

Walks in Redditch

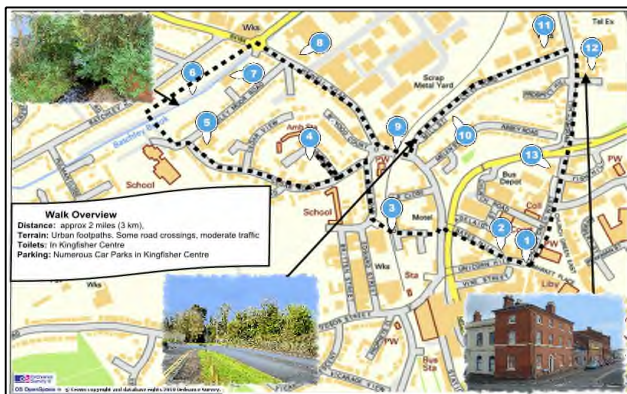
Town Centre North Walk (T4) Industry, Trains and the 'Red Dyche'

Distance: approx 2 miles (3 km)

Terrain: Urban footpaths. Some road crossings, moderate traffic. Some inclines.

Toilets: In Kingfisher Centre

Parking: Car Parks in Kingfisher Centre



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Walk T4 - revised January 2017



The walk begins at the original town centre at the crossroads (now the pedestrian crossing) by the Ecumenical Centre. Turn left and walk down Bates Hill (right fork from Unicorn Hill). On the right is a gate and a wall. This was the entrance to the **Redditch Methodist Chapel** which was demolished by the Development Corporation. Continue through the underpass under the ring road and turn right and after a short distance left into Gloucester Close. Follow this round and cross the **footbridge** over the railway. This footbridge is reduced from the original which crossed the railway goods yard from **Hewell Road** to **Bridge Street**.



Turn right into **Elm Road** and then left into **Cedar Road**. Opposite the school entrance is **Cedar Park Road**. Turn right into this road and on the left is 'The Cedars'. This was a farmhouse which was remodelled in about 1840 for **Samuel Allcock**, the fishing tackle manufacturer. It is now a nursing home. Return to Cedar Road and follow this down. At the junction with **Bridley Moor Road** is the 'Batchley Club' which is based in the buildings of **Bridley Moor Farm**. This has been substantially extended but the upper story of the original farm house can be seen above the extensions.



Bear left and follow the path in front of the school down to the stream. Cross and turn right. The stream is **Batchley Brook** which runs down to the Abbey Meadows. This is the original 'Red Dyche' which gave the town its name. Arriving at the main road (Hewell Road) you pass the site of the **Swimming Pool** originally constructed as an open baths in 1882 and closed in 2011. It has been replaced by a housing development.



Turning right into Hewell Road and passing the entrance to Bridley Moor Road, you pass the full extent of the **Royal Enfield** factory. This existed from 1907 to 1967 and was one of the major manufacturers of motor cycles in the U.K. It is now the area of the Enfield Industrial Estate. Continue along Hewell Road until you arrive at the **railway bridge**. This bridge dates from when the railway was extended in 1868 from its station in Clive Road to the new station at the bottom of Unicorn Hill. Further along, on the right, is the **Railway Inn** (rebuilt 1938), so named as it was the nearest tavern to the original Clive Road Railway Station when the railway reached Redditch in 1859.



Turn left into Clive Road. To the right, at the top of Mill Street, is **Prospect Works** a mid 19th century former spring factory, part demolished and converted into apartments. Continuing down Clive Road is the site of the **Allcock** factory, which was the largest manufacturer of fishing tackle in the world. The actual site was in the area before the remaining traditional building, but this is typical of its style.



At the end of Clive Road turn right into Birmingham Road. Opposite is the factory grouping which was originally **British Mills**, a needle and fishhook factory with an adjoining house, built for Samuel Thomas about 1840. Now residential and business units. Continue up into the town (Prospect Hill). At the top of the hill on the right is the **Red House**. This house, now offices, is late 18th century with mid 19th and 20th century alterations. Continue along Church Green West to return to the start.

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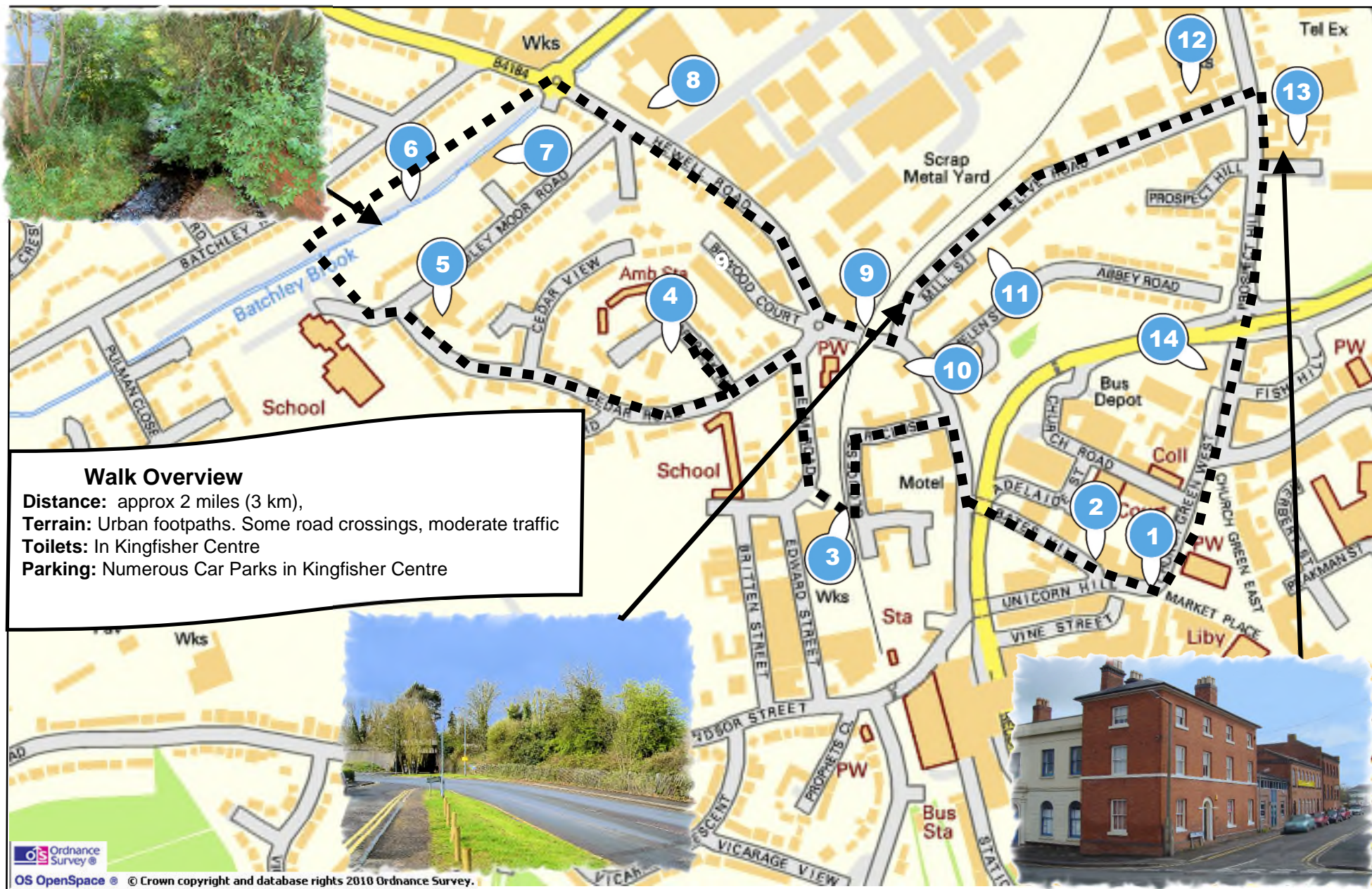
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