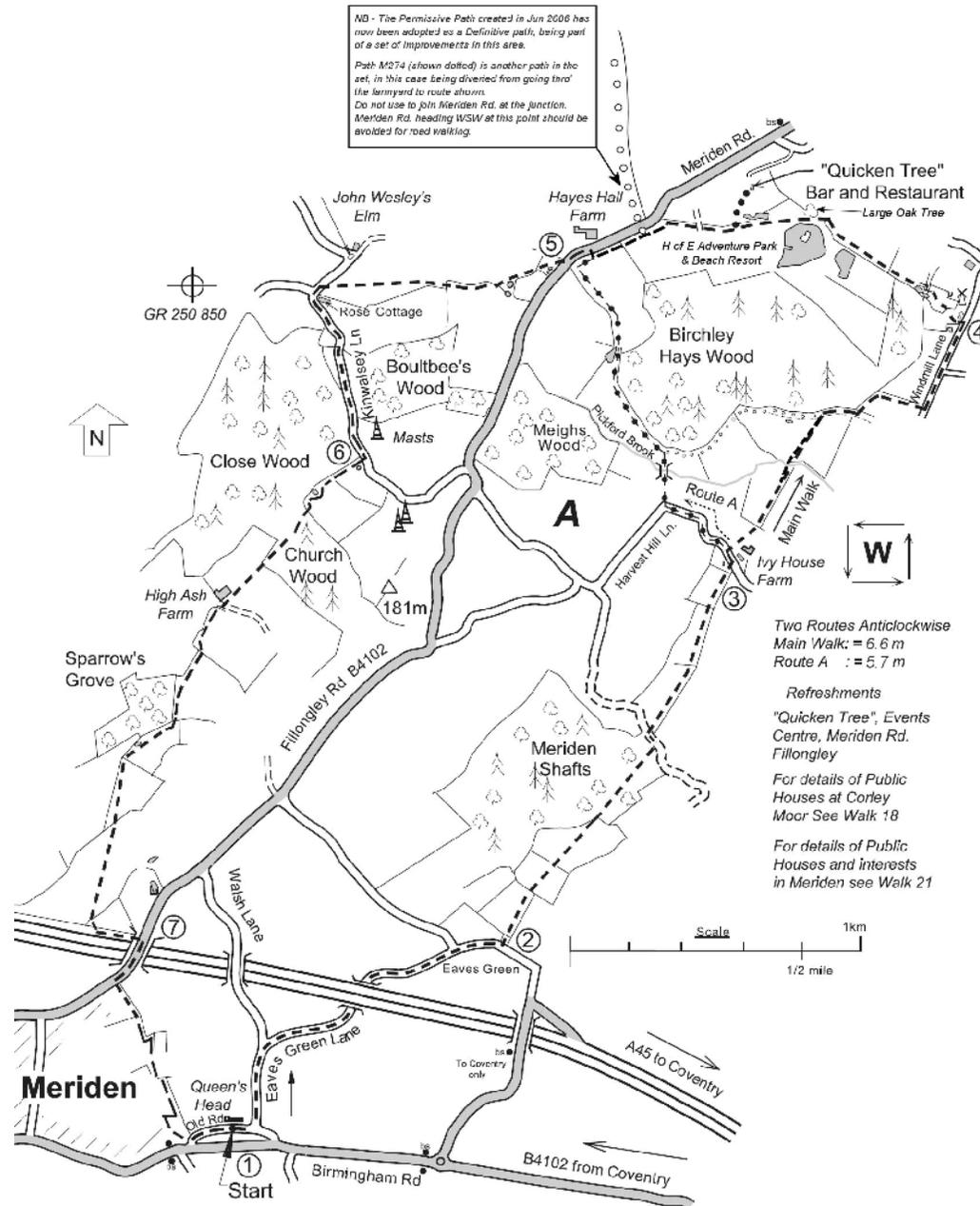


**Main Walk**

1. With your back to The Queen's Head go left & in a very short distance **T/L** up Eaves Green Lane. Fork right at junction passing under the A45 to reach the junction (Green) at Eaves Green. **Fwd** for 150m along Showell Lane, pass a mobile park then a bungalow on your left, thro' k/g just inset from the road on left.
2. **Fwd** hg-right, via k/g & s/b into a horse field, **fwd** cross-field thro' gap, **V/L** cross-field to go over s/b, board-walk & k/g into Meriden Shafts. **Fwd** up thro' woods to the top & thro' k/g into sunken lane. **T/L** & in 40m take k/g on right into meadow. **Fwd**, hg-right thro' three meadows (and 1 p/g 2 stiles), to reach the road (Harvest Hill Lane) near Ivy House Farm. (**Route A** see below).
3. **T/L** along road, shortly just past house on right x-stile. **V/R** cross-field to go thro' f/g, hg-right down to x-stile a short way left of field corner. **Fwd** up cross-field to right of railway sheds to x-stile into fenced path adjacent to wood. **T/R** wood on left to end of wood. **T/L**, wood left to corner & **T/R** down track. Thro' p/g at side of large double gates to road. **T/L** down road thro' k/g by f/g, **fwd** to just past Hill House.
4. Thro' p/g on left, thro' 2nd p/g then hg-left thro' 3rd p/g. **Fwd** cross-field to go thro' p/g in left corner (pools left & ahead). **T/R** for a short distance along fenced walkway. **T/L**, fenced pool left, hg-left to x-stile off field corner. **Fwd** hg-left, bank left, to a large gap by a big oak tree & WMP. **T/L** thro' gap, initially hg-right, with lake left follow track **fwd** to pool ahead on right (lifebelt) in front of Hall. **Fwd** hg-right up over drive to WMP near field corner ahead. **PLEASE USE NEW DEFINITIVE PATH** (Possibly still marked as a *Permissive Path* - do not attempt to use the narrow road, especially when the new k/g for path M274 is opened!). **Fwd**, uphill hg-right to reach & go thro' p/g on left (next to f/g). Continue up with hg-right to exit onto road thro' f/g. **T/L** for 50m to x stile on right.
5. **H/L** to climb up behind house to x-stile hidden in corner, **fwd** hg-left, pond on left thro' p/g (next to f/g). **T/R**, hg-right, **fwd** thro' large gap into next field. Initially hg-left, keep **fwd** as hedge veers away to left. Aim for short distance off bottom left field corner (right of large detached house), x-stile & s/b onto road. **T/L** up road (Kinwalsey Lane) & pass between the woods until the end of the wood on your right (Close Wood).
6. Thro' k/g right into field, over s/b keeping wood on right, **fwd** thro' two fields follow round to left. K/g into wood, **fwd** via k/g into field with High Ash Farm in view. Cross-field to the farm, cross drive & **fwd** with fc-right to enter another field. **Fwd** with hedge & then wood (Sparrow's Grove) on right to reach & go thro' k/g. **T/R** cross-field & aim for bottom right hand corner of field. Thro' k/g, hg-right, **fwd** to k/g just off field corner. **H/R**, cross-field, aim for large dead oak tree, to meet hedge opposite, near the A45. Thro' k/g, cross-short-field, thro' k/g, onto the bank of the dual carriageway. **DO NOT GO ON DUAL CARRIAGEWAY!** **T/L**, along bank to exit thro' k/g onto Fillongley Road (B4102).
7. **T/R** over A45, just past Meriden sign, thro' k/g on left. Hg-left go thro' into second field & shortly **T/L** & **T/R** to follow drainage ditch bank and eventually **T/R** & **T/L** to reach culvert on left. **T/L** over culvert into small field. **H/R** & thro' k/g onto Old Road, **T/L** to reach The Queen's Head.

**Route A** At the end of Note 2, **T/L** up the road for 400m. Just before it turns left at road sign cross s/b & k/g into field, **fwd** cross-field to go over f/b (Pickford Brook), **fwd** until you reach the boundary of Birchley Hayes Wood & WMP. **T/L** along The Heart of England Way with wood on right, **fwd** thro' gap near pool into field. Hg-left to reach road by stile & f/g opposite Hayes Hall Farm. **T/L** for 50m to x stile on right. Continue with Note 5.



Start : Old Road, Meriden  
 Grid Ref. SP 252,820  
 Parking : Carefully in Old Road or  
 The Queens Head (customers ask permission)

**"Around the Dome"**

## WALK 20 "AROUND THE DOME"

**Start:** Old Road, Meriden  
**Grid Ref:** SP 252,820  
**Direction:** Anticlockwise  
**Main Walk:** 7.5 miles  
**Route A:** 5.5 miles  
**OS Maps:** (p = part)  
Landranger 139p  
Landranger 140p  
Pathfinder 935  
Explorer 221

**Parking:** Carefully in Old Road or the Queen's Head.  
Customers please ask permission

This route uses a permissive path at High Ash Farm that enables walkers to enjoy a continuous traverse along the west ridge of the dome at 181m/593ft.

The late John Smith who charted all the paths in Meriden revealed that near the dome is the source of Pickford Brook, a waterway that continues to the Severn. Also the Hornbrook that passes underneath Eaves Green Lane carries on through to the Humber

### Brief Information and Outline of the Route

Starting in Meriden (*Mereden* in 1230, pleasant valley or valley where merry-making takes place) at the Queen's Head, an old coaching inn on the old Holyhead to London Road.

Up Eaves Green Lane to Meriden Shafts, so called because of past mining in shallow pits. Despite this the wood is carpeted with bluebells in spring. Past Ivy House Farm, skirting Birchley Hays Wood, probably a wood for many centuries, to reach Windmill Lane in **Corley Moor**. Just before the windmill, now a private house, turn left through what looks like the remains of an old orchard. Down past the pools at the back of Old Fillongley Hall, pass Hayes Hall Farm and cross the fields passing the area known as Kinwalsey.

There are stories of the Kinwalsey Elm that stood on the boundaries of Meriden, Fillongley and Hampton from the time when John Wesley and others preached under its branches. Locals called it Kenney Church. If you would like to locate the old elm, before turning left up Kinwalsey Lane, turn right to the green and sharp bend to see what is left of the elm and the new oak tree planted by the friends of Meriden Methodist Church in 1984. Apparently, services are still held here in the summer months.

Retrace your steps to rejoin the walk. Go left up Kinwalsey Lane to the masts, one of the highest points on the walk. Skirt Close Wood and notice the ditch and bank boundary, which is also Meriden parish boundary. Through Church Wood to High Ash Farm with its wonderful views over Packington Park to the west. Down using a permissive path past Sparrow's Grove to the A45. Cross the bridge and over the fields south to the old A45 and the Queen's Head.

### Wildlife

A spring walk which passes through and around a dense collection of semi-natural and plantation woodlands. A real treat for bird lovers and wildlife enthusiast because of its variety of habitats and interesting land topography. On passing below the A45 along Eaves Green Lane you may wish to take time to examine the hedgerows. These are likely to be several hundred years old and contain hazel, privet, willow, oak, ash, hawthorn, holly and many others besides. Along the base of the hedges and along the road verge woodland ground flora occurs including bluebell, dog's mercury and ferns and suggest that the hedge may have occurred naturally or even be the remaining feature of a woodland that was cleared as part of medieval farming practices.

Having left the road you pass through a couple of fields to the south of Meriden Shafts. These fields are grazed by horses and used in part for horse jumping. The grassland itself is particularly rich and contains species such as devil's bit scabious, betony and meadowsweet which are best seen during late summer. Fragments of semi-natural oak and birch woodland also occur at the perimeter of the grassland and include such species as holly, enchanter's nightshade, wood avens, herb robert and red campion.

A large part of Meriden Shafts has recently been clear felled allowing more light into the area of larch plantation through which the footpath passes. During the spring this wood contains abundant patches of bluebell but as summer progresses becomes dominated by bracken. Before leaving the wood you will pass alongside an area of broadleaf woodland containing abundant birch with rowan and oak. Keep an eye open for a tall woodland grass called wood millet which is quite common in this area.

Birchley Hays Wood includes an interesting area of semi-natural woodland of oak, ash and birch with some dense area of hazel. Bird life is particularly noted in this wood and it is perhaps worth taking a moment to see what's about. Keep an eye out for buzzards!

The walk along Kinwalsey Lane is particularly pleasing. To the west is Close Wood which contains oak and silver birch with abundant hazel and holly. It also contains dog violet, wood sorrel, heath bedstraw, wood avens, herb robert, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage and ferns.

Boultbee's Wood is now mainly a pine plantation but worth keeping an eye open for greater spotted woodpecker and tree creepers. Look out for wood melick along the road verge, which is a grass of limited distribution in Warwickshire, with sweet woodruff and greater stitchwort. Also note the row of small-leaved lime along the woodland bank - a native tree that because of climatic changes is no longer able to set seed and has been able to survive and spread using vegetative reproduction alone.

On leaving the road you will pass by a rich pond containing a host of aquatic and wetland plantspecies including marsh marigold, yellow iris, lesser spearwort, great bird's foot trefoil, water plantain. The surrounding grassland is also rich with lesser knapweed, betony, sneezewort, perforate, St John's wort, bird's foot trefoil and tormentil. Keep an eye open for amphibians.

The path takes you along the edge of Sparrow Grove, an open canopy oak woodland with frequent birch, hazel and holly. Particularly attractive in the spring with its display of bluebell, although the woodland is dominated by bracken during the summer. The grassland is cattle grazed and contains cat's ear and sorrel with sheep's sorrel, foxglove and hawkbit along the hedge banks. Keep an eye open for buzzard and watch out for amphibia near the pond.