

Radbourne Circular Walk 2

Start and finish: Honeycomb Public House, Ladybank Road, Mickleover.

Grid reference of start and finish: SK30190 35353

Distance: Six kilometres, 3¾ miles.

Time: Allow up to two hours.

Terrain: Pastureland, woodland and parkland, following a network of footpaths and minor roads. On the most difficult parts of the route in dry weather you will encounter rough surfaces and fairly steep slopes. There will be easier sections. There are stiles and footbridges on this walk.

Nearby bus routes: The Mickleover blue and red route along Ladybank Road. Ring traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.traveline.org.uk for details of these services.

Parking: Limited on-street parking along Sandown Avenue. Please park considerately. Do not park in the pub car park, unless you have the permission of the landlord.

The walk

1 From the car park turn right, up the hill, along Ladybank Road for about 800 metres, half a mile. Danger - busy road. Over a mile from the original village centre, this part of Mickleover was mainly developed by Wimpey in the late 1960s and early 1970s. At the time, it was described as the largest housing estate in England.

2 Turn right into Greenside Court and follow the road round to the right.



Follow the footpath to Radbourne. You will walk through three fields before reaching a former railway line. In the second field, you will see remnants of the old ridge and furrow farming system used in medieval times by feudal villages. This system was phased out by the Enclosure Acts in the 18th century. As you enter the third field, there are good views to your left and in front of you towards Potlocks Farm.

3 Cross over both stiles either side of the former railway line. Note the old 'Stop Look Listen - Beware of trains' sign in the hedgerow on your right, after the first stile.

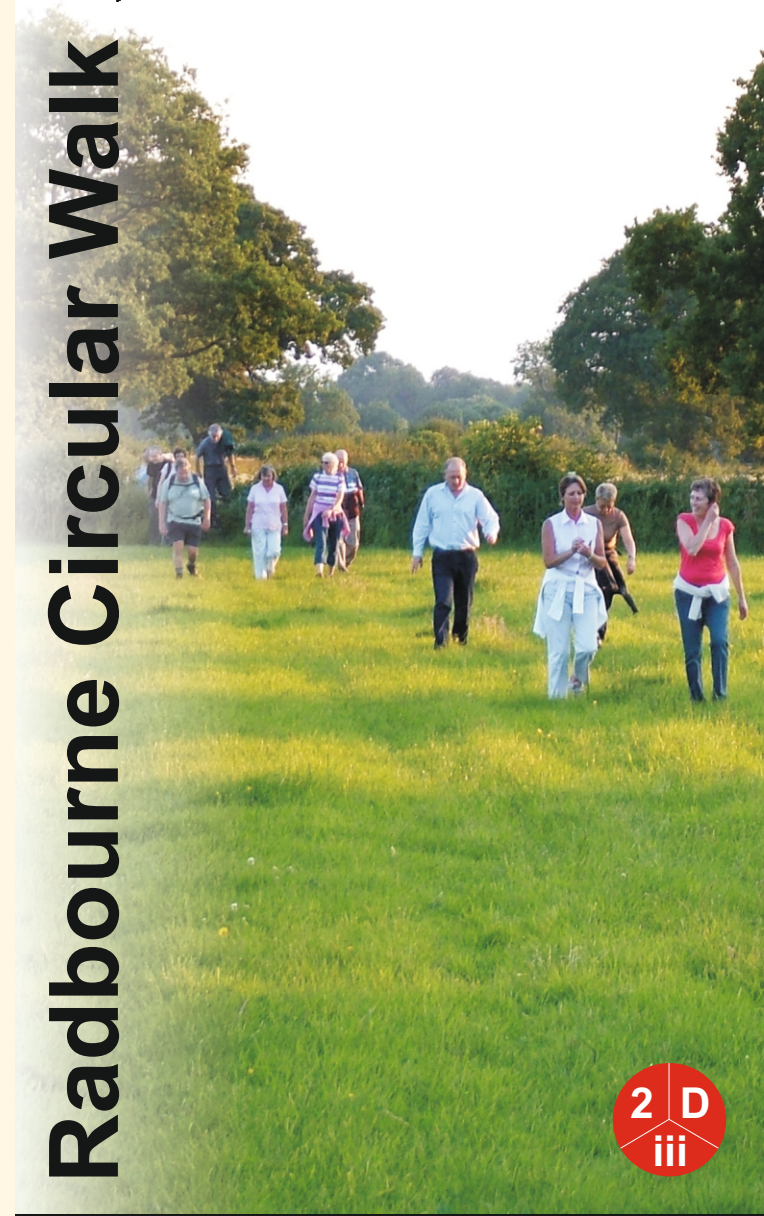
This former railway line was part of the Great Northern Railway, later London and North Eastern Railway, opened in 1878. Regular services on this line ended in 1968.

Cross the footbridge over the stream and continue on towards a stile. Beyond this stile, Black Wood on your left is a plantation of Scots Pine. You can tell it's Scots Pine because the bark is orange towards the top of the trunk.

Beyond this wood, you will see more remnants of the old ridge and furrow farming system. As you climb the stile at the top of the slope, look all around you. There are excellent views of the countryside. To your right, Mickleover is still close by. From this stile you pass through three fields, two more stiles and a gate before reaching a minor road.

4 Cross over the road. Danger - road. Go through the gate opposite and follow the footpath through the trees. Now climb the stile, cross over the footbridge and turn right. Go through the gate and turn left up the hill, keeping the woodland to your left.

Radbourne Circular Walk



Location of walk



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Walk: Radbourne Circular.
Distance: Six kilometres, 3¾ miles.
Time: Allow two hours.
Timings based approximately on 1.6 kilometres, one mile every 30 minutes.

Further information

Derby City Council
 Rights of Way Service
 Planning Division
 The Council House
 Corporation Street
 Derby DE1 2FS

Telephone 01332 640809
 Minicom 01332 640666
 Fax 01332 643299
 email rightsofway@derby.gov.uk
 web derby.gov.uk/derby-walks

On the left, just beyond the bridge, is the sign to the footpath you will be following. Go through the gate and walk up the field, heading towards the oak trees in the distance, to the left of Silverhill Farm.

As you walk up the hill, the views around you open up. Head towards the solitary oak tree.

The path continues on into the next field. At the field boundary, follow the line of telegraph poles. As you walk across this field, look all around at the excellent views over the open countryside. The white structure in the distance on your left is Mackworth Water Tower.

Continue straight on into the next field, following the line of telegraph poles until you reach the hedgerow. Keeping the hedgerow on your right, follow it until you come to a stile. Climb over the stile and continue over the next field towards Mackworth Water Tower.

6 When you reach the hedgerow opposite, turn sharp right towards the road. Climb the stile, then cross the road. Danger - road. Pass through the gate to your left. Walk through the next three fields, keeping the hedgerow to your right. In the distance is Mickleover.

Cross the former railway line again. Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council have developed it as a multi-user Greenway for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, linking Derby with Etwall, Hilton and Egginton.

Follow the tarmac path straight in front of you and along Roydon Close to Ladybank Road. Danger - busy road.

Turn right and head back to the Honeycomb Public House to finish the walk.

As you reach the top of the hill, marked by a triangular enclosure of young beech trees on your right, you may see Radbourne Hall ahead of you through the trees.

Radbourne Hall - Major Chandos-Pole prefers this spelling - was built by William Smith of Warwick for German Pole, pronounced Jarman Pole, between 1739 - 54 to replace the earlier house. The first Radbourne Hall was built for Sir John Chandos, one of the original Knights of the Garter, who died in 1369. The estate has never passed out of the ownership of the family.

Continue on, heading down the hill. Ahead of you is Radbourne Church.

Radbourne Church stands back from the village in the Hall grounds. Dedicated to St Andrew, it dates mainly from around 1300, and has a 15th century tower. Inside are fine monuments to the Pole family and 14th and 15th century woodwork from Dale Abbey, which was brought here by Francis Pole who bought the Abbey's contents on its dissolution.

At the bottom of the hill go through the field gate and carry straight on until you reach the metal 'kissing gate'. Pass through this gate, under the Yew tree, and follow the path round to the left, past the church. You are now in Radbourne. The name probably means 'the stream where reeds grow'. Continue along the path, through the metal gate and along the track until you reach the road. Danger - road.

5 Turn right, keeping to the right hand verge. To your right is Cunnery Wood, a cunnery being a rabbit warren. Keep on the road until you have gone over the little brick bridge.