

Odiham Society Walks

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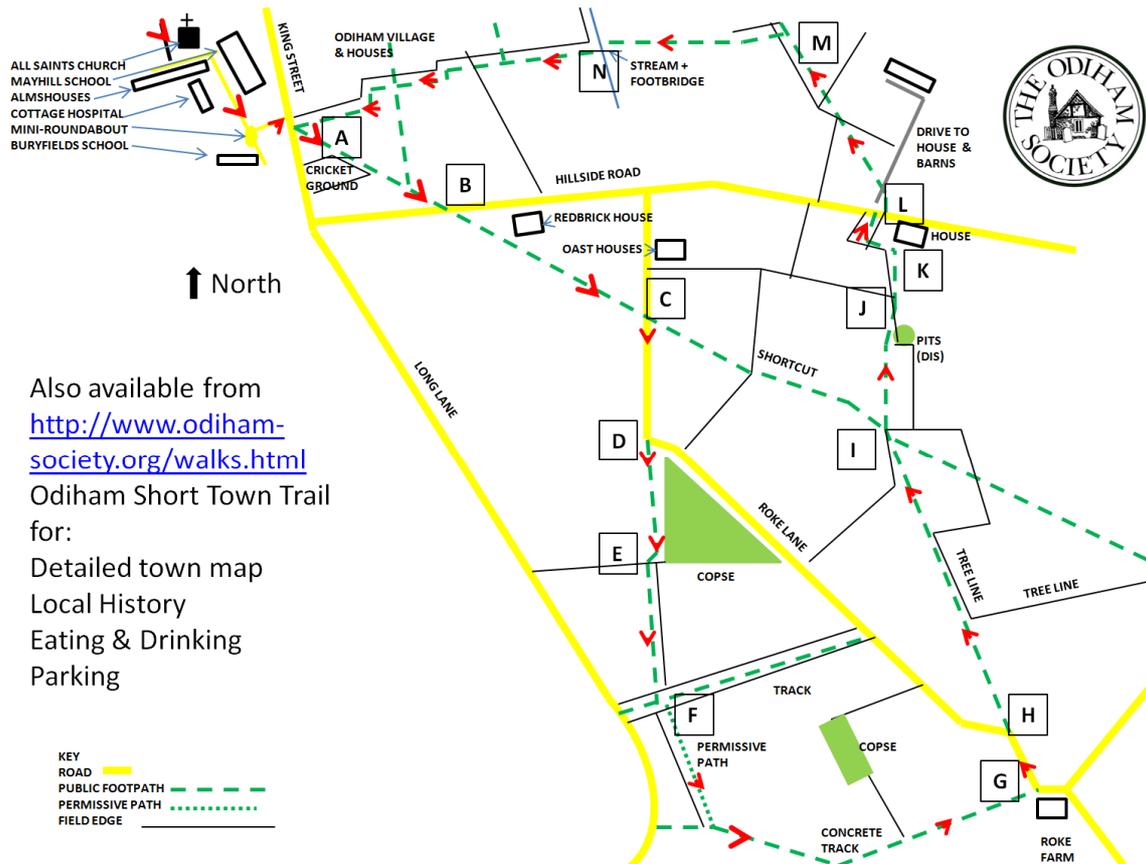
Walk via Roke Farm

Distance: 4 miles, around 2 hours

OR, with shortcut, 3 miles, around 1 hour 30 minutes.

Description: Circular walk from Odiham church over attractive farmland to the South of Odiham, much on high ground with good views over surrounding hills and valleys.

Difficulty: Moderate: gentle hills with some stiles. Paths across fields on this route are normally well-used & easy to see, except after very recent ploughing.



Directions

Start from All Saints Church in the Bury (just south of Odiham High Street) and take the path uphill past the church tower until you reach a minor road. Turn left here and then almost immediately right and follow the road past Mayhill School on your left, then houses, until you reach a mini-roundabout just before Buryfields School. Turn left at the mini-roundabout and walk a few metres down to King Street. Cross King Street and turn right down the hill for a few metres before turning left up a track. After walking up the track for a few metres you come to a field with lovely views across the valley – point A on map. Take the right hand footpath which descends diagonally down towards the bottom of the valley, passing the cricket ground on the right.

When you reach Hillside Road (point B on map), cross the road and take the footpath directly opposite, soon leading diagonally uphill across the field to reach Roke Lane (point C). Here you have a choice of routes – shortcut or full route.

SHORTCUT: Cross Roke Lane and climb bank opposite to broken stile. Cross first field to gap in hedge opposite, then turn slightly left to follow path ahead into next field. This path then veers right on the upslope towards a corner in the hedgeline (point I). Please go to Point I in instructions below.

FULL ROUTE: When you reach Roke Lane (Point C) turn right and walk southwards along the lane until you reach a bend (point D on map). Leave the lane here and keep straight ahead into the field and follow the path along the top of the field, keeping the copse on your left until you see a fence directly ahead of you (point E). A few metres before you reach the fence the path descends to the right to reach the end of this fence a few metres down the hill. Here the fence turns downhill towards point F. The path follows this fence, at first passing through a small thicket (care nettles/brambles) and then keeping the fence on your left until you reach point F. Here you cross the track, go to the left of the hedge ahead and follow a wide grassed field edge with the hedge on your right, looking down across a single field to Long Lane. This field edge path is a permissive path (2011) and you follow it until you reach a concrete track where you turn uphill and follow the track until you reach the farmhouse and barns of Roke Farm (point G).

When you reach the end of the track at point G, turn left and, with care, follow the narrow public road (Roke Lane again) for a short distance to the first bend (point H) where you leave the road and walk straight ahead across the open field, soon enjoying the views back to Odiham from this high ground. The path then follows trees on your right before crossing another open field to point I.

At point I you go through a hedge and drop down into another field. Ignore the path which goes to your left and take the path straight ahead (if this path is not clearly marked, e.g. after recent ploughing, follow the field edge to your right). The path reaches the opposite field edge by some trees – which are lining a disused chalk pit. Follow the hedge on your right which separates you from this pit. The path goes downhill through a small thicket (care nettles, brambles), keeping the hedge on your right until you reach point J at the end of the field. Climb over the stile in the corner of the field to cross the fence on your right. Follow the path with the hedge on your left until you reach the garden of a house (point K) where you turn left through a small gate. Keep the fence line on your left and go straight ahead across a stile. After climbing the stile, reach the stile at the opposite corner of the field by walking the 2 sides of the field, keeping the fence on your left.

Climb over the stile to leave the field and walk a few metres to Hillside Road at point L. You'll see a driveway on the opposite side of the road and if you look up this driveway you'll see a stile on the left hand side a few metres away. You'll be crossing this stile soon, but to get there you have to take the footpath just to the right of the driveway, keep left through the thicket for a few metres until you cross a stream on a few planks to emerge onto the driveway where you cross to the stile. Over the stile and follow the path diagonally to the far corner of the field. Then the path crosses a small footbridge and after this you turn left and follow the path until it passes through a hedgerow into a field, where you keep to the left-hand field edge with the hedge on your left.

When you reach the hedge at the end of this field (point M), turn left across a small footbridge and go straight ahead until the hedge on your right comes to an end. The path bears right here across to the far corner of the field (point N) where you take the footbridge across the small stream.

Now you stay on this path keeping the fields on your left and the hedge on your right. The path winds around the field edge as shown on the map and eventually brings you back to point A from where you retrace your early steps back to the start of the walk.