

Village Green to Ridge

6.5 miles, from 2 to 3 hours. The Old Guinea in Ridge is the mid point on this walk. Once a pub, it is now a pizza restaurant. Much of this walk is on paths over farmland which are ploughed, seeded and only perfunctorily reinstated. Wear boots or wellingtons and expect mud except in the very driest weather.

(1) Starting from the village green (off the southern end of High Street) in front of the Green Dragon public house, follow the marked footpath over the concrete footbridge. Continue straight over the wooden footbridge, through the kissing gate and follow the hedge line straight onwards, through a gap in the hedge with the rear of Sainsburys Superstore on your left, to the foot of the M25 embankment. Climb the steps and turn left onto the footbridge over the M25 (2). Once over the bridge, follow the path to the crossing over the road known as Bell Lane.

(3) Continue straight into a tarmac driveway and on into the field, following the path along the hedge line. Cross over the tree-lined bridle path which crosses the route, and climb over the stile opposite. Cross the playing field and negotiate the stile opposite. Walk straight on over the next field, passing (4) the hanger used for microlite flying



on your right and the runway on your left (5) Enter the small wood at the top of the hill, and follow the path through. Cross the next two smallish fields, skirting the small plantation of poplar trees on your right

to reach a stile in the right corner of the second field. Turn left into the track and follow it up the hill to reach a stile in the track



Climb the stile into the field on the left at the top of the hill by the farm buildings, and walk across the corner of the field to (6) the stile into the road (Rectory Lane).



Cross the lane, climb the stile into the next field and walk downhill, across two fields to the next road (7)



(Mimms Lane). Cross over, follow the path diagonally left across the field, cross (8) the small stream and continue diagonally left across the next two fields. (9) Turn left at the top corner of the field by the wood then go through the kissing gate to the right of a large holly bush.

Continue across three small fields, through kissing gates, heading for the church tower visible in the distance



Finally climb a stile into the churchyard, walk around the church and onto the high street of Ridge village, maybe stopping at (10) 'The Old Guinea' for refreshment.



To return by a different route, go back through the churchyard and over the stile, this time walk diagonally right down the hill towards the corner of the field, (This footpath may not be visible on the ground). (11)

Go through the space where the hedge has been removed, towards the first large tree in the middle of the field, then bear right to the (12) mid-point between the farm buildings at the bottom of the field and the cluster of three large trees in the hedge. Enter the visible footpath to the right side of these trees and follow it to the road (Mimms Lane). (13) Cross over, and follow the footpath opposite to cut across to the next road (Packhorse Lane).



Follow this road uphill for about a hundred metres, to (14) Rabley Park Farm on the left, turn left into the marked footpath. Continue straight across three small fields, over the double stile, and turn right into a track, follow this to a road (Rectory Lane). Cross over and take the (15) footpath to the left of the houses



Follow this footpath to the top of the hill, then follow the concrete road down the other side. (16) Where the concrete track turns right at the bottom of the hill, carry straight on over the stile, then across the edge of the sports fields, (17) bearing left then right around the large shed. Then left into the track across the sports field, straight across the car park into the drive. Follow the drive back to Bell Lane, turn left and continue to the footpath sign on the right to rejoin the path over the M25. Cross Bell lane and pass over the M25. On the farside keep straight on into the tree-lined bridlepath. (18) After quarter of a mile turn right across the stile, bear diagonally left across the field. Turn left across the stile in the far corner back across the footbridge to the (1) green.