

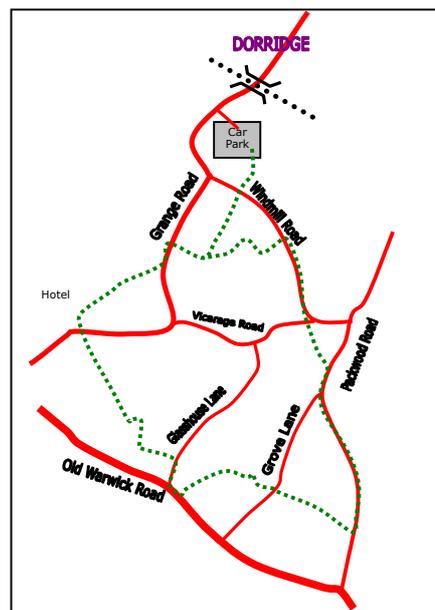
Dorridge & District Residents Association

A Walk from Dorridge Park to Packwood

This walk is around 4 miles and will take around 2 hours, exploring the fields to the south of Dorridge Park towards Hockley Heath and then returning via Packwood House. It starts from the car park in Dorridge Park which can be found from the centre of the village by going under the railway bridge, past the Total Garage on your right and turning left into Arden Road. Follow the road straight on and the car park is on the right at the very end.

The walk has a number of styles and is muddy when wet. There are no pubs on the route. Packwood House not only has house and gardens to visit, but on the opposite side of the road there are fields suitable for picnicking and playing games.

The pictures are from an early April day in 2006, so of course views will change as time goes by.



1. Cross the Park to the footpath at the south.



From the car park, walk diagonally to the left, joining the line of trees that cross the middle of the park, and on the far side there is a footpath with a walk way. As there are a number of springs around and it remains quite wet for much of the year.

2. Take the bridge and follow the path to the top of the field.



Cross the bridge. At the end of the walk way, continue up through the recently planted trees and eventually you will come out on a road (Windmill Lane).

3. Cross the road and follow the path.



Taking care crossing the road, traffic is light but passes at speed, follow the footpath, which passes through a couple of fields and two steel kissing gates.

4. After the last gate, go through newly planted trees.



After passing through the last gate, you will emerge into an area recently planted with trees. Follow the path through this area until you get to a place where several tracks meet.

5. Turn right and...



At the meeting of the tracks, turn right.

6. ...follow the track to the road.



7. Cross the road and turn left



Cross the road, and turn left. Just after the large tree on the right, there is a style.

8. Cross the style and bear left.



Cross the style and follow the path which goes diagonally left across the field to another style.

9. Don't cross the next style, turn left.



As you reach the style, turn left and follow the path by the hedge to the corner of the field.

10. Follow the path.



From the corner of the field, the path continues roughly straight on for some time, through a bushy area.

11. Cross the style.



Continuing on, cross the style.

12. Keep to the right side of the field,



keeping to the same general direction.

13. Pass through the gate.



Again keeping to the same direction keep to the path beyond the gate.

14. Emerge at the Aylsebury House Hotel.



Eventually you arrive at the driveway of the Aylesbury House Hotel. The right of way goes straight on, but we will take a liberty, turn left, and walk a few yards down the driveway to the road.

15. Cross the road and follow the track.



Take care crossing the road, traffic travels at speed along this road. Follow the track until...

16. Go straight through the gap.



...you find a small spinney to your left, and a wooded area ahead. The farm track bears up to the right but the footpath carries straight on through the gap, following the right hand side of the field, with the wooded area on your right.

17. At the end of the woods strike out left.



As the woods end, the footpath carries on to the left. In the far corner of the field, there is a style which we head for.

18. Cross the style.



As you cross the style, you will find it is actually a bridge across a stream. Carry straight on for a few yards.

19. Turn right through the gate.



At the top of the small field, there is a gate in the right hand corner. Turn right through this gate.

20. Follow the path until you reach the sleepers.



The path carries roughly straight on through a wooded area until it emerges across some railway sleepers. Turn left following the way marked trail.

21. Follow the edge of the field.



The path follows the edge of the field until a wooden fence is reached. The path goes along the left of the fence to the road.

22. At the road, turn right.



At the road, pass through the gate, (as ably demonstrated by my assistant), and turn right (the road is Glasshouse Lane).

23. At the main road, turn left.



A short distance down the road and you will emerge onto the Old Warwick Road. Turn left, keeping onto the verge if possible, traffic passes quickly along this road. Pass a couple of houses and then there is a style into a field on the left.

24. Cross the style, walk straight on.



Enter the field over the style. The footpath is more or less straight down the middle of the field. Carry on in this direction until you come to a high hedge.

25. Carry on with the hedge on your right.



Pass through the gap and the path carries on, bearing slightly right, along the edge of the field. You are heading to the right of the white house ahead.

26. Cross the style in the corner.



As you arrive at the garden, cross the style in the corner of the field on your right.

27. Join the road.



A few steps further on, the footpath drops down to the road on your left, by the entrance to the house. Turn right along the road.

28. Cross into Packwood House.



The road soon joins another road. Carefully cross over and hop across the style into the fields at the rear of Packwood House.

29. Follow the way marks.



Whilst admiring the views over the lake down to Packwood House, keep straight on and follow the way marked pathway.

30. Cross the style.



The marked pathway eventually arrives at a style and we cross this and follow the edge of the field with the fence/hedge on our left. Follow the field around a corner and eventually you will find another style.

31. Cross the style and bridge.



Cross the style and go across the makeshift bridge. Walk up the left hand edge of the field.

32. Walk up the field.



As you walk up the left hand edge of the field, you may see the striking new design studios on the left.

33. Pass through a private house.



The next bit of the walk passes unusually close to a bungalow. Follow the path keeping to the left of the house.

34. Keep to the left of the lawn.



As you arrive at the front of the house, the lack of an obvious path may make you a little nervous. You may be tempted to protect the lawn, but the footpath runs on the left edge, by the pool. Keep to the left and carry on across the lawn.

35. Drop down to the road.



Hidden from view down a slope at the front of the garden is a gateway to the road. At the road turn left.

36. Bear left.



The road immediately has a junction which we take, signposted to Packwood House. We walk some way along the road, so it is best to cross over to have good sight of any oncoming traffic as there isn't a suitable verge for walking on.

37. Carry on along the road.



Follow this road through Packwood House, where you will have a fabulous view of the Yew trees forming the Sermon on the Mount. Before that, keep an eye out to the right and you might see some interesting Highland cattle with some fearsome looking horns.

38. Pass through Packwood House.



Carry on past Packwood House. There are a number of paths that go off to the left, along with a good field for picnicking in which belongs to the National Trust.

39. Carry on past Grove Lane.



Still following the road, go up the slight hill and follow the major road past Grove Lane.

40. Enter the field on the left.



A few yards further along the road after the junction, there is a gate into a field on the left. Pass through the kissing gate and, ignoring the path straight ahead, turn right.

41. Follow the styles to the White House.



Looking ahead you will make out a series of gaps in the hedges which end up just to the left of the white house at the top of the rise. Follow this path until you reach the road.

42. Cross the road and carry straight on.



At the road, cross over and take the road straight ahead, Windmill Lane. Walk along this road for a while, passing a number of fields and houses until you come across a large dark hedge on your left.

43. Take the marked path on the left.



Passing the impressive entrance gates of Packwood Moor, there is then a track on the left, with a way mark. Take this track, pass Packwood Mill, a converted windmill, which is on your right.

44. Take the track to the right.



Having passed the mill, turn right and follow the track until you emerge in a field.

45. Follow the edge of the field.



Keeping to the right edge of the field, walk around two sides until you arrive at an obvious gap. Follow the straight track down the hill, where you will eventually meet the path you started out on.

46. Turn right.



After passing through the hedge at the edge of the field, you will see the path to your right with the recently planted trees and a small pond too. Turn right following the path and re-trace your steps, carrying roughly straight on all the way back to Dorridge Park.