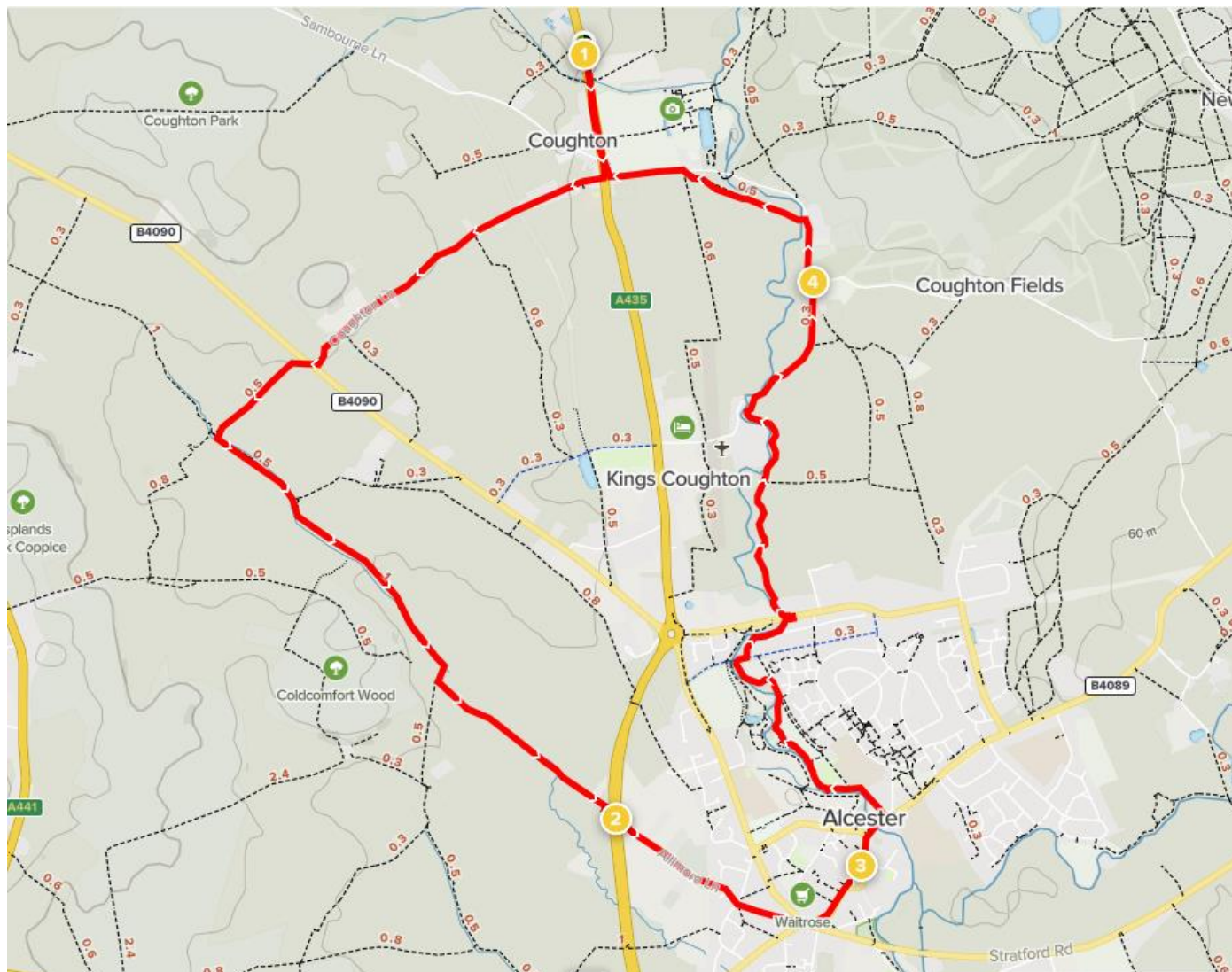


THROCKMORTON WALK 1

The Millennium way Coughton and Alcester Circular Walk

Distance 6.9 Miles (11.1km)



1 - Start to A435 Bridge

Our walk starts at the Throckmorton. With your back to the front entrance of the pub, cross the road to reach the pavement and turn right along this, down the main A435 continuing past Coughton Lodge. From here you will have a nice view of Coughton Court over to your left. You are now on the Millennium Way. Cross over the pedestrian crossing, go past Sambourne Lane, then turn right down Coughton Lane (just past the post box). Stay along Coughton Lane for just under a mile and, at the T-junction, turn right on the B4090. Walk for just 30 paces then go left through a hedge gap along the marked bridleway, where you will see a black Millennium Way waymarker. Continue with the hedge on your left and, where the hedge finishes, ignore the hidden footbridge to the right, instead bear left through the gap to turn left into the next field. Continue along with hedge on your left. (Here we have left the Millennium Way.) You will eventually cross a small ford into a large field. Immediately bear right for approximately 20 paces, then bear left to pass between a large oak tree on your left and a smaller tree on your right, to stay along the field edge (keeping a very wide ditch on your right). Depending on the time of year, there may be a small brook running in the ditch, known as Spittle Brook. Continue with the ditch on your right, crossing a dip in the field corner into the next field. Again, continue with the wide ditch on your right and with Coldcomfort Wood 200 yards on your far right. Pass through a hedge gap and stay on the same line (with the ditch on your right) to pass under the power lines. At the end of the field, where you arrive at a broken hedge

directly ahead, turn right along a rough track (over the ditch) for 70 paces to find a corner waypost under an oak tree. Here we turn left to join The Monarch's Way and stay along with a hedge and trees on your left. The ditch and small brook are now on your left. Stay along the partly-surfaced track to reach a T-junction. Here you will see Coldcomfort Farm on the far right. Go left at this T-junction, walking away from the farm, past the bench on your left and continue along the lane towards a main road. Go past Allimore House on your left and, just before meeting the main road, take the incline on the right to reach and then cross the bridge over the main road.

2 - A435 Bridge to Town Hall

Once over the bridge, stay ahead into Allimore Lane and continue along past The Field House, crossing a bridge over the disused railway line to enter the outskirts of Alcester. Go over the crossroads into Seggs Lane and continue ahead to pass the Alcester Firefighters Memorial Garden (worth a short visit) and the Fire Station on your left to reach a roundabout. Cross over the roundabout into Swan Street, in the direction of the town centre and, just past the pedestrian traffic lights, turn left into High Street. Continue along the High Street to pass to the left of St. Nicholas Parish Church down the adjacent alleyway (passing Church House), to arrive at the ancient Alcester War Memorial Town Hall. (There is a plaque on the wall of historical interest.)

3 - Town Hall to Coughton Fields Lane

Continue past the Town Hall into Henley Street, with the road soon bearing right to become Kinwarton Road. Cross the bridge over the River Arrow and, 20 yards before Gunnings Road (just in front of a small brick building), turn left along a narrow track to pass The Grieg. Continue along between hedges and keep the River Arrow on your left. Stay along the riverside path (with the river on your left), passing by the children's play area and sports pitches. At the end of the sports field bear slightly left, staying along the track with the river on your left. Go past the picnic tables and, at a surfaced track, go right for 30 paces then take a gap left (through three yellow metal posts) to go through an area of woodland. Stay ahead on the narrow track through the woodland, ignoring any side tracks, to eventually emerge at a service road. Go left following the waymarker, passing a building on your right and keeping the river on your left. On reaching a main road (with metal barriers), cross over and take the footpath (just to the left of Arden Court) which continues along the riverside. Emerging into a large field, bear left along the field edge and, 20 paces after reaching the field corner, go left through a narrow gap (with no waymark) over a stone footbridge and almost immediately left again, to follow the footpath along the riverbank. Stay along the ill-defined narrow woodland track with the river on your left. After a short while you will pass a caravan storage/industrial area beyond the river on your left to emerge back into a field. Go left (still with the river on your left) and pass a small weir, continuing alongside the river. Pass through a waymarked gap and stay ahead under power lines (still with the river on your left). Having passed under the power lines, bear slightly left to stay with the river. Continue through a further gap and stay with the river on your left. After a few yards, we leave the river and go across the field to exit via a visible metal kissing gate to reach a lane.

4 - Coughton Fields Lane to End

Go left along the lane, eventually passing Millford Cottage and then Millford House. A few paces past Millford House, take the hidden narrow waymarked footpath left (NOTE: this is easy to miss.) Here we take a metal bridge across the River Arrow and through a metal gate into a large field. Continue ahead across the field towards the farm buildings in the far distance and take a metal kissing gate into the next field. Go diagonally right to exit this field via a metal gate to reach the lane. Turn left on the lane to reach the main road (A435) then turn right up the road to return to the Throckmorton where the walk began.