

# Description of Walking Route

The walk begins at the original town centre at the crossroads (now the pedestrian crossing) by the Ecumenical Centre.

Turn left and walk down Bates Hill. On the right is a gate and a wall. This was the entrance to the Redditch Methodist Chapel which was demolished, for no obvious reason, by the Development Corporation. Continue through the underpass under the ring road and pass through the alleyway between the buildings and cross the footbridge over the railway. This footbridge is a small section of the original which crossed the railway goods yard from Hewell Road to Bridge Street.

Turn right into Elm Road and then left into Cedar Road. Opposite the school entrance is Cedar Park Road. Turn right into this road and on the left is 'The Cedars'. This was a farmhouse which was remodelled in about 1840 for Samuel Allcock, the fishing tackle manufacturer. It is now a nursing home. Return to Cedar Road and continue along. At the junction with Bridley Moor Road is the 'Batchley Club' which is based in the buildings of Bridley Moor Farm. This has been substantially extended but the upper story of the original farm house can be seen above the extensions.

Bear left and follow the path in front of the school down to the stream. Cross and turn right. The stream is Batchley Brook which runs down to the Abbey Meadows. This is a tributary of the River Arrow and one of the feeder streams to the Forge Mill Museum scouring mill. Arriving at the main road (Hewell Road) you pass the housing development on the site of the original Swimming Baths. These were originally constructed as an open baths in 1882.

Turning right into Hewell Road and passing the entrance to Bridley Moor Road, you pass the full extent of the Royal Enfield factory. This existed from 1907 to 1967 and was one of the major manufacturers of motor cycles in the U.K. It is now the area of the Enfield Industrial Estate and there are still some of the original buildings to be seen along Hewell Road. Continue along until you arrive at the railway bridge. This bridge dates from when the railway was extended in 1868 from its station in Clive Road to the new station at the bottom of Unicorn Hill. Further along, on the right, is the Railway Inn (rebuilt 1938), so named as it was the nearest tavern to the original Clive Road Railway Station when the railway reached Redditch in 1859.

Turn left into Clive Road. To the right, at the top of Mill Street, is Prospect Works a mid 19th century former spring factory, part demolished and converted into apartments. Continuing down Clive Road is the site of the Allcock factory, which was the largest manufacturer of fishing tackle in the world. The actual site was in the area before the remaining traditional building, but this is typical of its style.

At the end of Clive Road turn right into Birmingham Road. Opposite is the factory grouping which was originally British Mills, a needle and fishhook factory with an adjoining house, built for Samuel Thomas about 1840. Now residential and business units. Continue up into the town (Prospect Hill). At the top of the hill on the right is the Red House. This house, now offices is late 18th century with mid 19th and 20th century alterations. Continue along Church Green West to return to the start.

# HistoryWalks

around Redditch

## Town Walk– North

**This is a walk around the North of the Town Centre. It includes original industrial sites and the railway line.**

**Distance: approx 2 miles (3 km)**

**Terrain: Urban footpaths. road crossings, traffic . inclines.  
Car Parks in Kingfisher Centre and throughout the town**

**This walk involves the area North of the town centre where can be found the original sites of the Royal Enfield Motor Cycle Company, the Allcocks Fishing Tackle Company and British Mills.**

**It includes the route of the railway to Redditch with metal footbridge, a road bridge and the original site of the Railway Station.**

**Visiting 'the Cedars' the home of Samuel Allcock, the original site of Bridley Moor Farm, and Batchley Brook, which is a feeder stream for the Forge Mill Needle Museum scouring mill, the walk gives a fascinating view of times past much of which is still visible.**



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**E-mail: [tony@redditchwalks.org.uk](mailto:tony@redditchwalks.org.uk)**

**Website [www.redditchwalks.org.uk](http://www.redditchwalks.org.uk)**

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