

ASPLEY GUISE WALK No. 2. – Mermaid Pond Walk



Route Description

1. Start in **The Square** facing Moore Place Hotel. Turn right and walk up **West Hill**. Just past the junction with **Wood Lane** turn right to climb a flight of steps followed by a steep path (FP17).

2. Cross the road at the top and take the path by a finger post between a hedge and a wooden fence. At a tarmaced lane cross over and enter a field through a gate by a waymark post (FP5).

3. Follow the hedge on the left as far as an opening in the top left corner of the field. Cross the lane to the left of a metal barrier and go through a kissing gate to enter the **Recreation Field**.

4. Walk across the field with the children's play area on the right. Go down the bank and through another gate onto the golf course watching for flying golf balls coming from the right!!

5. Follow the waymarked path across the golf course observing all the notices telling you where play is coming from (FP5). On arriving at another unpaved lane turn left onto **Mill Way**. As you return to the golf course watch for golfers driving from the tee to the right.

When the track leaves the open golf course take the left path following two yellow topped waymark posts (FP21) that will guide you uphill with the clubhouse perched high on the bank to the left. Continue straight ahead to reach the main road (**West Hill**).

6. Carefully cross the road and turn left for about 30m to a clear path directly opposite the entrance to **Common Lane**. Continue down this path (FP10) between a high wall and a wooden fence to reach the road at the far end (**Woodside**).

7. Cross the road to a signed path, to the right of Denbigh House. Follow this path (do not enter the wood). Pass through two kissing gates to arrive once again at a road (**Aspley Hill**). Turn left and walk as far as The Fir Tree pub on the corner and turn left onto the **Woburn Road (A5130)**.

8. At a finger post on your left enter Aspley Woods across a wooden bridge (FP23). Follow this path with a wire fence on the left turn right up through woodland until it is crossed by a broad path at a waymark post. Go straight ahead up a gentle slope. Turn left towards a waymark post on the left. Go slightly right to follow the path between gorse with derelict buildings on the right through the trees.

9. Continue past a waymark post on the right and head towards a belt of trees. Follow the path (FP23) through the trees, past two waymark posts. The path now goes between gorse again, a bridleway is reached (BW28). Follow the bridleway until it is joined by another waymarked bridleway (BW29) on the right. Go left here following this bridleway, to the point where it turns sharp right before a gate crossing the Woburn Road. Turn left, onto a wider path around the wood (FP33).

10. Cross an area of open ground and bear left at a waymark post to enter woodland on a narrow path. Follow the path cross paths near Mermaids Pond, turn right. Go straight ahead, then downhill to leave the wood onto **Aspley Lane**, opposite Birchmoor Lodge (FP23).

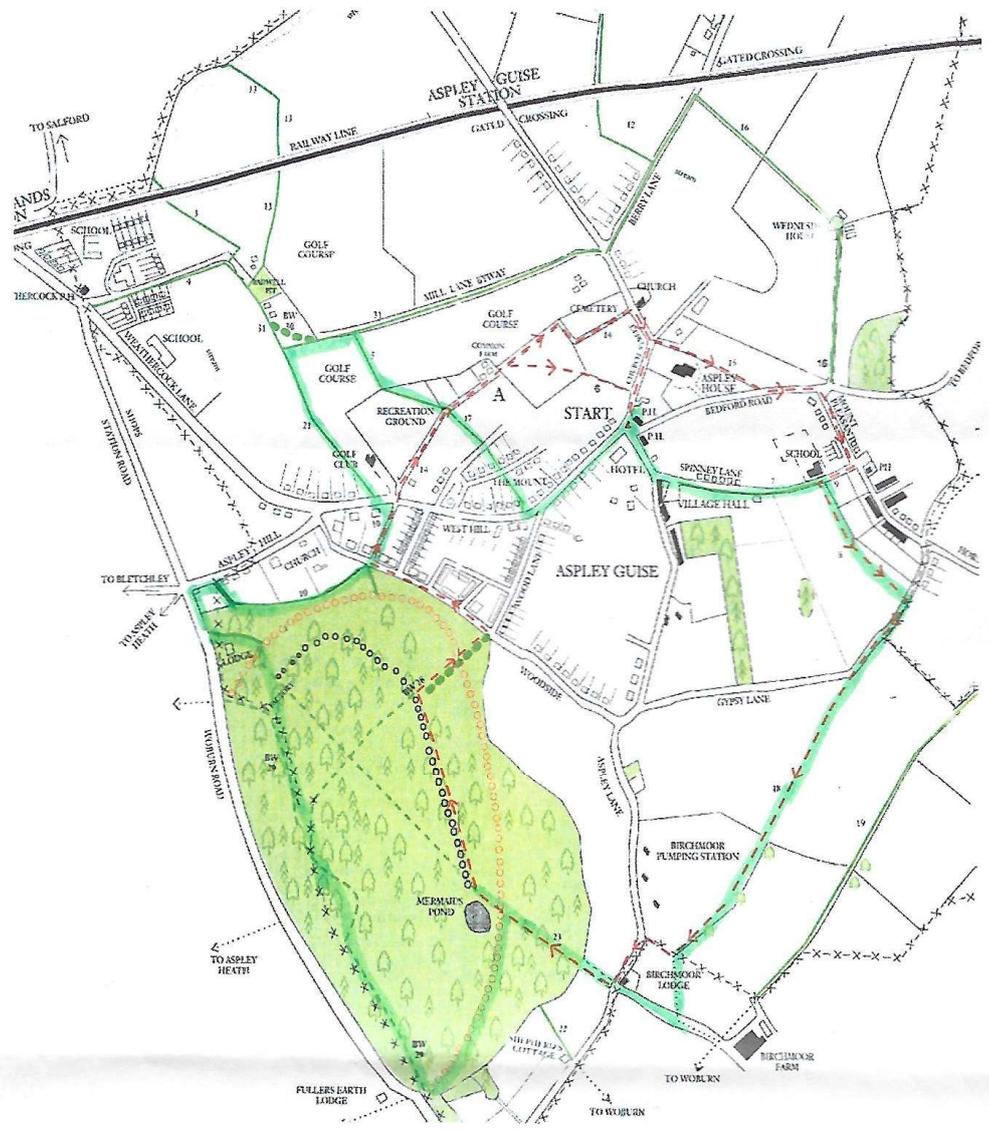
11. Carefully cross the lane follow the footpath fingerpost up the drive to Birchmoor Farmhouse (FP39). About halfway up this drive look for a waymark post on the left. Turn left here along a clear path through a crop field (FP12). At a waymark post at the end of the field path cross a wooden bridge to enter the grounds of the Birchmoor Pumping Station (FP18).

12. Follow the path alongside the hedge, cross another bridge, go past two small brick buildings on the left. The path then continues gently uphill along a clear path across a large, open crop field. At the end of the path go through a double five barred gate onto **Gypsy Lane**.

13. Turn right along the road and just before the houses turn left at a fingerpost (FP8) along the edge of a field. The path follows the hedgerow past the old allotments to eventually reach a lane in front of the Lower School (**Spinney Lane**). Turn left here (FP7). Continue past houses, the Scout Hut and the Village Hall car park as far as the road at **Woburn Lane**. Turn right and return to the starting point in **The Square**.

The map of the route is given below.

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KEY

- CIRCULAR WALK
- OTHER PATHS & BRIDLEWAYS
NUMBERED AS PER DEFINITIVE MAP
- PATHS OR BRIDLEWAYS
TEMPORARILY OBSTRUCTED
OR DIVERTED
- TEMPORARY BRIDLEWAY
- TEMPORARY FOOTPATH
- PARISH BOUNDARY
- FIELD BOUNDARY
- WOODED AREAS

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