

Cedar Farm & Mawdesley Moss

This is a simple 4+ mile flat walk taking in a loop around Mawdesley much of it over Mawdesley Moss. There are numerous ways of extending it should that be needed.

The area is flat and farmland (hence the “ley” in the name) and the route uses a fair amount of the Jubilee Trail. In reasonable weather expect it to be good underfoot, in poor weather expect some stretches of narrow muddy path but passable with walking footwear. In really wet weather gaiters or wellingtons would be useful as paths can have minor floods.

Wikipedia describes Mawdesley as an “isolated, commuter, (wealthy) retirement village with less than 2000 residents”. It was recorded about 1250 when a mansion existed on the site of the current hall.

While the walk could be started from various places in Mawdesley, this description starts in the “Cedar Farm” car park SD495140, L40 3SY. Cedar Farm is a collection of small retail and café’s with a craft type focus and a very popular place for visitors from far and wide. The shops/café are not open on Mondays but the car park is available 7 days a week – though it can get busy.



It is important to always be appropriately dressed for the conditions and carry, and know how to use, a suitable map for the walk.

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1: SD 494140 If the weather has been quite wet it is better to go right out of the car park and along the curving road 350yds (310m) past a junction to where the road curves right. Skip to **point 3** below. In good weather, the walk heads towards the rear of the farm between a barn and the small animal area fence to find a kissing gate. Go through the gate to pass behind the farm, through another kissing gate and shortly meet a farm track.



2: SD 496139 On meeting the track, turn left and go 370yds(330m) to meet a road and cross over to turn left and follow it a short distance to where it curves left to find a stile on the right in the corner.



3: SD 496142 Cross the stile and keep the wall on the right to reach a barn and pass along it's right hand side. The path then formally goes along the right hand hedge, and left along the end of the field to find a stile diagonally opposite the entrance to the field. Go over the stile and follow the path which soon curves right to a footbridge.



4: SD 496145 Cross the narrow bridge and continue in the same direction as the bridge between a fence and hedge (susceptible to mud) to reach a crossing path. Turn left and follow it to exit beside a playground.



5: SD 496148 Turn right into the end of a cul-de-sac and at the far end locate and follow the path that goes left beyond the far house. (NOT the path into the field at the corner). Follow this path onto another cul-de-sac and keep bearing right to reach a main road.



6: SD 494151 At the road, cross over and go to the right for about 100yds(90m) to find a track/road on the left. Follow this for 200yds (180m) and a little after it starts bearing left, watch carefully for a narrow, and not always obvious, path between the trees on the right.



7: SD 495153 The path goes through some trees, crosses a stile, between a wooden fence, later a wire and electric fence, and a hedge. The path can be narrow. It bears right and left to come to a stile after some 310yds (280m).



8: SD 496155 This stile is prone to be quite muddy on the other side but passable with care. Head in the same direction as the path before the stile. (NNE) The Mawdesley Wind Turbines are in view. Aim to the right of these to find a corner of the field hedge and a stile in 350yds(310m).





9: SD 497159 Cross the stile and head somewhat left to aim for the right hand side of the farm buildings ahead. On reaching them turn left on the farm track and then right along the left of a barn in poor condition. Follow this farm track for 340yds(300m) to where it turns sharply right.



10: SD 496145 Turn left to follow the track behind the fence. Stay with the hedge when the track bears right. After more than $\frac{1}{4}$ ml (500M) the hedge finishes and you move a little left to follow the field edge. The wind turbines are close on the left. After 310yds (270m) there is a seat between two trees that is a convenient place for a break.



11: SD 488165 continue along the field edge which has turned left a little. In 270yds(240m) there is a farm track. Turn left and follow this track for some distance. A short distance after a metal gate, meet the drive to a farm (and possibly a better surface!). Continue slightly left but otherwise ahead and look for a track to the right after $\frac{1}{3}$ rd ml (500m).



12: SD 485152 (if missed, continue on track to meet a main road and turn right to find **point 13** on the right.)

Enter the track but *immediately* turn left onto a narrow path on the other side of the trees. Follow that as it bears left in the field corner to go through trees, and reaches a main road. Turn right to find Sandy Lane on the left.

.13: SD 484148 Turn left up Sandy Lane and in 160yds (140m) find a quite wide path on the left. Take the track and continue in roughly the same direction for over 1/3 ml(600m) over stiles and (sometimes wet) fields to enter a riding area/farm. The path goes between a very high hedge and a wooden fence (in a poor state in late 2017). This reaches a main road.



14: SD 489144 Slightly right across the road is another stile and path. Take this enclosed path and follow it all the way to a stile and gate onto a back road in about 370yds (340m). Turn left along this road which bears right then left to reach a junction. Immediately opposite is a second entrance to the Cedar farm car park.



---- The End ---

If a little longer walk is desired, and you have an OS map, there are a couple of obvious options.

A: At **Point 8**, head half right and follow paths to reach Nook Lane near Nook's Farm. Turn left and follow the lane (later Wood's Lane) to meet **Point 10** above. Adds 0.6mile.

B. After **Point 11** don't turn left on the track but continue along field edges to reach White Bridge. Walk down the road to the left a short distance to find another path that leads to New Reed brook and meets the main description just before (North of) **Point 12**. Adds 1.75 mile.

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