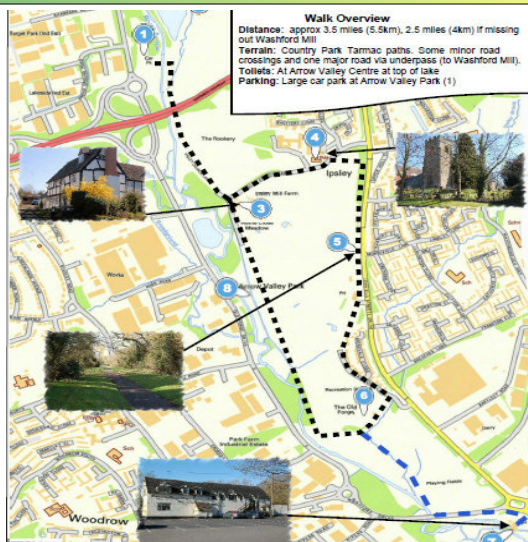


Walks in Redditch

Arrow Valley Walk (A3) Arrow Valley Lake to Washford Mill

Distance: approx 3.5 miles (5.5 km)
Terrain: Country Park tarmac paths.
 Some minor road crossings, one major.
Toilets: At Arrow Valley Centre (top of lake)
Parking: Large Car Park by Arrow Lake



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The walk begins at the Arrow Valley Lake Car Park off Holloway Drive. Leave the car park towards the Lake, turning right to follow the River Arrow. The river, to the right, is initially canalised but soon moves into a more natural state.

Continue along the path and after about ½ mile Ipsley Cottages will be seen. At one time Ipsley Mill, a Needle Mill, was in the area, but it is difficult to see any evidence of the mill or its mill pool, even though it existed until the 1950's.



Turn to the left and follow the lane up the hill. This was, before the 1960's, the main route to Henley in Arden and Warwick. Ascending the slope, Ipsley Church and Ipsley Court can be seen. Ipsley Court has been largely redeveloped but Ipsley Church remains an attractive country church. St Peter's Church was thoroughly restored in 1867, but evidence remains that the south aisle was of the 13th century and the north aisle, and probably the chancel, of the 14th century. The west tower was added in the 15th century.



Continue along the road past the Church and take the path on the right down towards the main road. Bearing right you will reach a footpath parallel with the main road. This path follows the route of Ikniel Street, a major north-south Roman Road from the Fosse Way to beyond Watling Street.

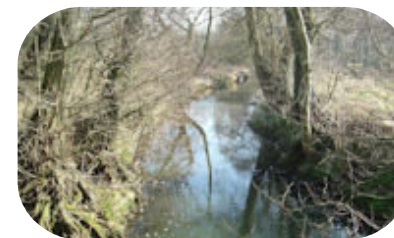


Continue to walk along the path which follows the route of Ikniel Street. Before the Development Corporation extended the Redditch road system, this path was, in fact, a road. After about ¾ mile turn right along the path next to the recreation ground. Within the woods that appear on the right there has been found evidence of a medieval forge. After a short distance there is a left turning across a small bridge.



Taking the left turn goes to Washford Mill. This can be missed out by forking right.

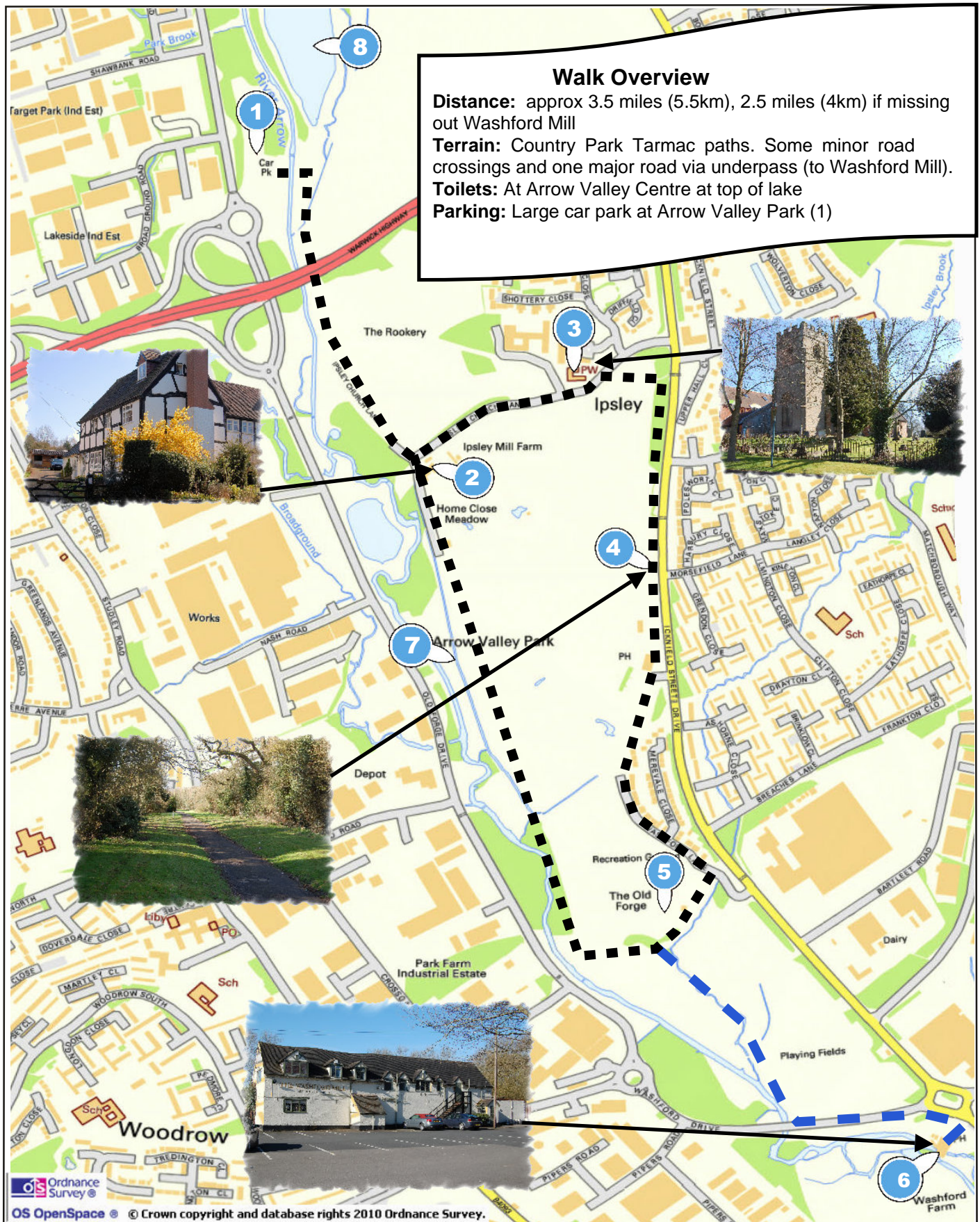
Following the route to Washford Mill involves crossing a major road, Washford Drive. However there is an underpass next to the river. Washford Mill was one of the earliest needle mills in Redditch and was the original manufacturing site for Millward's needles. It is now a public house and restaurant but still has its waterwheel.



Returning by the same route, the path follows the River Arrow. At this point the River Arrow follows its ancient route and is joined by a small tributary, Ipsley Brook. Continuing to follow the river, Ipsley Cottages are passed and the route is retraced to the starting point at the Arrow Valley Lake.



Arrow Valley Walk (A3) - Arrow Valley Lake to Washford Mill



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We welcome any feedback about this walk, please e-mail contact@redditchwalks.org.uk

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