

Tithe Barn

Late C17 tithe barn, belonging to the church, was built in front of the rectory. Farmers were required to give one-tenth of their crops to the newly established Church of England. This was known as a tithe. 1836 the tithe was commuted for a monetary rent charge depending on the price of grain, so it is possible that the barn ceased to be used for this purpose around then. Description at time of listing was weatherboarded timber framing with some brick infill; plain tile roof. One storey. 5 framed bays with central full height barn doors. Exposed framing one square panel in height below the weatherboarding.



Gate House

c.1392/3. Sir Robert Mavesyn had the gatehouse to the Manor House built. It is a timber framed building of two storeys with a massive Crown Post Roof. The timbers for the frame were felled in late 1391 or before the spring of 1392. This is all that remains of the medieval Manor House. c.1407. The first record of the Gatehouse itself is when Dame Johanna Malvesin is granted a license to have masses celebrated in the family oratory, which tradition places in one of the main chambers of the Gatehouse. c.1642-1647. The English Civil War touched the rural reaches of the Ridwares. Unsubstantiated stories abound that Oliver Cromwell's men lodged in the Gate House before marching to Lichfield. c.17th Century refaced with stone and brick.



The Parish Church

c.1140 - 1160. Church built. c.1521. The church was dedicated to St Nicholas and was now referred to as the 'parish' church rather than the 'manor' church. The square in front of the church was once of considerable importance where a maypole was erected at the end of the wars of Queen Anne's reign in 1713. c.1782. The church being 'damp and ruinous', was taken down except the tower and north aisle, and rebuilt as it appears today.



Useful OS Map - Pathfinder 244

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

CIRCULAR WALK 1

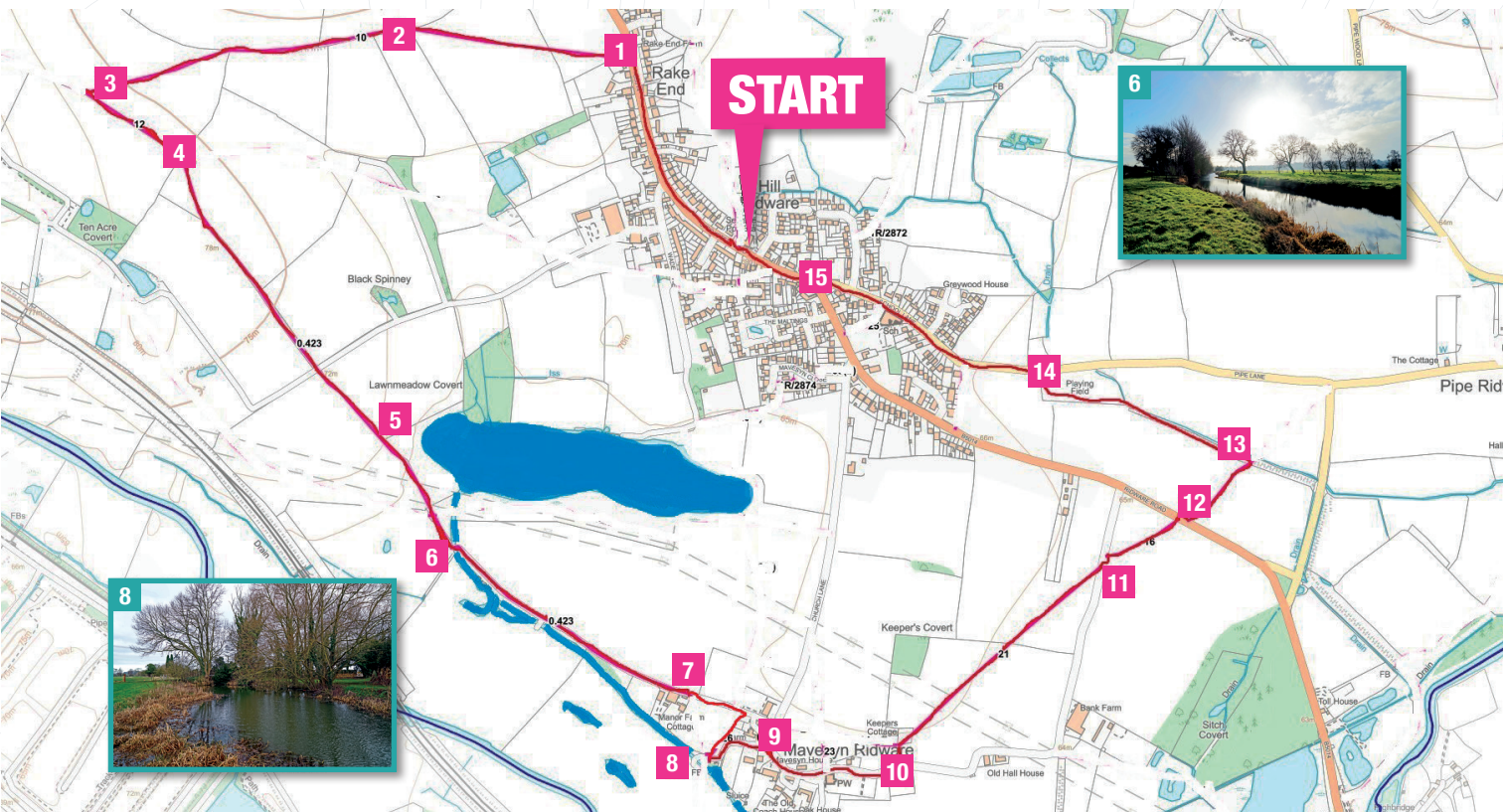
in the parish of Mavesyn Ridware

6km (3.75 mile) - 7 stiles
Approximately 1.5 hours



Devised by
RIDWARE WALKERS





Start outside Mavesyn Ridware Village Hall, situated in Hill Ridware Village. As you stand outside the hall looking towards the road turn right and walk up through the village keeping to the main road.

- 1** Just past the last house on the left hand side (The Thatch) cross the stile and head diagonally across the field to a gap in the hedge on the far side. Continue across the next field to the far corner where you will find another gap in the hedge.
- 2** Pass through the gap in the hedge turning left to follow a track along the field boundary. Take care there are badger workings with deep holes. After approximately 400 metres, at a sign, the way turns left through the hedge. Take a diagonal path across the field heading towards a large oak tree with a hedge gap to the right of it.
- 3** On reaching the oak tree and marker turn sharp left and follow the track.
- 4** Pass through the gate in the field boundary and take slight right following a diagonal path across the field between two way markers; heading to the right of a row of conifers. Continue to follow the track.

- 5** It is worth pausing here to look at the lake. Continue along the track until you meet a stile after a 4 way finger post.
- 6** Cross over the stile and continue through a gate then over a further stile. Keep to the left side of the field until you reach a bridge where you will find a further stile leading onto a farm track. Cross the stile and follow the track with fish ponds on your right.
- 7** Keep on the track that eventually turns into a metalled drive. After passing Stable Cottage you will come to an open green farm gate. Looking to your right, just passed the gate you will find a stile. Cross this stile then walk along the left field margin until coming to a small kissing gate. Pass through the kissing gate and slightly to your right across a track, you will see a footbridge.
- 8** This footbridge spans the ancient leat that used to feed the water mill. The mill pond is still visible you can see it better if you cross the bridge and enter the field. Some brickwork forming the race is still visible on careful inspection. Cross back over the footbridge turning right and follow the track that is way marked "The Way of the Millennium." Follow this track passing through a gate until you come to a metalled road.

- 9** Turn right and follow the road passing on your right the Tithe Barn, Gate House, (signed "Old Hall"), and the church.
- 10** At the end of the Hamlet the footpath turns left opposite a bungalow called "Stoneleigh." After a few metres turn right alongside a metal fence, shortly following the fence around to the left. At a disused stile turn half right across the field heading to the right of the largest tree in the far boundary. Carry on across the next field in the same direction reaching a stile which leads onto a metalled lane.
- 11** Turn left and walk a few metres up the lane until reaching a way marked footpath on your right. Cross the corner of the next field until you reach the B5014.
- 12** Going slightly to your right cross the B road and take the footpath crossing the field to a bank (known as 'The Bund').
- 13** The footpath climbs up onto the flood defence bund. Turn left on the bund and walk along the top passing through a hedge then diagonally crossing a playing field and reaching a lane.
- 14** Enter the lane turning left and follow it back into the village of Hill Ridware.
- 15** At the mini roundabout bear right walking up the B5014 through the village bringing you back to the village hall.

Mavesyn Ridware Hamlet

c.1140. Hugo Mauvoisin re-located to Mavesyn Ridware from Blithbury Priory. Here he had a church built and round it a typical manorial complex was established complete with a manor house, manor farm, corn mill and parsonage.

The Corn Mill

c.1140. The corn mill was built probably when Hugo Mauvesin first moved to Mavesyn Ridware by the Trent. As late as 1554 it was supplied by a pond, and two fishing pools are named, all which situated, probably within that space now occupied by the mill-dam, before a mill-stream of the Trent was diverted for the use of the mill. It was said that one of the rooms of the house showed the marks of fire on some timber, thought to have been brought from the ruins of Handsacre mill. It worked until c.1892/93. Much of the building was pulled down by employees of Frederick Derry, estate manager, who was himself instructed by Earle and Sons on behalf of the Trustees of the Lady Francis Cecil Estate between 1912 and 1914, although remnants were left to slowly decay until it was totally demolished c.1950.

