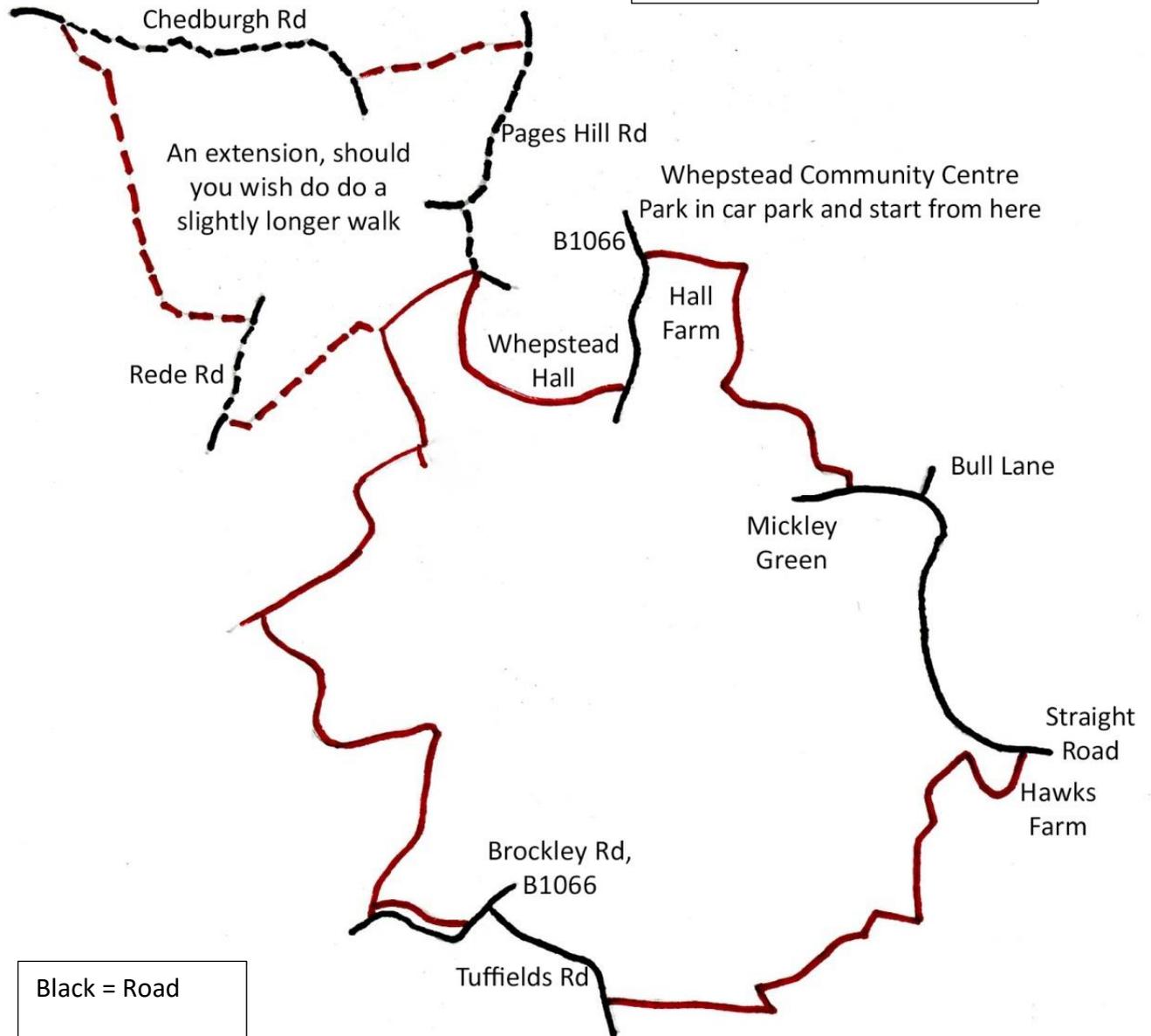


WALK 7: Whepstead



This walk should take you about 2 hours to complete – longer of course if you add on the optional extension. Start from the Community Centre car park by walking South along the road. A finger post at the start of the first field on your right will take you downhill beside the boundary of Whepstead Hall and you curve round to the right to join the road at the bottom of Church Hill. If you're doing the extension (no description here) turn left along the road: otherwise, almost immediately on the left is another finger post indicating a footpath. Take this, and you'll continue alongside a small stream (actually the R. Lark). After a short while take a left turn across a wooden bridge and continue along the left side of a field. At the end, a left turn across another bridge looks tempting, but you turn right, following the side of the field, then crossing it, where you go left. Continue following the field boundary and into another field. At the end, with a hedge of trees and shrubs on the left, make a left turn on the far side of this boundary and go along the left side of the field. Turn left into the next field and continue round the boundary again until, with a track appearing in front of you, you approach the B1066 road. (Actually, at one point in this last field a somewhat- hidden footpath sign indicates a path parallel to the side of the field between hedges.)

You don't need to go on the road as a footpath sign indicates that you can go left, along the field edge for a short distance till you need to cross the road and walk along Tuffield's Road for several hundred yards. A finger post on the left and a stile will take you into a meadow – which may be populated with cattle. (They were there in early June 2020 but took absolutely no interest in us other than watching us.) Go in a straight line, making for the furthest point at the opposite side: it's not a clear path; look for a bit of wooden fence or gate in amongst the foliage and make for it. I think there was a stile – anyway on exiting the meadow, turn left along the field boundary and follow it as it twists and turns, all the way to Hawks Farm (it's a big field). You need to go round the back of the farm buildings and find a path on the left at the far end of the property, just before a five-bar gate. This will take you to the road where you go left. You now need to walk for some distance, passing the houses of Mickley Green and the junction with Bull Lane. Just before the Chapel on the right a finger post shows you the way and you follow the field boundary, staying on the left side of the field. You should eventually see the farm buildings of Hall Farm on the left and just beyond, a gate on the left. Go through this (no footpath sign), slightly uphill, through a kissing gate on the left and the path will then lead you between fences up to the road. Turn right and you'll find the car park on your right.

Walked June 2020