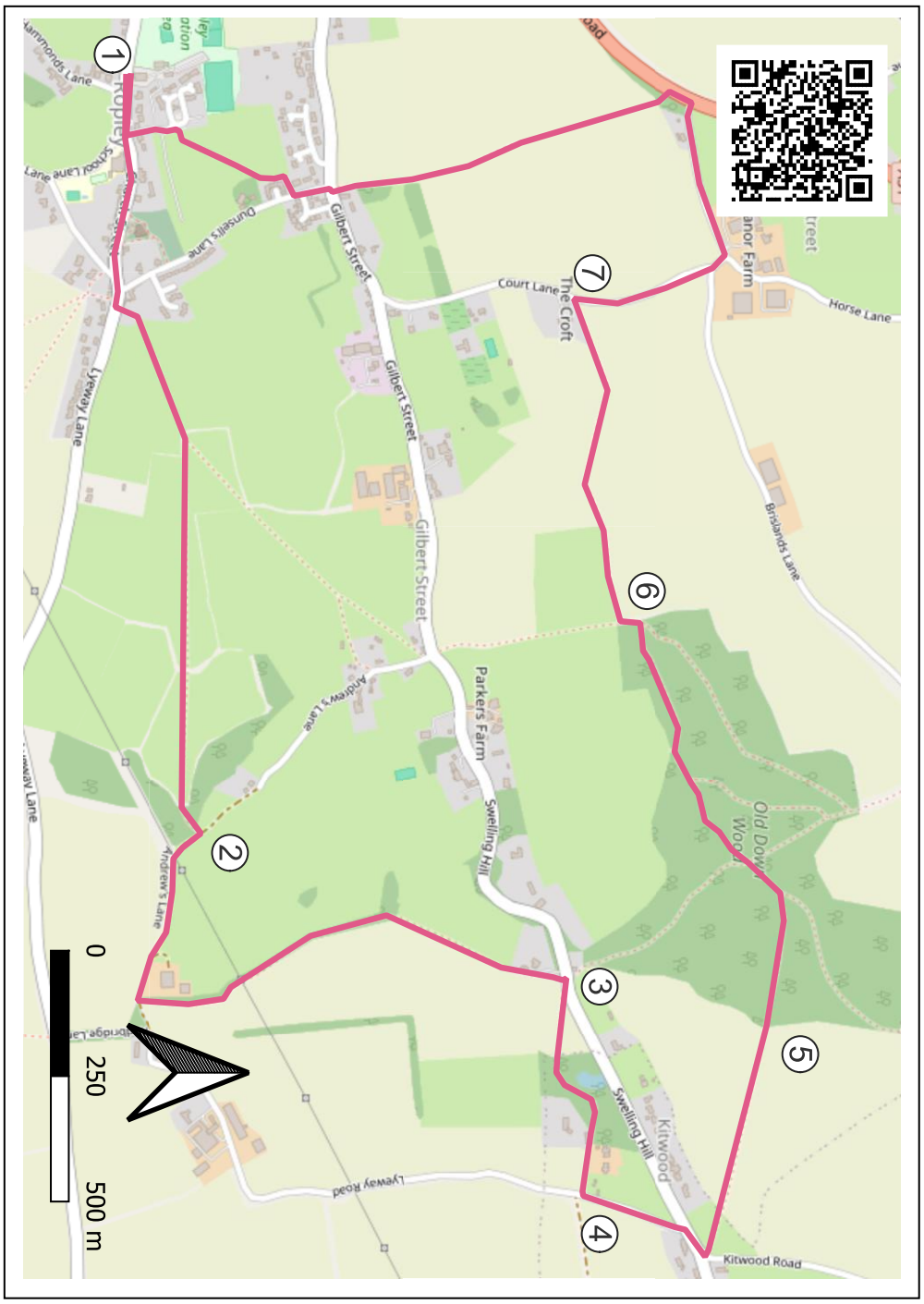
ROPLEY HERITAGE WALKS

Village Centre towards Lyeway

A circular walk with one stile. It includes a stunning ridge view over Ropley and beyond, and a delightful wander through Old Down Wood.

About 5 miles



Ropley Heritage Walks promote the many footpaths in Ropley, highlighting historic and landscape points of interest.
Find out more on our website where you can also download maps of walks on your phone.
https://www.myropley.org.uk/heritagewalks

Compiled by The Ropley Society

ROPLEY HERITAGE WALKS

① Turn left out of the Parish Hall car park, go straight up past the village school on your right and the church on your left. Just before the pond take footpath on left, and go through a wooden kissing gate into the field. Follow the fence line in front of you and through the next wooden kissing gate. Cross the next field to a metal kissing gate beside a large oak tree. Through the gate, follow the hedge on the right then cross the open field, climbing the hill towards the left of two pylons on the horizon. Go through the metal kissing gate in the field boundary, and through another metal kissing gate aiming for the same pylon, finally reaching the corner of the field. Go through the metal kissing gate leading to Andrews Lane – an unmade track.

② Turn right, follow the lane for 400m and reach a grassy patch. Turn immediately left at footpath sign and follow a sunken path (sometimes waterlogged) for 200m. Where the sunken path ends, turn left before the pylon (hidden in the hedge) then right following the fence line and passing the pylon on your right. Keep the fence to your left all the time (good view of Andross Manor below) pass through a gate into a meadow. Look for a metal kissing gate midway down the hedge on the right, go through then walk left down the edge of the field for 150m, through a gap on your left onto the drive of Littledown House, and down to the road (Swelling Hill).

③ Immediately to your right is a footpath sign and metal kissing gate, pointing slightly right across the field you have only recently left. Aim for a metal kissing gate (about 200m from the road) into a copse. Through this and past a yellow arrow, around the back of the pond, over a stile and right up a small rise, onto a lawn then a gravel drive. Cross the gap to the right of the green barn that appears slightly to the left in front of you into the field. Follow the left-hand boundary through the metal kissing gate in the corner of the field onto Lyeway Road.

④ Turn left along the road to the T-junction and right along the road to another junction. Leave the road by turning left by a footpath sign through a metal kissing gate (Green arrow for St Swithun's Way) into a meadow. Cross to another metal kissing gate. Aim diagonally left across this large field to a kissing gate in a barbed-wire fence and then into Old Down Wood.

⑤ Straight over, into the wood, along a green track ignoring the crossing track. When you see a post with three footpath arrows, turn immediately left down a footpath into the wood for 80m. On reaching a crossroads of footpaths with both yellow and green arrows on a short signpost (often hidden by undergrowth), cross straight over to a track bearing left around the edge of a thicker wood (following the green arrow for St Swithun's Way). After 400m where the track bears right go straight on through a gate into a large field.

⑥ Turn left, down the boundary of the wood to the corner, and turn right continuing along the left-hand boundary of the field, keeping the hedge on your left for 300m. Keep a keen eye open for a yellow arrow on a post before a large beech tree. Here, strike diagonally across the corner of the field to a tree on the corner. When reached, follow the fence on your left to a gap in the hedge onto Court Lane. Your route skirts around and to the right of a new modern house with a very large garden.

⑦ Turn right along the road for a few hundred metres to a T-Junction (Manor Farm ahead). Turn left down Brislands Lane to the A31. Here turn left, and after 30m on the left, fork left through the nettles and hedge at a footpath sign, aiming for a clump of trees on the skyline straight ahead. Leaving the trees on your left until you reach a gap and cross onto Gilbert Street. Cross and go up Dunsell's Lane. Just past the cottages at the footpath sign, follow the path to the right, then around and left into a path between the gardens and the field. Continue to follow the path eventually through a gate into Hale Close. Turn left and join Church Street after a few yards and turn right back to the Parish Hall.