

Bromsgrove Walks

For Health

Route 2 – Town Circular.

Start:	Housman Statue, High Street, Bromsgrove.
Distance:	2 miles.
Type of Walk:	Paved throughout.
Facilities:	Parking✓ Toilets✓ Refreshments✓ Public transport✓



Starting beneath the statue of AE Housman, the poet best known for his collection ‘A Shropshire Lad’, this walk takes in some of Bromsgrove’s best sites. Passing through the quiet cemetery with its magnificent trees and yew topiary, the walk brings you to St. John’s Church, towering above the town. Sanders Park with its flower beds, pond and the Battlefield brook, completes a lovely walk.

Start: From beneath the **Housman statue** head across the **High Street** and down **Mill Street**, crossing the **Spadesbourne Brook** at the footbridge by the ‘bus station.

2) Cross **Market Street** at the pedestrian crossing, go left toward the supermarket, then right onto the footpath which crosses the **Recreation ground**. This brings you to **Churchfields**.

3) Cross the road and turn left for a few yards until you reach **Crabtree Lane**. Turn right and go along the road for a short distance then cross to the opposite side. Continue along Crabtree Lane, with the hedge on your left, until you reach the cemetery gates.

4) Enter the cemetery. The path straight ahead will take you across the cemetery to the gates opposite **St. John’s Church**. Alternatively you can follow any of the meandering paths which pass beautiful mature trees, yew topiary and interesting gravestones and monuments.

- 5) On reaching the gates opposite the church, notice the two boulders on either side. These are 'erratics', boulders deposited thousands of years ago by the retreating glaciers of the last ice age. Cross the road and go up the steps into the churchyard. Turn left and follow the perimeter path, following the line of Lime trees planted in the 1790's. Pass the Lych gate (see if you can spot the date of construction – 1656- cut into its beams) and continue round the church to return to the steps opposite the cemetery.
- 6) Cross the road and turn left to reach **Church Road**. Cross this and continue straight ahead until you reach the **Kidderminster Road**.
- 7) Turn right and follow the road until you reach the pedestrian crossing opposite the entrance to **Sanders Park**. Cross the road and enter the park.
- 8) Follow the road within the park round to the right, passing through the car park. An information board here points out the '**Royal Hunters' Walks**' which start in the park. Note the old horse trough, a monument to Benjamin Hadley Sanders. Continue along the path, passing the pond to your left. Cross the stream at the footbridge, straight ahead of you the 'Green Man' in the statue is visible. Continue along the path, past the skateboard park, and re-cross the stream at the next footbridge.
- 9) Beyond the bridge the path divides. Take the path which follows the stream alongside the tennis courts. Keep to this path until it turns right to cross the stream at a wide footbridge.
- 10) Follow the tarmac path across the field until you reach the stream again. Turn left across the bridge and follow the path with the stream on your left. The cottages here were built from the bricks of a cotton mill which once stood near-by.
- 11) Follow the footpath alongside the school grounds until you reach **Hanover Street**. Turn right and continue to the pedestrian crossing. Near-by on your right stands the '**Black Cross**', the oldest pub in Bromsgrove, reputedly visited by King Charles 1 when fleeing in disguise after the battle of Worcester in 1651. Cross the road and turn left and follow the road ahead toward the **High Street**.
- 12) Continue to **New Road**. Opposite you stands an imposing black & white timber framed building. This was originally built by William Brooke in Elizabethan times, his initials can be seen in the gable timbers. The building was demolished in 1805 when the 'New Road' to the railway station was constructed. It was re-built in its current position – with some poetic licence – by a Victorian architect.
- 13) Cross **New Road** and continue up the **High Street** to finish at the Housman Statue.

