

WALKS AROUND WYRE

WALK 6



Wassell Wood Circular Walk

4.5 miles



'Grow With Wyre' is a landscape partnership, designed to encourage people to visit, understand and protect the unique landscape of Wyre Forest.

For more information please visit www.growwithwyre.org

Together we have developed nine new walks; Three are fully waymarked, six are available as downloadable maps with route description and three have the added option of an audio guide. For full details on walking opportunities in Worcestershire please visit: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside

Wassell Wood Circular Walk

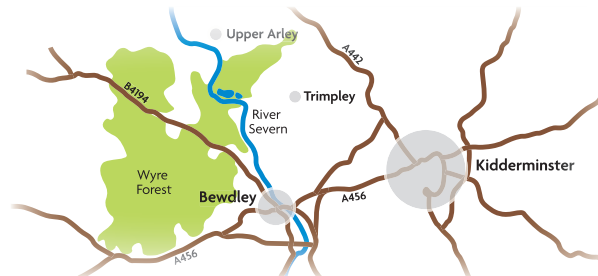
This walk will take you across the River Severn, under the line of the Severn Valley Railway and out into the fertile pasture land of the Wyre Forest. To cross the Severn you will use the road bridge, this is the third bridge sited at this location and was constructed by the Scottish engineer Thomas Telford in 1798. Sixty years later in 1858 work started on the Severn Valley Railway.

When you reach Wassell Wood Camp you will notice that it is situated at a strategic point on a small spur with extensive views of the surrounding area. The enclosure is 64m by 45m and was created by levelling the hill top. It is thought that the site may be late prehistoric, iron age or a Romano British settlement. The history of the camp extends across the centuries and it was utilised during the English Civil War. In Nov 1645 Sir Thomas Aston with a Royalist force set up camp in Wassell Wood, only to be attacked by the Parliamentarians under Captain Stone. The Royalists were defeated and Aston taken prisoner.



- Start/Finish: **Bewdley**
- GR: **SO 786753**
- Length: **4.5 miles**
- Parking: **Bewdley pay and display car parks.**
- Gates & Stiles: **7 pedestrian gates and 8 stiles.**
- Terrain: **Mainly farmland and road walking.**

A varied walk taking in the beautiful river port town of Bewdley, the industrial heritage of the Severn Valley Railway and the beguiling story of Wassell Wood Camp. An opportunity to experience nature, landscapes and history all within a stones throw of Georgian Bewdley.



Wassell Wood Circular Walk

- 1 Start outside Bewdley museum, use the pedestrian crossing and walk down Load Street to the River Severn. Cross the river.
- 2 From here you need to take the small road known as Riverside North after approx 10 metres join the public footpath on your right. Follow this path up through the caravan park and out onto Northwood lane.
- 3 Turn left and follow the road for 200m then use the public footpath on your right, taking you under the line of the Severn Valley Railway.
- 4 From here head off up the dingle until you get to the corner of the field.
- 5 Follow this enclosed track over the stile, and on to the end of the field. Cross another stile into the next field, walking with the hedge on your right hand side until you reach Crundles lane.
- 6 Turn left after the cattle grid and proceed for approximately half a mile along the lane, the road discontinues and becomes a bridleway at location 7.
- 7 Follow the public bridleway through the enclosed track and then out onto farm land, continue until you arrive at the large metal field gate.
- 8 Go through the field gate and follow the public bridleway markers, through another gate until you get to Halls Farm.
- 9 Go through the metal field gate, be sure to leave the gate as you find it. Then go through the farm yard and bear to your right following the public bridleway markers along the farm track. After approximately 500 metres you will reach a cross road.
- 10 Turn right and head downhill towards Bewdley for approx 300 metres, taking extra care on this busy stretch of road. After 300m or so you will see a gateway on your left hand side set back from the road. Use the wooden pedestrian gate to enter Wassell Wood.

- 11 Why not take this opportunity to take a look at the Wassell Wood interpretation board which has been provided by the Woodland Trust who own the site. From here follow the track up the slope to your right until you come to the entrance to the Wassell Wood camp earthwork where there is another interpretation board, use the stile or field gate and walk up to the earth works when you arrive.
- 12 Feel free to explore Wassell Wood Camp which possibly dates back to late prehistoric times.
- 13 Leave the camp by the same way you came into it, this time head off left down through the woods. You will reach the bottom corner of the wood marked by another gateway with interpretation board.
- 14 Leave the wood and head down the Hoarestone lane again taking care on this busy stretch of road, after 100m on your right hand side you will see a public footpath fingerpost.
- 15 Cross the stile next to the large field gate and walk with the hedge on your left hand side until you come to another stile go over it and turn almost immediately right over another stile.
- 16 From here you need to head left across the field, cutting off the bottom corner of the field until you get to another stile.
- 17 You can see a small bungalow slightly to your right across the field. Head for the right hand side of this and cross over 2 stiles. Then you will find yourself on a tarmac lane in front of the bungalow.
- 18 It is now all road walking back to the start of the walk, so continue down the small lane for approx half a mile until you reach Crundles lane, turn left, then right onto Grey green lane.
- 19 Follow Grey Green Lane all the way down until you reach the main Kidderminster to Bewdley road, follow the pavement back into Bewdley passing under the Severn Valley Railway and over the River Severn. When you return to the museum you have finished your walk.

