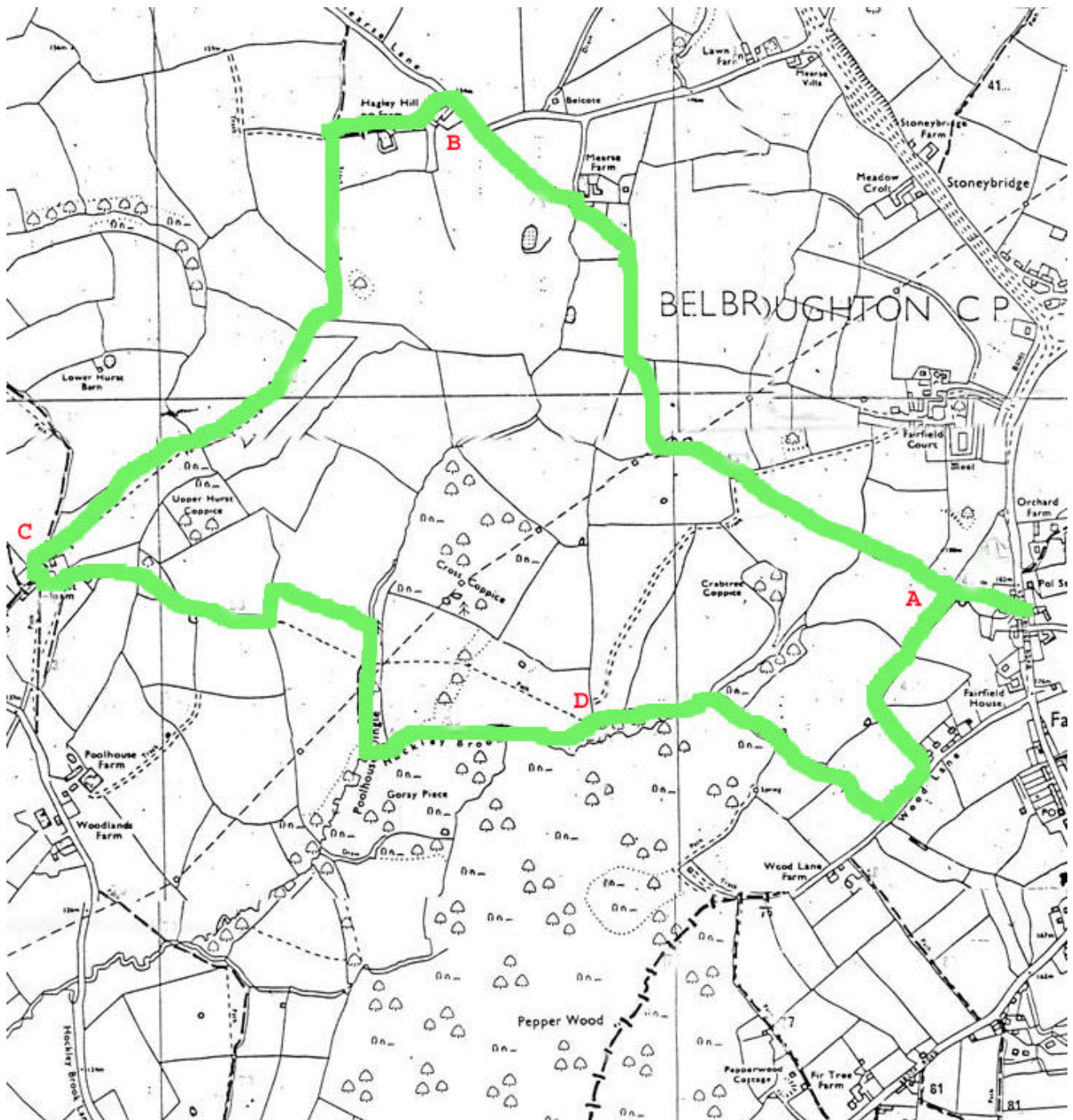


Walk: Fairfield - Belbroughton Circular

Distance about 7km: Time 1½ to 2 hours - Moderate walking with some steep slopes and about 9 stiles



You can start this walk in either Belbroughton or Fairfield, but the directions given here, start at The Swan in Fairfield.

As you look at the Pub, the start of the walk is over the stile on the extreme right next to the cottages. Once over the stile proceed up into the field and then cross the field slightly to the right until you meet the next stile in the corner of the hedge. This is point A on the map. Cross over this stile and turn immediately right and go down the edge of the field to the gate at the bottom. Go through the gate and carry straight on up through the next field. The path is sometimes difficult to see in this field, but if you head straight up the field you will eventually see a gate with a stile alongside. Head through this gate and follow the path along side the edge of the field.

Follow the path around the edge and on your right you will see a stile. This stile is very near the point that you cross under the overhead power lines. Go over the stile and around the edge of the next field to another stile in the bottom corner. Cross this stile and you are now on the edge of a recently planted wood with a grass track going down the right hand side. Follow the track until you get to a point where the path turns left. There is a waymarker post on your right, so keep an eye out for this so you know where the path turns left. Follow the path through the trees until you get to the corner of the wood where there is a fence, which leads you to another stile in the hedge. Once over the stile follow the path across the field to the gate at the bottom and then proceed to turn left up the road towards Hagley Hill Farm. You are now at Point B

At Hagley Hill Farm turn left into the farmyard following the bridle path. Go through the metal gates and turning slightly right follow the dirt track away from the farm. After about 50m the bridle way turns sharply left and continues through another metal farm gate, in a southerly direction. Follow the bridle path, which eventually drops downhill, to a further metal farm gate. Continue through the gate and along the edge of the field to reach a narrow gate leading into the next field. The bridle way now goes around the edge of the field to the entrance to the next field, which is a metal farm gate with a stile alongside. Go over the stile and keeping to the edge of the field proceed to the Black metal farm gate at the entrance to Hurst Farm. Go through the farm and once you have passed the building you will see a gate on your left. You are now at point C on the map.

Go through the gate, remembering to close it behind you and proceed up the path to your left. Carry on up the path at the edge of the field and once you have reached the top of the field turn right and follow the path through the old orchard. At the end of the orchard you come out into a field that has recently been turned into paddocks. At this point turn left and follow the path between the hedge and the new fences. Go through the short stretch of wood and into the next field until the path goes through a gap in the hedge and into a large field sloping down towards Pepperwood. Once through the gap the path turns left and goes around the edge of the field until you reach the point where it turns left into an outcrop of Pepperwood. Follow the path through the trees and out into another field. Turn right and go around the edge of the field towards a stile. You are now at point D on the map.

Cross the stile and continue to follow the edge of the field until the path turns right again into the trees. The path continues through the trees over a stream and then uphill to the edge of the wood where there is a stile. Cross over the stile and walk up the right hand edge of the field until you see a stile on your right. Cross this and walk up the left hand side of the field until you meet the road. This is Wood Lane. Turn left up the road and left into Pepperwood Close. At the end of Pepperwood Close is a stile, cross this and turn right and follow the fence until you reach the next stile. Cross this and continue on the right hand edge of the field to the stile in the hedge and you are now back at point A.