

Prees Walks

WALK 5 – Prees, Higher Heath and Twemlows



An anti-clockwise 5.6 mile circuit exploring the heart of the Parish and beautiful woodland

Route notes

1. The walk starts from Higher Heath village hall car park

NB. An alternative start is Prees Village Car Park – walk out of the car park and turn left up the hill and first left into Moreton Street. Walk for a quarter of a mile and pick up the route at point 12 below). This adds a mile to your walk.

2. Walk out of the car park (with the village hall on your right) and turn left onto Twemlows Avenue.
3. Cross the road and after 30 yards turn right up a track. After 100 yards the track bears slightly left. Follow the track for half a mile until you reach a road (Manor House Lane).
4. The route goes left on the road.

NB – A 200 yard diversion takes you to Holly Farm Garden Centre which has a great little coffee shop. To visit Holly Farm turn right instead of left onto Manor House Lane and then left at the A49. To re-join the route simply retrace your steps and pick up the route as follows.

5. Follow the road for 200 yards past Highbury Poultry factory until you come to a stile on the right. Cross the stile and follow the hedge line straight ahead. The hedge is on your right for a while and then switches to the left. Keep heading towards the farm.
6. When you draw near to the farm (Fields Farm) look out for a finger post on the corner of the track before the farmyard. Do not enter the farmyard – there is no right of way. Take a sharp right turn here (with farm buildings now on your left) and cross a very large open field.
7. There are few landmarks on this part of the route but try to keep walking in a straight line towards a gateway in the far hedge next to the main A49. Go through the kissing gate next to the field gate and turn left on the verge of the A49.
8. Walk on the wide verge keeping well away from the traffic for 100 yards until you come to another kissing gate on the left which you go through.

9. Head straight across the field, through another kissing gate and then take the path straight ahead up the hill. At the top of the hill cross the stile into a meadow.
10. Bear slightly right across the meadow to a metal footpath gate which takes you into a narrow snicket through to the road. It can be a bit of a squeeze here and do mind your head on the protruding roof of an overhanging shed.
11. At the road (Moreton Street) turn left.
12. Walk on Moreton Street past Moreton Farm (on your left) and then the road starts to go downhill. On a right hand bend in the lane go through a kissing gate on the left. Follow the field edge ahead of you with the hedge on your left.
13. There are some large pools here. Bear slightly left over a couple of stiles. Cross the main drive up to the farm and head for a further stile into a small paddock. Cross that paddock to a further stile and bear right to the corner of another paddock.
14. On the corner of the paddock fence bear slightly left across a field. Go through a couple of kissing gates and then bear left across a meadow. Head towards the house (Keepers Cottage) and just before the house go through another kissing gate in the hedge on your left. Walk across the yard in front of the house and down their drive until you meet the road at a junction.
15. Take the road to your right and walk along it to the end. On your right is a highways depot and on your left is a traveller caravan site.
16. Turn left at the T junction and then left at the crossroads. Walk along the verge until you reach the junction with the main A41. This is a major trunk road that runs from London to Birkenhead. At the road junction carefully cross the A41 directly to the stile opposite.
17. Cross the stile and then follow the path across a series of 6 stiles. At the end you reach a byway track and ahead is a kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and across the field. The path goes through another kissing gate and then across a sleeper bridge. Then go through two farm gates until you reach the edge of the wood.
18. Take the path to the left and into the woods. Follow the waymarked path which bears slightly left and runs parallel to the edge of the wood on your left.

NB. This part of Twemlows Wood has numerous paths criss-crossing it. The landowner (Shavington and Cloverley Estates) permits walkers on all established paths whether they are official Public Rights of Way or not. This permission applies to all the wooded area south of the tarmac farm drive at note number 21 below. North of the tarmac drive the woods are in multiple ownership and access has sadly become very restricted in recent years.

19. At the end of the path go through the kissing gate and bear right to walk diagonally across the middle of the field and head for a field gate. Cross the stile next to the gate and bear right down a track. Go through a kissing gate and then through a wooden gate into a snicket next to a beech hedge. At the end cross a stile onto the driveway for Beech Cottage.
20. Keep walking straight ahead into a small car park in the wood. Turn to the right. Walk away from the main A41 road and walk out of the car park on a well walked path taking you further into the woods.

21. Follow this woodland path bearing slightly left. Follow this path for half a mile through the woods until you reach a tarmac driveway. Twemlows Woods date back centuries although, during WW2 in particular, they were used intensively as part of the military camp that occupied much of Prees Heath. Since the war the woods have regrown. If you look carefully, you may see remnants of wartime activities – the remains of brick and concrete structures like ranges, blast chambers and military accommodation can be found all over these woods.
22. When you reach the tarmac drive turn left. Walk to the end where it meets the A41. Cross the road with care. Turn left and immediately right into Heathwood Road. Walk along Heathwood Road. Turn right when you reach Twemlows Avenue. Walk for 200 yards until you reach Higher Heath Village Hall.
23. You have completed your walk.