

## **KEMPSEY GROVE AND THE OLD ROMAN ROAD**

### **Approximately 5 miles**

**Start.** The walk commences at the Surgery, Old Road North.

1. Turning north (right) up Old Road North proceed to the alleyway on the left. This alley cuts through to the main A38. Over the main road, immediately opposite, is the continuation alley. Carry on into Rookery Road (crossing a north to south alley).

2. At the end of Rookery Road turn right, opposite Chapel Road, along a track to the end. Turn right before the new houses up a rise and along the side of a bungalow into Windmill Lane.

3. Turn left to the junction and left into Kings Hill. Walk to the end of Kings Hill to the field beyond the housing.

4. Turn left along the edge of the field and then right to continue skirting the field edge. Follow the garden hedge of a house and then through a gap out onto the track beyond. Turn right away from the house and then bear left, to the rear of the farm and buildings. When level with the industrial units, bear half right, ignoring the wide track, up the grassy slope and forward into a scrub area with a wooded area on your left. The pathway comes out onto a field on the right. Turn left to continue along the edge of this field, with the wooded area on the left. The path goes straight on into a sunken pathway, passing a grassy area on the right and then through a scrubby meadow to another stile. Continue and go over a further stile, between a hedge and a wire fence on your right, which is to the rear of the garage premises.

5. The path comes out on the driveway to the Severn Yachting Company. Turn right here. There is no right of way to the left. Continue along the driveway to the junction with the A38, by the petrol station. This is the furthest point of the walk. You will see Taylor's Lane on the opposite side of the road.

6. Go down Taylor's Lane and after about 500 yards there is a kissing gate on the right. Cross two fields to a bridge across a small brook, and enter a small pasture field. Cross a yard and then continue down the driveway of a bungalow to emerge into Broomhall Lane.

7. The path continues almost immediately across the road, through a metal gate. Cross a small paddock and through another metal gate to a large field. It is difficult to see the next stile so head for a large poplar tree, which can be seen on the skyline. The path joins Holdings Lane here. Turn right and continue along Holdings Lane to Brookend Lane.

8. Cross Brookend Lane and go down the lane opposite (the old Roman Road). About 50 yards down the road go through a kissing gate on the right. Just a few yards into the meadow go through another kissing gate on the left, cross Hatfield Brook and go over a stile. Turn right and walk through another meadow, keeping the hedge on your right. Go through the gate into a wooded area and follow the path round to the right and into a field. Cross the

field diagonally to reach a grassed area. Walk straight ahead (ignoring the footpath to your left) and continue to the rear of the buildings, along a path, which has been repaired by shoring up. You are now back at the Surgery, your starting point.

- A. This is one of the most elevated positions on the walk and looking to the west, the range of the Malvern Hills can be seen on a good day in the distance. Just across the river there are views of Callow End and Stanbrook Abbey. There are also views of fertile land by the river which is frequently enriched by flooding. There were hop yards on the Callow End side of the river. You are approaching the coppiced area, where many species of birds including river birds can be seen. Rabbits and foxes can sometimes be glimpsed here.
- B. (At this point you can deviate from the route by a few yards to go to the pictorial Toposcope, which shows full details of the Battles of Worcester and the Powick Hams.) – Not currently open.
- C. The path joins the Old Roman Road here. The northern end of which is now lost in the St. Peter's development.
- D. This is one of the oldest lanes in Kempsey.
- E. At this point you leave the Roman Road and, after going over the corner of a meadow, cross the Hatfield Brook. The brook has many side streams, which finally join near the Church and then flow into the river. The brook has caused much of the flooding in Kempsey over the years, when the water has been held back by the flooding of the Severn. Following a fund raising campaign, a bund, overflow pond and pumps were installed to avoid flooding in the village.
- F. The Hatfield Brook can still be seen at this point, to the left of the walk. The brook used to widen into the Millpond here. The power of the stream is no longer used and it flows by houses and gardens. Some residents have taken advantage of the stream to create pools and ponds, which both domestic water fowl and wildlife enjoy.