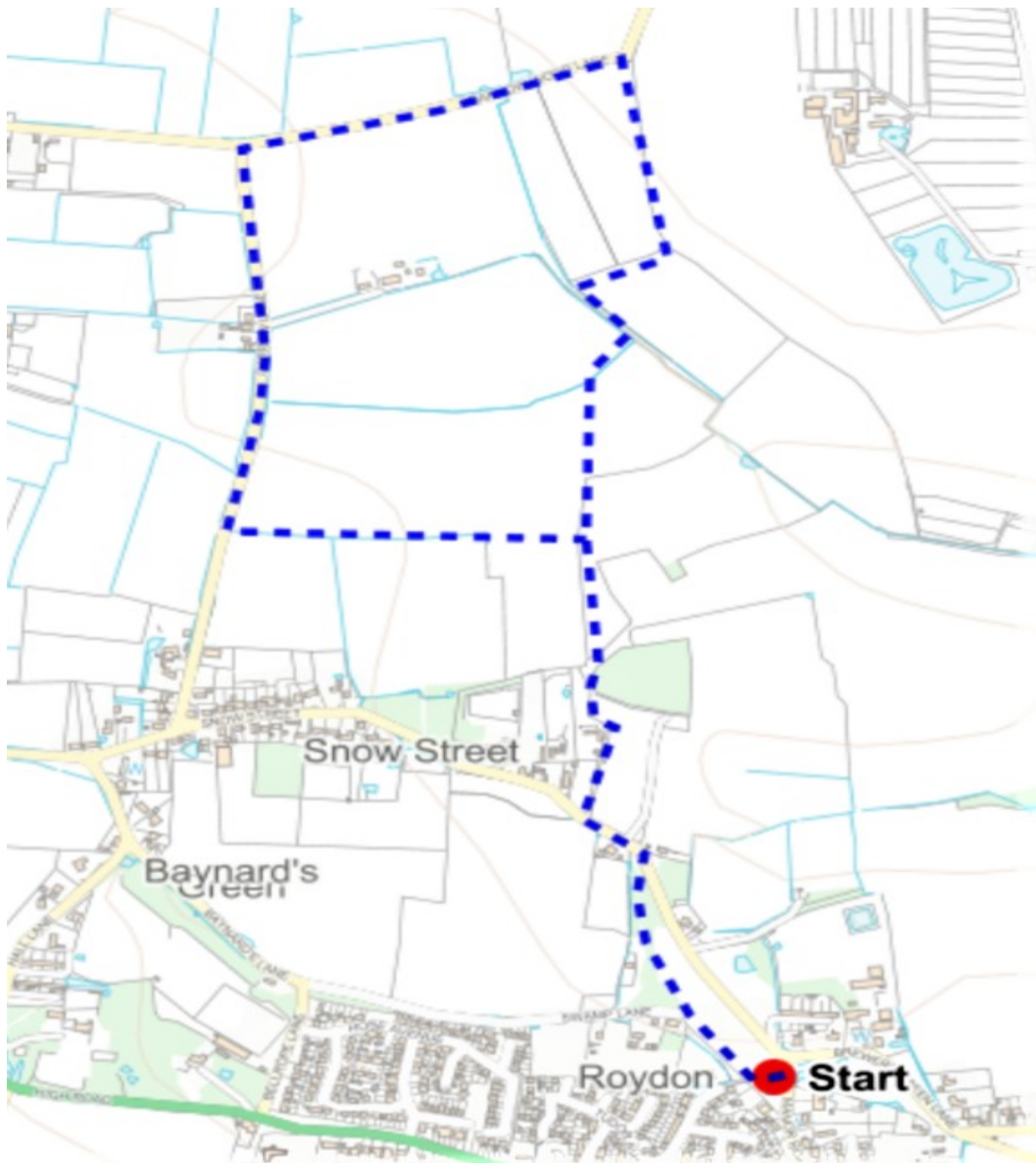


Walk 2

Roydon Heritage Walk - Up North

This walk starts at Brewers Green but is circular and can be joined at any point. About half the walk is along quiet country roads, and the other half is along field edges and across fields, the latter being difficult, muddy walking at certain times of the year. Several ligger bridges are crossed, with care needed on some of them. Ligger bridges are bridges across ditches, which used to be made of railway sleepers.

Distance: 3 miles (4.9 K)



1 Start from the fishing pond on Brewers Green. This is the biggest of the ponds and has near it two benches and two waste bins. Walk towards the end of the rough road with the pond on your left, leading to a walkway (which you will not go down) and a wooden gate signed Manor Farm. Once at the gate turn right and follow the track north up Brewers Green with the hedge on the left and the Green on the right.

2 Pass the five bollards on the left (the entrance to Swamp Lane) and carry on past the listed, thatched house (called Bethany) over on the left. Keep on the trodden path as it goes along an avenue of Lombardy poplars until you reach the road.

3 Turn left along the road until you reach the fingerposted track on the right (called Greenways, but also known as Cow Lane and Goose Lane). Take this track and immediately after you pass a double wooden gate on your right follow the footpath as it bears left onto a field headland, with a wonderful mixed hedge on your left.

4 After a short while, turn left at the gap in the hedge and onto a ligger bridge. Keep going straight onto a footpath taking you across, initially, an open field and then with a hedge on the left.

5 When you get to the road (Darrow Lane), turn right.

6 Carry on up Darrow Lane and note the lovely open vistas and treescapes. Eventually the road curves sharp left and in front of you at this point there is a landscape of small fields with veteran oak tree remnants of hedgerows. This used to be part of Bressingham Common and these square fields are probably remains of its enclosure.

7 Do not follow the curve left. Instead, turn right into Darrow Wood Lane and you are walking along the northern boundary of Roydon (which is the right hand side of the lane), with Bressingham on your left. After a while there is a line of Turkey oaks on the right, leading to a stream over which the road passes. Note how the water enters and leaves the bridge at strange angles - it then goes to Westbrook, under Bow Bridge and Wolsey Bridge, and down Frenze Beck into the Waveney and along to the North Sea.

8 Immediately after the bridge there is a pond on the left, which used to be called the White Goods pond, but the fridges and so on have now been removed and the pond fenced. Then on the right verge you will come across small signposts denoting a Roadside Nature Reserve, which has its own timetable of cutting due to having the rare Sulphur Clover growing in it.

9 Shortly after this, take the footpath signed off to the right. The point where the footpath leaves the road is the point where three borders meet – Bressingham is on the other side of the road, and as you turn into and then walk along the field edge you have the Heywood on your left and Roydon on your right.

10 At the end of the field go through a gap in the hedge and over a ligger bridge. At the far right end of the bridge is an old coppiced hornbeam, a bit unusual in this immediate area.

You leave the bridge at the corner of a field. The hedgerow going off on the left is the continuing border of Roydon and Heywood, but you turn right along a field edge and away from the border. This wide headland has mushrooms in season, and a stand of young aspen on the right.

11 When you reach the rough lane, turn left. There is a hedge on your right and at the end of it turn right and take the small path that leads over a bridge. This area has many beautiful scabious flowers in the summer.

12 Go along the field edge, turn left over a bridge onto an often muddy footpath which crosses a field, then over another bridge and along a field edge with a fine hedge on the right, which brings you back to Greenways. Turn right and follow the lane down to the road, where you turn left, then right after the last house onto Brewers Green and retrace your steps to the fishing pond.

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.

Many thanks to Andrew Daniels and David Bartrum for lots of local knowledge.

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