

# Dorridge & District Residents Association

## Dorridge to Knowle, the Long Way

This is a circular walk of around 6½ miles takes around an 2½ hours. It starts from Grove Road at its junction with Knowle Wood Road; there is nowhere suitable to leave a car on Grove Road, so either walk from home or leave your car on Middlefield Road nearby. If coming from Knowle, then the best place to start is the Knowle Park car park on Longdon Road, starting from step 33.

This walk goes across fields to Norton Green Lane, across fields to the Heron's Nest, past Knowle along the canal, returning through Copt Heath Golf Club and Knowle Park.



The walk has a few stiles, a couple of which are not dog-friendly and is muddy when wet – unless the weather is exceptionally dry, assume you will need boots for a short section near the Heron's Nest..

The pictures are from a dull day in June, 2008.

### 1: Head down Grove Road towards Warwick Road from the Knowle Wood Road roundabout.



Stay on the left, continuing on until the pavement runs out. Traffic comes quite quickly down this narrow road, so stay on the grass verge until you are opposite the footpath sign. The path is hidden behind a large conifer.

### 2: Cross the road, head up the path



The path runs between two houses with high fencing on either side. Follow the path to the stile at the end.

### 3: Climb the stile and carry straight on.



### 4: Climb another the stile and carry straight on



Continuing along the same direction, follow the path to the left of the oak tree and you arrive at a stile onto Norton Green Road.

**5: Cross the stile and turn left.**



Turn left along Norton Green Road. Cross over to face oncoming traffic - the road is narrow and visibility is poor. Follow the road past Norton Green Farm.

**6: Past the modern bungalow, turn right along the footpath**



Just past the farm there is a newer bungalow, and the sign-posted footpath runs along the track beside it with very tall conifers. Continue forwards till the fence.

**7: After a few yards, climb the fence, carry straight on**



There are two footpaths over the fence which we cross using the stile, We carry straight on, following the hedge on the left.

**8: Cross the stile into next field**



The path goes between some hedging to arrive at a stile. Note: this section of the path is nearly always very muddy due to overflow from the pond to the left. At

the time of writing, there were some planks to balance on.

Carry on, this time keeping to hedge on the right, to the bottom right hand corner.

**9: Climb another stile**



At the field corner is another stile - dog walkers will have to help dogs across this one.

Continue on a similar line to another stile on the far side, about 10 - 20 metres to the left of the right hand corner of the field.

**10: Climb stile and left**



Climb this next stile - again, not dog friendly - and follow the path to the left, which then opens out onto a track which we follow all the way to the Warwick Road, near

to the Heron's Nest.

**11: Turn right, past the Heron's Nest**



On reaching the road, turn right, keeping to the verge. Go past the Heron's Nest to the bridge.

**12: Go down to the canal**



At the end of the bridge wall on the right is the access to the canal. Turn right down to the tow path,



**13: Go under the bridge**



Having joined the tow path, turn right along it to go towards Knowle.

We now continue along the tow path for a couple of miles, ignoring most opportunities to escape to civilisation.

**14: Go past Knowle Locks**



**15: Continue past Kenilworth Road**



Stay on the towpath to the left as the track goes up to the road.

**16: Keep on the towpath**



Several more brick bridges are passed, the next one accessing Kixley Lane (if you want to get quickly to Knowle).

**17: Not yet...**



After a foot bridge, you eventually come to a square concrete bridge which carries Hampton Lane, yet we still carry on.

**18: At the concrete bridge, leave the towpath.**



After another old brick bridge, the path still continues on through countryside, until a distinctive concrete bridge is found. Hidden to the right is a steep path up to a

stile which we cross.

**19: Go over the bridge then straight on**



Turn left over the bridge and follow the track to the stile. Go over the stile and carry on, keeping to the right of the field.

**20: Through gate to drive**



The footpath goes along the side of a house and arrives at a gate. Go through the gate to the drive and bear left, following a similar line as before.

**21: Turn left into field**



Halfway down the drive on your left, a stile appears. Cross the stile and head for the bottom left corner.

**22: Continue along path**



The field ends, and over the stile the path continues.

**23: Exit onto driveway.**



At the end of the path, join the driveway and then this leads to the end of a cul-de-sac.

**24: Turn right**



On reaching the road, turn right, and just at the bend on the other side of the road is a pathway.

**25: Go up the path**



Go along the path marked by the two concrete bollards.

**26: Right to the Warwick Road**



The path soon emerges by a large white house. Turn right and walk down the drive to the main road – Warwick Road.

**27: Cross to the path**



Cross the road (with care) and take the marked footpath over to the left.

**28: Walk the path**



Follow the path, which soon emerges on the golf course. Take care of the golfers as you stick to the road way.

**29: Pass by some farm buildings**



The track passes some buildings and arrives at a car park.

**30: Follow the fence.**



On reaching the fence, sign-posted for the practice area, stay to the outside of the fence, turn left and follow the fence around two sides of the field.

**31: Behind the tree is the stile**



The path turns left as the wooden fence runs out at a gate, and the fence turns into barbed wire. Keep following the obvious path as it twists around until it emerges on a road –

Longdon Road.

**32: Walk down the hill**



At the road, turn left and walk down the hill.



**33: Turn right into Knowle Park**



On the right, Knowle Park appears. Turn into the park and walk along the path until the junction.

**34: Bear right**



After a short while, a path appears to the right. You may note the tiles embedded in it for sponsors of the path. Walk to the far end of the field and follow the path left

around the edge.

**35: Through the rough hedge.**



Half way along the bottom edge there is a odd paved path through the hedge. Take this and on the other side go half left to the bottom left corner of the small park extension.

**36: Walk straight down cul-de-sac**



You have emerged onto one of several Starbold Crescents. Carry straight on and eventually you arrive at Purnells Way.

**37: Turn left to Station Road**



At the end of the cul-de-sac, turn left along the footpath of Purnells Way. Near the top, cross over to the telephone exchange and go onto Station Road.

**38: Cross to bridleway**



With care, cross over Station Road where slightly to the right of where Purnells Way emerges is a bridal way - a tarmac'd driveway also sign-posted to Greswolde House.

**39: Follow track to field**



field.

The track goes between Arden School playing fields and by a substantial mobile phone tower. The track then arrives at a gate into a field. Carry straight on to the end of the

**40: Turn right**



fencing.

Stay in the field, turning right along the obvious path by the hedge. Towards the end of the field, the path bears left through the trees, over a bridge and then between

**41: Follow the path**



The path arrives at a cul-de-sac, but continues between some wooden fencing just to the left, but following roughly the same line.

**42: Turn right back to the start.**

At the end of the path you emerge onto Grove Road. Turn right and you will return to the roundabout at the top of Knowle Wood Road.

If you have any problems, comments or suggestions on this walk, send them to us at [info@dorridge.org.uk](mailto:info@dorridge.org.uk). If you have any favourite local walks, let us know and we could publish those too.