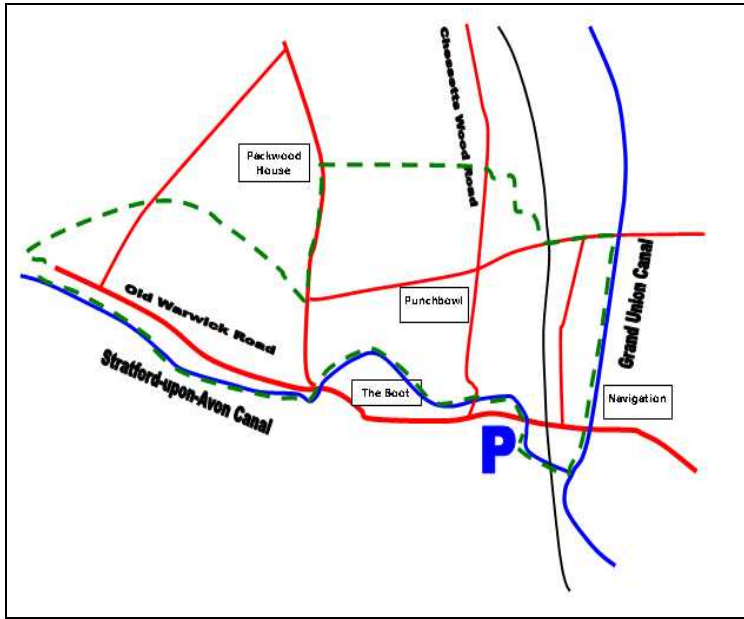


Dorridge & District Residents Association

Lapworth to Packwood House

This walk of around 5 miles takes around two and a half hours. It starts from Lapworth though you can easily pick the circular walk up at Packwood House (step 20/21 below). To find the car park by the canal, take the Old Warwick Road towards Warwick passing the Boot Inn. Mill Lane is on the left, with the Village Shop. Shortly afterwards on the right hand side is Broome Hall Lane. 50 metres down here on the left is a small car park by the canal where you can park for free.

This walk goes north along the Grand Union Canal, across to Packwood House, then around and behind it, and then joins up for a long walk back down the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal taking in the fantastic flight of locks before returning to the start. One of the nice things is that there are three long stretches of walking where you do not need to think about where you are going.



The walk has a few styles and can be muddy when wet; there are no steep hills. It does go on roads, but these are quiet and it is a suitable walk for children who can be trusted not to fall in the canal too many times.

The pictures are from a sunny morning in February 2007, just after the snow thawed.

1: Exit the car park towards the Canal.



Assuming you are starting from the car park at Lapworth, go to the back of the car park, opposite the road entrance and you will find the canal, with a large boat park. Turn right towards the canal bridge.

2: Cross the canal bridge.



There is a small canal that joins the Stratford-upon-Avon canal with the Grand Union Canal. Turn left across the second bridge ahead (the first just goes to the boat pound), following the path around...

3: ...signposted Grand Union Canal



Carry on around...

4: Past the Canal Keeper's cottage



As you pass the quaint cottage, follow the signs to the left and walk along the tow-path under the railway bridge to the canal T-Junction.

5: Turn left over the canal bridge



As you reach the canal junction, turn left over the bridge and go north up the Grand Union Canal.

6: Continue for around 3/4 mile



You now walk for a long time. Go past the first old brick canal bridge, unless you have no stamina and fancy a pint at the Navigation which is just to the right of this bridge. This is a long straight walk.

7: Leave the canal at the second bridge.



Take the path on the left just before the modern bridge and join the road, turning left along it.

8: Continue past the road junction



Walk along the road, passing Station Road on your left and carry on until you find the railway bridge ahead. Take care on this road as traffic can pass at speed.

9: Immediately after the bridge, turn right



Turn right into the way-marked path along "The Grove". Walk to the end of the track.

10: Turn right at the end.



Follow the way-marked path, keeping to the fence and hedge around the cottage with it on your left, bearing left all the while. Eventually it becomes a path between two hedges.

11: Go through the kissing gate at the end



Go through the gate and across the drive.

12: Continue along the way-marked trail



13: Cross another drive



Eventually you emerge at another drive, and cross to the kissing gate on the far side.

14: Through the gate, turn right



Turn right through the gate and then walk straight on - initially along the edge of the field.

15: Continue on over the small rise



16: Across the track ahead...



17: Emerge at Uplands Farm



Walk straight across the farm yard until you see the entrance road on your left.

18: Leave Uplands Farm



Turn left along this track and out onto Chessetts Wood Road.

19: Cross to the Kissing Gate.



A right turn onto the road will take you to the entrance to Packwood Avenue a short distance on the left. This is a long tree lined walk that takes to to right opposite Packwood House. Carry straight on between the trees for over half a mile, enjoying the scenery and forgetting the directions.

20: At Packwood House turn left



At the House, go down to the road, and turn left. Walk up the rise out of the grounds, keeping the famous gardens on your right.

21: Follow the road



Walk around the bend and on down the narrow road, watching for traffic, until you reach the T-Junction at the bottom.

22: Turn right through the gate



After a few steps there is a new gate on the right. Go up the steps and through this gate, on though a private garden, keeping to the edge of the lawn by the pool on the right.

23: Walk past the house



Follow the path to the right of the house, carrying roughly straight on.

24: Through the gate



Go through the gate along the path, which takes you around the back of Packwood House estate. (Normally not this wet!)

25: Another style and turn right along the edge of the field.



The path eventually emerges at a field, marked with NT signs. Note that this path is not usually flooded like the picture - crossing a floating railway sleeper is a challenge! Also, beware the wobbly hand-hold. In the field, turn right

and follow the edge of the field.

26: Cross the style



A short way round the filed you will find a style. Cross it onto the fields of Packwood House.

27: Follow the way-marks



Follow the way-marked posts at the top of the grounds out towards the road.

28: Cross the road to the lane opposite



After crossing the style onto the road, opposite is the lane signposted Malthouse Farm. Follow the lane to the end, just before the farm.

29: Turn left into the field



Turn left into the field just before the gates of the house. Turn immediately right and within a few yards you will find a style.

30: Cross the style



Cross the style and turn left, going around the field, keeping to the hedge on the left.

31: Turn into the next field



At the corner, turn into the next field bearing left and walk straight on until you reach the road.

32: Cross the style



Over the style and turn left along the Old Warwick Road. A few yards on the right is a track marked with a sign that almost says Drawbridge Farm. Take this onto the canal.

33: Take the canal path to the left.



Do not cross the bridge.

34: Follow the canal path



You are now going to follow the canal tow-path all the way back to the car park. This is a long walk – over a mile - where the path crosses the canal from one side to the other.

35: The real treat are the flights of locks



You will know you are on the right path as you will pass two long flights of locks which put the Knowle flight on the Grand Union to shame.

36: You are nearly home!



The last bridge before the car park is distinctive - the path almost hidden under this decorative bridge.

If you have any problems, comments or suggestions on this walk, send them to us at info@dorridge.org.uk. If you have any favourite local walks, let us know and we could publish those too.