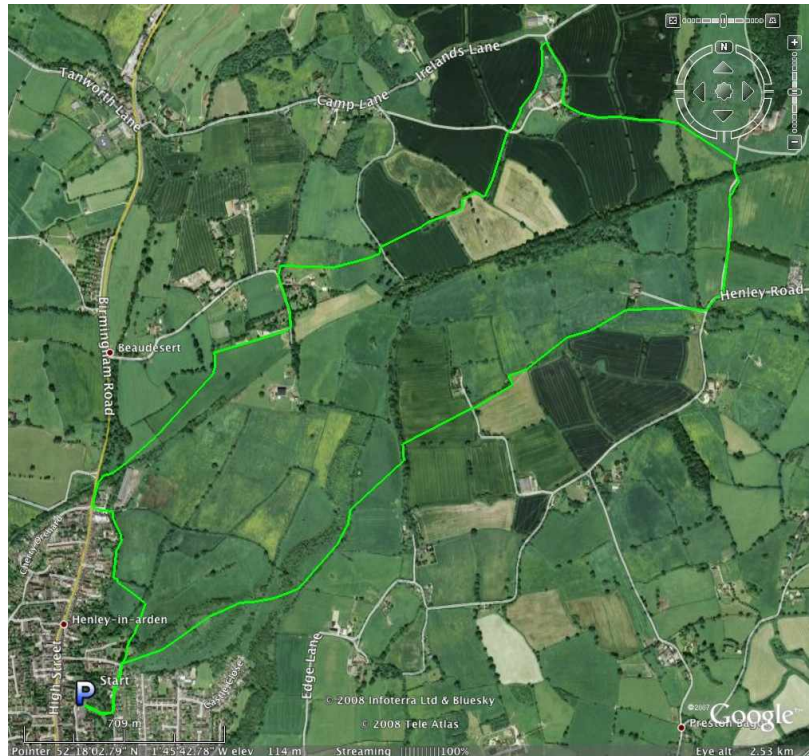






Dorridge and District Residents Association Henley-in-Arden to Irelands Farm

This walk of about 4 miles starts from behind the High Street and loops north and then east through farmland. Although it is mainly farmland, it is a walk where you will see kestrels and buzzards and perhaps even some deer near Irelands Farm. It returns over the site of Beaudesert Castle which rises to the east of Henley.

The walk starts from a free car park near the Henley Medical Centre. Coming down the A3400 from the north, at the traffic lights at the far end of the High Street, turn left and pass the Ford garage. Take the next left, Prince Harry Way and follow the car park signs through the rat run until you find the car park. (I do not recommend parking on the High Street itself as there is a 2 hour parking limit).



The walk has a number of stiles, nothing too challenging and is dog friendly – nothing a reasonable sized dog cannot scramble under.

<p>1. Leave from the back of the car park</p>  <p>Having parked in the car park, leave by the path at the rear, by the medical centre, past some swings on your right and a pond on your left.</p>	<p>2. Cross the Bridge and Right</p>  <p>Having followed the path, you soon arrive at a footbridge. After crossing, take the footpath left with the brick wall on your right. This soon opens out into a cul-de-sac. Follow this to the road bend.</p>
<p>3. Go ahead to the cemetery</p>  <p>In the very corner there is a kissing gate into the field on your right. Walk a few steps up the hill and take the wooden gate on your left. This passes through a cemetery, roughly following the same direction as the road you just left.</p>	<p>4. Bear left in field</p>  <p>The path passes through a wooded area then emerges in a field with several paths across it. Take the leftmost path which goes down to a kissing gate in the trees on the left.</p>

5. Go across bridge



field.

Crossing the bridge after the gate, the path turns briefly right then left through another gate to go roughly straight ahead to a gate near the bottom right of the

6. Go through kissing gate



turn right.

There is a gate into a field with a path which we ignore. Instead we go through the kissing gate, turning towards the houses, then at the stream,

7. Follow the path by the stream



8. At the lane, turn left



After a few steps up to the road, turn left and emerge at the top of Henley High Street. Turn right, leaving Henley.

9. Walk along



take.

After leaving the buildings, pass by the brick wall of an old railway viaduct, and shortly after on the right there is a waymarked footpath which we

10. Follow the path



The path is obvious as it goes through the trees.

11. Follow the path across the fields



The path crosses fields, slowly drifting to the left, through a stile.

12. Follow the same line



Aim for the end of the hedge on the left which turns away.

13. Find the gate in the corner













house ahead.

As the hedge turns the corner, follow it to a kissing gate. The path continues to the right, keeping to the fence, heading for the right of the

14. Cross the stile and continue on



The path returns to the main field, sticking to the fence on the left.

<p>15. Turn left at the road</p>  <p>The path emerges at a lane. Turn left and follow to a junction.</p>	<p>16. Go to the right of the white house</p>  <p>Continue forwards, passing the junction. Note: the footpath we are heading for was diverted a few years ago, and maps may show the footpath being before the junction. Ignore the maps!</p>
<p>17. Find the path on the right</p>  <p>After the junction, there is a stile on the right. We head straight up to the top of the hill, through a couple of gates.</p>	<p>18. Continue to the top</p>  <p>Follow the same direction to a stile at the top of the hill.</p>
<p>19. Bear left</p>  <p>Cross the stile. The path bears left to a field</p>	<p>20. Cross the field</p>  <p>The path heads straight across just to the left of the clump of trees ahead.</p>
<p>21. Follow the field to the corner</p>  <p>At the corner of the field, pass through to the next field.</p>	<p>22. Go through the gap</p>  <p>After a gnarly tree, the path takes to the right of the hedge. Follow the edge of the field, with the hedge on your left.</p>
<p>23. Go through the gap</p>  <p>At the large break in the hedge, go through and follow the next field with the hedge on your right, which turns into a wooded area as you turn the corner of the field.</p>	<p>24. Continue the same line</p>  <p>Eventually the woods to your right give way. Follow the track ahead, following a similar line, ignoring a crossing farm track.</p>

<p>25. Continue the same line</p> 	<p>The track continues up towards and to the left of the farm buildings. As it rises up the hill, a new fence starts and the path follows on the field side of this fence.</p>	<p>26. At top corner, turn right</p> 	<p>As you reach the top of the field, the hedge bends to the left. Just at this point, the shrubbery ends, and there is a gap in the hedge to join the entrance to Irelands Farm.</p>
<p>27. Turn right to Irelands Farm</p> 	<p>Follow the gravelly track until the building directly in front of the path.</p>	<p>28. Take the grassy track left</p> 	<p>As you arrive at the various converted houses, take the wide track to the left. (Note to dog owners: although mainly arable, the farm here has loose animals and birds so dogs should be under proper control on leads).</p>
<p>29. Follow the track until a farm gate</p> 	<p>The track eventually reaches a metal farm gate. Pass through and continue across the field on the same line. The fallen tree has been there a couple of years and seems unlikely to go any time soon – its good habitat.</p>	<p>30 Cross stile and bear right</p> 	<p>On the far side of the field, go through a gate and cross the stile, then follow the field edge, bearing slightly right.</p>
<p>31. At track turn right</p> 	<p>The path arrives at a farm lane. Cross the stile and turn right. <i>Note: if you did the Claverdon to Lowsonford walk, you might recognise that this track is walked in the other direction.</i></p>	<p>32. Cross the bridge</p> 	<p>Crossing the bridge, which is over the same long abandoned line as mentioned in step 9, continue on until you meet the road.</p>
<p>33. Turn right</p> 	<p>Turning right, follow the road round the bend to another footpath on your right.</p>	<p>34. Up track to hedge</p> 	<p>Turning up the farm drive, cross the cattle grid and follow to just past the hedge ahead.</p>

<p>35. Bear left</p>  <p>Noting the odd little sign, go diagonally left to the far field corner. (Until recently, there was a lonely kissing gate which did not have any fence either side for company).</p>	<p>36. Straight on</p>  <p>Go through the gate, keeping to the hedge on your right.</p>
<p>37. Bear left through gap</p>  <p>Having passed through a gap in the hedge, bear left towards the trees on the brow of the hill, then follow the left edge of the field. (Note: at time of writing there was a new hedge being planted, the path may follow between two hedges in the future).</p>	<p>38. On through next field</p>  <p>Pass through a gate, and on across the field, on a similar line to the far left corner of the next field.</p>
<p>39. Pass through the small copse</p>  <p>The path briefly passes through a wooded area.</p>	<p>40. Follow the right edge</p>  <p>In the next field, follow the right edge of the field around the kink, and up to the top right corner.</p>
<p>41. Cross the track and straight on</p>  <p>At the corner, the path crosses a track, and goes straight ahead across next field.</p>	<p>42. Into the bushes, turn left</p>  <p>The path now goes left along a narrow wooded area for a few metres.</p>
<p>43. Turn right at stile</p>  <p>Keeping an eye on the rough hedge on the right, eventually a stile appears. Cross into the field and go diagonally to the far left corner.</p>	<p>44. Cross style</p>  <p>Instead of being dismayed by the array of non-functioning gates as Coral is here, cross the stile and take the obvious path ahead/left.</p>

45. Follow path

Follow the path ahead along the ridge, admiring the views right. It splits occasionally, but joins again.

46. Bear right

At the end of the ridge, the path bears right down hill at a point where there is a stile to the left (which we ignore).

47. Follow the path

The path is straight-forward to follow and having just turned slightly right, it then follows a straight line back to the start. It goes up over the top of

site of Beaudesert Castle.

48. Descend back to civilisation

Having crossed the hill, the path descends back to a gate. This is the cul-de-sac at the start. Turn left, following the road until it turns into a

path. The path emerges at the park, cross the footbridge on the right to return to the car park.

If you have any comments or suggestions on these walks, please contact us at DorridgeResidents@googlemail.com.