

Walk 1

About 1 ½ miles

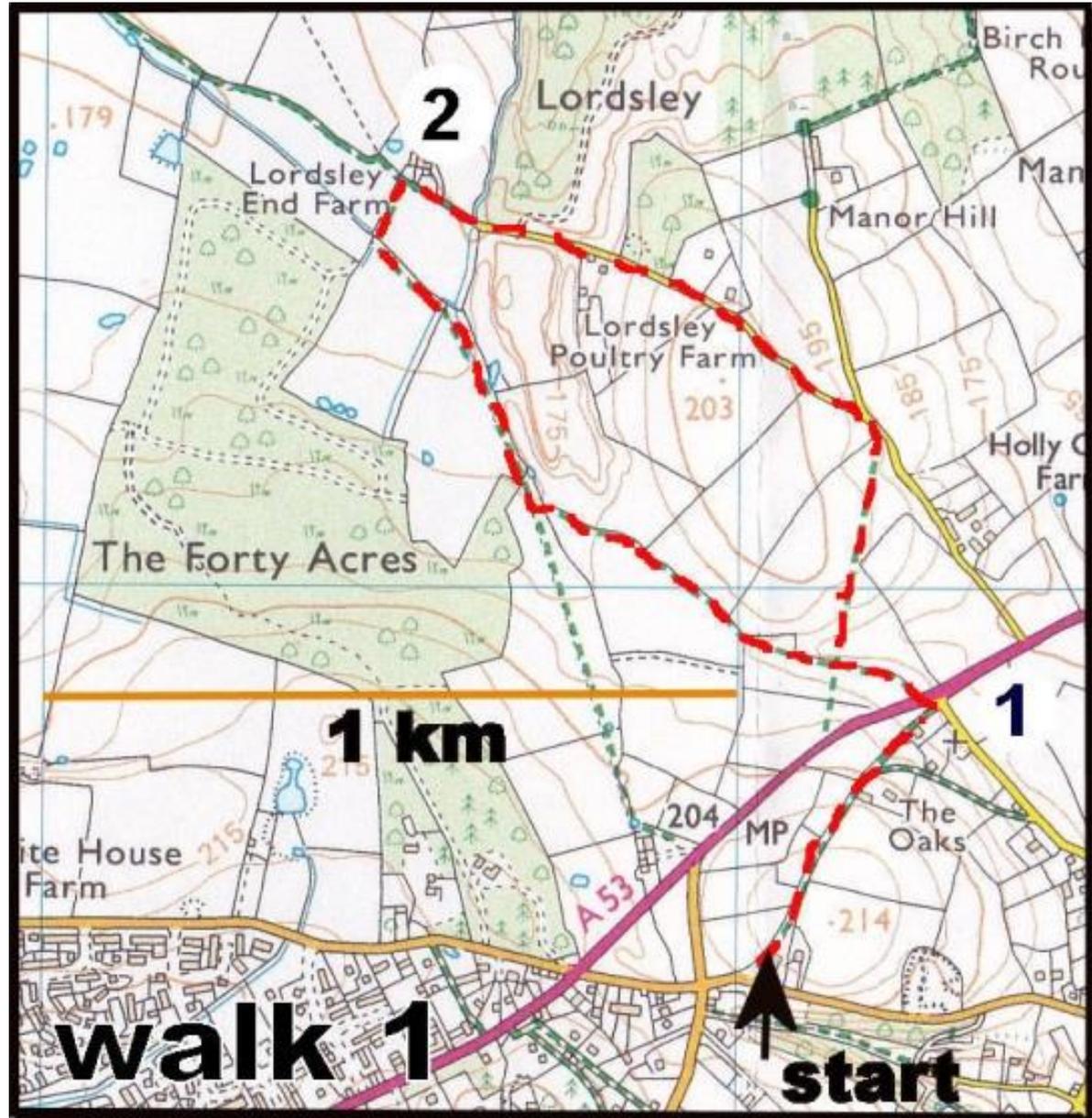
Allow 1 – 1 ½ hours

This first walk is the shortest – a mere stroll, ideal for working up an appetite. It can act as a sampler – much of the route being covered in some of the longer walks – but it is a fine introduction to the countryside in its own right. It passes close to “The Forty Acres”, a large dense woodland which is a haven for bird life. The walk starts by the Memorial Hall.

Walk along the side of the hall away from the road to the top of the car park and follow the path up the bank and through the trees. At the top of the hill, in the distance to the right, can be seen Swynnerton Old Park, Hanchurch Hills and the water tower. To the left, Beeston Castle and part of the mid-Cheshire ridge are visible. Keep straight on, ignoring the track to the right, and soon WESLEYAN ROAD is reached. Turn left and cross over the A53 taking great care because of the traffic. Walk up the hill for about 15 metres and enter the field on your right over a stile next to a farm gate, the gatepost of which is clearly marked ‘Public Footpath to Winnington’.

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Keep to the hedge line until a stile is reached in about 100 metres on the right. After crossing the stile, walk towards the gap in the trees (marked by the yellow arrow disk). Look ahead to the top of the bank to a tree at the end of a hedge line. The path passes to the left of the tree. From the tree, the route lies diagonally across the field to the top left-hand corner where a stile can be seen. Cross over into Lordsley Lane.



Turn left and take the left fork up the hill. Soon, in the far distance to the right, notice the mock castle ruin on Mow Cop, about 14 miles away. The road begins to descend and at the bottom of the bank old sand and gravel quarries can be seen on both sides of the road.

Keep on straight ahead and at the point where the lane to the farm bends round to the right, go through the farm gate which leads past the front of Lordsley End Farm. Walk past the farmhouse to a triple footpath sign. Through the gate ahead, the track goes to Winnington on the old waggon road, but your route lies to the left as indicated on the signpost "Public Footpath to Ashley 1 ¼".

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Walk along keeping the hedge to the right, to the point in about 90 metres where there are two field entrances. Take the left entrance and, turning left, walk alongside the hedge and through another field entrance. Still keeping the hedge to the left, continue amongst four oak trees and on to the corner of the field. Notice the large wood to the right with its varied

species of trees which provides a haven for birds and other wildlife. The wood is quaintly named 'The Forty Acres.'



Ashley Dale

Go through two stiles by the edge of the wood. Keeping to the left carry on along the side of the hedge for 40 metres. Cross the double stile on the left and continue until you come to the northern boundary of the disused quarry. Keep the fence on your left and continue to the gateway with a stile to the left of it. Cross to another stile in 25 metres. Follow the farm track and turn right towards the A53. Cross the road carefully into WESLEYAN ROAD. Turn right immediately onto the footpath and retrace your route back to Ashley Memorial Hall.

If you wish to extend your walk by about 1300 metres to take in the pleasant scenery of ASHLEY DALE, turn right out of the car park, then immediately turn left into PINWOOD Road. Almost immediately on your left at the end of the first house take the footpath that runs between two fences. Cross over the stile and shortly cross over a second stile into the Dale itself. Keep to the higher ground on the right and walk down the Dale. Turn left by the side of a white house, cross over a stile and follow the path up through the wood to GRAVELLY HILL at the top of the bank. Turn left and walk back up the hill to the car park.