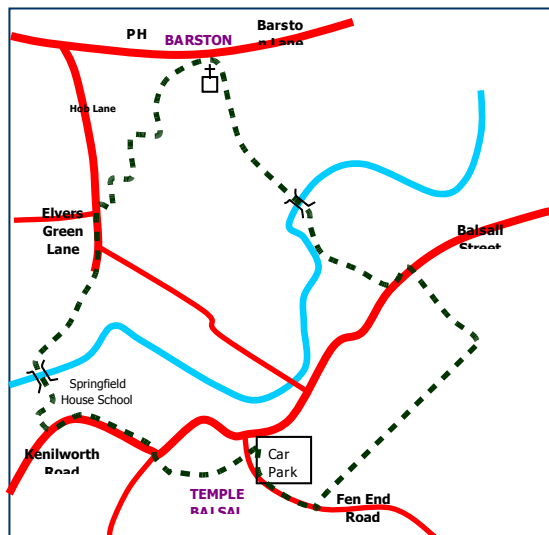


Dorridge & District Residents Association

Around Temple Balsall

This is a walk that is about 4 miles long that starts from [the car park opposite the school](#). To find the start from Knowle, take the Kenilworth Road and follow this until you reach [Temple Balsall](#). After passing Springfield House School in front of you, follow the road around a sharp left and then a right turn. There is then a turning signposted to Fen End on the right, take this and you will find the free car park immediately on the left. The walk is mainly around fields, and reaches Barston before returning to the car park. The route is taken from a book "Twelve More Country Walks" published by Solihull Council. Together with its partner "Twelve Country Walks", they represent an excellent collection of walks. Solihull Connect may have copies of individual walks, though the books are out of print now.



1: Leaving the Car Park



Leave the car park, turning left and crossing the road to a path called The Bread Walk, which is to the left of the bus shelter. This quiet little path takes you past the Alms Houses and St. Mary's Church which dates from around the 14th Century.

2: Continue Past the Alms Houses



Continue along the path until you reach the gate to the cemetery. There are different paths here.

3: Turn Right Through the Woods



The path to take is to the right, through the kissing gate.

4: Follow the Way-marked Trail



5: On Leaving the Woods, Walk to the Main Road



Turn right on leaving the woods, and at the main road, turn left, back towards Knowle.

6: Take Care on the Main Road



Crossing the road carefully so as to face oncoming traffic. The visibility is poor along this stretch with no pavement, so take care. Walk all the way to the sharp left hand bend, by the entrance to Springfield House. We do not enter the house, but follow the signpost at the road through the bushes, going straight on for a few paces until we find a drive.

7: Around the School



Turn right on the drive, ignoring the tempting stile ahead.

8: Further Around the School



A few paces down, turn left at the signposted footpath and follow this between the fencing, until you arrive back at another part of the school; do not enter the school grounds.

9: Further Around the School



After fighting through the building works (Winter 2005), turn left, still skirting the school grounds. (The footpath is way marked).

10: Further Around the School



(The footpath is way marked).

11: Across the Bridge



The Stately Home ancestry of the School is revealed as we leave its grounds via the kissing gate. The ornamental bridge allows access to the fields beyond. Cross the bridge and turn right, aiming for...

12: Head for the Red Barn



the right of the red barn. Cross the field diagonally, the path is feint, but you are heading in the direction of the barn, looking for the wooden gate.

13: Then to the gate



At the gates cross the stile to the left.

14: Then out to the Road



Follow the grassy track until you reach the roadway. From here, go straight on.

15: Along Hob Lane



Follow the road straight on.

16: Pass the Lane



After a while, you will reach a road junction. To the left is Elvers Green Lane (which would take you back to Knowle and the old ford across the River Blythe) with the brick house on the corner. Walk straight on past the junction, pass the gates on the right to the large house.

17: Find the Hidden Style



A few paces after the gates, there is a style hidden in the trees. Cross this. Follow the path around the fencing and you will come out in a field - still fenced in. Follow the path round the edge of the field.

18: Walk Around the Edge of the Field



As you walk around the field, eventually you will reach a style. Cross the style, turn left across another style and follow the left edge of the field by the hedging.

19: Up the Field



Stay close to the hedge on the left.

20: To the Corner of the Field



In the left hand corner of the field is a style, cross it, and carry straight on to the driveway. Carry straight on across the driveway across another style.

21: Straight Across the Fields



Follow the path across the fields, keeping roughly straight on, through some gaps in the hedging.

22: Keep Going



23: Head towards the House



You will eventually reach a field below the house with a broken style. The path turns right and follows the edge of the field.

24: Walk Round to the Right of the Barn



As you walk around the edge of the field, you will see fencing and an old barn. The path goes to the right of the barn.

25: Past the Barn into the Church Grounds



As you pass the barn, you will see a style. Cross this style and the path leads into the Church grounds.

26: Follow the Path Around the Front of the Church



Walk around the front of [St. Swithin's Church](#) (stopping to admire this 18th Century building if you wish).

27: Follow the Path Until it Turns



Having walked past the front of the Church, the path bends to the left to go down to the road. At this point, we turn right instead. This path passes a Medieval Cross which you can see on your right.

28: Leave the Church yard



Follow the path to the corner of the Church yard and cross the style, between the fencing, aiming for a style in the middle of the far side of the field, not right in the far left corner (which can be used for a longer walk).

29: Cross the Style



Cross the style, and turn left then right, swapping sides of the hedge so you walk down the grassy field with the hedge on your left.

30: Walk Down to the Un-gated Gap in the Field



Follow the hedge to the next field.

31: Spot the Hidden Bridge



The footpath then bears left at about a 45° angle to the left. By the large tree there is a bridge, head for it.

32: Found It!



Cross the bridge and turn right. (Mar 2008, now grassed).

33: Follow the Field Edge



We now walk around the field, keeping right by the River Blythe. This winds to the left, then turns more noticeably right. After the right turn, look for a way-marker in the trees on the right, which points our way left across the field.

34: Finding the Path



The path is difficult to pick up, and because of this there tends not to be a well trodden path to spot. About halfway along the field after following the river to the right, there should be a way-marker in the trees by the edge of the field. This marks the point where you strike out across the field, aiming for the left hand pylon in the picture. After a large dip, there is another waymarker, which marks the point to head left, aiming for the style at the edge of the field in the distance, near the corner of the field.

35: Leave the Field At the Road



After following the path as best you can, you will see the footpath signposts on your left where you will find a style.

36: Follow the Road for a Short Way



After crossing the style, ignore the footpath sign opposite, turn left and walk down the verge for a short while. On the other side of the road, you will see a wood where we will pick up the footpath.

37: Cross to the Path



Cross over the road (which if you continued on would take you to the Saracen's Head - you are the road from Knowle to Balsall Common). Follow the path by the wood. At the top of the path, turn right and follow the field edge with the hedge on your right.

38: Reach the Road



You will eventually reach Fen End Road West. Turn right down the road.

39: Nearly Back Home



nasty blind bend.

As you walk down the road, beware of traffic sprinting out from Temple Balsall. Just as you pass the football field on the right, before the speed limit signs, there is an entrance to a footpath back to the car park. Take this, you can see the school from the road across the corner; this will save walking around a

If you find any errors and omissions, please email info@dorrige.org.uk and we will update this information. Thanks.