

Walks in Redditch

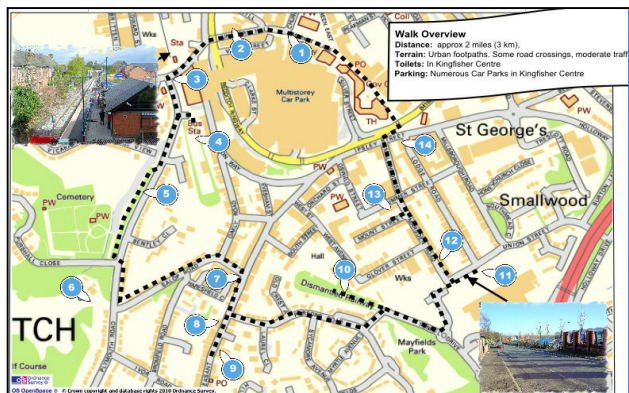
Town Centre North Walk (T5) Ridgeway and Railway Tunnel

Distance: approx 2 miles (3 km)

Terrain: Urban footpaths. Steep walk up Salop road
Some road crossings, moderate local traffic

Toilets: In Kingfisher Centre

Parking: Car Parks in Kingfisher Centre



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Anthony Green.

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The walk begins at the original town centre at the crossroads (now the pedestrian crossing) by the Ecumenical Centre. Walk down Unicorn Hill. On the right, the large rectangular building, now a bar and restaurant, was the 'Danilo'. This Art Deco style cinema was built in 1937. At the bottom of the hill cross the railway bridge and turn left into Plymouth Road. The railway station was originally on the opposite side of the bridge from it's present location and the line continued on south via a tunnel under the Ridgeway. The cutting leading to the tunnel is now the bus depot and the exit is later in the walk.



Cross the road to the War Memorial between Plymouth Road and Cemetery Road. Walk up through these pleasant gardens which were created in 1927. At the end of the gardens continue on to the entrance to the Golf Course. This was developed in 1913 by the Redditch Golf Club. However, the Bromsgrove Highway reduced the course to 9 holes and the Redditch Golf Club relocated to Callow Hill in 1972. It is now the Redditch Municipal Golf Club. Opposite is Salop Road, walk up the steep climb to the Ridgeway.



The Ridgeway begins at Redditch and continues south to the vale of Evesham. This high ridge has probably been a trackway since before the Romans, but more recently, it was used as the route for the Birmingham to Pershore turnpike road constructed in 1826. There was a tollhouse across the road (no visible evidence) along Mount Pleasant. The building at the junction of Salop Road was the Council House until 1982 when it moved to the new 'Town Hall'



Turning right into Mount Pleasant, after a short distance you arrive at the 'Woodland Cottage'. This Public House is originally late 18th century but was largely reconstructed in 1933. Walking further, on the left, is a factory converted into residential properties. This is Crescent Works, a late 19th century needle mill, which later became the Partridge fishing tackle company. Return to Parsons Road, on your right, and descend down the road. At the bottom of the hill turn left into Tunnel Drive.



Walk along Tunnel Drive and left is an open area. This is the railway cutting to the exit of the tunnel. If you are adventurous you can walk up the cutting and see the tunnel exit. Beware! The path can be very muddy and overgrown. Continue on, turning left, to arrive in Union Street. The area which is now the Mosque, the DIY superstore and Britannia Close, was once Alcad Batteries. This company, which was the second largest manufacturer of industrial nickel cadmium batteries in the world, began in Hunt End and existed in Union Street from 1929 to 1993.



Walk up Marsden Road. After a short distance, on the right, is a house, slightly set back with a moulded insert of grapes above the door. This was a tavern with the 'smallest bar in the town'. Continuing up the road, at the junction of Mount Street, are the Smallwood Alms Houses (walk T3) and, finally, you arrive at Ipsley Street. Smallwood is one of the oldest parts of the town and has many interesting buildings including the 'Warwick Arms' and 'Millsborough House', the main offices of Terry's Springs. Pass under the underpass and return to the start.

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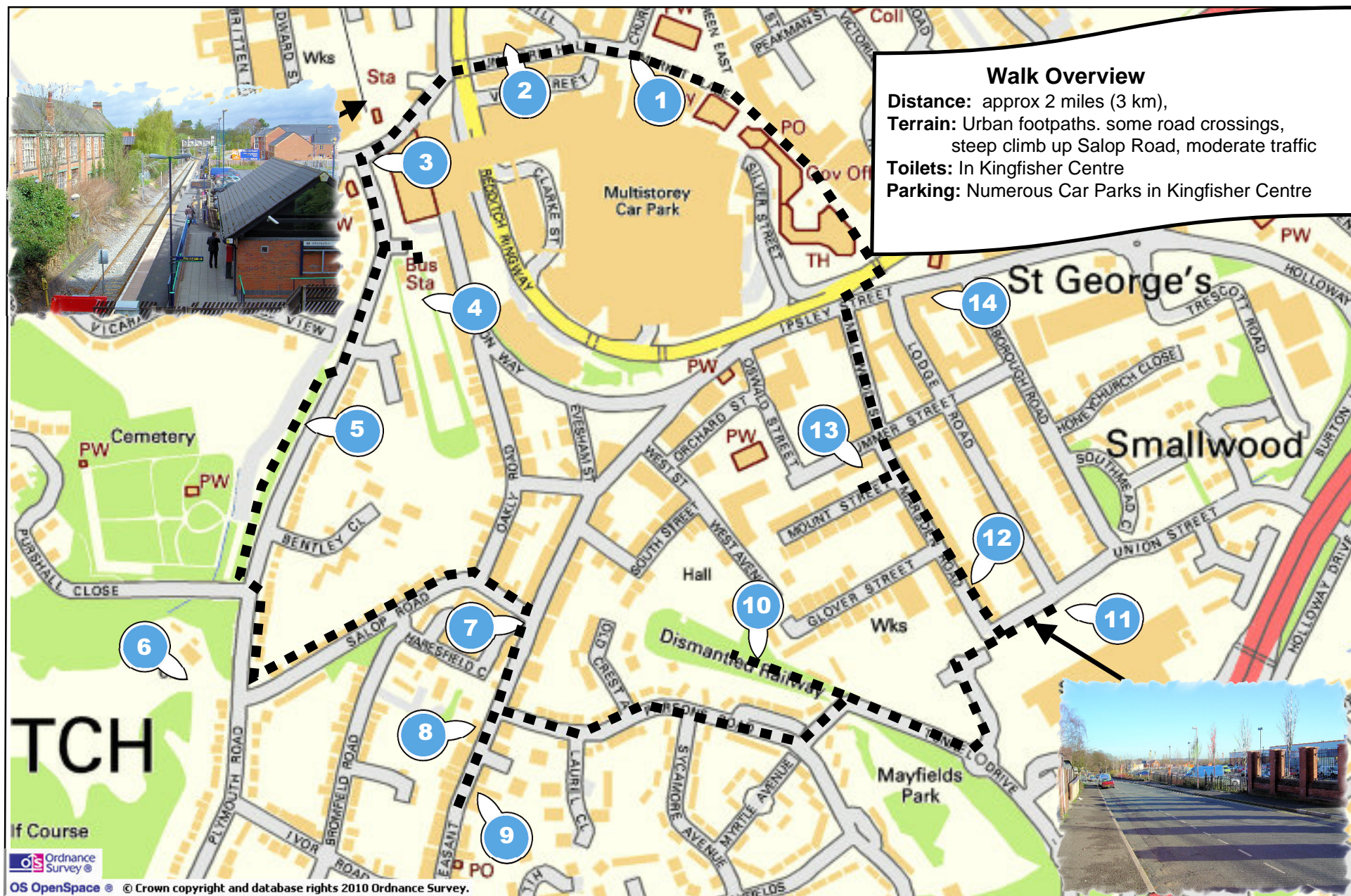
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Town Centre South Walk (T5) - Ridgeway and Railway Tunnel



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