

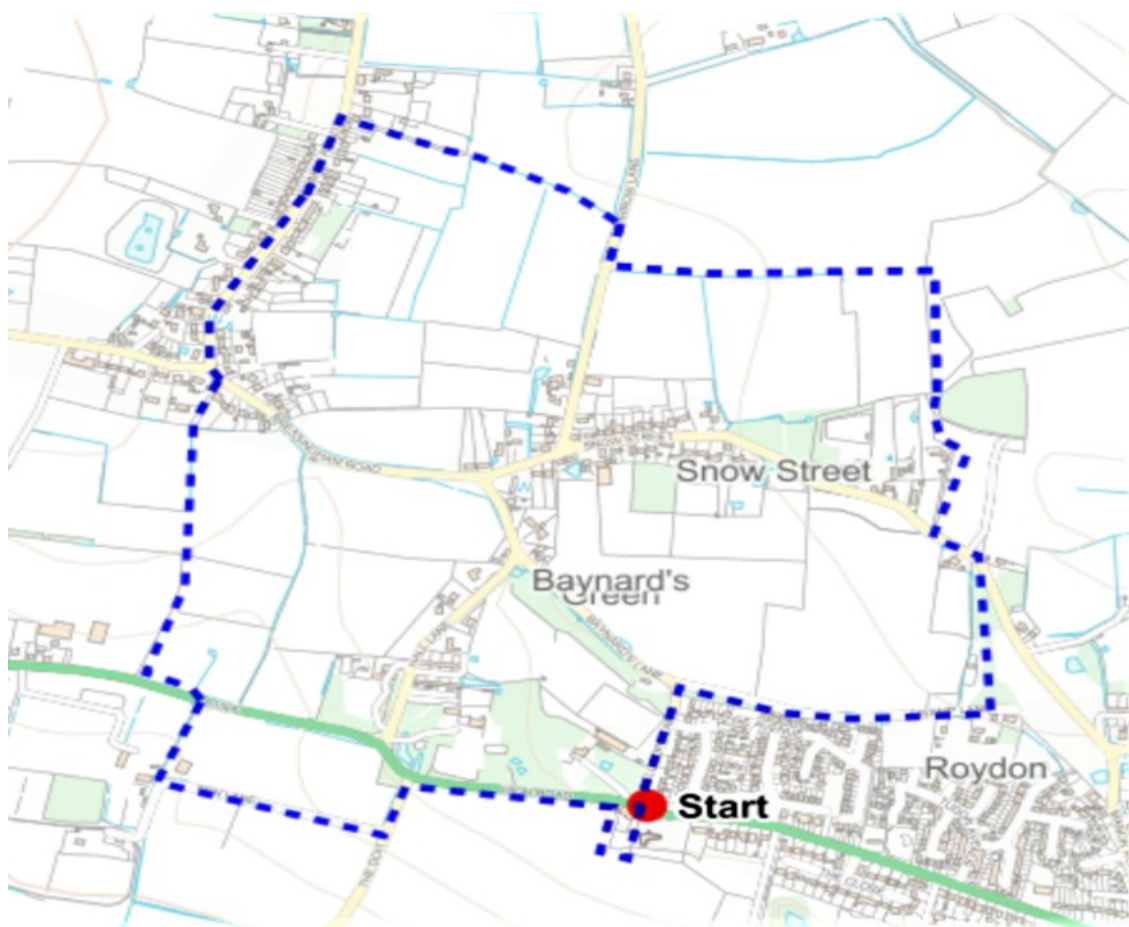
Walk 1

Roydon Heritage Walk - The Western Boundary

Note that part of the walk takes you along field headlands. These are not official public rights of way but are regularly walked by local people and others (thanks to the farmer!)

Some fairly quiet road walking, one crossing of the busy A1066, one footpath with wood debris underfoot, one stile, and field crossings which are muddy in wet weather.

Distance: 3.2 miles (5.2 K)



1 From the car park in front of the church go to the right of the church wall, keeping to the left through the pub car park. Go through a gap in a bank in front of you, leading to a gap in a hedge, through which you reach a field headland.

2 Turn right along the headland, which takes you right again, then left along parallel to the A1066 – with great views over the Waveney Valley.

3 At the end you will see a wooden gate. Go to the left side of it, out onto Doit Lane.

4 Turn left down the lane, then take the first right turn into Fen Lane (unsignposted). Here and all along since leaving the church there have been views across the valley, through the bottom of which runs the River Waveney, which is the border between Roydon and Wortham, Norfolk and Suffolk.

5 At the sharp left bend in the road, turn right along the marked footpath. At the end of this lovely wooded walk turn left over a wooden bridge (take care!) and come to the busy A1066. Cross, taking care, to the footpath sign almost immediately opposite, onto the field and left along the mown field edge.

6 Follow the field headland as it turns sharp right. To your right is a field with a spring in it, hence its old name of Spring Field. Also in the shallow valley on the right is a water channel which is the Roydon boundary – so you are now in Bressingham walking parallel to the boundary.

7 Go straight up, past the farm on your left and past the second field on your right, to a gap in a hedge. Go through and carry straight on across a field. Over to the left, in the line of trees, is Samson's Lane, which used to be the western boundary of Roydon, until about the year 2000 (though it still is the ecclesiastical boundary). Old maps show that Samson's Lane once led from Roydon and Bressingham right down to the common land fens in the river valley, a very ancient route and parish boundary.

8 This footpath carries on with a paddock on its left, then across a footbridge and a stile and down to the road, going through, in one place, what seems like the edge of someone's garden.

9 Turn left, then right at Pillarbox Corner, and walk a fair way up Common Road, until, soon after the end of the council houses on the left, you reach a wide grassy footpath to the right with a wooden bar gate.

10 Take this well maintained footpath and as you cross a bridge at the end of the gardens, keep going straight ahead. Here you re-enter Roydon, whose boundary takes a complicated, weird route across the fields to your left and right.

11 This footpath and Darrow Lane (which you will meet at the end of this footpath) are species-rich habitats throughout much of the year. Keep going until you get to this lane, turn right down it, then left off the road along the signed footpath that takes you alongside a hedge (ignore the stile and footpath that goes off to the right) then across a field. The trees on the horizon on the left mark the line of Darrow Wood Lane, which is the northern boundary of Roydon. You are heading towards the eastern boundary, which runs along just beyond the bottom of the shallow valley facing you.

12 Go over the bridge through the hedge and turn right, then at a kind of T junction bear to the right and round left to the track called Greenways, past the Foxwood Forest School on your left, down to the road, where you turn left. Then take a right turn off the road where a clear path to the left of a tall poplar tree gets you onto Brewers Green.

13 To get back to the church go straight along the track you are on, past the listed thatched cottage, and turn right at the five bollards (three concrete and two wooden) into the metalled track (Swamp Lane). Walk on past houses on the left and the set back bungalow (The Nook) and carry right on to the end of the lane. Notice where you pass ponds, one on the left and one on the right, at a place where the lane has dipped down quite considerably. Here must have once been the swamp that gives the lane its name.

Turn left at the T junction at the end of the lane and go all along Bellrope Lane. You will soon see the church immediately opposite.

Map courtesy of Parish Online and Ordnance Survey ©

With thanks to the Roydon Footpath Group – for walking the footpaths, for helping with maintenance when needed, and for help with writing these guides.

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For more information or to let us know your comments please contact the Parish Council Clerk: Wendy Benson, roydondiss@gmail.com