Fancy Free Walks

point your feet on a new path

Tewin from Welwyn North Station

Distance: 7½ km=4½ miles — easy walking

Region: Hertfordshire — Date written: 21-aug-2017

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Refreshments: Tewin

Map: Explorer 182 (Hatfield) *but the map in this guide should be sufficient*

Problems, changes? We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org

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Quiet station, easy field paths, views, village, woodland

In Brief

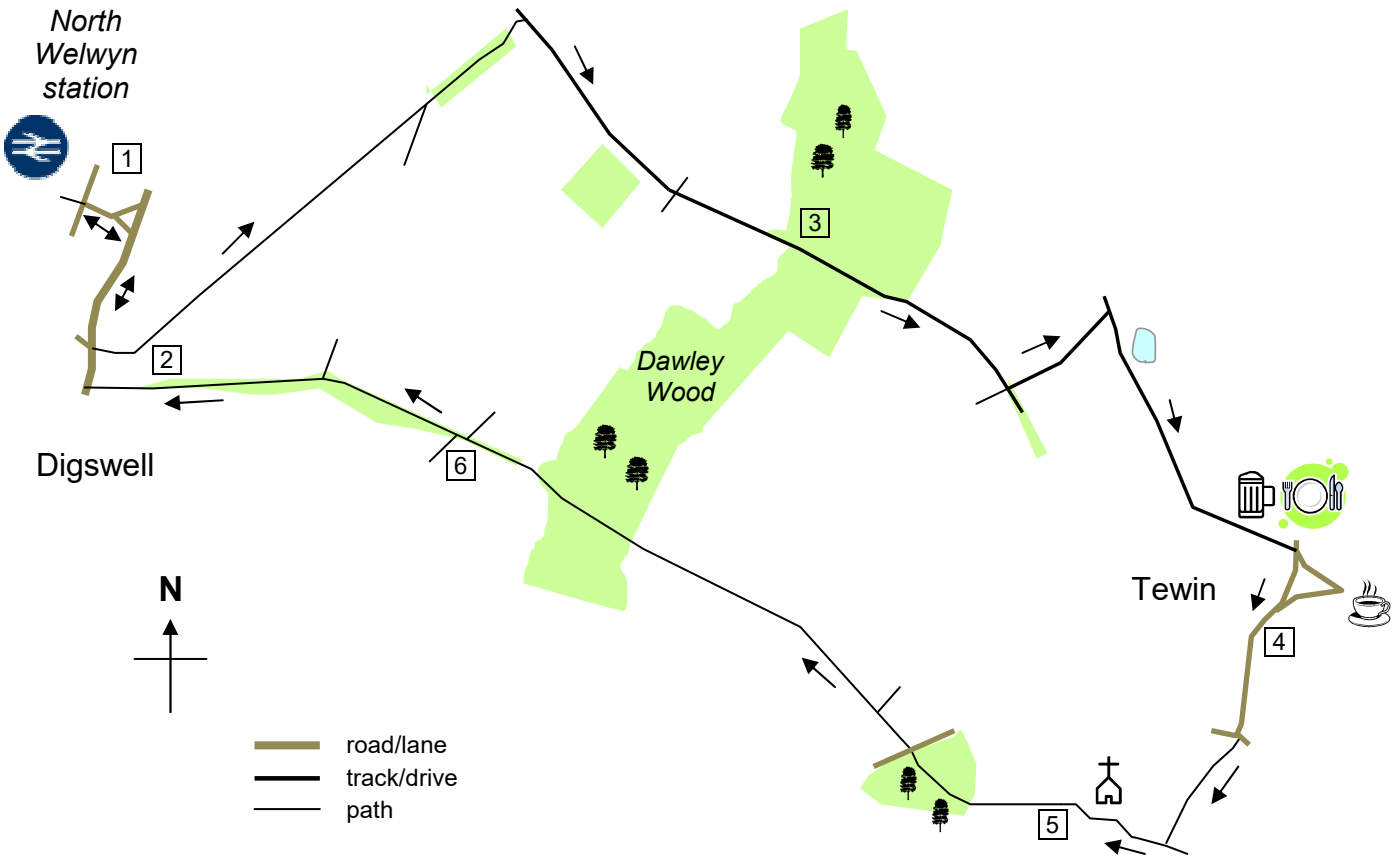
This is an easy walk over rolling country to one of the oldest villages in Hertfordshire. Tewin has an excellent pub (to enquire at the *Rose and Crown*, ring 01438-717257). It also has a church of Saxon origin situated on a high spot above the Mimram river in a large grove of every kind of tree.

This walk can be combined with the walk *Tewin and Bramfield* to make a very satisfying walk of 17 km=10½ miles with access by rail. See the turn off points in the text.

In summer you may risk a little brushing of nettles if you wear shorts. Boots are not necessary except perhaps in wet conditions. This walk would be fine with your dog.

The walk begins at **Welwyn North railway station** or in the village of **Digswell** just north of Welwyn Garden City, w3w:call.remote.luck, postcode **AL6 0DY**. The station car park charges £3.65 (as 2020) for all-day parking on Sat and Sun (check the notice). For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).

The Walk



1 Arriving at Welwyn North station, if necessary go over the footbridge to go out through the main station building. (If the building is closed, you need to go out through a side gate.) Cross straight over a road (Harmer Green Lane which has no footway) and go down Adele Avenue opposite. Fork **right** at the bottom and turn **right** on New Road in Digswell (a leafy suburb of Welwyn Garden City). In 300m, when you are opposite Harmer Green Lane, turn **left** across a triangle of grass and take a signed footpath that runs beside a house. This path leads up into crop fields.

2 Turn **left** along the edge of the field. [Oct 2017: the path ahead was ploughed over; if this happens, you can instead keep **right**, go **left** round the corner on a footpath and in 400m take a good rider's path **left** across the centre to the point * below.] After an oak tree, your path leads across the centre of the field. Soon it runs close to some new houses on your left. After 750m in the field, you reach a hedge where a bridleway joins you from sharp right. [*] Continue ahead, now on a shaded path under tree cover. In 200m or so, you come between two vertical posts to a tarmac drive. On your left is the very tasty *Thatched House*. However, your route is **right** on the drive. Avoid a left fork into a private house and continue onwards, now on a sheltered gravel track. It leads across rolling country with good views, shaded by ash trees. After 500m, you go over a crossing path with a kissing-gate on your right.

3 Your path now climbs steeply through Dawley Wood and it is quite a relief to come out into the open again after 300m, onto a fenced path between fields. In 300m you come to a crossing path just before your path enters trees. Turn **left** here on a wide path which takes you into the wooded area

on the outskirts of Tewin. As you enter trees, ignore a footpath that forks left and stay on the main track. At a T-junction, with the Upper Green visible ahead, turn **right**, passing a small pond on your left.

Decision point. If you are combining this walk with the *Tewin and Bramfield* walk, turn **left** beside the pond, passing a bench seat, to reach the Upper Green and join the other walk in section 1.

This good wide track narrows to an equally good wide woodland path. In 300m or so, it bends left and in 200m you reach the road next to the *Rose and Crown* pub.

Tewin, one of the oldest villages in the area (and pronounced "Tyoo-in"), is described in the sister walk "Tewin and Bramfield".

4 After a possible sojourn in the pub or at the café and shop (keep left beside the green), your route is **right** on the main road, Lower Green. After passing the village green on your left, carry on straight ahead. Lower Green soon runs into School Lane. After around 200m, where School Lane bends right downhill, turn **left** on a side road and immediately go **right** through a wooden swing-gate into a horse pasture. Immediately take the **right**-hand fork and walk the entire length of the pasture, gradually descending to meet the wooden fence on your right. In the far right-hand corner, go through a wooden swing-gate and turn **right** steeply uphill. At the top, go **right** through a swing-gate into the churchyard of St Peters.

There is a good description of this wonderful Saxon church and its churchyard in the sister walk "Tewin and Bramfield".

5 After visiting the church, keep **left** in the churchyard, passing the large walled grave of Alfred Beit, the German-born gold and diamond magnate. Go down to the far right-hand corner and pass between posts into fields. Keep straight ahead and take a path across the centre of a crop field. At the other side, cross a semi-tarmac drive on a path through woods. After 150m or so, your path emerges onto a road. Cross the road onto a wide gravel track, with a mature hedge on your left and a crop field on your right. In 150m, ignore a footpath on your right. In 500m or so, you enter the trees of Dawley Wood. After 250m in the forest, your path runs uphill beside a field on your right.

6 In 150m, ignore a footpath on your right and go over a wooden trap, ignoring a footpath on your left. Ignore another (signposted) footpath on your right (popular with horse riders as it is the last chance to avoid the town). Your path runs under trees and bushes and finally runs down beside a chalet-style house to the road in Digswell. Turn **right** on the road, avoiding Harmer Green Lane on your left (which has no footway). In 250m, turn **left** on Adele Avenue, leading to Welwyn North station where this walk began.

Getting there

By car: Digswell (north Welwyn) is on the A1000 / B1000 road. Come off the A1 trunk road at Exit 6 *(Welwyn A1000)*. Follow signs for *Welwyn Garden City, A1000* until at a roundabout you see a small sign for *Digswell*, where the main route turns right.

By train: Begin the walk at **Welwyn North station**: frequent trains daily on the Kings Cross line.