

Description of Walking Route

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

Walk down Unicorn Hill and over the railway bridge next to the bus station. Edward Street, on the right, was the site of the Abel Morrel, needle manufacturing works. None of the buildings now remain. The next road is Britten Street and the Ashleigh Works, on the corner, was a needle and fish hook manufacturer.

Turn down Britten Street and at the bottom turn right into Bridge Street and walk to the bottom of Edward Street.

The building on the corner of Edward Street, which is now a manufacturing unit, was a public house, the Fox Inn. On the opposite side of Bridge Street, is Holyoaks Field first school, this was originally known as Bridge Street School. This is one of the oldest existing schools in Redditch, dating from the 1930's. Return along Bridge Street and continue along the path between the allotments.

At the end of the path is the Valley Stadium, the home of Redditch United, a football team established in 1891. Continuing on is the Recreation Ground which was given by Herbert Terry to Redditch townspeople.

Cross the recreation ground and pass through the gap in the hedge about halfway down. Follow the path and emerge onto Bromsgrove Road passing a factory unit which was the Redditch Laundry.

Turn left into Bromsgrove Road passing on the right the Queens Head. This was at the extremity of the town (hard to believe today!) and was a welcome pause for travellers who arrived in Redditch along this important route. Further along, on the right, between houses, there was a needle manufacturer, part of the original factory was incorporated into a housing development. Continue on and take the path on the right opposite the pedestrian crossing. This is Musketts Way which runs through to Birchfield Road.

After about 100 yards, on the right there is a sharp drop. This is now housing, but it was a clay pit providing the raw material for the principal manufacturer of bricks in Redditch. Continuing on is ancient woodland which is a remnant of the forest which originally covered the whole area. Visit this area using the many walks. Return along the path and take the surfaced path on the right between building. On the left is Holmwood. This is now residential apartments but dates from 1893.

Turning right and walk down Purshall Close to Plymouth Road. The wood on the left is Holm Wood which is protected by the Woodland Trust. Turn left into Plymouth Road, into the Memorial Gardens and left into the old town cemetery. This cemetery dates from the end of the 19th century and contains the monuments for many famous Redditch manufacturers. Spend some time exploring this and return to Plymouth Road. Continue on to the railway bridge and return to the start.

HistoryWalks

around Redditch

Town Walk– West

This is a walk around the western area of the town and includes the old Cemetery and the Recreation Ground.

Distance: approx. 2.5 miles (4 km)

Terrain: Urban footpaths. Grass path (recreation ground) Some road crossings, moderate traffic

Car Parks in Kingfisher Centre and throughout the town

In the early part of this walk around the west of the town centre, we pass through an early area of the town which was a mix of industry, housing, shops, public houses and a school. Much of this has now gone. It then continues through allotments to the recreation ground, passing the 'Valley Stadium', the home of Redditch United Football Club. Turning into Bromsgrove Road we pass the 'Queens Head' public house and, at the brow of the hill, turn into Musketts Way, a footpath through to Birchfield Road. Turning off this we pass Holmwood House and continue on to the old Redditch cemetery which has the graves of many well known Redditch manufacturers.



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