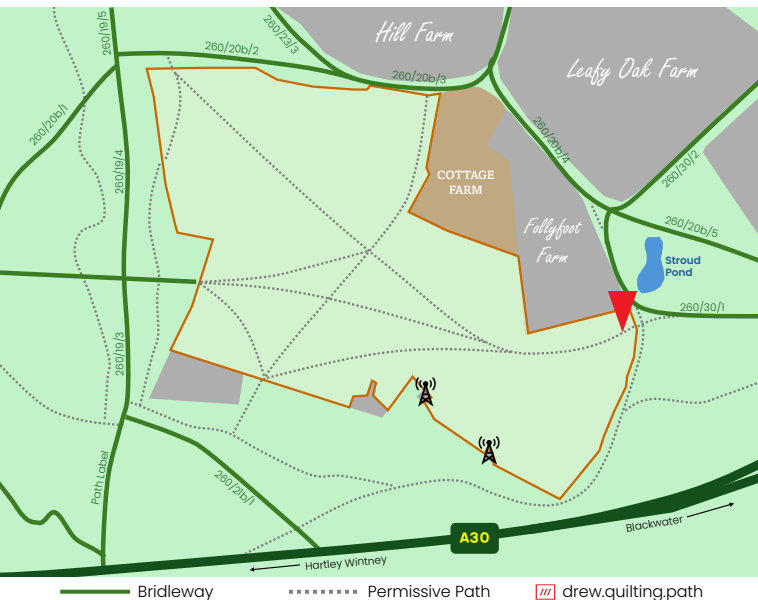


Welcome to **COTTAGE FARM** *fields*

These fields were opened to the public in 2025 as part of a Common Land exchange with Blackbushe Airport.

Cottage Farm fields are managed by contractors on behalf of the landowner, Cottage Farm Holding Ltd, and are maintained in accordance with an Environmental Management Plan.



Ground nesting bird season is
1st March – 15th September.

To avoid disturbing ground nesting birds
please stick to the suggested paths.



Please keep dogs under close control,
pick up after them and take it home!



It is an offence under Section 34 of the Road Traffic
Act 1988 to drive a motor vehicle on common land
(including off-road vehicles such as motorbikes and
quadbikes) without the landowner's permission.

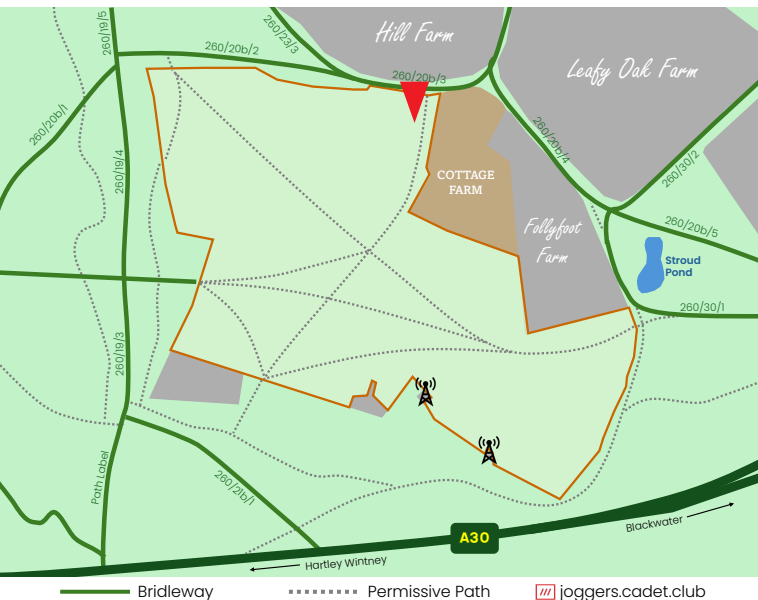


No barbecues or fires.

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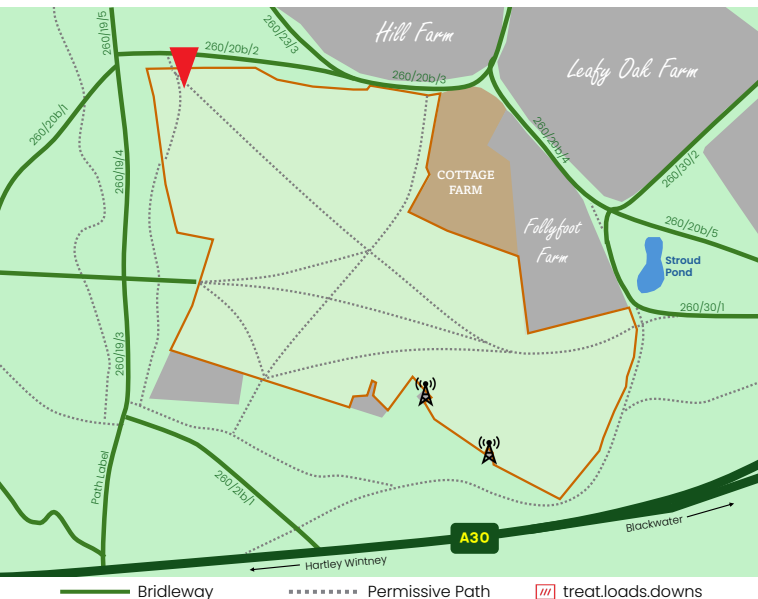


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— Bridleway Permissive Path prospers.twig.transit



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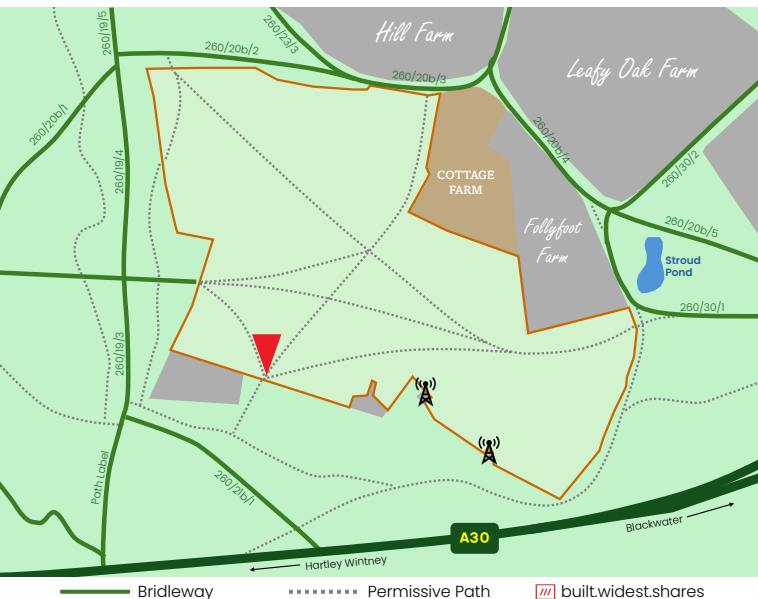


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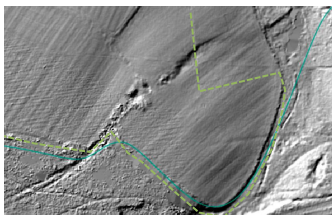
The History of **COTTAGE FARM** *fields*

AN ANCIENT FIELD STRUCTURE

The land at Cottage Farm is ancient, as testified by the large medieval ditch and mounds that surround it, which historically separated it from Yateley Common.

This land was progressively '**assarted**' (cleared of scrub, shrubs and trees), by hand, out of Ancient Woodland, the remnants of which were described by Issac Taylor in 1759 as 'Yeatty Wood'.

The assarting of the woodland created a landscape of irregular shaped fields with rounded corners, because it was more efficient to do so. However, it is also possible that the large medieval ditch could have once enclosed the Ancient Woodland.



*Lidar Image: HCC Archaeologist
Lomers Lane visible running from SW to NE corner
Cottage Farm outlined in dashed green*



*Drone Image: Blackbushe Airport Ltd 2021
Lomers Lane visible running from left to right*

LOMERS LANE

The linear depression that runs from the middle of the southern boundary, and curves down to the eastern boundary, on which stands a small group of trees, is all that remains of Lomers Lane.

This ran from a loam pit (loam is a soil that is a mixture of clay, sand & silt) in the vicinity of the Old Ely inn, down to Stroud Pool.

Cattle tracks on the Cottage Farm section of Lomers Lane and on the surrounding common show that cattle from the Welsh Drive were driven down Lomers Lane and refreshed at Stroud Pond.

Cattle were kept overnight in the fields and then driven over the common to the annual Blackwater Fair, which was the largest cattle fair in the south of England.

The retention of the lane after the land was assarted, demonstrates the importance of the route in accessing Stroud Pond which is on record as early as 1608. This made Lomers Lane an immovable feature of the landscape, part of which was still in use as late as the 1960's.

'Lomer' is derived from Middle English, the form of English used in England from roughly the time of the Norman Conquest (1066) until about 1150. It is composed of the prefix *lām* for loam and *mere* for pond, which presumably refers to Stroud Pond, which lies to the east of Cottage Farm.

With thanks to the Yateley Society for providing
the historical information for this board.