

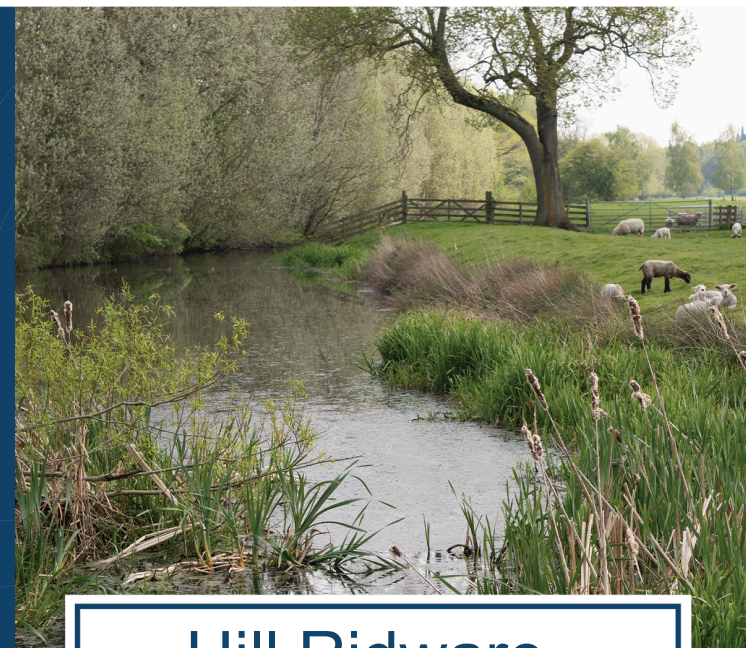
My Field Notes:

You can write down what you spotted here. Bug and plant hunters like to record the date, time & weather when they see something. Where is also important, in a tree, in the grass on the lake?

FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE...



- ☒ **Respect** other people
- ☒ Consider the **local community** and other people enjoying the outdoors
- ☒ **Park carefully** so access to gateways and driveways are clear
- ☒ Leave gates and property **as you find them**
- ☒ **Follow paths** but give way to others where it's narrow
- ☒ **Protect** the natural environment
- ☒ Leave no trace of your visit, **take all your litter home**
- ☒ **Don't** have BBQs or fires
- ☒ Keep dogs under **effective control**
- ☒ Dog poo - bag it and **bin it**
- ☒ **Enjoy** the outdoors
- ☒ **Plan ahead**, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- ☒ **Follow advice** and local signs



Hill Ridware

Children's Nature Walk

in the parish of Mavesyn Ridware

1-2 hours



Devised by

RIDWARE WALKERS





Ridware Explorer are you ready?

Make sure you have the right shoes, weather appropriate clothing, a pen and something to drink.

Read the back of the leaflet to remind your team of the countryside rules.

Ready? Let's go!

1. Stand outside the village hall next to the tall Oak tree.

Fun fact: Did you know this tree is over 300 years old? Stand under its branches and look out. Imagine how many changes it would have seen.

2. Cross over the road and walk slightly left until you find the Public Footpath post at the end of the alley way. Follow the foot path. **Eco Alert!** This is a great place to do some litter picking. **Remember** always follow safety rules and never pick up anything with your hands.

3. After you follow the path around and through the housing estate, you will come to a metal gate. This is a lovely look-out spot. Sometimes you can spot sheep here. This gate is also surrounded by lots of lovely plants like Hawthorn bushes. Can you spot them?



4. Now the adventure truly begins. This lane is full of interesting plants! How many different plants can you spot?

Challenge: Can you find 5 different types of leaves? Who on your walk can spot the most? Follow this link to access a leaf, blossom or twig sheet from the Woodland Trust.

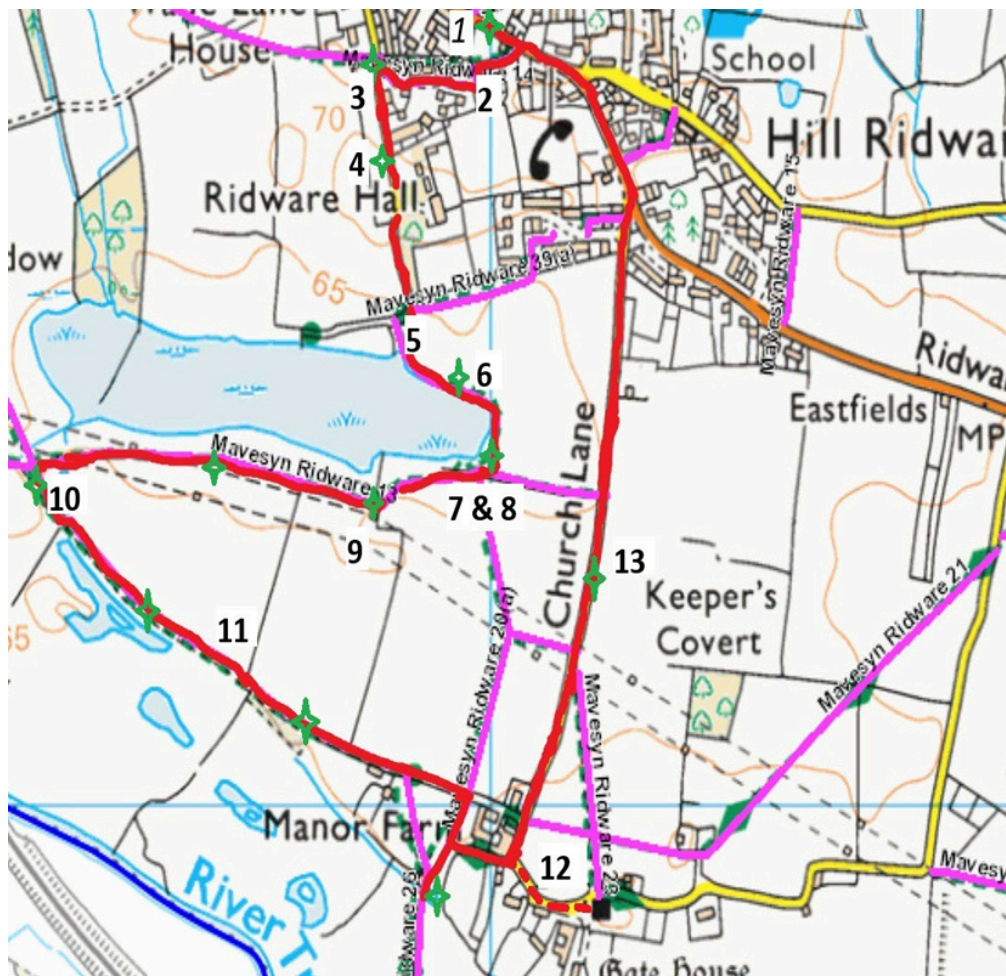


5. You will now turn left into the field. There are lots of spikey plants here! **Fun Fact:** Plants have spikey leaves to protect themselves and their fruits and berries from birds and other animals. What fruits or berries do you think grow here?

6. There are so many signs of wildlife in this field and on the lake. You might spot animal footprints in the mud, spot mole hills and meet some friendly sheep. You may even be able to spot Canada geese, mallards, ducks, swans, great crested grebes, cormorants, coots, bull rushes and loads more.



There is a great bird spotting guide here:



7. As you follow the walk there are many great listening spots. Close your eyes and listen. What can you hear? Can you hear birds? A train? Anything else?

8. Look in the distance can you spot the two churches? What else can you see?

9. When you reach the electric towers stop and listen. Can you hear the buzzing crackling sound of the electricity? How many things are being powered in your home by towers like these? **Eco Alert!** Do you know of any ways we make electricity? As you walk talk about things you could do at home to save energy.

10. Fee Fi Fo Fum! You have reached the bridge. The yellow and green plant growing all over the stone is called lichen. This yellow lichen's name is xanthoria.

Fun Fact: Xanthoria grows only 2.6mm a year. Can you estimate how long each patch took to grow by estimating its size?



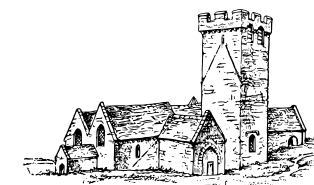
Scan the QR code to visit the Woodland Trust page about Lichen.



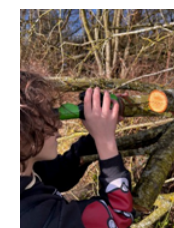
11. As you walk beside the water there are many trees along the way.

Challenge: Can you spot the one that looks like it has a huge nose? What shapes and patterns can you spot in the trees?

12. You are now walking towards the church. If you have time why not pop in or look around and see what gargoyles, patterns and designs you can see. Do any of the patterns look like anything in nature? Why do you think these were put on the church?



13. As you walk back towards the village there are still lots of opportunities to spot wildlife in the hedges. You might see swallows resting on the wires, spot a robin in the hedge or even spy a field mouse. This is also a great place to see insects such as bees, ladybirds and more.



Want to enjoy more wildlife fun? There are loads of fun ideas on this webpage along with many more spotter guides.



This walk was designed along with children from the village. Do you have a walk leaflet idea? Contact the Community Spirit group with your ideas!