

## 5. Toadsmoor Lakes Walk

### Where

Toadsmoor Road – Toadsmoor Valley – Toadsmoor Pond – Second Toadsmoor Pond – Bussage Hill – Toadsmoor Road

### Length

About 2 miles, or two 1 mile walks

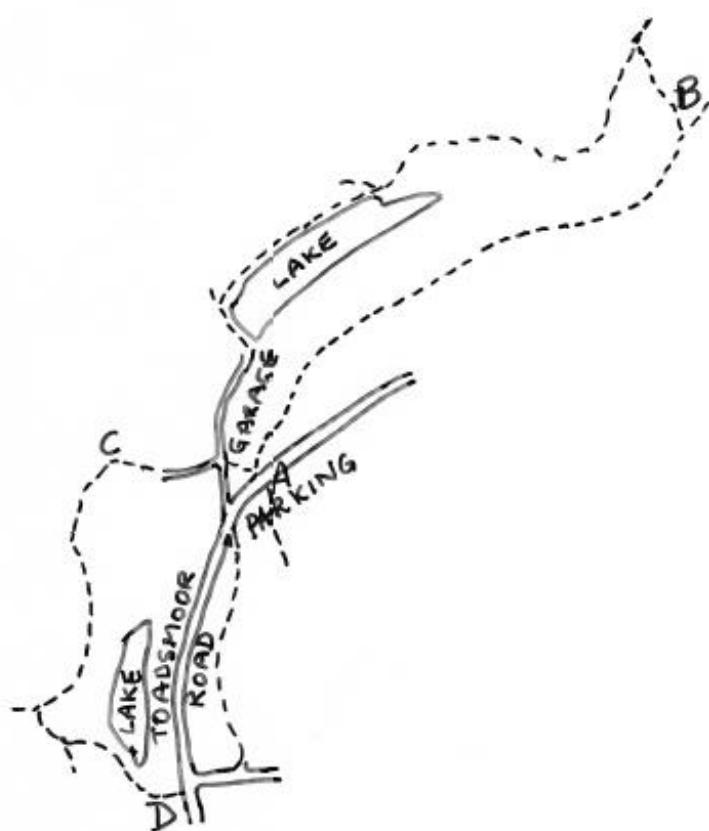
### About the walk

This is a fairly flat walk but with some slopes, two stiles and two stream crossings.

There are wonderful views of the lakes and woods.

This is a walk for a dry weather. Don't leave it until the rainy season if you wish to avoid the possibility of mud. It is a figure of eight walk with each loop about a mile in length.

### The route



**The walk starts at the parking space on Toadsmoor Road at the traffic lights opposite the Toadsmoor Garage.**

**A.** Cross over the road.

Confronted with a choice of paths above the house, choose the track going half right [not the narrow path ahead]. This is fairly level and pleasant underfoot.

**B.** After about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, you reach a stile and dog gate on the left which you cross to walk down by a tumbled stone wall. The field was full of very friendly sheep last time I was here. Obviously, you will keep your dog on a lead. Explicit notices point out the farmer's rights if you do not!

This path arrives at a stream and a clear track which you join over another stile [with dog gate]. Turn left. You pass 'Keeper's Cottage' on the right and then a lake on the left. Here there are rafts of water plants and possibly mallards and coots.

At the end of the lake, turn left with another view across the water. The track bears right and becomes a tarmac lane. After the houses, where a tarmacked lane goes right, you can go left up a narrow stony path to return to the Toadsmoor Road at **A**.

Or you can continue your walk by turning right down the lane.

**C.** At the sign for 'Field House', continue ahead and, level with the garage of 'Dene Cottage', turn left up a narrow but distinct path. Trust me, this really is a right of way.

The path becomes wider and shaded by mature trees. At a junction, do not turn right [bridleway, blue sign] but continue ahead [footpath, yellow sign]. Crossing a stream, continue left.

You will see the glimmer of water through the trees on your left as you are above a fishing lake.

At another track junction, bear left and stay on this track, ignoring a stile on the right. You get a better view of the lake.

**D.** You come back to the Toadsmoor Road. Cross over and go up 'Bussage Hill' for a short way and then turn first left along a narrow path with some good views, which will bring you back to the start.

**Route description by Tessa Wood, Stroud Rambling Club**

