

Description of Walking Route

The walk begins at the Arrow Valley Lake Car Park off Holloway Drive. Leave the car park towards the Lake, turning right to follow the River Arrow. The river, to the right, is initially canalised but soon moves into a more natural state.

Turn to the left and follow the lane up the hill. This was, before the 1960's, the main route to Henley in Arden and Warwick. Ascending the slope, Ipsley Church and Ipsley Court can be seen. Ipsley Court has been largely redeveloped but Ipsley Church remains an attractive country church. St Peter's Church was thoroughly restored in 1867, but evidence remains of the much earlier construction work..

Continue along the road past the Church and take the path on the right down towards the main road. Bearing right you will reach a footpath parallel with the main road. This path follows the route of Ikniel Street, a major north-south Roman Road from the Fosse Way to beyond Watling Street.

Continue to walk along the path which follows the route of Ikniel Street. After about ¾ mile turn right along the path next to the recreation ground. Within the woods that appear on the right there has been found evidence of a medieval forge. After a short distance there is a left turning across a small bridge.

Taking the left turn goes to Washford Mill. This can be missed out by forking right.

The River Arrow lies on the right and follows its traditional course and has not been significantly altered.

To the left are open fields which are maintained for recreational purposes.

Following the route to Washford Mill involves crossing a major road, Washford Drive. However there is an underpass next to the river.

Washford Mill was one of the earliest needle mills in Redditch and was the original manufacturing site for Millward's needles.

It is now a restaurant but still has its mill pool and waterwheel.

Return by the same route back to the junction.

Returning to the starting point, the path follows the River Arrow.

This section of the River Arrow follows its ancient route and is joined by a small tributary, Ipsley Brook.

Continuing to follow the path, on the right are Ipsley Cottages. These were close by Ipsley Mill, an industrial needle scouring mill which no longer exists.

The area known as the 'arboretum', was used as a tree nursery to provide trees for the whole of Redditch. It is not a real arboretum, but it does have a number of interesting trees. The woodland floor is home to many woodland plants.

The route is retraced to the starting point at the Arrow Valley Lake.

HistoryWalks

around Redditch

Arrow Valley Park
South

This is a circular walk around the southern portion of the Arrow Valley Park.

Distance: approx approx 3.5 miles (5.5 km)

Terrain: Country Park tarmac paths.

Large Car Park by Arrow Lake

The southern area of the Arrow Valley Park was scheduled by the Development Corporation as an area for sports and recreation. The large flat area has a number of football pitches and other sports facilities.

Within this area is Ipsley, which was mentioned in the Domesday Book.

The attractive Ipsley Church was largely renovated and rebuilt in the 19th Century, but there are numerous earlier features dating back to the 13th Century.



The map used for this walk is from www.OpenStreetMap.org and is used under an open licence.

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