



# Short walks from Rowney Green

Always please:

- + Take your litter home.
- + Beware of electric fences.
- + Leave gates as you found them.
- + Keep to the public rights of way.
- + Take your dog's lead and poop-a-scoop.
- + Note that wooden planks, steps and stiles are very slippery when wet.



These walks follow way-marked paths (Yellow arrows) and bridleways (blue arrows). An ideal map for the area is the Ordnance Survey Explorer™ 220. These notes were first prepared by RGA volunteers in 1993 and. Also thanks to the Alvechurch Village Society volunteers for their hard work keeping our local footpaths open. Suggested longer walks are also available.

Abbreviations used:

VH, Village Hall. RG, Rowney Green. SO, straight on. TL, turn left. Etc.

# Try one soon!

Walk 1. VH - Gravel Pit Lane - Chapel Lane - VH.

1 mile. 30 mins.

The most popular walk in RG is the circuit around Lower RG via Gravel Pit Lane and Chapel Lane. A short variant is to take the footpath between these 2 lanes through "The Bishops", an attractive wooded area.

For many years the village shop/PO was on the corner of Gravel Pit lane. Do stop to see the shared chapel and its views as far as Broadway Tower.

Variant. - via Storage Lane and Woodlands Farm.

1½ mile. 50 mins.

From the VH, turn right and soon TL into Gravel Pit Lane. At the bottom of the hill go SO through the garden gate of The Homestead in Lower RG, over the FB, and up the field to a stile in the top RH corner.

In Storage Lane TL down the hill to cross the stile on LH side just before Four Winds. Go down the field on RH side to cross over the fence half way down. Look for signs of the old ridge-and-furrow farming in this field. Proceed with the hedge now on L to the field bottom.

Go over a stile and brook and so up hill to keep Woodlands Farm on your RH side. Keep SO with the hedge on R to a stile in the RH field corner, but do be careful here to not trespass on any driveway. This very old green lane arrives at a corner by stables. TL up the bridleway and continue SO up Chapel Lane to TL at the top back to the VH.

Walk 2 VH - Newbourne Wood - Alpine Lodge Farm - VH.

2 miles. 1 hour.

From the VH, TR along RG Lane. Opposite Gravel Pit Lane, TR onto the footpath, and follow the path as it rounds to the left, skirting a paddock with pine trees. **Newbourne Wood** on the R is a nature reserve owned by the Worcestershire Wildlife Conservation Trust and is open to all.

The path leads down steps to a stile, from where there is a spectacular view of Alvechurch and beyond to the Lickey Hills and Longbridge. Walk down the field with fence on R. Go SO through a hunting gate and over a stile to soon cross a FB. Continue through a kissing gate and over the field (on a line to the L of an electricity pole) to join a lane close to the bypass road. Alvechurch village is a short walk to the L, but we TR uphill. Go SO at Alvechurch Lodge Farm on a bridleway to reach **Alpine Lodge Farm** and so onto RG Lane. TR uphill back to VH, with good views on left over the fields towards Portway.

Walk 3. VH - Seechem - Lillicot Farm - VH.

3 miles. 1½ hours.

TL from VH to go along RG Lane. Down the hill take first TR into the drive of Rowney Green House Farm. Go SO taking the track through buildings (Emmerdale Farm) and gates into **Seechem** Equestrian Centre.

Keep SO across their yard through a gate and past the manor house to go through a gate ahead. On this path with the hedge on the RH side, go around Seechem Farm & Barns to reach their other driveway. TL to emerge on Ickniel Street near its bridge under the M42. TR passed Seechem Lodge along this old Roman road to **Lillicot Farm** & Stables on your right.

Take the public path to the right of the Stables and cross the field to a FB. TL over the bridge and soon cross a stile ahead. Now keep the hedge on LH side across 3 flat fields until a FB is seen on left. Do NOT use the FB but soon cross a stile on L. Soon TR over a bridge and then a stile ahead. Continue SO up centre of the field to stables, up the bridleway and up Chapel Lane to a T junction. TL back to the VH.

#### Walk 4. VH - Storage Wood - Dump House Farm - Pot End - VH. 4 mls, 2 hrs

TL from VH and soon TR into Chapel Lane. Where the lane bends right, carry SO down the bridleway. The late Harry Harborne's well-known poultry farm was here in the 50's, famous for breeding Rhode Island Reds. Continue SO over the stiles by some stables. Walk down the centre of the field and over the next stile. Soon pass a pond, cross a bridge and immediately TL to a stile. TR over the stile and soon TR again over a FB. Go SO up the field ahead with hedge on L, at least for the first part. On the hilltop is **Storage Wood** which is an ancient mixed woodland with many holly trees and from here there is an excellent view in all directions, and a particularly good one of Rowney Green. Look also for the buzzards that regularly hover above this area.

With the wood on your right, follow the footpath down towards Barton Farm (said to have been a coaching inn) where a stile to the lane is in the RH corner. TR along Icknield Street (a Roman road) and continue until you reach a crossroads, known locally as "Gypsy Corner". TL to the **main road** and TL again to go along it. Soon TR towards **Dump House Farm** where there was once an interesting shop called the "Treasure Trove" that up to 1988 also traded in Cotteridge, B'ham. Opposite the farmhouse go through a gate on the R and soon over a FB. Go SO through these fields with the hedge on the RH side which eventually meets a drive. TR along it to cross a much busier section of Icknield Street.

**Please take extra care here with pets and children.**

Enter the field opposite by the black and white pole. Cross the field diagonally to the far right corner to a stile. After 20 yards, pass through gate on the right, continuing in the same direction with the field boundary hedge now on your left. After 100 yards pass through a large field entrance with a rusty red post, and TR to continue with the hedge on your right.

At the field corner (just past a red metal gate), take the stile with wooden planks crossing a ditch.

SO ahead through an avenue of saplings, passing a pond on the right.

Aim for the gate in the hedge ahead crossing a small concrete bridge. Continue across two fields aiming for the driveway entrance of the modern house on your left. You will emerge on Storage Lane. This area is known as **Pot End**, a lovely picnic area in the 50s with lots of brown trout; alas, very few now.

Cross the road and stile, soon to a FB. TR and walk on with horse paddocks on the left and the stream close on RH side until you come to the stile on R leading into a garden (ignore the first stile into a field). This is Brook Cottage and there is a public right of way up the LH side of the garden to an alley past the house, following their drive to Woodbrook. TL here passed Jasmine Cottage which used to be a shop selling beer and the Homestead which had a priest's hole. Go up the hill passing Hillside, part of which was a chapel. This steep hill was once used to test drive motor cars from the Austin works. At the top of the hill, TR along RG Lane back to the VH.

