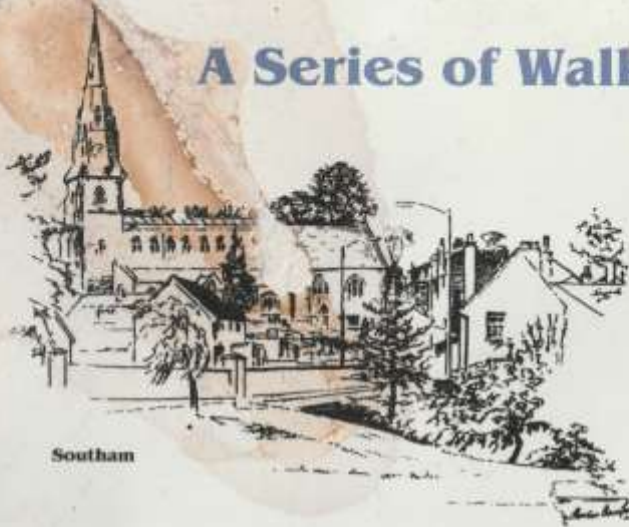


A Series of Walks Around...



Southam

Southam
Stockton
Long Itchington
Leamington Hastings
Birdingbury
Ladbroke
Napton
Bishop's Itchington
Harbury
Ufton

The Blue Lias Rings



Ladbroke



Harbury



Long Itchington



1.4.77

Walk 1

Stockton, Broadwell and Leamington Hastings

A longer walk of 9 km (5½ miles) - **Route A** (Stockton, Broadwell & Leamington Hastings) or two shorter walks of 6 km (3¾ miles) - **Route B** (Stockton & Broadwell) or **Route C** (Broadwell & Leamington Hastings).

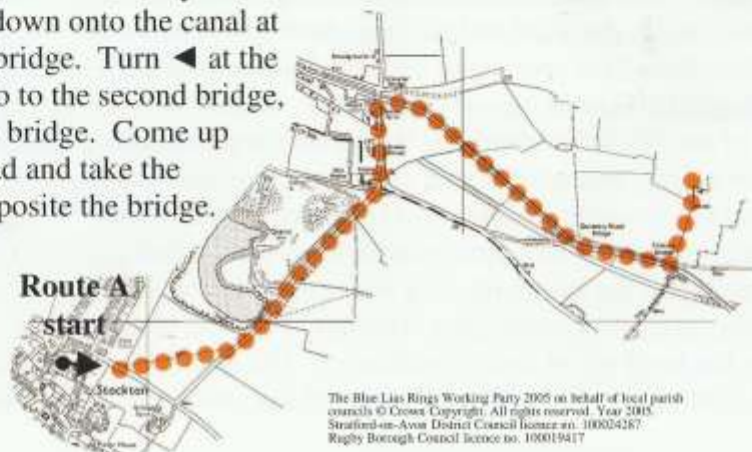


Historical notes on points of interest are shown in italics.

Stiles referred to in the text may have been replaced with gates as part of an ongoing access improvement plan.

ROUTE A - Starting at the Nelson Club, Stockton. Leave Stockton by Napton Road, turn ◀ into the sports ground and keep the hedge on your right. Halfway along the hedge go diagonally ◀ to a hedge gap in the corner and then keep the hedge on your right. Cross the stile into Station Road and go ◀ to Countrywide Stores.

Go ◀ and down onto the canal at the second bridge. Turn ◀ at the canal and go to the second bridge, a bridleway bridge. Come up onto the road and take the footpath opposite the bridge.

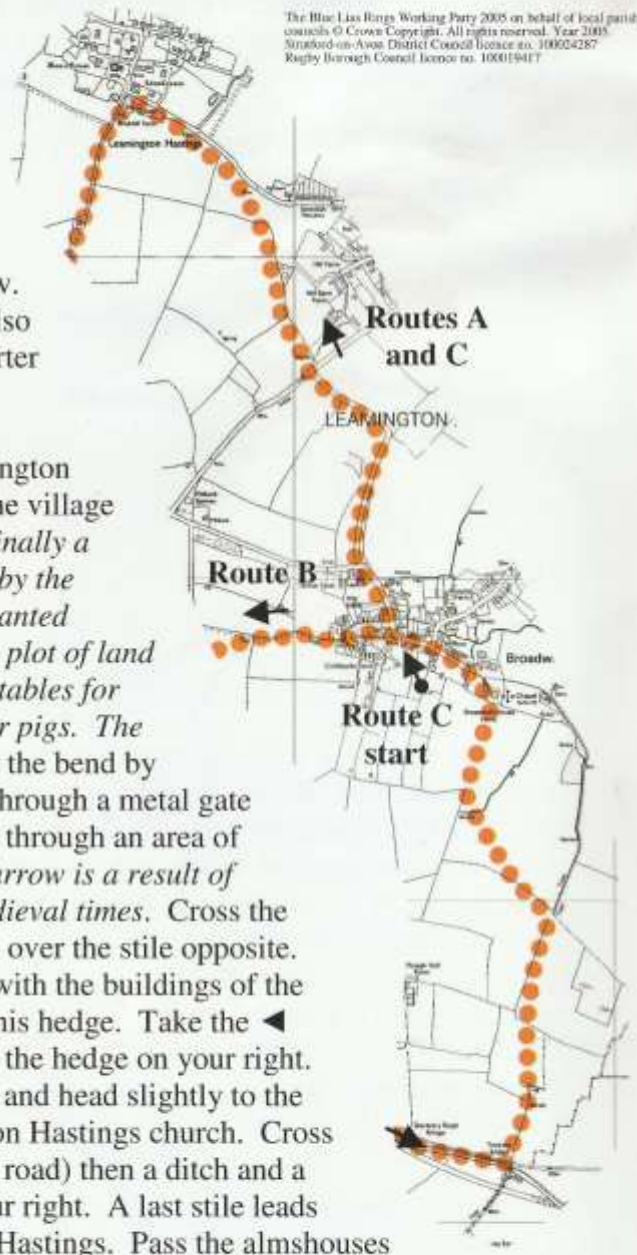


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Cross the field with the boundary on your right and through a gate. Where the field boundary breaks off to the right go straight ahead and through a gate. Go through two gates onto the lane. Turn ◀ into Broadwell and past another lane on the right – here you have a choice of routes.

Route A is the longer walk and for a shorter walk back to Stockton follow **Route B** below. Walkers from Broadwell can also join here on **Route C** for a shorter walk to Leamington Hastings.

To continue **Route A** to Leamington Hastings follow the lane past the village hall. *The village hall was originally a small threshing barn provided by the Lord of the Manor. He also granted suitably industrious villagers a plot of land on which they could grow vegetables for themselves and cereals for their pigs. The hall is about 100 years old.* At the bend by Home Farm go straight ahead through a metal gate onto an unfenced road, passing through an area of ridge and furrow. *Ridge and furrow is a result of ploughing methods used in medieval times.* Cross the Southam to Rugby road and go over the stile opposite. Keep the hedge on your right, with the buildings of the hamlet of Hill visible beyond this hedge. Take the ◀ hand of the two stiles and keep the hedge on your right. Go through a gate, cross a stile and head slightly to the right of the tower of Leamington Hastings church. Cross the stile (don't go out onto the road) then a ditch and a stile and keep the hedge on your right. A last stile leads onto the lane into Leamington Hastings. Pass the almshouses and at the bend go ◀ onto a bridleway. *The almshouses were built in 1633 and extended in 1696. They are built of lias stone which is usually*



considered unsuitable for building purposes. More information about them can be found in the church which is normally open in daylight hours. Take a small detour to the church by following the road to the left past the almshouses. The history of the church is available in booklets and on display boards inside. The church is famous for the concerts that have been held there regularly for many years. Follow this past a barn and take the ► fork through a metal gate and go straight on with the hedge on your left (don't follow the more obvious track as it goes ►). Go straight ahead through several gates and out onto a country lane. At the next bend go straight ahead along a metalled bridleway. At the bend go straight ahead through a metal gate and bear ► behind the barns. Go through a wooden bridleway gate in the corner of the field and keep the hedge on your left until the Southam to Rugby road. Turn ◀ for about 100 metres and cross to a metal gate. Keep the small pond on your right and go diagonally to a gap in the hedge. Cross two stiles and come to the junction of two footpaths.

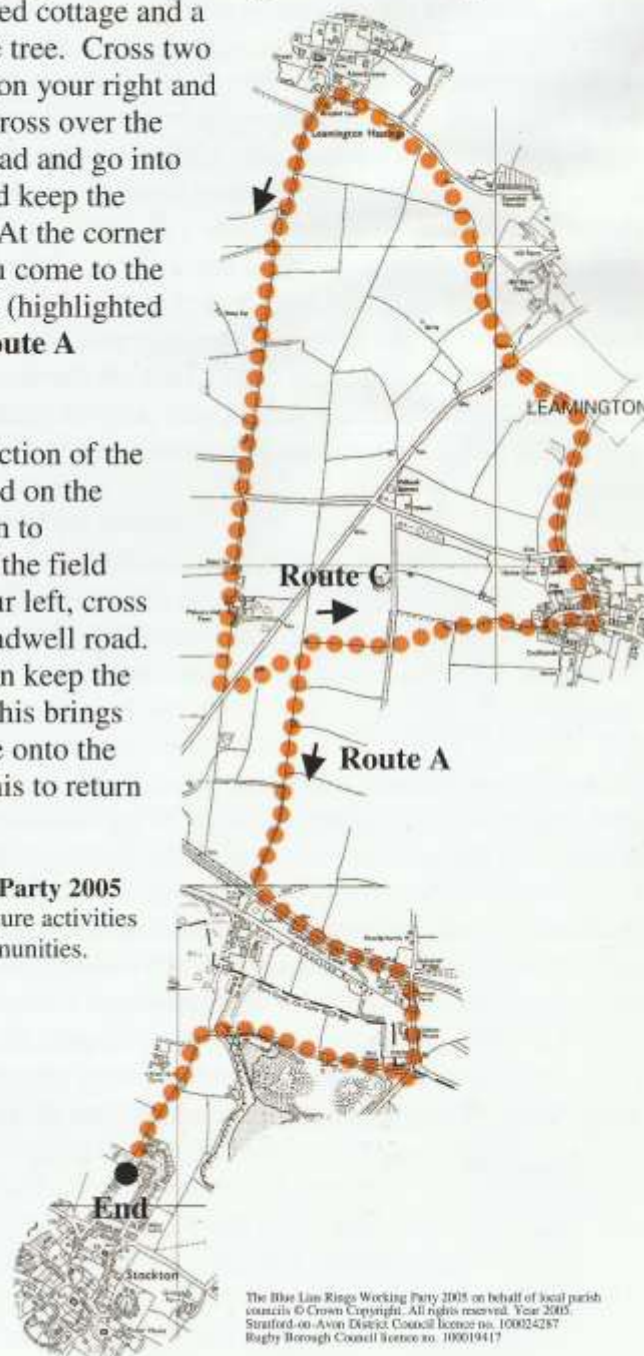
Walkers on the shorter **Route C** returning to Broadwell should go to **Route C** below. Walkers on **Route A** who are returning to Stockton turn ► at the junction of the footpaths with the boundary on your right and cross several fields and out onto a lane next to the canal.

The Warwick to Napton canal was opened about 1800 and was a boost to the local lime, cement and brick industries as it was used to bring coal in and transport the products out. Go ◀ on the towpath and under the bridge. Go up onto the road and ◀ to Countrywide Stores. The Countrywide Stores building, formerly Midland Shires Farmers, was originally a mill and next to it lie Station Cottages and the site of Napton and Stockton Station on the old LNWR Leamington to Daventry line. The line was opened in 1895, the last passenger train ran in 1958 and the line closed in 1963. At the stores take the path past the small industrial units. Follow the perimeter fence round the quarry on your left until it leaves the path. Turn ◀ through a gateway and follow the path back to Stockton.

ROUTE B - For the shorter walk back to Stockton follow the lane and at the bend go ◀ onto the village green. Cross the green to the footpath that lies between the double-fronted cottage and a bungalow under the large tree. Cross two fields with the boundary on your right and then go diagonally ◀. Cross over the Stockton to Broadwell road and go into the field just to the ◀ and keep the boundary on your right. At the corner of the field turn ◀ as you come to the junction of two footpaths (highlighted above) and follow the **Route A** instructions from there.

ROUTE C - From the junction of the two footpaths (highlighted on the reverse side) and to return to Broadwell go straight up the field with the boundary on your left, cross over the Stockton to Broadwell road. Go diagonally ◀ and then keep the boundary on your left. This brings you out under a large tree onto the village green and cross this to return to your starting point.

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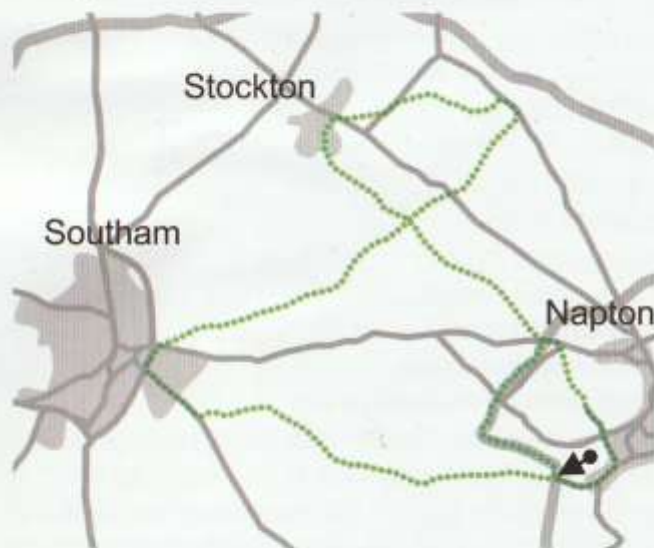


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Walk 2

Napton, Stockton and Southam

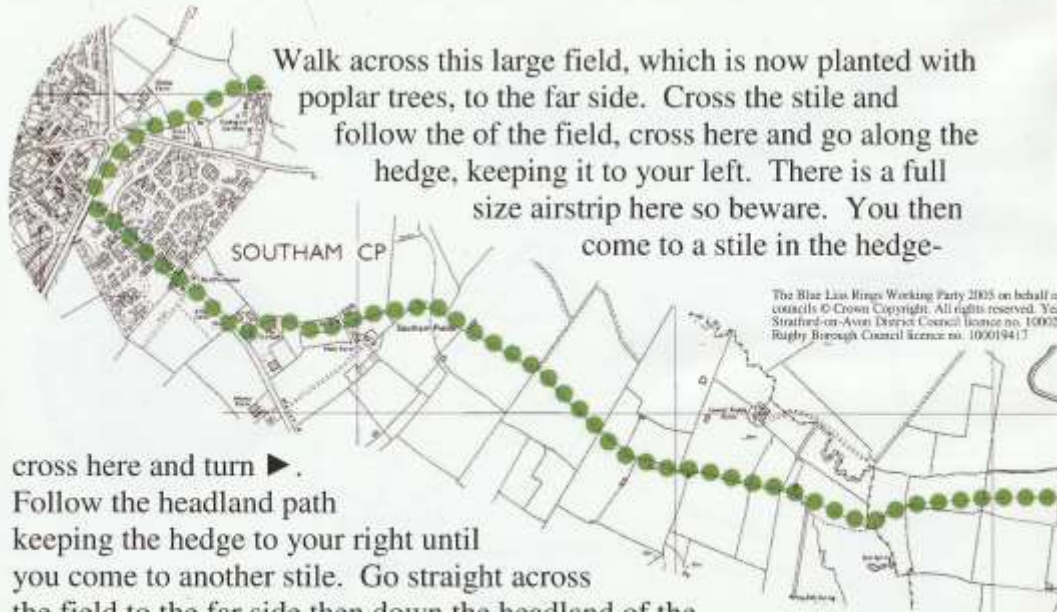
A circular walk of 8 km (5 miles) with an optional loop of 4½ km (2¾ miles) into Stockton.



Historical notes on points of interest are shown in italics.

Stiles referred to in the text may have been replaced with gates as part of an ongoing access improvement plan.

Start at The Folly public house, Napton. *Originally The Bull and Butcher and now The Folly, this canal side inn was re-opened about 1990 after being shut just after World War II. It is one of four public houses in Napton on the Hill. Napton is known for its windmill perched high up on the edge of the escarpment overlooking the site of the old brick and tile works, once a large employer in the village.* From the car park make your way to the old telephone kiosk in front of the pub, cross the stile and turn ► and head off down the field. Cross over the small brook and head for the open gateway, pass through here and walk to the far hedge keeping in a straight line from The Folly. Cross the stile and walk across the middle of the field to another stile. Head out across the field but veer to the left hand hedge. This field is often used by model aeroplane enthusiasts - take care. Walk around the edge of the hedge and go towards the corner of the field. Continue across the next field and head towards the far hedge, here you will come to a stile in the corner of the field. *The large field in front of you was the site of Salt Springs Farm and consisted of a farm, orchard and numerous small fields – all long since gone. In part of this field is a salt springs pond – an SSSI.*



Walk across this large field, which is now planted with poplar trees, to the far side. Cross the stile and follow the of the field, cross here and go along the hedge, keeping it to your left. There is a full size airstrip here so beware. You then come to a stile in the hedge-

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cross here and turn ►. Follow the headland path keeping the hedge to your right until you come to another stile. Go straight across the field to the far side then down the headland of the next field keeping the hedge on your left. Go through the next couple of meadows. *This airfield was used during World War II as a training unit where such planes as Tiger Moths were based. On the edge of the field close to the road was the site of the hangers. One was situated where the new warehouse building is and the other was to the right of where the path emerges onto the Welsh Road.* Cross the stile and walk up the path with the fence on your left. On Welsh Road, turn ► and walk down the road towards Southam. Cross the road and walk down to the River Stowe bridge. Between the bridge and the pumping station turn ► and walk along the path to the A425. Cross the road to the farm gateway to your ◀. Enter then turn ► and follow the brideway signs along "The Grandborough Way". In ½ to ¾ hour you will arrive at a small river bridge adjacent to New Zealand Spinney. Follow the brideway out into the open field, following the headland until you get to the junction of two footpaths.

At this point you may elect to walk the optional loop into Stockton village (approximately 4.5 km/2¾ miles). If you do then turn ◀ and keep the field hedge on your right. Where the hedge turns to your right keep straight on across the field and head for the bridge directly ahead. Cross the bridge and turn diagonally ► to the stile. Cross the stile and keep the hedge on your right. Cross another stile and turn ◀ and then ► after approximately 50 metres onto a well made track. Follow this into Stockton past the cemetery and church. Turn ► at The Barley Mow into Post Office Lane.

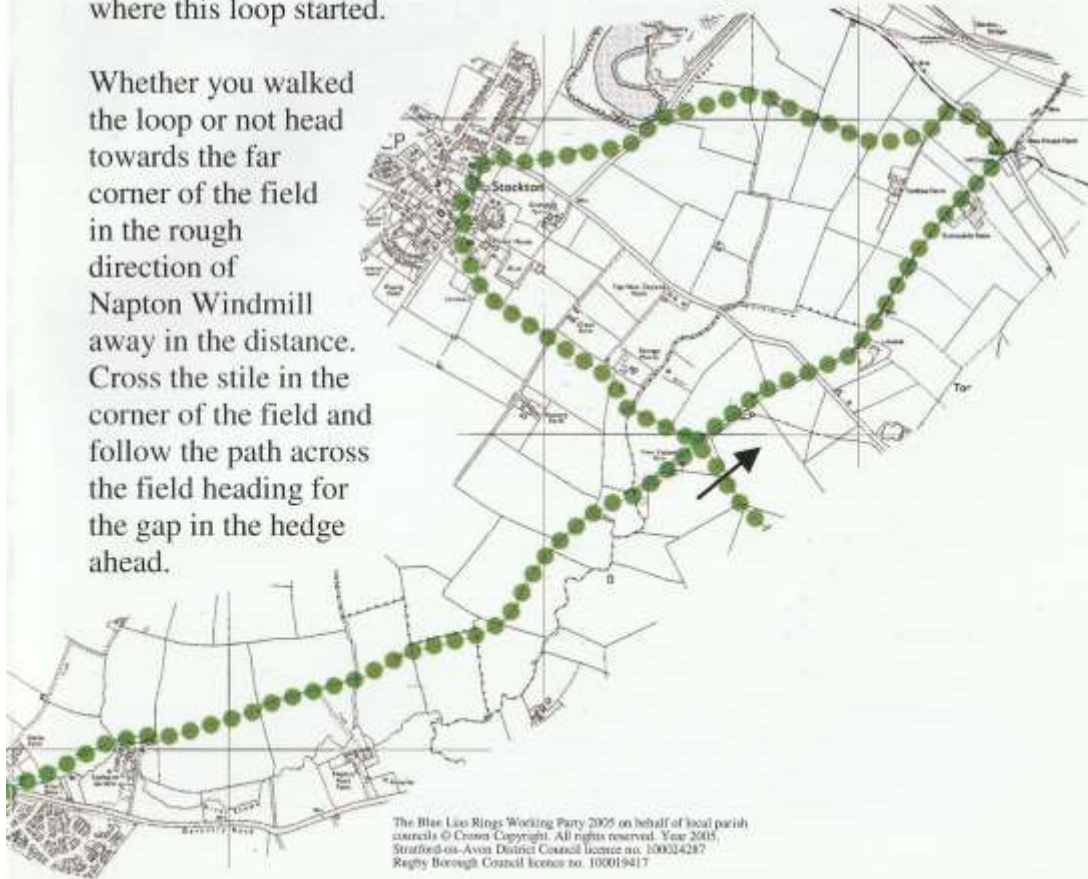


At the end turn ► into Napton Road, then turn ◀ into the sports ground and keep the hedge on your right. Halfway along the hedge turn diagonally ◀ to a gap in the corner and then into the next field keeping the hedge on your right. Cross the stile into Station Road and go ◀ until you reach a gap in the hedge on the right after approximately 50 metres. Go diagonally ◀ across the field, through the hedge gap and a gate. Walk diagonally ◀ towards a small spinney and through a gate onto a farm track. Turn ◀ and when you reach the road turn ►. After about 200 metres turn ► at Hill Cottage. Follow the bridleway down past the farm and through a number of gateways until you reach the Napton Road. Cross over and walk past New Zealand Farm. Continue along bridleway past the small spinney on your left until you come once again to the junction of the footpaths



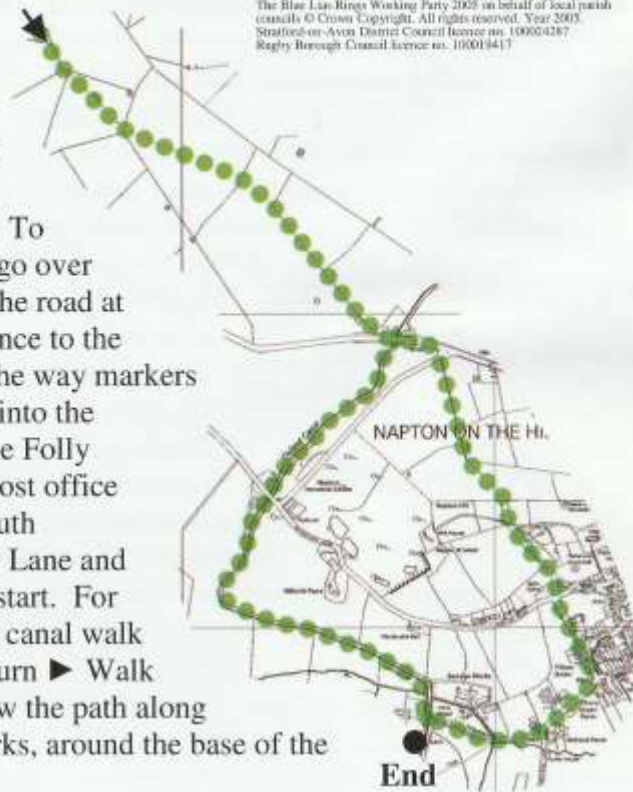
where this loop started.

Whether you walked the loop or not head towards the far corner of the field in the rough direction of Napton Windmill away in the distance. Cross the stile in the corner of the field and follow the path across the field heading for the gap in the hedge ahead.



Head for The Napton Bridge Inn on the canal/A425. At the A425 turn ◀ where you have a choice of returning to The Folly via Napton village or along the canal. To return through the village go over the bridge and then cross the road at the junction with the entrance to the industrial estate. Follow the way markers up over the hill and down into the village. To get back to The Folly follow the road from the post office through the village in a south westerly direction to Folly Lane and you are then back at your start. For the shorter route along the canal walk down to the towpath and turn ▶ Walk under the bridge and follow the path along past the site of the old works, around the base of the hill and on to The Folly.

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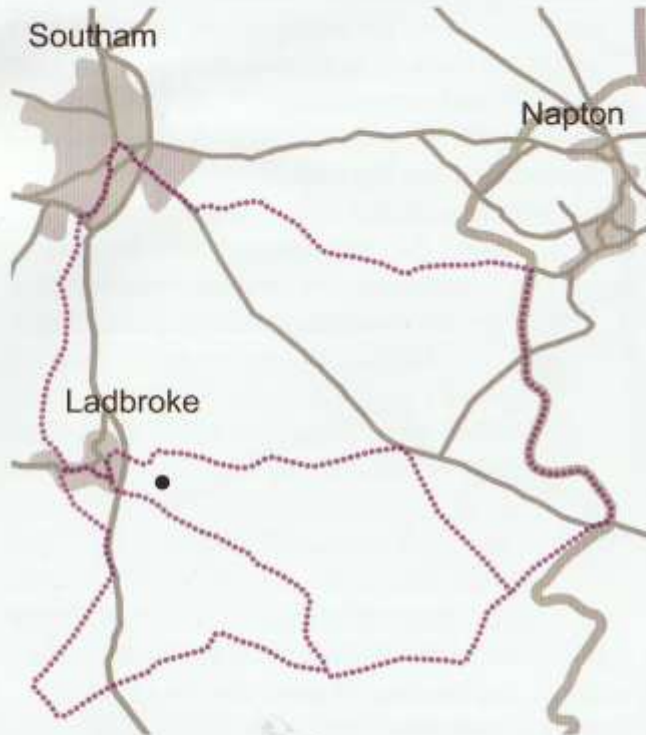
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Walk 3

Ladbroke, Napton and Southam

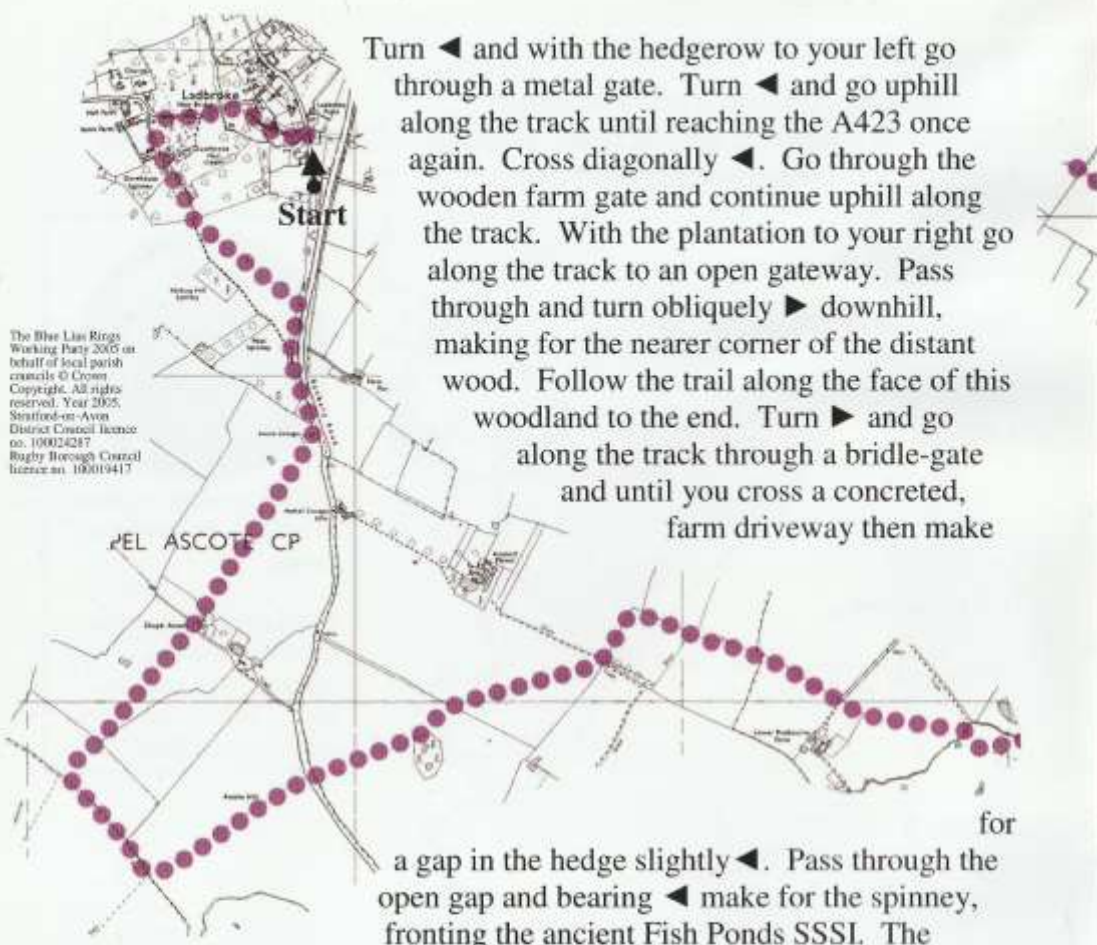
This leaflet covers the longest route, a distance of 20½ km (12¾ miles).
Leaflet 3A refers to two shorter routes.



Historical notes on points of interest are shown in italics.

Stiles referred to in the text may have been replaced with gates as part of an ongoing access improvement plan.

Turn ◀ out of The Bell Inn car park and ◀ again into Bridge Lane and ◀ again into Church Road, past the frontage to Ladbroke Hall. Turn ◀ into the rear entrance driveway, pass the garage blocks, and along a further driveway, with a *Leylandii* hedge to your left to a stile, and onto a footpath. Cross this paddock to a stile and into a larger field, keeping the two spinneys some 50m to your right. Go over the brow of the hill and head down to the main road (A423). Turn ▶ up the road to Chapel Ascote Cottages, and ▶ across the yard of No. 2 to the stile. Follow the path round, through the gate and onto the waymarked route across a large field to the rear of Chapel Ascote Farm and over two more stiles into another field. Go straight downhill, cross a stile and through the field to a gate onto a bridleway.

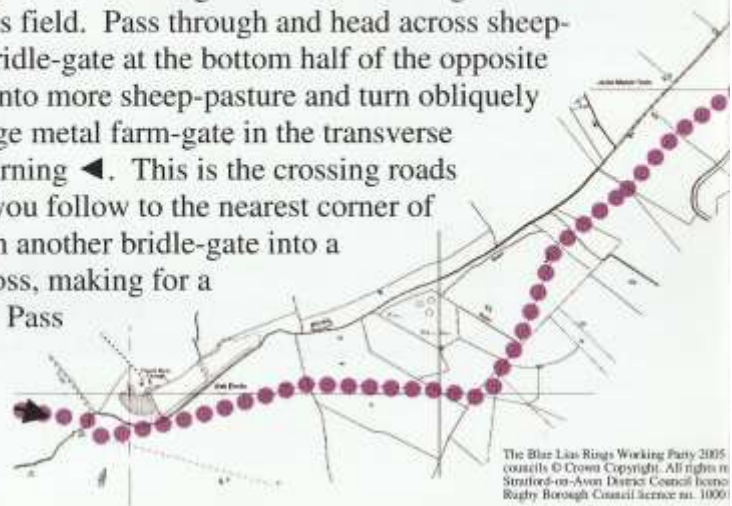


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Turn ◀ and with the hedgerow to your left go through a metal gate. Turn ◀ and go uphill along the track until reaching the A423 once again. Cross diagonally ◀. Go through the wooden farm gate and continue uphill along the track. With the plantation to your right go along the track to an open gateway. Pass through and turn obliquely ▶ downhill, making for the nearer corner of the distant woodland to the end. Turn ▶ and go along the track through a bridle-gate and until you cross a concreted, farm driveway then make

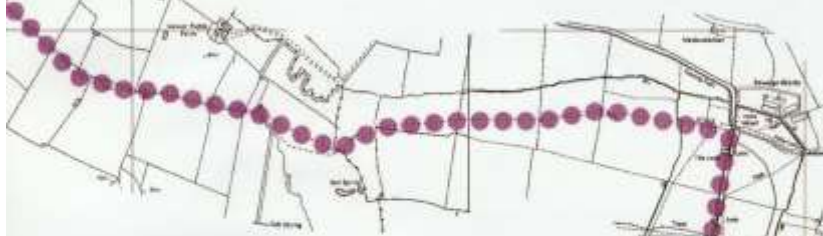
for a gap in the hedge slightly ◀. Pass through the open gap and bearing ◀ make for the spinney, fronting the ancient Fish Ponds SSSI. The

bridleway now lies straight ahead making for a metal bridle-gate 200m from the top corner of this field. Pass through and head across sheep-pasture land to another bridle-gate at the bottom half of the opposite hedgerow. Go through, into more sheep-pasture and turn obliquely ▶ heading down to a large metal farm-gate in the transverse hedging. Pass through turning ◀. This is the crossing roads for the bridleway which you follow to the nearest corner of this field, passing through another bridle-gate into a small pasture that you cross, making for a bridle-gate at the corner. Pass through and cross a very large area of pasture. Keep the hedgerow on



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your right for 200m and cross an open drain and veering ◀ continue for 500m making for a point roughly middle-field. Cross an open drain and make for the bridle-gate in the hedgerow. Go through and across a smaller pasture to a bridle-gate that you pass through onto a



footpath crossing road. Head across this area of pasture and through the bridle-gate into a long, wide field leading to the Welsh Road East. Passing through the final bridle-gate, turn ▶ up to the canal bridge. Go onto the towpath and follow the Oxford Canal walk in the direction of Rugby. Continue until you arrive at The Folly Inn. Make for the old telephone kiosk in front of the shop, cross the stile and turn ▶ and go down the ridge

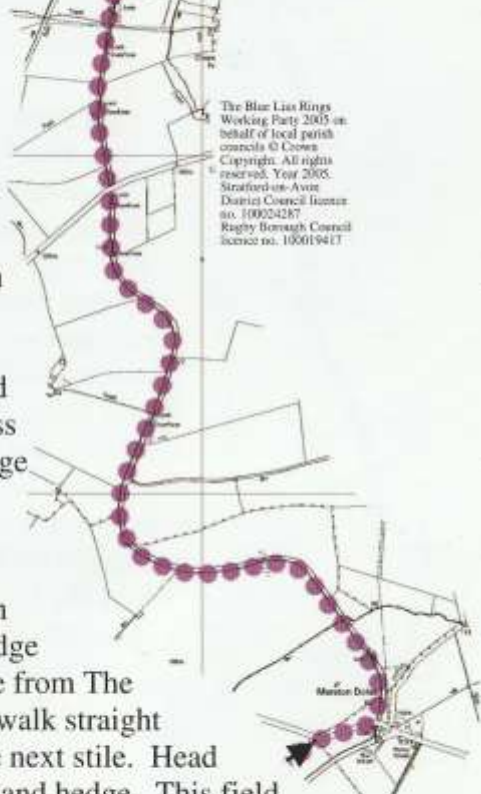
and furrow field. Cross over the small brook and head for the open gateway, pass through and walk to the far hedge

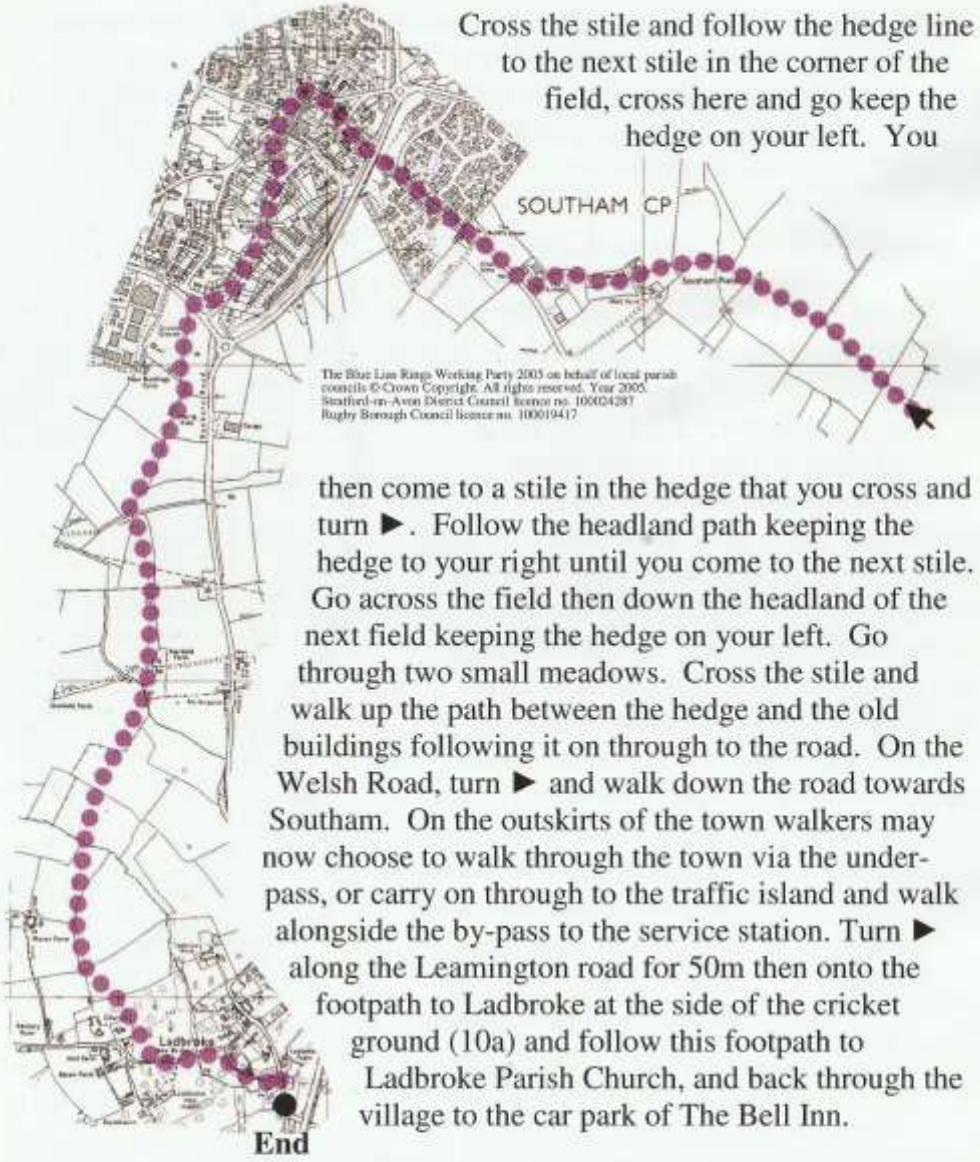
keeping in a straight line from The Folly. Cross the stile and walk straight

across the middle of the field to the next stile. Head out across the field but veer to the left hand hedge. This field is often used by model aeroplane enthusiasts so take this into consideration. At the corner of the field go through a gateway and a gap in the hedge. Go across this field and head towards a stile in the far hedge. Walk across this large field to the far side.



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Cross the stile and follow the hedge line to the next stile in the corner of the field, cross here and go keep the hedge on your left. You

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then come to a stile in the hedge that you cross and turn ►. Follow the headland path keeping the hedge to your right until you come to the next stile. Go across the field then down the headland of the next field keeping the hedge on your left. Go through two small meadows. Cross the stile and walk up the path between the hedge and the old buildings following it on through to the road. On the Welsh Road, turn ► and walk down the road towards Southam. On the outskirts of the town walkers may now choose to walk through the town via the underpass, or carry on through to the traffic island and walk alongside the by-pass to the service station. Turn ► along the Leamington road for 50m then onto the footpath to Ladbroke at the side of the cricket ground (10a) and follow this footpath to Ladbroke Parish Church, and back through the village to the car park of The Bell Inn.

End

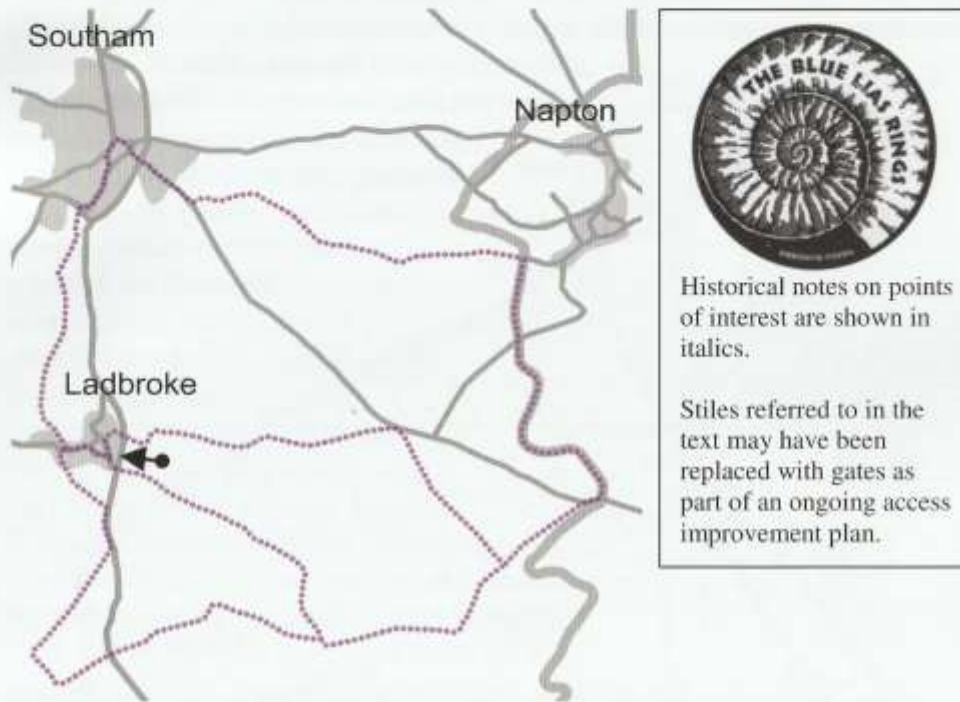
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Walk 3A

Two Shorter Walks from Ladbroke

Route A. 9¼ km (5¾ miles) and **Route B** 13¼ km (8¼ miles).

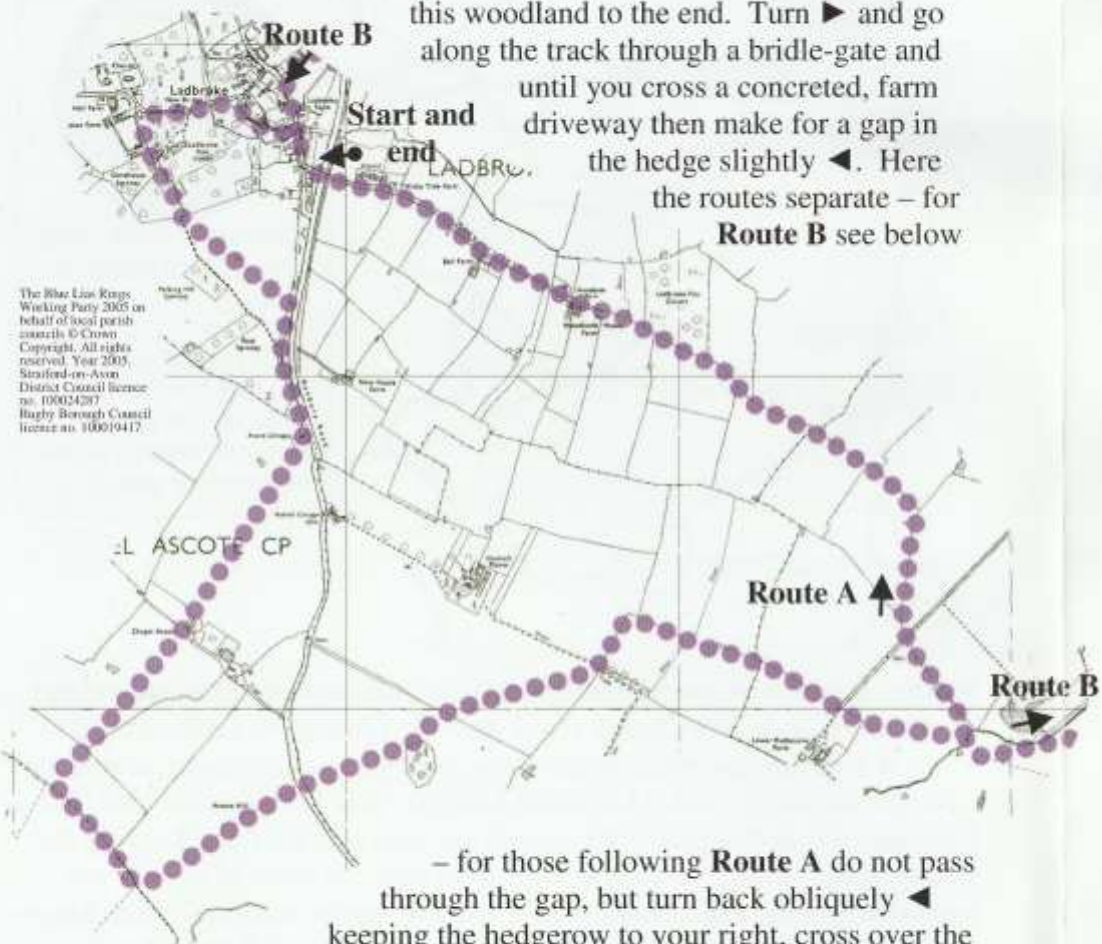
Leaflet 3 refers to a longer route.



ROUTE A - Turn ◀ out of The Bell Inn car park and ◀ again into Bridge Lane and ◀ again into Church Road, past the frontage to Ladbroke Hall. Turn ◀ into the rear entrance driveway, pass the garage blocks, and along a further driveway, with a *Leylandii* hedge to your left to a stile, and onto a footpath. Cross this paddock to a stile and into a larger field, keeping the two spinneys some 50m to your right. Go over the brow of the hill and head down to the main road (A423). Turn ▶ up the road to Chapel Ascote Cottages, and ▶ across the yard of No. 2 to the stile. Follow the path round, through the gate and onto the waymarked route across a large field to the rear of Chapel Ascote Farm and over two more stiles into another field. Go straight downhill, cross a stile and through the field to a gate onto a bridleway.

Turn ◀ and with the hedgerow to your left go through a metal gate. Turn ◀ and go uphill along the track until reaching the A423 once again. Cross diagonally ◀. Go through the wooden farm gate and continue uphill along the track. With the plantation to your right go along the track to an open gateway. Pass through and turn obliquely ▶ downhill, making for the nearer corner of the distant wood. Follow the trail along the face of

this woodland to the end. Turn ▶ and go along the track through a bridle-gate and until you cross a concreted, farm driveway then make for a gap in the hedge slightly ◀. Here the routes separate – for **Route B** see below



– for those following **Route A** do not pass through the gap, but turn back obliquely ◀ keeping the hedgerow to your right, cross over the roadway again and go through a bridle-gate. Bear sharp ▶ around the edge of the field. Pass through three hedgerow gaps keeping straight ahead. The route crosses a sleeper-bridge and runs between a hedgerow and fencing. Pass along the face of Ladbroke Fox Covert and through the gateway at Woodland Farm House to reach Radbourn Lane. Go out onto the by-pass.

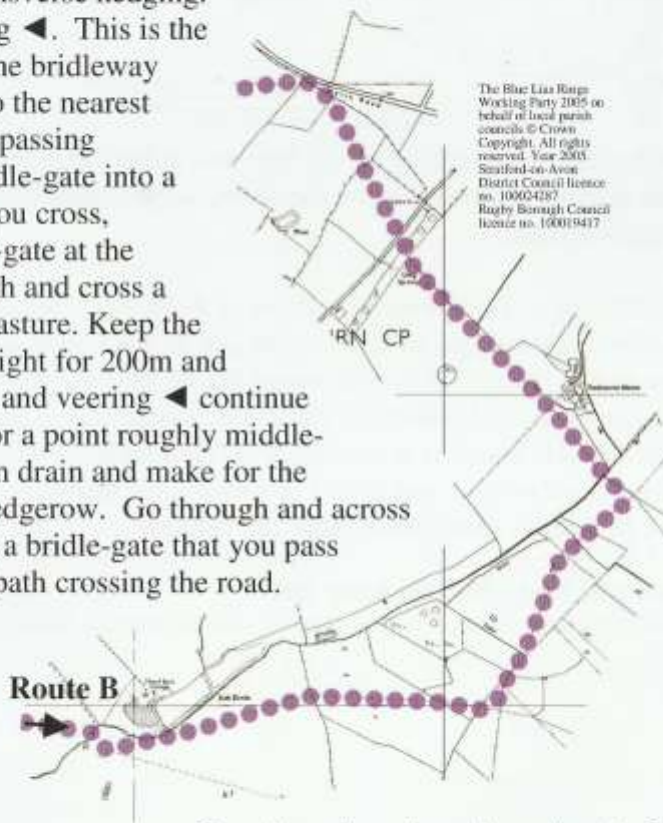
Cross here and go straight ahead, through the bridle-gate to the top of the lane and turn ► for the car park at The Bell Inn, Ladbroke.

ROUTE B - Pass through the open gap and bearing ◀ make for the spinney, fronting the ancient Fish Ponds SSSI. The bridleway now lies straight ahead making for a metal bridle-gate 200m from the top corner of this field. Pass through and head across sheep-pasture land to another bridle-gate at the bottom half of the opposite hedgerow. Go through, into more sheep-pasture and turn obliquely ► heading down to a large metal farm-gate in the transverse hedging.

Pass through turning ◀. This is the crossing roads for the bridleway which you follow to the nearest corner of this field, passing through another bridle-gate into a small pasture that you cross, making for a bridle-gate at the corner. Pass through and cross a very large area of pasture. Keep the hedgerow on your right for 200m and cross an open drain and veering ◀ continue for 500m making for a point roughly middle-field. Cross an open drain and make for the bridle-gate in the hedgerow. Go through and across a smaller pasture to a bridle-gate that you pass through onto a footpath crossing the road.

After passing through the gate turn ◀. Keeping close to the hedgerow head for the gate in the corner of the field.

Pass through and continue ahead. Go through another gate, into a large field, and keeping the island plantation well to your left make diagonally for the far hedgerow which you follow to the top corner of the field in the lee of the Long Spinney. Pass through and across the double-styled bridge. Cross the private farm roadway and follow the waymarked route until you reach the junction with the Welsh Road.



Do not go onto the road but turn sharp ◀ and head for the protruding left hand corner of this large field and follow the track. Follow the line of the hedge until reaching a farm track at the distant left hand corner of this same field. Turn ◀ and follow the hedge line to a gateway and go out onto a metalled roadway (Windmill Lane) leading back to the village.



Cross the by-pass into the truncated section of the lane and either walk round the roads back to the starting point or follow the short, waymarked footpath as an alternative route.

LADBROKE – The Domesday Book of 1085 AD identifies the settlement as “Lodbroc” presumed to refer to the Lot Brook which still meanders gently through the village. Records reveal the principal landowning families to have been the De Lodbrokes, Catesbys, Dudleys and Palmers. The Parish Church of All Saints is a particularly fine example of the Norman architectural period and lovers of English architecture in general will find much to occupy them throughout the village.

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Walk 4

Harbury, Bishops Itchington, Ladbroke and Southam

A circular walk of 13 km (8 miles).

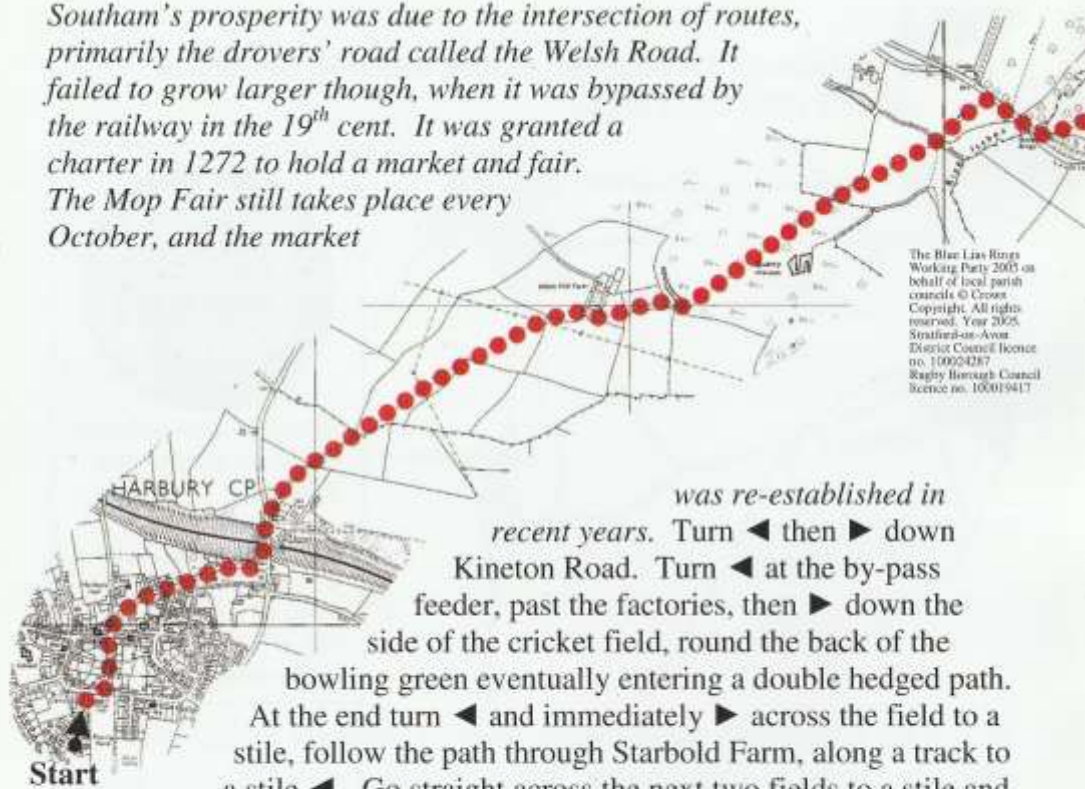


Historical notes on points of interest are shown in italics.

Stiles referred to in the text may have been replaced with gates as part of an ongoing access improvement plan.

Start at the village hall, South Parade, Harbury. *Harbury Village Hall was officially opened by John Profumo MP, who subsequently fell from grace through his unfortunate relationship with Miss Christine Keeler and Miss Mandy Rice-Davis.* From the car park walk round the hall, cross South Parade and follow Ivy Lane opposite. At the Dog Inn continue straight ahead, passing the Bullring Garage and bearing ► along Hall Lane to its junction with the road to Ufton. Turn ◀ after about 100m, go into a farm entrance on the right and cross a stile diagonally ◀. Cross the small paddock, over a stile, keeping the hedge on the left. Pass through a very thick hedge, and cross an enormous field slightly diagonally ► heading towards Ufton Hill Farm. Keep the farm on your left then the landfill site. At the bottom of the field, bear ◀, again keeping the landfill site on your left. Leaving the boundary fence, pass through a narrow way through young trees, into a large field. Bear diagonally ► downhill to a stile. Continue parallel with the river, crossing another stile onto the main road. Turn ► crossing the River Itchen and immediately ◀ into a large pasture. Go diagonally ► to a stile heading towards a ruined barn. Keeping it on your right continue to another stile, downhill to another, over to a bridge. **DO NOT CROSS**, but go uphill to meet the main road again.

Southam's prosperity was due to the intersection of routes, primarily the drovers' road called the Welsh Road. It failed to grow larger though, when it was bypassed by the railway in the 19th cent. It was granted a charter in 1272 to hold a market and fair. The Mop Fair still takes place every October, and the market



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Start

was re-established in recent years. Turn ◀ then ▶ down Kineton Road. Turn ◀ at the by-pass feeder, past the factories, then ▶ down the side of the cricket field, round the back of the bowling green eventually entering a double hedged path. At the end turn ◀ and immediately ▶ across the field to a stile, follow the path through Starbold Farm, along a track to a stile ◀. Go straight across the next two fields to a stile and bridge over a brook. Head slightly diagonally ◀ to follow the hedge on your left. Head towards Ladbroke Church spire, then pass the church on your right. The 13th cent. Ladbroke Church was renovated in 1876 by Sir Gilbert Scott. Ladbroke House was the home of W. H. Schwind in the early 1990's, the founder of Ladbrokes the bookmakers and pools. Ladbroke Hall was at one time the home of Lord Rootes, the motor manufacturer. It later became a girls' school, and has now been converted into a block of flats. At the lane turn ▶ to a stile on your left opposite drive to Rectory Farm. Cross into a small paddock, keeping hedge on your left. Cross a second stile, turn ▶ and head for stile in hedge directly ahead. Cross then head at 11 o'clock to a marker post. Go straight ahead, keeping the wood on your left. Pass through a bridle gate, then cut across the corner of the next field to a pair of stiles and a sleeper bridge. Cross and turn diagonally ▶ to the railway. The Railway was completed around 1850, and was engineered by Brunel. It forms one of the main lines from London to Birmingham. You may lawfully cross! Go up the embankment, over the stile, and turn ▶ downhill, then bear ◀ towards the willow trees.



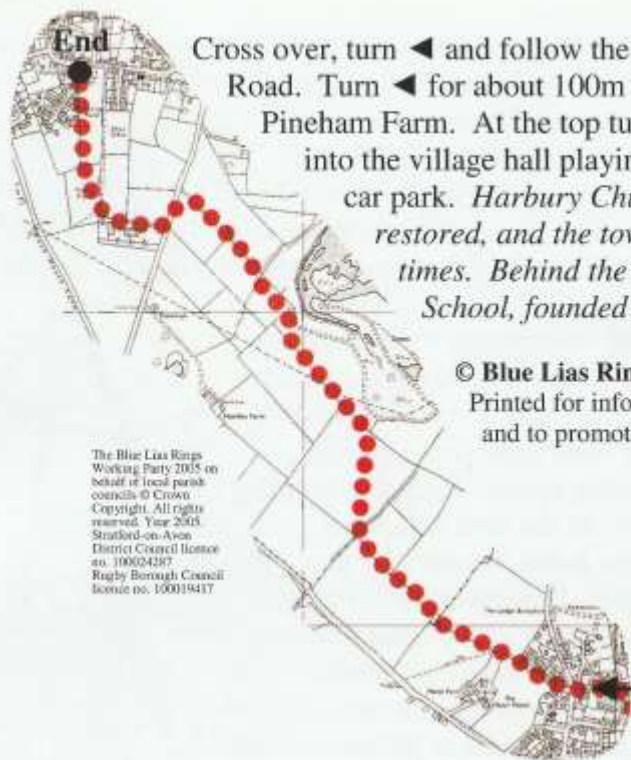
Keep the river on the right to meet Hambridge Lane. *The village of Bishop's Itchington owes its growth to Greaves, Bull & Lakin Cement Works which joined the Blue Circle Group.* Cross

the river, then ◀ to a stile, heading for a metal gate. Pass through, and uphill to the left corner of the houses. Enter Poplar Road. Follow the road straight ahead to Fisher Road, turn ▶ and follow to main road. Cross into Church Close. *The church was built in 1872 of blue lias stone from the local quarries.* Directly ahead, follow the path leading uphill. Keep the hedge on the left, for three fields. At the next stile, bear diagonally ▶ across a large field. A notice by the stile proclaims "Blue Circle – Dangerous Quarry". *In 1927 and 1928, the remains of an ichthyosaur and a plesiosaur were discovered in the quarries. They now reside in the National History Museum in London.* Over the stile, turn ◀ for about 200m before bearing ▶ aiming for the field corner.

Cross the stile, through a meadow to a metal field gate. Pass through, bearing diagonally ▶ to a pair of stiles and a sleeper bridge.



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Cross over, turn ◀ and follow the path to Bush Heath Road. Turn ◀ for about 100m then ▶ into the drive of Pineham Farm. At the top turn ▶ following the path into the village hall playing fields. Turn ▶ to the car park. *Harbury Church was heavily restored, and the tower raised in Victorian times. Behind the church is the Wagstaffe School, founded in 1611.*

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Walk 5

Ufton, Southam and Harbury

Two circular walks from Ufton, both of 9 km (5½ miles). **Route A** (Ufton, Southam & Harbury) or **Route B** (Ufton & Bascote)



Historical notes on points of interest are shown in italics.

Stiles referred to in the text may have been replaced with gates as part of an ongoing access improvement plan.

ROUTE A - Start at The White Hart, Ufton. Cross the car park with the petanque court on the left. Cross diagonally ► to a kissing gate at the woodland edge. *Ufton and Long Itchington Wood is an Ancient Woodland – one of the best examples in the Midlands. It is first recorded in 1001. Its size and shape have not altered, and it dictates the parish boundaries.* Follow the path along the edge of the wood to a lane. Cross the lane to a stile. Keep the hedge on your right and in the next field pass through some trees. Cross the stile into the next field where there is a choice. The official route goes to a stile diagonally ►, crosses two fields, then heads slightly diagonally ► downhill to the next field corner. For the alternative go straight ahead to the edge of a small wood, cross a stile and follow a very clear route through the trees, coming out through a gate into a pasture. Walk down the hill, pass through two metal kissing gates and diagonally ► downhill, through a gap, along the bottom of another pasture field to rejoin the other route. Pass through the gate or stile, with a mill pond on the left, and follow the path across the bridge over a weir. *This is the River Itchen. The weir marks the point where the mill race splits from the main river.*



The watermill site has been used since before Domesday, though the most recent structure was C18. It was demolished in the 1960's after vandals set fire to it. Turn diagonally ► through an avenue of trees, cross a stile to the right of a gap, continue diagonally ► across the next field to a double stile. Keep the river on your right, past Holy Well until you reach a metal bridge. The Holy Well was mentioned in a charter of King Ethelred in 998. The water was regarded as a cure for bad eyesight. The water has been intermittent in recent years due to lower than average rainfall. Cross the bridge and take the path diagonally ► to a stile, uphill to another stile and follow the path past a derelict stone barn. This is a building of some importance. It once had stone mullion windows, suggesting that at some time it was a chapel. Cross another stile into a pasture dotted with trees. This area is known as Mill Pits, and it was once quarried for building stone. The avenue of lime trees leads towards Stoneythorpe Hall rebuilt in C17 though incorporating some earlier features. Cross diagonally ◀ across the avenue of mature trees to a gate next to the river bridge and the A425. Cross the bridge and take the stile ◀, crossing the field parallel to the river. Go through a gate and head uphill ◀ to a marker in the hedge. This fenced path leads into the quarries, part of which is now being used for landfill. In this area is a wide range of wild flowers, including woolly thistle, which is an unusual plant in these parts. The quarries were owned by Blue Circle Cement. The stone was crushed and taken to Harbury Works. Keep the fence on your right. Cross a causeway rounding the site to your right, slightly uphill to cross a stile in the hedge. Turn ► and immediately ◀ towards Ufton Hill Farm. Skirt the farm on your right, cross a stile and in this large field bear diagonally

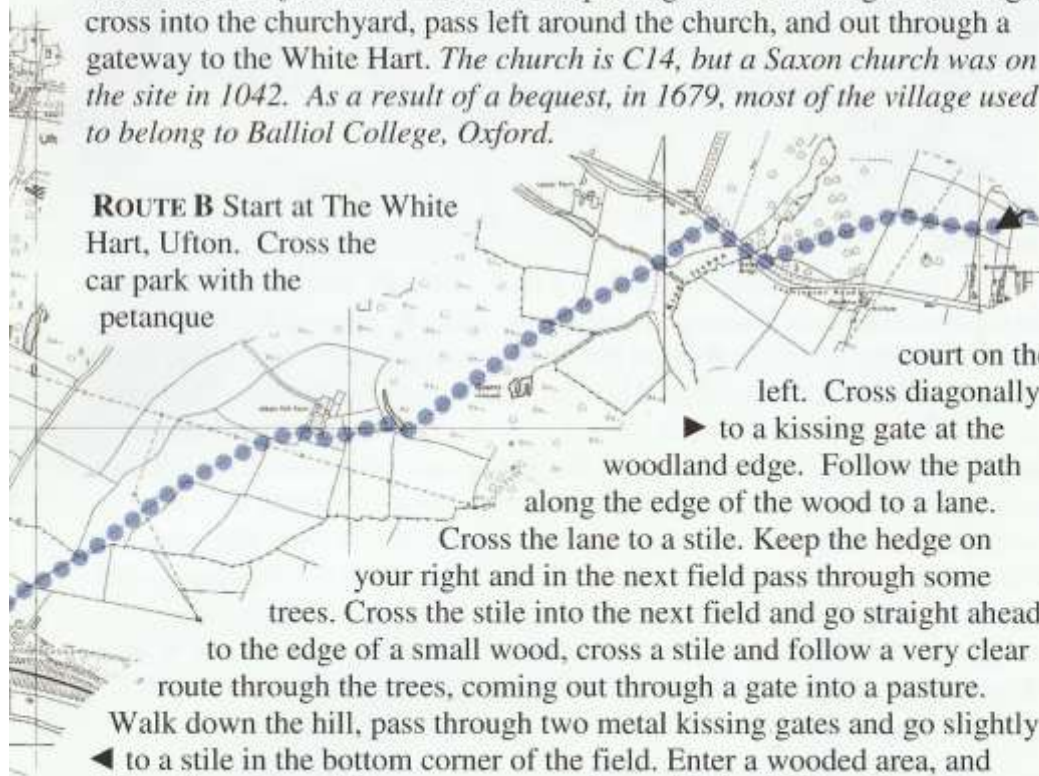
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◀ to the furthest corner, pass through a very thick hedge, follow the path along the field edge and into a paddock near some farm buildings, and out onto the road. Turn ◀ then ▶ into Hall Lane to its end. Turn ▶ downhill towards Bull Ring Farm. Beyond the railway bridge the path goes towards a barn, but then slightly ▶ through an area of trees to skirt the farm. *The railway was constructed about 1850 for the Great Western Railway. It was originally broad gauge. The cutting was the largest by volume in Europe when it was dug. The engineer for this project was Brunel.* At the end turn onto a wide track, and follow along the edge of several fields to come out onto the lane at the southern edge of Ufton village. *No.1 Ufton Fields, on the right about halfway through the village, has recently been dated and listed as of 14th century foundation, with evidence of a central hearth.* Keep straight ahead through the village, cross into the churchyard, pass left around the church, and out through a gateway to the White Hart. *The church is C14, but a Saxon church was on the site in 1042. As a result of a bequest, in 1679, most of the village used to belong to Balliol College, Oxford.*

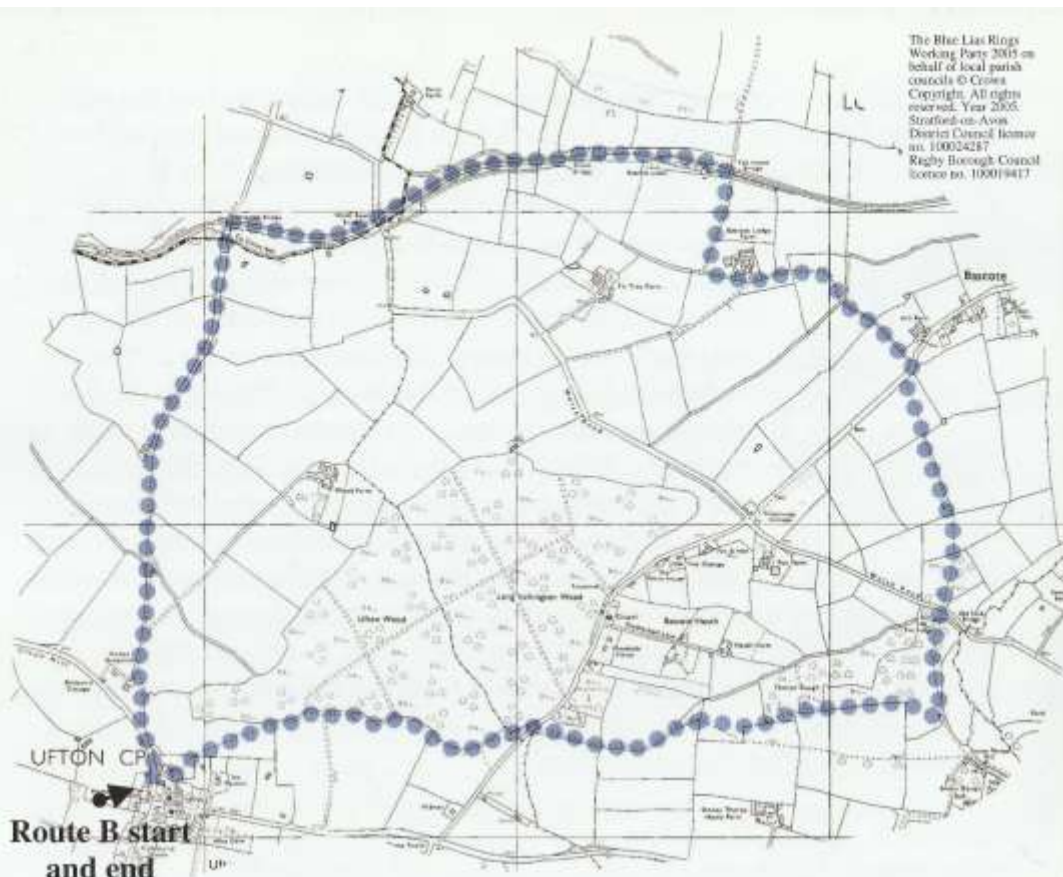
ROUTE B Start at The White Hart, Ufton. Cross the car park with the petanque



court on the left. Cross diagonally ▶ to a kissing gate at the woodland edge. Follow the path along the edge of the wood to a lane.

Cross the lane to a stile. Keep the hedge on your right and in the next field pass through some trees. Cross the stile into the next field and go straight ahead to the edge of a small wood, cross a stile and follow a very clear route through the trees, coming out through a gate into a pasture.

Walk down the hill, pass through two metal kissing gates and go slightly ◀ to a stile in the bottom corner of the field. Enter a wooded area, and follow the path until it crosses over a substantial footbridge. Cross the Welsh Road and proceed uphill through a wood. At the top, cross into a field, and go straight ahead until you reach a concrete drive.



Route B start and end

Follow this to the ► and downhill to a lane. Turn ► and immediately ◀ on a paved road past Bascote Lodge Farm. Bear ► beyond the farm to the canal. Take the towpath ◀ from the bridge, passing under the Welsh Road bridge, to the next bridge (No. 31). Turn left across the bridge. This wide track is The Ridgeway. *This is the old road from Ufton to Hunningham and Wappenbury Fort. It is called The Ridgeway, Southwards, it links up with other ancient trackways at the corner of Itchington Holt. It is now part of the Centenary Way which crosses Warwickshire from Kingsbury Water Park to Lower Quinton.* Follow it for about 2km to come out on the A425 on Ufton Hill. *Just before the A425 on the right is the site of a brickyard. The kiln was on the site of the present bungalow.* Turn ◀ and ◀ again into White Hart Lane. *By the churchyard wall is a set of stocks. Stocks were last used in the mid-C19.*

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Walk 6

Birdingbury, Long Itchington and Leamington Hastings

A circular walk of 8 km (5 miles).



Historical notes on points of interest are shown in italics.

Stiles referred to in the text may have been replaced with gates as part of an ongoing access improvement plan.

Start at the Monument at the crossroads in Birdingbury

From the monument in Birdingbury leave the village up the hill sign posted Long Itchington. On the crest of the hill pause to take in the panoramic views across the rolling countryside. Follow the waymarker on the left over the stile and down the hill to Birdingbury allotments. Go through the allotments over the stiles and across the next field (always well marked by the farmer) to the rather grand foot bridge. This leads straight across through several gates/stiles until you appear on the main Marton / Long Itchington road in Long Itchington. Turn ◀ along the main road towards the pool. *In 1918 a German howitzer was placed by the pond for all to see. Unfortunately it was never a popular ornament and found its way into the bottom of the pond, only to be reclaimed in WW2 for its valuable metal to be used in weapons manufacture.* Then look for way marked path on the left immediately opposite this beautifully cared for village pond. (Why not rest awhile or visit one of the splendid hostelryes). Beyond the pond to the left lies the Tudor House. *The Tudor House dates from the late 16th century originally as an inn, then a farmhouse and now residential.*

It was owned for a long period by the Sitwell family, Dame Edith being a poet whose poems were used in conjunction with Sir William Walton's music to create "Façade", a well known piece at any concert. Take this well marked route until you reach the junction of two paths. Here you must be careful to follow the path straight on but

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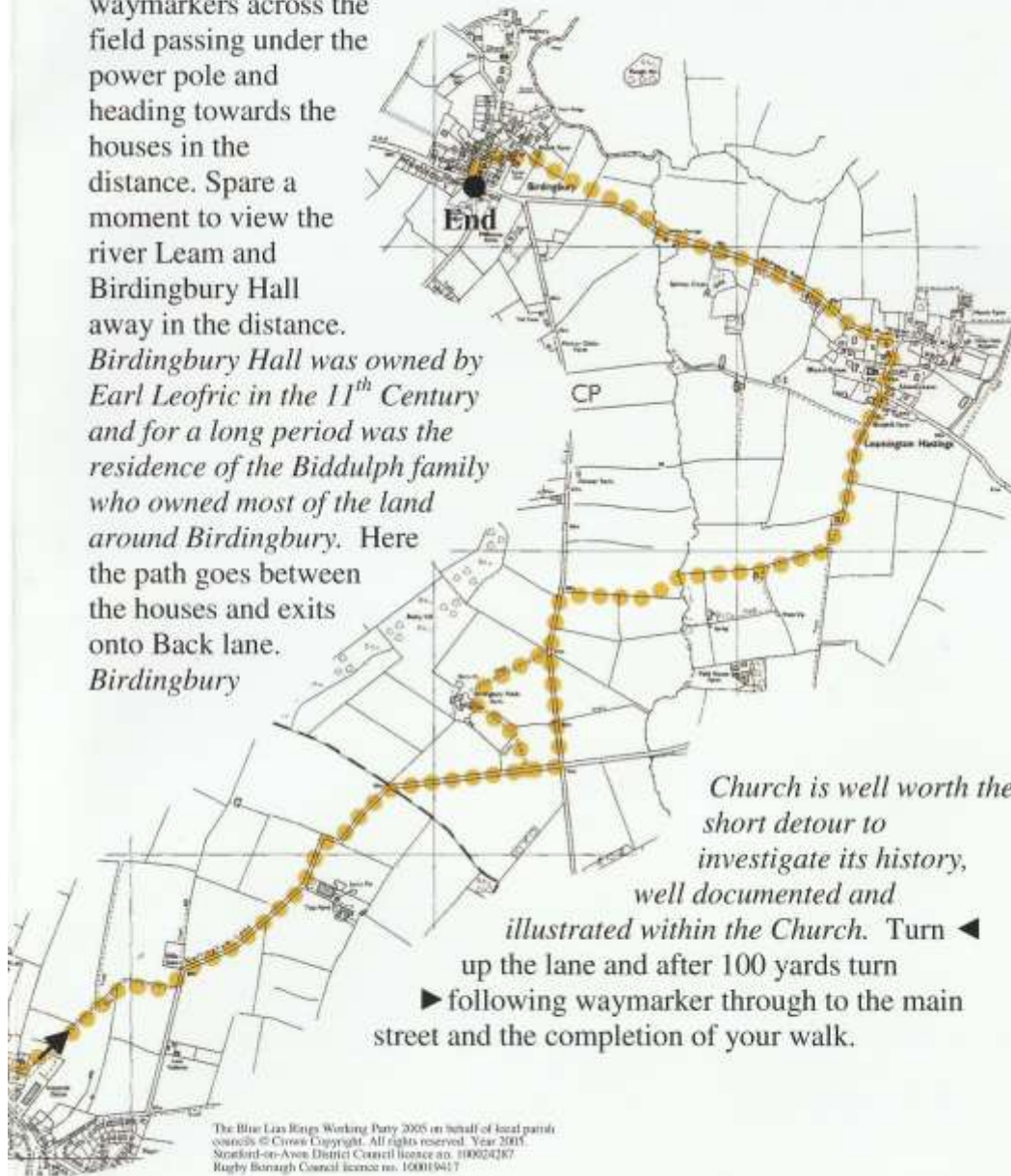


to the right of the hedge until you reach the corner of the field. Continue on over the two stiles and turn ► across the field until you reach the exit from the field onto Collingham Lane. Turn ◀ and follow the road until you reach the entrance to Birdingbury Fields Farm on your left. Here you have a choice: you can follow the path towards the farm buildings in the distance turning ► across the field (the dairy herd can make for rather soiled shoes at certain times of the year) and through the gate back onto the Birdingbury road or carry straight on to the cross roads turning left towards Birdingbury. The footpath to look for is on your right and has been moved from its original position (see diversion arrow). Enter the field over the new stile and follow the hedgerow climbing another stile and continue straight on until you turn ◀ through a gate and go diagonally across the bottom end of the next field to a concrete sleeper, bridging the brook. Cross this bridge, climb the stile and go straight ahead keeping the hedge on your right until you emerge over a stile onto a farm track. Turn ◀ along this track and arrive in Leamington Hastings opposite the Alms



Houses. The Almshouses were built in 1633 and extended in 1696. Information on their history can be found within the Church. Keep straight ahead and maybe pay a visit to the lovely church of All Saints before continuing along the lane towards Birdingbury. **This section of road can be quite busy so do take care and walk on the right.** After crossing the brook turn ► through the gate into the field and follow the waymarkers across the field passing under the power pole and heading towards the houses in the distance. Spare a moment to view the river Leam and Birdingbury Hall away in the distance.

Birdingbury Hall was owned by Earl Leofric in the 11th Century and for a long period was the residence of the Biddulph family who owned most of the land around Birdingbury. Here the path goes between the houses and exits onto Back lane. Birdingbury



Church is well worth the short detour to investigate its history, well documented and illustrated within the Church. Turn ◀ up the lane and after 100 yards turn ► following waymarker through to the main street and the completion of your walk.

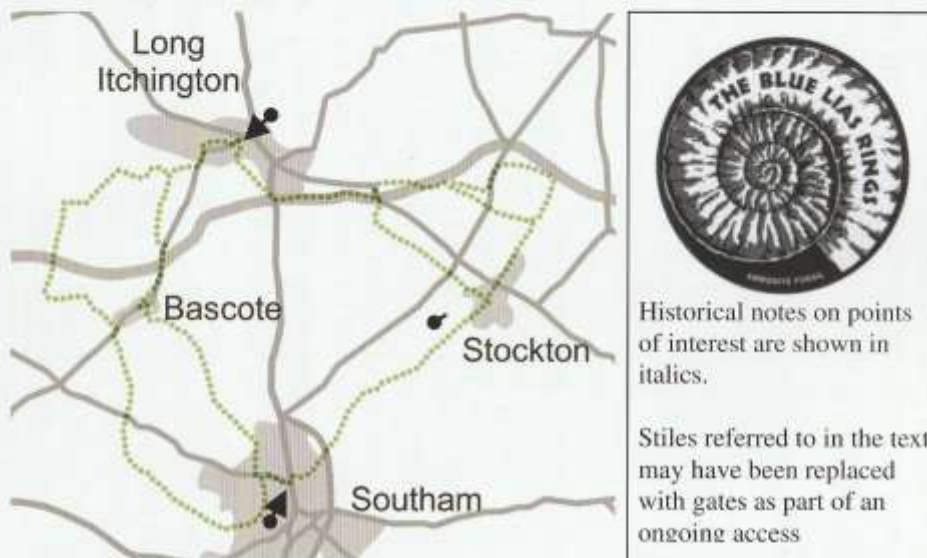
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Blue Lias Rings - Main Walk and Outer Loop

Southam, Stockton, Long Itchington and Bascote

A circular walk of 13½ km (8 miles). There are a number of optional loops that can be used to lengthen or shorten the main walk. Refer to leaflet **Blue Lias Rings - Inner Loops**.



Historical notes on points of interest are shown in italics.

Stiles referred to in the text may have been replaced with gates as part of an ongoing access

POINT A - Starting From Southam. Head up Coventry Street out of Southam on the right hand side and after about 75 metres turn ► at the arrow marked "Stockton" onto a tarmac/crushed stone path leading eventually to a kissing gate and the by-pass. Cross carefully and go through another kissing gate opposite, straight across this field, heading for the houses in Stockton which are now visible. Once through the gap in the hedge directly ahead, go straight across the next field heading for the gap in the hedge 50 metres to the left of the large tree straight ahead. Once through into the next field, go straight ahead towards the corner and through over a stile in the hedge about 20 metres to the right of the corner. Keep the hedge on your left for about 150 metres. Turn ◀ and follow the hedge on your left for about 100 metres until you are in line with the two large trees on your right hand side.

The route continues on the inside of the leaflet.

Here cut across diagonally ► to a gap in the hedge which is just to the right of Stockton Church which is now visible. Go through the gap, over the sleeper bridge and follow the same line towards a telegraph pole by a metal gate, cross the ditch and pass through a gap in the hedge. Go across this next field towards the telegraph pole, crossing a farm track and along the wide, stony track with a deep ditch on the right. At the end of this track go over one stile and then another 50 metres ahead into the playing field. Keep the hedge on your left at the end of the path bear ◀ into Beck's Lane and carry straight on into Stockton village. There is an optional inner loop (A) here that reduces the length of the walk by 1 km (see other leaflet).

POINT B - Starting from Stockton Post Office. To continue on the main walk go to the end of Beck's Lane turn ◀ and follow High Street round to the ► past the Post Office and the Crown public house. *Where the road forks you will see a stone which was carried on a glacier from Mount Sorrel in Leicestershire in the Ice Age. This was originally sited outside the Church but was moved by the Rev. Tuckwell who objected to the*

noise caused by children playing on it. Also at this junction are two buildings that were constructed by Nelson's, the cement manufacturers who once worked the Stockton site. Stockton was very much a company village at the turn of the century and the first building, which until recently was a newsagents, was built as a working men's club. A new club, The Nelson Club, was opened in Napton Road in 1914. The next building, currently a chair-makers was originally a co-operative shop. The Village Hall was also built by Nelson's about 1900. Stockton was much better served for village amenities than Southam at this time!! As agriculture lost its importance in the middle of the 19th century due to cheaper foreign imports, employment in the area turned to quarrying of lime and the manufacture of bricks and cement. The disused quarries, many now filled with water, are seen on this walk. The houses in Victoria Terrace were built by Nelson's at the end of Queen Victoria's reign and on the other side, Napton Road about 15 years later. George Street further down was named after George Blyth who owned and managed Nelson's and Elm Row was named after the large elm trees that lined one side and were taken down in 1930 when they became unsafe.

Where the road forks go ► and cross over the main road and go to the end of Elm Row. Continue straight ahead with the garages on your right and follow the path to the end of the field where you reach a T-junction. There is an optional inner loop (B) here that increases the length of the walk by 1 km (see other leaflet). To continue on the main walk turn ◀ here and head through two metal kissing gates leading up the slight rise to the Southam to Rugby road. *The old Nelson's quarries are visible. When the quarrying relied on hand-digging many fossils were found in the quarries in the area, including a large Ichthyosaurus in 1898 which is now in the South Kensington Natural History Museum. The workmen also found Ammonites, Mussels and Belemnites.* Cross the road with care to a sleeper bridge and stile and go straight down the field with the wire and post fence on your left. Go over a stile next to a metal gate and at the bottom of the field cross the stile and go through the gap in the fence. Follow the path through the trees and cross over the disused railway line and then the canal. *This is the foot of the very impressive Stockton Flight - seven locks in all. Behind you on the other side of the bridge are the works of Dowdeswell Engineering who were renowned for making the largest agricultural plough in the world.*

Turn ◀ when you have crossed the canal bridge, ignore the towpath and follow the bridleway which forks to the ►. This goes past High Clays Farm on the right and joins the Stockton-Long Itchington road. Turn ◀ towards the Blue Lias Inn and just before the canal bridge go through the gate on the right onto the towpath.



The Warwick to Napton Canal was opened about 1800 and was a boost to the local lime, cement and brick industries as it was used to transport coal in and the products out.

Walk along the towpath away from the bridge and pass Shop Lock and the shop on your left. On this stretch of the canal you will regularly find as many as forty narrow boats with some fine examples of the traditional canal boat painting. You pass Keyes Arm which used to be the cement works' direct link onto the canal and is now used by the Warwickshire Flyboat Company for building and renovating narrow boats mostly for the tourist trade.

Continue along the canal for another 450 metres to Top Lock. The renovated cottage used to be the lock-keeper's home. After another 250 metres the towpath brings you to the Two Boats and Cuttle public houses.

Pass under the bridge which carries the Southam to Coventry road and immediately turn ► and go over the stile. Cross this field diagonally to the far corner where

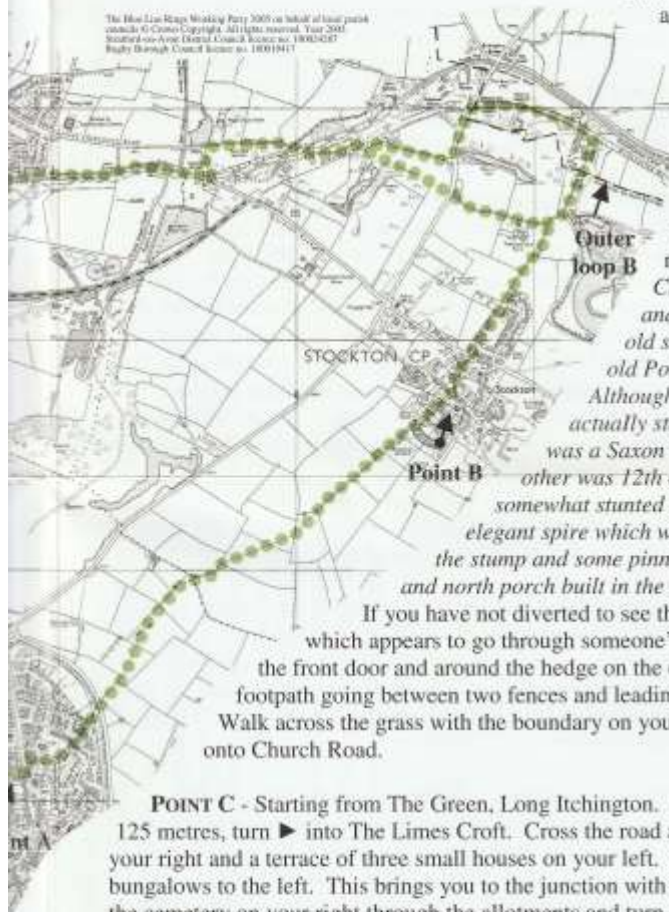
a waymark post is just visible. A new track which is fenced now cuts diagonally across the field. Use the stiles to get over the fences. Cross the small brick bridge over Cuttle Brook, a small tributary of the River Itchen, and bear ◀ across the corner of this field to the stile about 25 metres to the right of the brook. Go diagonally across the next field towards the small group of three houses to the right of the Church and climb the stile to the right of the gate. *For better views of Holy Trinity Church go along Thorn Way, through The Square and the churchyard. This route passes the site of the old smithy and wheelwright's shop on the left and the old Post Office on the right just before The Square.*

Although most of the church dates from the 14th century it actually stands on the site of at least two earlier ones. One was a Saxon church, of which there are no remains, and the other was 12th century, of which traces are left. The tower appears somewhat stunted because until 27 February 1762 it was topped by an elegant spire which was brought down in a thunder storm, leaving only the stump and some pinnacle stones. The roofs were replaced and the vestry and north porch built in the 19th century.

If you have not diverted to see the Church continue straight ahead along the path which appears to go through someone's front garden waymarked on a telegraph pole, past the front door and around the hedge on the other side. Here it becomes a more recognisable footpath going between two fences and leading to The Green in the centre of Long Itchington. Walk across the grass with the boundary on your left past an electricity sub-station and turn ◀ onto Church Road.

POINT C - Starting from The Green, Long Itchington. Leave The Green and go along Church Road for 125 metres, turn ► into The Limes Croft. Cross the road and go up the footpath between modern houses on your right and a terrace of three small houses on your left. Continue along the footpath leaving three bungalows to the left. This brings you to the junction with another footpath. Carry on straight ahead passing the cemetery on your right through the allotments and turn ◀ down to the road again. The Green Man Inn is 50 metres to the right along Church Road but the route is to the ◀ and then immediately ► into the Bascote Road. *Brook Turn Cottage dates back to 1861 and the nearby river bridge was, until the late 1960's, a ford impassable by car for 4 months of the year and 6 feet deep on some occasions.*

Cross over the river bridge and take the second of two stiles on your right hand side - your route is waymarked. Cross over the stile and aim across the field to the stile in the hedge on the other side which is about 20 metres in from the corner of the field directly ahead. Cross the double stile set into the next field and follow the wire fence on your left for about 125 metres and come to the junction with another footpath. There is an optional inner loop (C) here that reduces the length of the walk by 2 km (see other leaflet). To continue on the main walk at the junction of the footpaths go straight ahead across this field and cross the stile to the left of the bridge out onto Stonebridge Lane.



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Turn ◀ and pass under the old railway bridge and continue for about 200 metres to the junction with the private driveway to Snowford Hill Farm. Cross the stile to the right of the drive and cross this field obliquely ◀ to a waymark post and stile about 75 metres in from the left corner. Cross this stile and the next about 20 metres further on and continue in the same direction aiming just to the left of a power pole in the middle distance. At a point about three-quarters of the way across this field turn half ▶ and follow the line of the old ridge and furrow down to a stile and a railway sleeper footbridge across a large drainage ditch. Cross the stile and bridge and go straight ahead across the next field. There is a waymark post about 200 metres away which only becomes visible as you climb about a quarter of the way up this field. The waymark post marks the junction with a bridleway from the right. Take the track to the ◀ which is a public road and pass a Dutch barn after about 200 metres to reach one of the highest points on the Blue Lias Ring Walks, at an elevation of 86 metres. *Looking back down the track you can see the Itchen valley stretching away to the north. Turning in a clockwise direction Snowford Hill Farm comes into view to the right of the track with the west end of Long Itchington behind. The main part of Long Itchington is hidden by the shoulder of the hill. The chimney of the Cement Works dominates the view to the east. Continuing around, Bascote comes into view with Southam directly behind it. Southam College is clear on the ridge just to the right of Bascote. Long Itchington Wood and Ufton Wood are obscured by the overgrown hedge to the south but Print Wood is clearly visible to the west.*

Continue along the track downhill another 300 metres to the bridge over the canal. From the bridge the track is much better made. Continue along it for another 350 metres heading directly towards Long Itchington Wood, to the junction with another track and turn ◀. This is Pudding Bag Lane which is also a Public Road.

Continue past a junction with a bridleway on the right and Bascote Lodge Farm on the left heading directly towards the Cement Works chimney. Follow the Lane around for about 500 metres up to its junction with the Bascote-Bascote Heath road. Turn ▶ and then ◀ at the finger post and go through the gate with a running wheel on the bottom. The path lies diagonally across the field on your right (if this is not accessible go up the concrete drive). At this point there are views ahead of the Cement Works chimney and Southam School. Turn ◀ off the concrete path at the way mark post, another high point on the walk at 97 metres, and go ◀ through the gateway into the field. Cross this field keeping the wire fence on your left to the waymark post in a former hedge line. Cross the next field to the wood where another waymark post is visible. At this waymark post enter the wood and walk down to a stile in the fence. Cross the road (Welsh Road West) to the waymark post opposite. *The Welsh Road from the Middle Ages to the middle of the last century was a drovers' road from north and mid-Wales to the markets of the Midlands and London. Cattle, sheep and even geese were driven along it, the geese being shod to protect their feet.*

Follow the path through a small copse, across a bridge and a stile and carry straight on. It then meanders through an area of trees and gorse before entering an open field at a stile. Go through this field past a gate on your left over a stile into the next field and carry straight on until you reach a gate. Passing through this gate, you enter the site of the Stoneythorpe Mill. *The mill belonged to the Stoneythorpe Estate; the entrance to the grounds over the mill-race can be seen in the hedge to your right. The wheel was about ten feet in diameter. The wheel pit is by the bend in the path before the weir.*

Follow the path to the weir, which is crossed by a concrete and metal bridge. This is the River Itchen which joins the River Stowe about 200 metres upstream. The path goes diagonally ◀ through the remains of an avenue of pollarded willow. Cross a stile to the right of a gate, and go diagonally to the right hand corner of the field to a double gate. The River Stowe is now on your right. The remains of a ford can be seen in the river about halfway across the next field. Cross the next gate to reach the Holy Well. *The Holy Well was mentioned in a Charter of King Ethelred in 998. The water was regarded as a cure for bad eye- sight and was also supposed to relieve various aches and pains. The water has been intermittent in recent years due to lower than average rainfall.*

After passing through the kissing gates at the Well, cross the next field to a gate and into the next field with a small barn on the left, to a smallholding. Do not take the metal foot-bridge on your right which takes you up the bank to Warwick Road. Pass through the small-holding to a metalled road heading towards the recreation ground and turn ◀ up the hill and half way up go through the metal kissing gate into the recreation ground. Cross the recreation ground aiming for a point to the left of the spire to a metal gate into the churchyard. Carry straight on towards the church and turn ◀ and follow the path through an avenue of lime trees to come through the lych-gate and turn ◀ onto Park Lane. Turn ▶ into Little Park and go up the footpath on the right immediately after Victor Hodges House. Turn ◀ after the bungalows, go past the Scout Hut and come out onto Welsh Road West. Turn ▶ and then ◀ into Coventry Street.

OUTER LOOP B - At Stockton (extends the main walk by approximately 1 km). An alternative loop is available through the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Reserve at Stockton Cutting some of which is along permissive paths rather than public footpaths. To take the loop turn ► at the end of the path from Stockton and ◀ after 50 metres onto the concrete track. Carry on straight ahead until you reach the course of the disused railway line. Turn ◀ and enter the nature reserve where there are paths leading off to the left through the trees or straight ahead along the disused railway line. The wild flowers in the Reserve attract many different species of butterfly. Please respect the Reserve and do not pick any flowers or cause any damage. Both paths lead up to the main Rugby Road. Turn ◀ and after about 250 metres, cross over the road (**take care crossing**). Go down the bridleway which is to the right of the entrance to the Waste Disposal Site. Follow this track for about 400 metres, past Griffin House and straight ahead along the narrow path between the hedges. You rejoin the main walk just before the disused railway line.

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Blue Lias Rings - Inner Loop

Southam, Stockton, Long Itchington and Bascote

A circular walk of 10½ km (6½ miles). Use this leaflet in conjunction with leaflet **Blue Lias Rings - Main Walk and Outer Loop**.



Historical notes on points of interest are shown in italics.

Stiles referred to in the text may have been replaced with gates as part of an ongoing access improvement plan.

INNER LOOP A - At Stockton (reduces the main walk by approximately 1 km). At the end of Beck's Lane turn ◀ and go up Mount Pleasant. Carry straight on when it becomes a narrower road and then a path.

Main walk Cross two stiles, come out into a field and cross this field with the hedge on your left. Cross the stile and the main Southam to Rugby road and climb down the steps into the field opposite. Go through two fields with the hedge on your left and then follow the path between the hedge and a wire fence on your right. Passing Stockton Fields Farm on your right cross two plank bridges and continue straight ahead on a wide track between a hedge on the right and a small copse on the left.

Inner loop A

Point B

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50 metres after the copse turn diagonally ► into the field gateway and carry on down the hill with the hedge on your left. Cross the stile and walk down through the wood, passing through two metal kissing gates to cross the disused railway line. Come out onto a very pleasant lake formed from a flooded quarry pit. Keep this on your left and walk towards the gap in the hedge. Go past the Blue Lias Inn on your left and turn ◀ onto the Stockton to Long Itchington Road. Cross over the canal bridge to rejoin the main walk.

INNER LOOP C - At Long Itchington (shortens the main walk by approximately 2 km). At the junction of the footpaths turn ◀ and cross the stile into the field and walk straight up the hill with the hedge on your left to arrive at a metal kissing gate. Go through this gate and down the steps to cross over another path which follows the disused railway line. *The railway line ran from Rugby to Leamington and fed the cement works. It was closed to passenger traffic in the mid 1960's but continued to supply the Works for another 20 years. The tracks were later removed and a footbridge which used to take the footpath across the railway was demolished in 1992.*

After crossing the railway continue up the steps and through another metal kissing gate and go straight ahead for about 50 metres through the small wood to the field beyond. *White's Spinney was ravaged by Dutch Elm disease in the mid-1970's and was replanted by Long Itchington Parish Council with about 900 oak, ash, maple and wild cherry in 1989. In the middle of the spinney a few of the old elm trees are regrowing.*

Carry straight on slightly uphill into the field. Manor House Farm is slightly to the left about one kilometre away and Bascote House is a similar distance directly ahead behind the trees. Aim for Bascote House, or if it is not visible, the two largest trees in the middle of the hedgerow at the far end of the field. Continue across the middle of the field to a point about 75 metres short of the far hedgerow and turn sharp ◀ towards the Bascote Road aiming for a gap in the hedge with a waymark post in the middle of it. Turn ► onto the road and follow it over the canal bridge and down the hill for about 200 metres. Continue around a slight right hand bend and past the access gate to the British Waterways Bascote Wharf moorings to a gateway to the Severn Trent sewage treatment works. The route runs from a kissing gate to the left hand side of the sewage works gate, diagonally ◀ across the field ahead. Cross two fields diagonally aiming for the large oak tree close to the bungalow which is the only

building on this side of the road. Pass through a gate which is just to the left of the oak tree into the hamlet of Bascote. Cross over and turn ◀ along the road for about 100 metres. Turn ▶ through a gate which is up

against the first building you come to. If you wish to see Bascote House continue along the road to the next entrance, and then return to the gate.

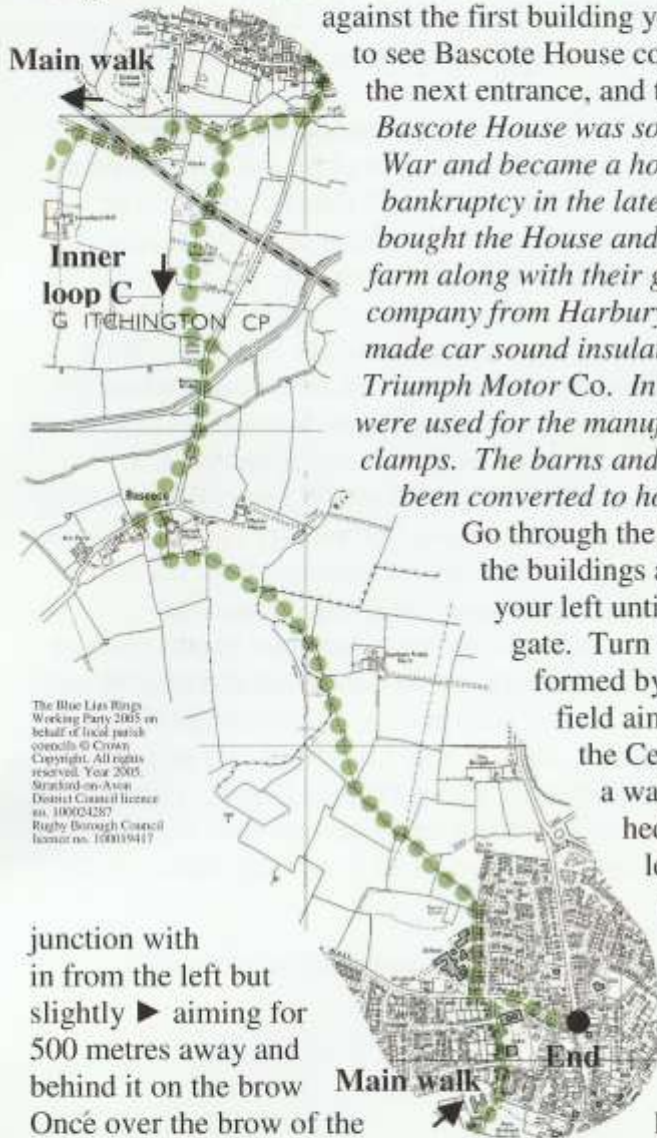
Bascote House was sold after the Second World War and became a hosiery factory until bankruptcy in the late 1950's. Empsons bought the House and then set up a mushroom farm along with their general engineering company from Harbury. In the late 1960's they made car sound insulation for the Standard-Triumph Motor Co. In the 1980's the premises were used for the manufacture of brackets and clamps. The barns and out-houses have now been converted to housing.

Go through the gate and walk uphill with the buildings and then the hedge on your left until the hedge turns ◀ at a gate. Turn ◀ around the corner

formed by the hedge, cross the field aiming just to the right of the Cement Works chimney, to a waymark post located in the hedge 20 metres in from the left hand corner of the field. This marks the

another footpath coming ignore this and go the nearest house about the service station of the hill opposite.

hill make for the



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junction with in from the left but slightly ▶ aiming for 500 metres away and behind it on the brow. Once over the brow of the

footbridge and cross the River Itchen. *Prior to 1932 the bridge was a wooden construction with white-painted rails. On the Saturday before Trinity Sunday in 1932 there was heavy rain all day and night. On Sunday the bridge was lifted by floodwater and carried away to be left high and dry in the meadow downstream.*

During the flood the water was deep enough to submerge five-bar gates in the village. Sharples of Southam built the present bridge. The character of the river is quite different today since post-war dredging. The river had deep pools and riffles. There were 32 pegs from which local Angling Clubs competed to catch roach, dace, chub and perch. There was a fly-fishing club which stocked the river with trout.

After the bridge, turn ► at an angle across the field aiming for the point where the river swings to the right. From here head for the field boundary straight ahead and rejoin the river bank at a small sleeper bridge. The path climbs slightly and passes to the left of an electricity pole. After reaching a level area of path strike out to the ◀ uphill. Once over the hill make for the waymark between the trees on the far hedgerow. Turn ◀ and head for the corner of the field where you cross a sleeper bridge and stile. Walk diagonally ► away from the hedgerow on your left to the point where the hedge gives way and you will see a stile with houses behind it. Go over the stile and turn ► along a well-worn track to Welsh Road West in Southam. Turn ◀ cross the road and turn ► down St James Road passing Southam Primary School and the Church and Community Project. Where the road bears left carry straight on then turn ◀ halfway down the hill through a metal kissing gate into the recreation ground. Cross the recreation ground aiming for a point to the left of the spire to a metal gate into the churchyard. Carry straight on towards the church and turn ◀ and follow the path through an avenue of lime trees to come through the lych-gate and turn ◀ onto Park Lane. Turn ► into Little Park and go up the footpath on the right immediately after Victor Hodges House. Turn ◀ after the bungalows, go past the Scout Hut and come out onto Welsh Road West. Turn ► and then ◀ onto Coventry Street to end the walk.

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