

Town Walk 3: Aldi / Waterside to Town Centre and back

This is a round trip walk from Aldi / Waterside to the town centre and back again, avoiding the worst of the main roads. There are steps and unsurfaced paths. 2.2m / 3.5 kms. Allow 50 minutes plus time for shopping / eating / drinking. This walk was written in June 2021.

1. This walk starts from the Waterside car park (2a or 2b) or from Aldi (2c).

2a. If the weather is dry, then walk to the very end of the car park and go down the side of HomeBase – you will meet an obvious footpath which you follow for a few yards until it meets a tarmac path.

2b. The path at 2a can get very muddy so in wet weather leave the car park via the main road entrance, turn right and follow the pavement round onto Carnation Way. Just before you reach Aldi there is a pedestrian island crossing point over the main road – do not take it - but look for a tarmac path sloping down to your right.

2c. Starting from Aldi car park, head towards the main road and cross over via the pedestrian island crossing point. Turn left and immediately look for a tarmac path on your right.

3. Take the tarmac path which zigzags right then left down through some trees into a field. Follow this tarmac path, which crosses and re-crosses the stream, until it reaches the edge of the hospital grounds, where it forks.

4. Take the left fork which soon turns into an unmade footpath alongside the brook behind the hospital. This path brings you out to a car park near the leisure centre.

5. Turn left and cross the brook by the road bridge and immediately after the bridge, turn left and walk through a narrow alleyway between hedges, past the almshouses to St Oswalds church. In late winter the churchyard is filled with snowdrops, followed soon afterwards by thousands of daffodils and then a few weeks later wildflowers – it is a truly glorious sight for anyone who loves flowers.

Turn right past the church and leave the churchyard by the main gates.

6. Walk along Church Street towards the town centre, admiring the Georgian architecture which is amongst the finest in Derbyshire. Keep going straight on, crossing over at Station Road and Dig Street.

7. Shortly after Dig Street you will see a cobbled square on the opposite side of the road, with an old gas lamppost at the bottom. Cross over the road and walk up the left hand side of the cobbled square. In the narrow section (before you reach the main market place) go through the square archway on your left and follow the alleyway uphill to reach Union Street.

8. Turn left and walk straight ahead – in a few moments Union Street bends right but you carry straight on into Belle Vue Road.

9. Keep looking left for where the houses end a field starts – at this point you will see some steps going downhill towards the Church. Go down these steps.

10. At the bottom of the steps turn right and walk along Mayfield Road. When you reach the cemetery, cross over and go into a small stony car park. Turn right in this car park and follow the short path to the Shrovetide statue and information board.

11. Retrace your steps back to the car park and turn right crossing a low level plank bridge over the brook. You are now back on the tarmac path in step 3 above. Turn right and retrace your steps back to your starting point.