



Folly Farm circular walk via Caughley Road and Red Lane

This extended version of the Folly Farm circular walk is just under 4.25 miles / 7km. An enjoyable walk on lanes, tracks and across fields with good views across open farmland, woods and on clear days, distant hills. However, you may prefer to make it 'a there and back again walk' (views always seem different in reverse!) retracing your steps from Red Lane as there's about 350m of road without a safe pedestrian refuge between where Red Lane exits onto the Coalport Road and the start of the Folly Farm footpath. Some hedges have grown in width over the years so there is no longer a verge or even a road edge in places. If you choose to walk the road, please take great care, there is a blind bend here, traffic can be fast and busy at times.

2b) Pound Lane to metal kissing gate past Innet Farm 2.3km / 1.4 miles

Continue straight on down Pound Lane, it is a tarmac lane at first but soon becomes the loose surface of Caughley Road. The main track down to the Severn is a right of way for walkers, horse riders and cyclists with good views over hedges across farmland to woods and distant hills. In about 1km you pass a weigh bridge entrance to former mine workings. The area had quarries and open cast mines for brick clay, fire clay and coal (the last one closed in 2016). Further on past Caughley Cottage, is a monument to mark the site of Caughley China works, the forerunner of the Coalport factory. The hummocks in the left hand fields are evidence of old shallow mine workings. In another 500m you pass by Innet Farm and 200m further on the track bends 90 degrees left and 100m later there is a right angled bend to the right where you leave the track to go left through a metal kissing gate.



2c) Past Innet Farm to Folly Farm via fields and Red Lane 1.9 km / 1.2 miles

This path takes you over some uneven hummocky ground with gorse bushes, trees and animal burrows at first. Take a pause just past the gate to admire The Wrekin and look back at the way you have come for a distant view of Brown Clee. Go straight on, past a pond on your left, keeping a few meters away from a hedge on the right. The path dips down right to another metal kissing gate and then goes along a narrow woodland edge and through another gate. Continue straight on between two fields to a hole in the hedge opposite to follow a 'green tunnel' path: it looks overgrown but once you enter in, it is usually fine and clear, though sometimes a bit muddy and wet underfoot in winter months or after very heavy rains. After 100m you come to a gravel farm track known as Red Lane, turn left. At the next junction keep left and follow the track to the Coalport Road which you reach in another 500m. Turn left and follow the road for 450 m to Folly Farm. Turn right here and follow the directions in the shorter Folly Farm circular from point 3 (purple route on the map). **NB This section of road has no verge or footway and a blind bend, care must be taken.** Listen for traffic which is often fast moving. Once you reach the houses it is easier as there is a pedestrian wide gap between the white line at the roadside edge and the hedges. This part of the walk is not recommended if you have children and dogs with you. If you don't fancy it retrace your steps to Pound Lane, all viewpoints look different in reverse so it won't seem repetitive.



Uneven path undermined by animals, take care!



Gorse



Green tunnel path



Extensive open farmland views from the Red Lane track towards woods and hills

