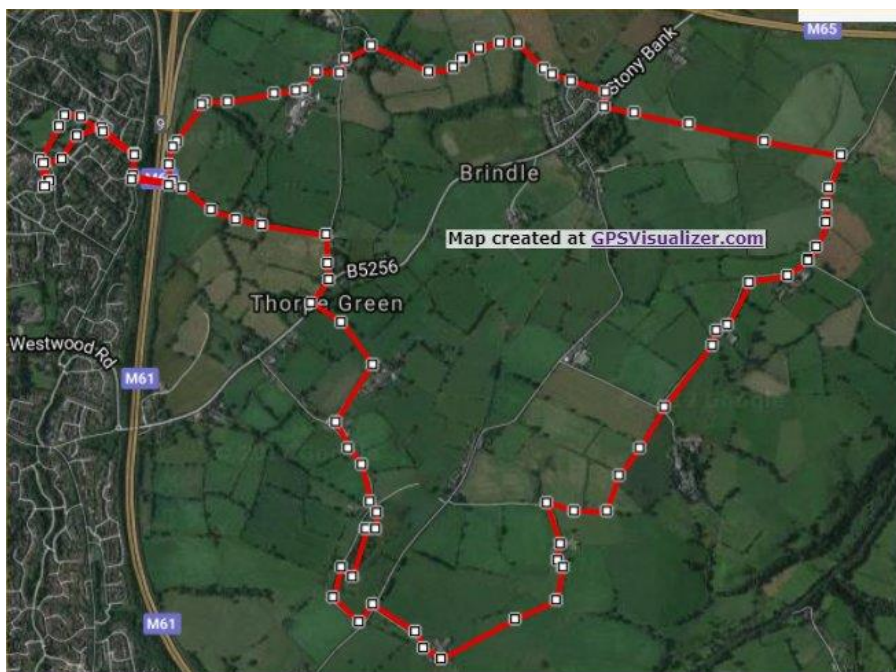


Clayton Brook Winter Walk

This 5.5 mile walk starts in Clayton Brook which is a large residential estate in the corner of the M61 and M65 motorways. The start point is the car park beside the Clayton Brook Community Centre PR5 8HL. This is a convenient starting point for the walk which passes under the M61 and follows a circular route towards Withnall Fold passing through Denham Hall and Brindle.

This particular walk is designed for winter conditions and while using field paths where viable also makes use of quiet backroads. In good weather there are lots of field paths that could be used to reduce the tarmac walked.

The car park is a good size for a group walk start, though can be fairly busy at some times.



It is important to always be appropriately dressed for the conditions and carry, and know how to use, a suitable map for the walk.

This description can be used/printed/shared for personal use, or to lead a walk but not for commercial use without the author's written consent. 2-June-2016



1: SD 580242 From the car park look towards the right hand side of the community centre to find the path across the road. On the other side follow the obvious path heading away from the community centre for 200 yds(180m) to find a Y junction.



2: SD 581244 Take either path as both lead to the same crossing path after a few yds. Turn right along the crossing path for 270yds (240m) including passing through some bollards leading into a cul-de-sac, to reach Clayton Brook road.



3: SD 584242 At the road, notice the slight grassy slope on the other side. Turn right down the road towards a bus stop, but before that, cross over and near where the slope become level with the road, cross the hump to find a few steps leading down to a (less than obvious) tunnel under the motorway and pass through the tunnel. Even in daytime the tunnel can be a little dark.



4: SD 585241 On exit from the tunnel there is an path leading to a stile. Cross this onto an over grown path with a stile on the left. If it's possible to get through the overgrown path, in a short distance it goes left to an opening onto a track. If impassable take the stile on the left, go right to head for, and climb over, a metal gate onto the farm track.

5: SD 585241 Go up the farm track for 1/3rd mile(500m) to meet a quiet road (Pippin Street). Turn right and in 140yds(120m) meet Sandy Lane. Cross over and head to the right looking for a footpath to the left in 100 yds(90m).



6: SD 590237 There is an option here. If the weather is good, this path can be taken and after 150yds(130m) enter a farm. Turn right to meet a road in 170yds(150m) and turn left up that to meet the alternate route at **Point 8**.

However the upper levels of the field can be very boggy. In this case continue on the road for another 270yds(240m) to find a road to the left.



7: SD 588235 Turn left up the road for 700yds(630m). Halfway up pass the farm exit you would have reached if the field option had been taken. When the road turns fairly sharply right, notice a kissing gate on the left into a quarry. (not the wooden gate on the left onto a bridleway)



8: SD 592230 Go through the kissing gate to follow a narrow muddy path for a short distance and on exiting the trees meet another (vague) path. Go right and continue following the path for 330 yds(300m) to a narrow crossing path and turn left to find a small lake and some boulders.





9: SD 591228 This is a useful place for a pause. To continue, backtrack a short distance and see a kissing gate into a small car park and onto the road, further along from where you went into the quarry. Turn left along the road for 300yds(270m) and follow it as it bears left and in due course meets Denham Lane at a T junction.



10: SD 592227 Look left at the junction to see a farm track/footpath to Denham Hall on the other side of the road. Take the track toward the farm/Hall. It bears hard left and then enters farm buildings. Passed the buildings is a gate in a stone wall with a stone stile on the right.



11: SD 595225 Care is needed here. There are two footpaths and a farm track here. Head slightly right but largely in the same direction as the track through the buildings. (so to the other side of the pile of earth in the picture). Cross the first stile and continue in the same direction. DO NOT cross another tempting stile. Instead head a touch right to a farm gate and track at the far side of the field.



12: SD 598227 Turn left through the gate and left and right through the farm buildings and out onto its driveway. About 160yds(145m) along the driveway where it turns sharply left, look for a stile on the right that is a bit hidden.

13: SD 598230 Cross the stile and walk up the slope with the hedge on the left. Continue over the slight ridge and down towards the left hand corner of the field. A little before the corner there is a stile through the hedge. Cross this and head towards a large tree beside a hedge. There is a stile under the tree. Cross that and continue with the hedge on the right. Look for a stile in the far corner of the field.



14: SD 601232 In winter the field over the stile may look very muddy but the right hand edge is passable. It may be narrow and have a few feet of awkward mud at the end before a gate onto a road. (The only alternative is a longer road route from earlier on by following the previous farm track to a road and going right to meet **Point 15.**)



15: SD 602233 Cross the stile and continue on the road ahead (NOT the right hand driveway to Brewood Fold farm). In good weather there would be many field footpath options, but in winter, continue on this road for 2/3rds mile (1Km). Watch for a wooden eagle at the entrance to a farm. Later pass Lady Hall Farm. A little further just before Marsh Lane farm there is a footpath on the left.



16: SD 608242 Cross the stile and head directly ahead for 1/2mile(800m). The fields may be soggy and there are a couple of muddy gates to negotiate. Stay with the fence on your right. In due course farm buildings appear. Head into the corner of the field in front of them to find a stile leading between the buildings and to a road.





17: SD 600244 On reaching the road (Sandy Lane again), cross and turn right to promptly find a road on the left (Smithy Lane). Follow this road for a little over ½ mille (800). You can follow this to its end and turn left. Or near the end notice a path through trees on the left which cuts off the corner but reaches the same road.



18: SD 591245 On reaching the road (by the path through trees) , look left and see across the road the driveway/footpath to the Chesham Farm. Go through an awkward opening down this track which then bears left to go through the farm buildings. At the end on the buildings look right for a gate leading to a track through a field.



19: SD 589244 Pass through the gate (may be muddy and awkward). Stay with the track as it goes between trees to meet a gate onto an open field and overlooking the M61.



20: SD 586244 Go into the field. The formal path goes direct across to beside the M61 and then left. Heading for the brow of the slight rise and then going left is likely to be less soggy. Head for the far left corner of the field which is where the motorway tunnel you came through is located. Go over the two stiles, through the tunnel and over the small rise to Clayton Brook Road. Cross and turn right.

21: SD 585242 In a short distance find Gough Lane. This was the outward cul-de-sac. Turn left down in and promptly through bollards and along the path. After about 100 yds(90m) find a tarmac path on the left. (ignore the first path with a single bollard).



22: SD 583243 Follow the path as it weaves beside houses and fields/playground. In due course it arrives back at the Community Centre and the car park.



The End

Eric Crichton
23/12/2017