



Dorridge and District Residents Association Lowsonford to Preston Bagot








This walk of about 5 miles starts from the canal bridge in Lowsonford, though the car park at the Fleur-de-Lyse is a good place if you are intending to be a customer. The walk takes in views across Warwickshire from a high point at Yarningdale Common, a eye level view of one of three cast iron aqueducts on the Stratford-upon-Avon canal, and passes through some picturesque hamlets.











To get to Lowsonford from Dorridge, drive down to the Old Warwick Road via Packwood House. Having joined turning left towards Lapworth, a few yards further down, a signposted road to Lowsonford branches off to the right. Follow this for a couple of miles. You will eventually reach Lowsonford, pass the Fleur-de-Lyse, bear left over the canal bridge and park in the lay-by just over the other side of the bridge.



The walk has a number of stiles, nothing too challenging and is dog friendly – nothing a reasonable sized dog cannot scramble under aside from the first one at step 3. As a very acceptable alternative to avoid this and a boggy section in wet weather; or for a slightly shorter walk; you can go down the canal towpath, away from Lowsonford, and join the directions at step 33.

<p>1. Follow the road towards Shrewley</p>  <p>Having parked in the lay-by, walk along the quiet country lane, away from Lowsonford, on the road to Shrewley.</p>	<p>2. At corner, take path</p>  <p>Having followed the road, you arrive by a church on the corner. Take the footpath up the hill crossing two stiles, aiming for the telegraph pole at the top.</p>
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<p>3. Follow the same line</p>  <p>Continue along the same line, joining the fence on your left, and follow to the stile in the corner of the field.</p>	<p>4. Right over stile</p>  <p>Cross the stile and turn right, cutting off the edge of the field, and you soon find a kissing gate.</p>
<p>5. Follow the right edge of field</p>  <p>After passing through the gate, stay on the right hand edge of the field until the gradient of the field noticeably changes to fall away. You may just spy a way mark pointing left across the field on the fencing by an oak tree on the right.</p>	<p>6. Strike diagonally across.</p>  <p>At this point the path switches to strike diagonally across to the bottom left hand corner of the field, where there is a kissing gate with some railway sleepers to help get across the wet area.</p>
<p>7. Follow the hedge on the right</p>  <p>Walk across the next field, sticking to the right hand side. At the end of the field, the hedge swings to the right. Follow it around into the fenced off extension.</p>	<p>8. Follow the bridle-way ahead</p>  <p>Having turned the corner, walk forward and take the right-most gate of three, which goes into a bridle-way, hedged on both sides, ignoring the other two gates that lead into fields.</p>
<p>9. Continue along the bridle-way for some distance.</p>  <p>The bridle-way, which can be quite muddy in wet weather, continues for some time, allowing for glimpses of the countryside through the trees on either side. Just keep following until it eventually arrives at a kissing gate.</p>	<p>10. Through the gate and left</p>  <p>Having gone through the gate, the bridle-way turns into a track and then a lane, which turns to the left, past a farm house which sits beside a large lawn.</p>
<p>11. After the wall, turn right</p>  <p>After a barn, the lane becomes properly tarmac'd. After the swimming pool on your right is a wall, and next to that is a gated field entrance. Turn right there.</p>	<p>12. Pass through the gate...</p> 

<p>13. Walk to the bottom right of the field</p> 	<p>14. Cross the stile</p>  <p>Cross the stile, and follow a similar line as before to the hedge in front, along side the right of a cedar-planked house.</p>
<p>15. Continue to the far corner You may notice a waymark pole in the middle of the field to guide you. Join the hedge that runs towards the middle of the field, keeping it on your left.</p> 	<p>16. Cross stile</p>  <p>Hidden in the corner, find the stile. Cross it and turn right, do not follow the waymark. (note: to the right is not way-marked here at the time of writing, but it is a public footpath marked on OS maps).</p>
<p>17. Follow the hedge on the right The field slopes gently down.</p> 	<p>18. Cross bridge</p>  <p>In the bottom right of the field there is a bridge of sleepers. At the time of writing, the stiles are in disrepair. Cross them or go around as best you can.</p>
<p>19. Follow hedge to gateway on left</p> 	<p>20. Go up to stile</p>  <p>At the gateway go through and straight up the field, keeping to the left of the fence dividing the field. Cross stile into lane.</p>
<p>21. Turn right at the muddy track</p> 	<p>22. Carry on past farm</p>  <p>The muddy track emerges by a farm. Carry straight on along the semi-made up road.</p>

<p>23. Keep straight on</p>  <p>The track apparently goes to the right, but as we do not want to go visiting, we carry straight on into the wooded area.</p>	<p>24. Left into the woods</p>  <p>Just after the lane changes back to a track, there is a wooden bridge on the left (as ably demonstrated by Coral) which we take to enter the woods.</p>
<p>25. Climb a short way then right</p>  <p>The path ascends through the wood, and shortly there is a choice of two distinct paths, we go right.</p>	<p>26. Ascend and emerge</p>  <p>Having followed the distinct path through the woods, the path brightens as it passes by a wooden fence. Go left off the path and reach the top of the hill.</p>
<p>27. Leave the picnic area.</p>  <p>This area provides good views over the Warwickshire countryside. We return to the path, looking back from whence we came and a little to the left, another path is found. Descend to where the path joins our original trail and turn left.</p>	<p>28. Emerge from the woods.</p>  <p>Eventually we escape from the woods. Descend to the gravel lane in front of the white house, turning left along it.</p>
<p>29. Turn right at the end.</p>  <p>The track soon ends in a T junction at a tarmac'd lane. Turn right along what turns out to be a quiet cul-de-sac, and follow it to its end.</p>	<p>30. Follow signs to canal</p>  <p>At the end of the lane, the canal footpath is clearly signposted to the right of The Cottage.</p>
<p>31. Turn Left</p>  <p>On joining the canal, we go left, along to the bridge, turn right over and turn left again. However, you may wish to return along the towpath briefly to inspect one of three cast iron aqueducts along this section of the canal, used here to cross a stream.</p>	<p>32. Continue down the towpath</p>  <p>We walk along the towpath for some time, ignoring the first footpath off to the right at the next lock.</p>

33. Take path right at Bridge 46



Eventually, we come to a bridge that takes the towpath to the left of the canal. Just before the bridge (no. 46) there is a footpath on the right which we

take.

34. Follow path by stream



If you do not see the stream almost immediately, you have taken the wrong way! Follow the path to a bridge.

35. Cross the bridge



36. Bear right at field



At the end of the path, we go through a kissing gate into the field. The path goes across the field and then turns right alongside the hedge opposite, (with the

hedge on your left).

37. Follow the hedge



The hedge rises and bears to the left. In the winter you may just see a small church in the highest clump of trees on the horizon. In the summer, the top of the spire is just barely visible.

38. Cross the next field



The field narrows to a gap and emerges into another field, where we walk straight across, heading for a kissing gate.

39. Through the gate and right



The gate opens onto a lane, where we turn right, noting the typical Warwickshire chapel opposite. Keep on this lane ignoring any footpath signs.

40. Bear left at the Y Junction



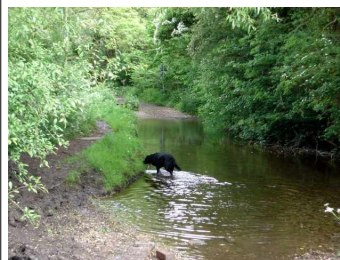
We take the lane to the left, by the weeping willow.

41. Follow on for some time







The lane eventually fades into a track. Follow on, noting the ford sign as we pass.

42. Cross the ford.



The track carries on for some distance. Those with more sense will use the path on the left to pass the ford...

<p>43. At the lane end, turn right</p>  <p>The lane eventually emerges by a barn conversion. We turn left (Preston Road is signed on the left as you turn).</p>	<p>44. Take the path on the right</p>  <p>Just after the somewhat ramshackle farm buildings, take the path on the right.</p>
<p>45. Follow the right edge</p>  <p>Follow the field edge to the bottom right corner. Continue on the same line through the somewhat overgrown path (at the time of writing).</p>	<p>46. Follow the fenced in way</p>  <p>which is way marked to the right. Cross over the stile to the right.</p>
<p>47. Take a diagonal.</p>  <p>We then take a diagonal line half left to a stile in the hedge opposite. Next we walk straight across the field.</p>	<p>48. Walk straight down the middle</p>  <p>...with the woods on your left, and a hedge to the road on your right. At the time of writing, the footpath was invisible. There is a stile on the far side of the long field. In between the trees at the far end, you will just spy the roof of a barn. Walk straight towards that and eventually you will see the stile.</p>
<p>49. Cross the stile</p>  <p>Go into the hedgerow. At first there is a brambly field on your right. We stick to the path which follows the hedge on the left.</p>	<p>50. Continue</p>  <p>The path becomes more enclosed. We carry on along more or less the same line, passing an obsolete stile.</p>
<p>51. Carry on ahead</p>  <p>Emerging into a crossroads of paths, carry straight on over the stile to the left of the gate. (Further left you will see the remnants of a railway bridge for the dismantled line from Henley).</p>	<p>52. Head to the left of the ugly house</p>  <p>The path goes down the gentle slope of the field to a stile in the hedge. Carry on a similar line, heading to the left of the atrociously extended red brick house. (You will see that the front is much more attractive as you pass).</p>

<p>53. Join the lane and turn left down the hill</p>  <p>Leave the field by the stile. Descend down this quiet lane. Just before you reach the "main road", take a careful look in the rear garden of the last house on the left. You may see a zebra-striped cow and other exotic animals (mostly, though not all, inanimate!).</p>	<p>54. At the crossroads, turn right.</p>  <p>You have returned to Lowsonford. Turning right past the traditional telephone box, noting the old post box in the house opposite, we walk carefully down this road – some cars travel quite fast on this narrow, unsighted lane.</p>
<p>55. Pass the Fleur-de-Lyse</p>  <p>...or not!</p>	<p>56. At the junction, bear left...</p>  <p>over the canal bridge to return to the start.</p>

Note: if you would like to make a longer walk of around 9 miles, you can join this walk together with the walk called Henley to Irelands Farm. Assuming you start on the Henley route, follow that walk until step 31. Instead of turning right, turn left and then right across the field. The path then swings left and through the gate, instead of following up the hill, we turn right and walk along the bottom of the woods. At the end of the field, the path then passes through a wooded area and then emerges to a field, now having the woods on the right. At a complex of stiles, turn right (this is the old line from Henley) and this emerges at the point described in step 51 of this walk, which you would see as a stile on your left, after an overgrown brick bridge. To return to that walk, at step 44, instead of turning right from Preston Road into the field, head straight along the road, until the road bends sharp left, by Bushwood Farm. You now are at step 34 of the Henley walk.

If you have any comments or suggestions on these walks, please contact us at DorridgeResidents@googlemail.com.