

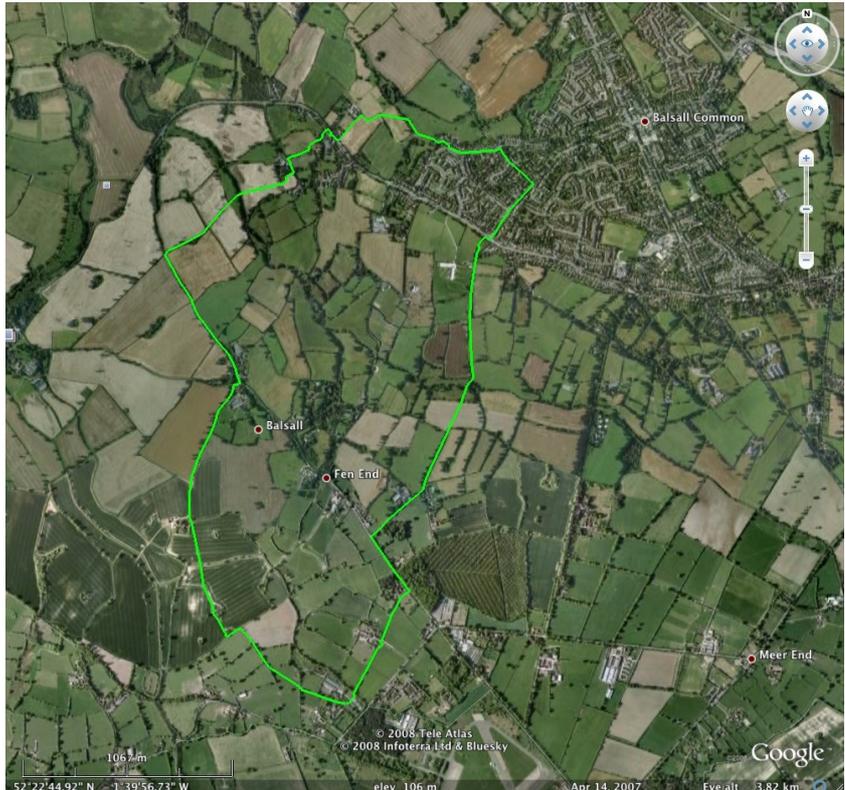
# Dorridge & District Residents Association

## Balsall Common South

This is a circular walk of around 5 miles takes around an 2 hours. It starts from the Saracen's Head which is on the Kenilworth Road, just before the start of Balsall Common. (From Knowle, take the Kenilworth Road, pass through the bends of Temple Balsall and it is on the right after a further mile or so). It is a private car park so you should ask permission to park there.

The walk has a few stiles, a couple of which are not dog-friendly and has a short muddy section when wet, so boots not trainers would be best. There is a section on Balsall Common village pavements, but it soon gets more interesting.

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



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|--|---|
|  | <p><b>1: Turn right from the car park</b></p> <p>Walk a few yards along the pavement. At the end of the Saracen's Head, cross over the road to the stile through the high hedge.</p>            |
|  | <p><b>3: Cross the stile to the next field.</b></p> <p>Hidden in the bushes is a stile through to the next field.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>2: Cross the stile and walk round field.</b></p> <p>The path goes around the left edge of the field. Follow the irregular field around, until you are at the bottom-most left corner.</p> |
|  | <p><b>4: Bear right</b></p> <p>In the next field, there are two paths, ignore the one straight ahead, and instead cross at about 45 degrees to a bridge and stile into another field.</p>       |

**5: Turn right towards the houses**



On entering the next field, bear right passing the culvert, and head towards the houses. As you get close, you will see a kissing gate by the single tree.

**6: Take the path**



Follow the path and then bear left on the road.

**7: Again, turn left**



Follow the cul-de-sac left to the major road, and then turn left at the junction (Needlers End Lane).

**8: Follow the road for a while**



Continue for a couple of hundred yards, passing a couple of turnings on the right, eventually you should see a footpath sign to the right, next to number 80. Take the track down the side of the house.

**9: Emerging through a fence, follow the same line.**



The track soon turns into a path, and emerges into a side road. Follow the same line, crossing the road, to a driveway opposite, which leads to an electricity sub-station, but more usefully, a path.

**10: Follow the path to the road.**



The path follows a straight line between houses, with a couple of gates to be passed through on the way.

**11: Turn right**



On reaching the road, turn right, crossing to the other side to walk on the pavement. Follow the road to the end where it joins the Kenilworth Road again.

**12: Go to footpath opposite**



Nearly opposite the end of the road to the right is a track to a gate.

**13: Go through the gate.**



The footpath sign is slightly ambiguous, the path goes through the gate on the right and follows the left hand side of the field.

**14: Through Another gate**



The path soon comes to another stile/gate. Keep to the left again.

**15: Leave field**



Following the hedge on the left, you arrive at a stile/gate out of the field. Turn right onto the track.

**16: Follow the same line**



The track soon emerges in a field. Follow the line of the track to a stile in front of the oak tree in the hedge ahead.

**17: Follow the hedge on the right**



After crossing the stile into the next field, keep to the hedge on the right.

**18: Go through hedge by the stile.**



There is then a kink in the hedge with a stile. Cross the stile and now follow the hedge on the left.

**19: On leaving the field, straight on**



At the end of this field, you then enter a rough boggy area. Head more or less straight on – the exit is hidden from sight.

**20: Find the bridge in the undergrowth**



Hidden under the hedge is a waymarked bridge which we take.

**21: Follow the path bearing right**



The bridge emerges into another small field. Follow the path which seems to be a right turn, but is essentially still following the same line as before.

**22: Continue along the same line**



You now arrive at a large field. Aim for the corner of the hedge opposite, where the footpath runs along the right hand side of the hedge.

**23: Cross the stile**



Crossing into the next field by the stile, walk in the same direction, keeping the hedge to your left.

**24: Straight to the lane**



On reaching the lane, carry on the same direction.

**25: Go along the track**



The tarmac turns into a rough track, via a gate.

**26: Left at the country road**



The track emerges onto a country road. Turn left, keeping to the verge as what little traffic there is passes quite quickly.

**27: Cross to the path**



Just after a white cottage on the right, cross to the signed path through a field by the garden and drive.

**28: Keep to the right of the field**



which leads to a stile. Cross, and make towards the hedge corner ahead, then follow the edge of the field, keeping to the hedge on your right.

**29: Turn left onto track**



Hidden from sight in the bottom right corner is a gate. Leave the field and turn left along the track.

**30: Shortly turn right.**



Turn right after the telegraph post.

**31: Walk in front of the barn conversion**



The path goes through a collection of chickens and turkeys and in front of the barn conversion you will see a gate on your left.

**32: Cross into the field**



Go into the field and keep to the hedge on the right.

**33: Cross the stile**



and carry on in the same direction.

**34: Follow the path to the right**



The path is then waymarked to the right, through a farm.

**35: Pass the chicken sheds**



Cross the farmyard and out onto the track.

**36: Turn right**



Now look for the stile in the hedge opposite, a few yards along from the farm gates, which at the time of writing was rickety and well hidden.

**37: Cross the stile**



Having found the stile, cross into a grassy paddock.

**38: Turn right**



Go diagonally across the paddock, to the right, through the gap in the hedge.

**39: Bear right**



Bear right to the kissing gate, exiting the paddock.

**40: follow the path**



Follow the path along the fencing.

**41: Carry straight on**



Carry on the same line, keeping the hedge to your right.

**42: Cross stile.**



Cross the stile and bear right.

**43: Carry straight on**



Cross the stile, and then go diagonally across the field to the bottom right corner.

**44: Carry straight on**



Cross into the next field, following the omnipresent Heart of England Way.

**45: Carry straight on**



Cross another stile, and stay on the left of the field.

**46: Cross the unusual stile**



Now turn left over an unusual wide and high stile. Follow the hedge on the right.

**47: Cross the stile after the oak tree**



Hidden behind the oak tree is a stile. Cross this and follow the hedge on the right.

**48: Turn right through undergrowth**



Just before the hedge turns right, opposite the tree in the middle of the field, there is some undergrowth, and the path turns right. At the time of writing, the waymarks were hidden by vegetation. If you follow the edge of the field round to the right you have gone too far.

**49: Follow the hedge**



The path emerges in a field - keep to the hedge on the left until it turns away.

**50: Strike out across the field**



After the hedge turns away, follow a similar line ahead, heading up the hill to the corner of the field by the high hedging surrounding the farm house.

**51: Carry on down the concrete track**



The field ends, and carry on straight down, joining the concrete farm track, again in a similar direction as before.

**52: At the road, turn right.**



The track runs for some way through fields. At the road, turn right, staying on the verge as it is on a blind corner.

**53: Cross to the path opposite**



Diagonally opposite on the road there is a footpath. Cross carefully and go down the path.

**54: Emerge into more fields**



The path comes out into fields. Stay on the right of the field.

**55: Carry on the same line**



The path goes through several fields. Stay on the same line, keeping to the hedge on the right.

**56: At the crossroads of paths, turn right**



Eventually, you arrive at a corner of a field, where there is a stile ahead, and a gap to the right. This is a footpath that runs right to left as well as straight on. We turn right, following the Heart of England Way.

**57: Keep to the right**



The footpath now follows the same line through several fields, passing a pylon.

**58: Carry on**



**59: And on**



**60: And on**



**61: Until a wooded area**



where we keep straight on to the left of the field by the wooded area.

**62. Turn left on the track**



**63. Shortly, turn right**



A few yards on the right, is another footpath which carries on in roughly the same direction as before.

**64. Keep to the right of the field.**



The path keeps to the right of the field until almost at the cottage garden. Here the path swings left to the middle of the field and then to the right again to leave the field.

**65: Turn left**



Follow the road to the main road, emerging back at the Saracen's Head