larkey Valley Wood car park (Map ref. 123557). **PICNIC AREA:** In wood near car park (see 1 below). **NEAREST PUBS:** Fagge Arms, Chartham (opposite entrance to St. Augustine's Hospital) or Hop Poles and King's Head, Wincheap, Canterbury. **ALTERNATIVE START:** Strangers Lane, Thanington (see 6 below) served by BUS routes 400, 410, 667, 668 Canterbury to Chartham and beyond.

1. Take main path into wood from car park passing commemorative seat (and later PICNIC AREA) on left.
2. In approximately 250 yards turn left (Woodland Walk B) and continue on main path until it divides. Take left fork and descend to T-junction.
3. Turn right and again keep right at fork, ignoring sign to Woodland Walk B. At T-junction turn left and at end of wood go straight along edge of field to iron gate on left.
4. Go through gate and turn right. In a few yards a grassy path at edge of orchard is reached. Turn left and continue to hawthorn hedge. A little to the right pass through gap in hedge. Turn right to corner of orchard and then left following line of hedge. At end of orchard go through gap in hedge, across road and over stile. Follow edge of orchard (parallel to road on right) skirting house en route. Pass through line of poplar trees, keep to side of field and skirt pair of cottages. Regain direction and go on to stile, but do not cross.
5. Turn left keeping wire fence on right until fifth electricity pole is reached. Continue along fence on right or orchard to road.
6. Cross to Strangers Lane (straight ahead) and descend to bus stop (ALTERNATIVE STARTING PLACE) and electricity sub-station.
7. On opposite side of road a few steps lead to way between houses. After stile follow path, now fenced on either side, with houses on right. On reaching more open land keep to left of single fence to stile. Cross and make for left-hand edge of trees ahead. Go over stile next to blue iron gate and straight on. (Milton Manor Farm and, now redundant, tiny Milton Church of St. John are on right). Pass farm building beside line of path to field boundary.
8. Turn left and ascend to gate keeping grove of tall trees on right. Cross road a little diagonally to left and take short winding path through wood to main track. Turn left and regain car park.

Keep your Dog under Close Control

A Wood Given For Ever

A four mile walk from Larkey Valley Wood



DIRECTIONS OVERLEAF

By the Country Paths Group