

The Roe Deer, Ridge Hill Wood and Friar's Gorse



Moderate Terrain

4.2 mile walk of two loops (1.8 and 2.4 miles) that can be walked as one or independently.



Access Notes

1. The route is relatively easy but does have some gentle ascents and one slightly steeper, short descent on the second loop of the walk.
2. There are stiles and kissing gates along the route.
3. The start and finish of both loops are on pavement but the majority of the route is on woodland paths or fields so suitable footwear should be considered.

The Roe Deer is the perfect pub for refreshments before or after your walk.

A figure of 8 walk with the Roe Deer at the centre, that can be easily broken into two, taking in Ridgehill Wood for a 1.8 mile walk and Friar's Gorse for a 2.4 mile walk. Combined walk time of around 1hour 45 minutes.

Getting there

The walk starts and finishes outside the Roe Deer pub, Lawnswood Road, just on the edge of the village of Wordsley, Stourbridge.

The pub has a car park and the post code for directions is **DY7 5QJ**.

The Walk

Ridge Hill Wood Loop

Proceed out of the pub entrance, passed the gatehouse and cross safely over the road onto the pavement opposite. Turn left and make your way up the hill.

Not far after the fork in the road you will see a gap in the hedge on your left as the road bends towards Wordsley. Cross the road here and walk through the gap in the hedge.



Walk up the gravel path, cross over the stile and turn immediately left into Ridgehill Wood.



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After around half a mile the path forks either side of a large tree. Stay left. At the next fork do the same, continue with the field to your left.



Continue on the track around the end of the wood, then past garden gates on your left and the beautiful wood rising above you on the right. A little later you will pass a new plantation of trees to your right.

Back over the stile and begin to retrace your steps to the pub.



Take care as the road appears in front of you. (There are some handy bins just up to the left on the brow of the hill if needed). Cross the road with care and turn right toward the pub.

It's here that you can choose to return to the pub for a well-earned pint or cup of tea, or if you fancy some more, then continue onto the second loop.



Friar's Gorse Loop

If you are continuing from the first loop, when opposite the pub entrance, go through the kissing gate on your left and take the path up to the left, walking along the right of the field with the hedge to your right. If you are starting this loop from the pub, the kissing gate is opposite the pub entrance. Cross the road carefully and follow the instructions above.



At the top of the hill follow the footpath sign right into a lovely little tunnel of foliage and trees (photo above).



Continue straight up the incline (when a path forks right at the end of the field at Friar's Gorse) and follow the path as it then bears left along the edge of the wood with the rolling fields to your right.

At the fork in the path by the burnt tree, bear right. In a few metres the path takes you down a steep decline. Turn right at the bottom of the hill. Walk along the path next to the fence.



When you get to the meadow, follow the path straight on. When the path splits and the right hand side rises, follow this higher path. (If you prefer, here you can take a little detour to the left on the lower path to look at the river and re-join the route a little further up).

Over the stile at the end of the trail. Turn right onto the pavement and follow up the road until you see the pub entrance.

Now time to put your feet up!

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and a map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.