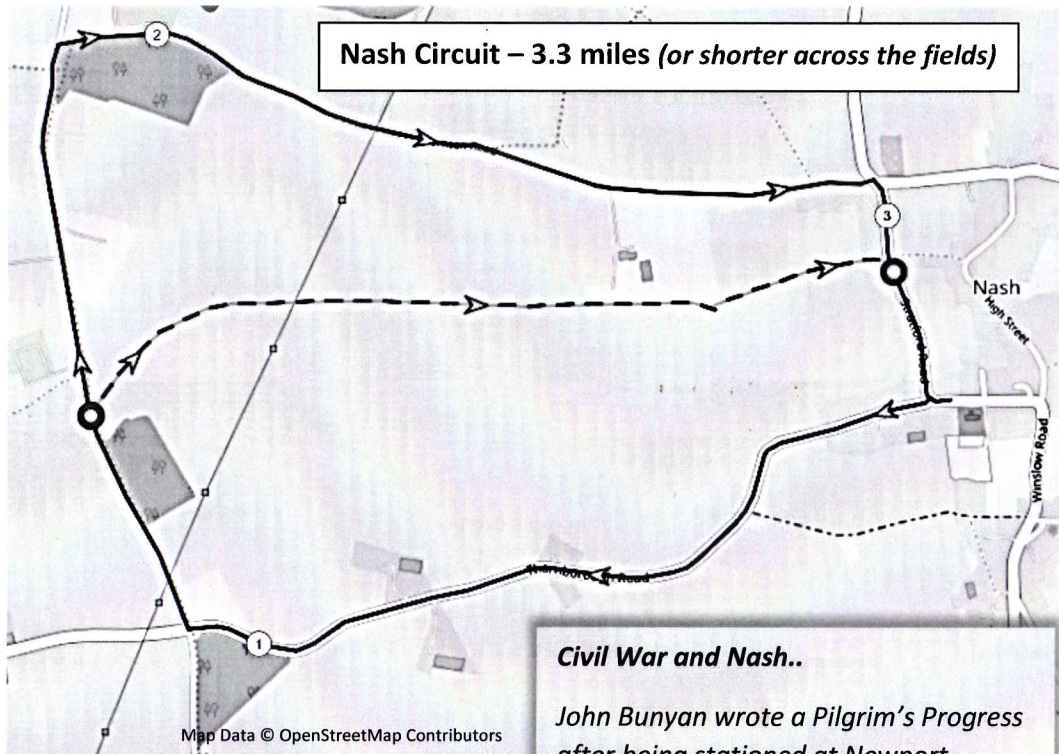


Nash Circuit – 3.3 miles (or shorter across the fields)



Civil War and Nash..

John Bunyan wrote a Pilgrim's Progress after being stationed at Newport Pagnell as part of the forces of Parliament. This was no mere billet. Newport Pagnell, like Aylesbury, was a stronghold for Parliament, with Cromwell's own son a cavalry officer in Newport Pagnell. But Buckingham was for the King and a frontier defence for the Royalist headquarters of Oxford. Nash would have been at the very centre of this vicious struggle with descriptions of the time defining the area as simply "contested territory". The imagination can only wonder at what horrors passed through the roads of now quiet Nash as both sides tried to seize its commanding views. One farm in the west of Nash is still known as Barrack Farm as Cromwell stationed a cavalry unit there.

Directions for Nash Circuit – 3.3 miles

Turn left out of the village hall and turn left taking the Thornborough Road. You will pass Barracks Farm on the left and then follow the road to 'Nash Brakes' and take the right turn towards Thornton.

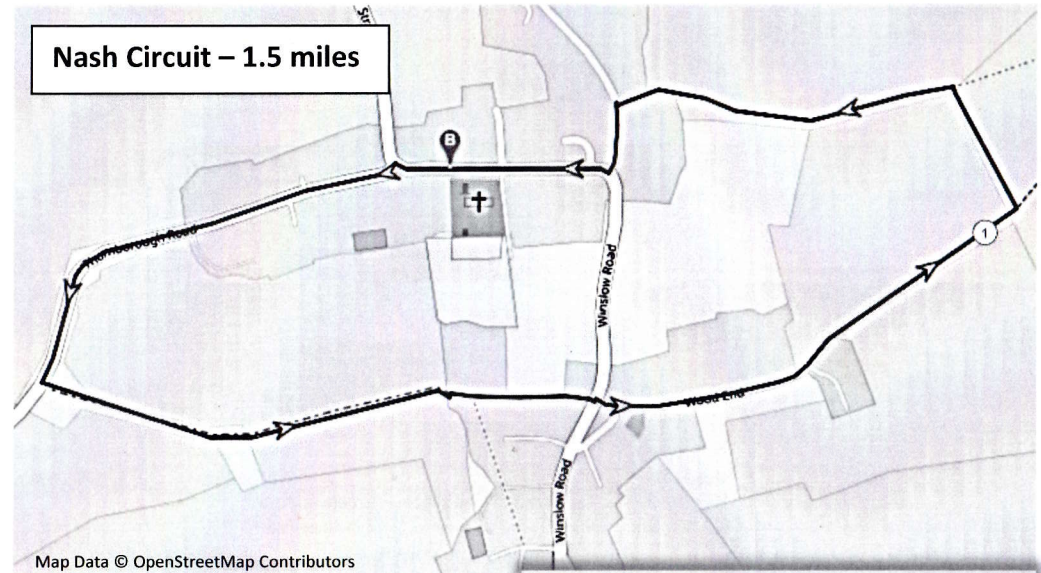
Halfway along this road is a footpath sign and this path will take you through the fields back to Nash (suitable if dry). If not continue onto the junction and turn right along the Thornton Road.

Turn right at the crossroads and return to the village hall via the Stratford Road.

Please walk responsibly and keep to the footpaths across the fields

Nash Little Big Walk – Raising funds for PACE and Nash Village Hall

Nash Circuit – 1.5 miles



Directions for Nash Circuit – 1.5 miles

Turn left out of the village hall, follow the Thornborough Road out of the village. After turning the corner a footpath sign can be seen on the left.

Take this path and follow it through to meet up with the unpaved lane that leads to the pond.

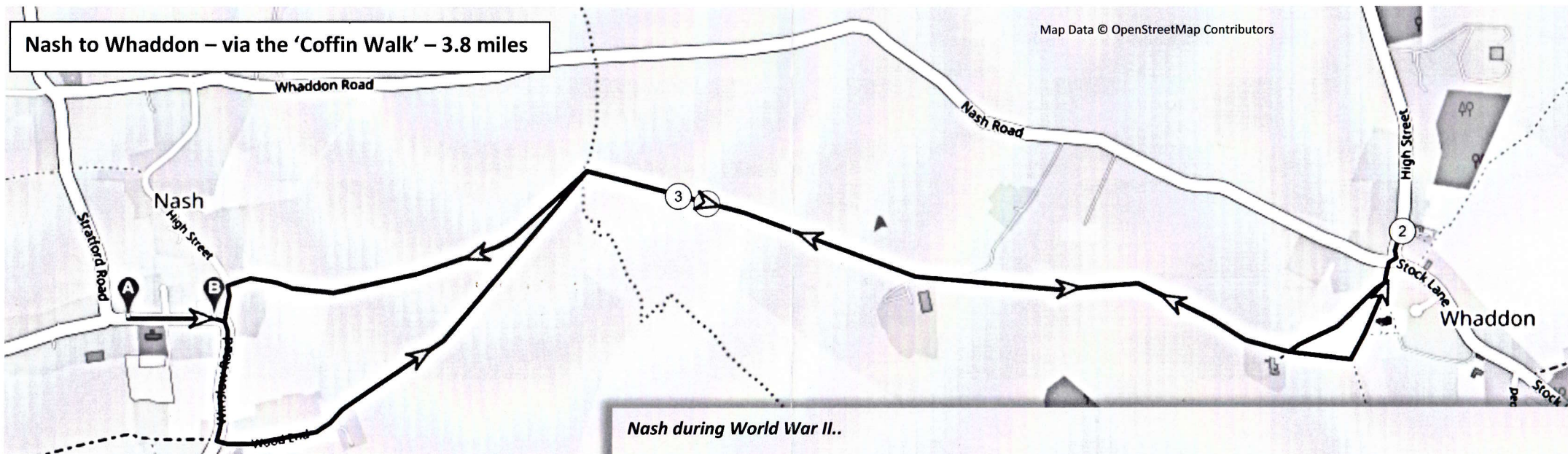
Circle back to the village hall via Winslow Road if you have had enough!.. or carry on across the road to Wood End and on to the footpath that was the 'Coffin Walk' to Whaddon.

After crossing the stile turn left and follow the hedge to meet the path that leads back to the High Street and return via Stratford Road to the village hall.

The 'Coffin Walk'..

For many years the Nash churchgoers used the church at Whaddon for worship and to this day, the footpath across the fields from Nash to Whaddon is still known as 'Church Way', or 'Coffin Walk', in deference to the final journey that many Nash residents would have travelled from Nash to the nearest consecrated burial ground of Whaddon church. The nineteenth century saw Nash separated from Whaddon by an ecclesiastical reorganisation and attached to Thornton where the church was within sight of the manor house, now Thornton College. The land owner there soon tired of watching Nash people burying their dead whilst he was enjoying his dinner and provided the funds for Nash to build its own church.

Nash to Whaddon – via the ‘Coffin Walk’ – 3.8 miles



Directions for Nash to Whaddon (and return) – 3.8 miles

Turn right out of the Village Hall and follow Stratford and Winslow Roads to the pond. Turn left into Wood End and follow to the end. The ‘Coffin Walk’ continues at the end of the lane. Follow the path along the hedge and down to the footbridge over the stream.

Carry on past the ‘Motocross’ track and onto the track of the farm for a short distance before joining the footpath that continues straight towards Whaddon church and up the hill. Either take the track towards Whaddon or continue up to the church (keeping an eye out for the concrete foundations of the Wireless Room that are to the west of the church as you look back towards Nash).

Whaddon Village Hall is to the right along Stock Lane or the public house is down the High Street.

Retrace your steps and after crossing the bridge again take the path to the right to bring you out by the High Street (where the Post Box used to be!!) and return to Village Hall.

Walking Routes prepared by Keith Hofgartner with historical notes by Des Hickey, taken from the draft Nash Neighbourhood Plan.

Nash during World War II..

The arrival of the 20th century was again to bring the combination of war and creativity to Nash. The importance of Bletchley is world renowned for its role in breaking enemy codes in the Second World War. It was chosen because it was half way between Oxford and Cambridge universities and in easy reach of London. Less well known is the role that Nash and, especially, Whaddon, played in the same period, as Whaddon Hall served as headquarters of Section VIII (Communications) of MI6.

The "Station X" wireless interception function was transferred here from Bletchley Park in February 1940. That facility served in a number of capacities, the most critical being the sending of Ultra intelligence from Bletchley Park to officers in the field. The term Ultra was used to convey the status of the messages, which were considered to be above Top Secret.

As if that was not enough, Whaddon Hall was responsible for the training of all Ultra radio operators working for UK forces everywhere in the world. To complete the range of ultra-secret work, all the equipment they used was built on site. Everything to do with secret communications during the war came from our small area of north Bucks. And Nash was no bystander in this. Somewhere in the village are the remains of a radio mast which was manned 24 hours a day for the entire war to send and receive secret communications with all of Scandinavia, especially agents and resistance forces in occupied Norway and Denmark, with some communications with France and as far as what was then known as Yugoslavia.

Nash was unusual in that its power was provided by batteries to ensure a smoother electricity supply, free of noise, so it could listen deeper into occupied territory. Though the radio listening station has gone, the battery building still exists. It is said that Nash and Whaddon are the last high ground until you reach Stockholm; an ideal site. We can be proud of the small but vital role Nash played in the fight for freedom during those dark years.