

## **9 - Van Dyks' to the Royal Oak Whitwell --- 2.68 miles**

1. **Walk to the far end of the car park.** *Just before a tree with a blue arrow on it, turn left to walk along a path that meanders through the trees. To the left you can see the rear of Van Dyk Hotel.*
2. **As the track exits the wood, turn 90° right to walk down the footpath which leads through the middle of two hedgerows and a tunnel of bushes.** *After about 150m, the path emerges and continues straight ahead. This path is popular with horses.*
3. **After about 150m, you reach a path junction – here turn 90° left to take the path which runs to the left of a hedge, open field to your left.** *You then reach Hickinwood Lane – here turn left to walk along the lane for approximately ¾ mile to meet a road junction.*
4. **At the junction, cross over and walk a couple of metres to left of a gate. Pass through the squeezer stile and continue straight ahead along the obvious track – open fields to your right and hedge on your left.**
5. **At the far end of the first field continue ahead, bearing very slightly right along the obvious track across the next field.** *Once across, cross over the stile to the left of the gate and then 45° right as indicated by the white public footpath arrow on a green background.*
6. **Cross the field – be guided by the electric pylon post opposite.** *Once across you reach a stile to the left of the post. Climb over on to the road and turn right to walk down the road. This road goes downhill and then levels out and swings round to the right. You will then see a lane on your left – turn left to walk up this obvious lane. Open field on your right, hedge on your left.*
7. **This lane climbs to an apex where you will see the village of Whitwell.** *Once across the field the lane comes to an end and you are in the next field. Cross this field, bearing 45° left on a path which runs to the right of a power line pole heading for a stone building.*
8. **Once across the field, pass through the hedge to emerge on to a lane. Turn right.** *After approximately 100m the lane emerges on to a road. Turn left to walk down the road. This is Claylands road.*
9. **Cross over Claylands Grove and continue to a junction – here cross over and turn left to walk the final few hundred metres to the Royal Oak Public House – your final destination!**

**DONE**

**Now, get yourself a drink you deserve it!**