

Cancer Research UK Walk 10th May 2008

A.M. Route visiting Lapworth, Hockley Heath, Rowington, and Stratford on Avon Canal.

Approximate Distance - just over 6 miles.

Most of the early part of the route is easily identified by direction signs incorporating an oak leaf.

1. Leave Lapworth Village Hall, turn left and follow footpath along road. At Catesby Lane, path goes up an embankment before returning to lower level alongside road.
2. Soon, after road and path go round right hand bend, enter field via kissing gate on left - this is a few yards before the canal tow path. Walk through field with hedge on left until Sports Field is reached - Lapworth Cricket Club.
3. Cross sports field and go through kissing gate into field and continue ahead. Go over stile into next field, then downhill to gap in hedge at bottom left hand corner - pond can be seen on left.
4. Follow path uphill, go over stile and follow track - hedge on right - to lane. Cross lane and take path on right towards Lapworth Church and follow this through churchyard to Church Lane.
5. At lane turn right and immediately left into field. Follow path into second field which goes downhill and across stream - this area may be muddy. Follow track uphill, ignore marked path in left corner, and soon after will see path into field on left. Enter field and turn right and follow hedge until gate is reached. At this point path goes diagonally left across field to lane.
6. At lane turn right and in a few yards take path left (opposite drive to house). Path goes right - between fence and hedge - into field. Here turn left and follow tracks to A3400. Turn left and before the 50 Sign is reached a footpath will be seen on opposite side of road.
7. Cross road and follow path, which soon crosses grassed area to gate. Turn right and follow track to right of house and soon pass through gap in hedge - on right - and into lane.
8. Turn left in lane and follow until just before Nuthurst Grange is reached and take footpath on right. Cross diagonally over field and over two stiles before going down hill to lane. At this point M40 is very obvious. Cross lane and go along signed footpath until footbridge is reached. Cross footbridge and with hedge on right go uphill towards dilapidated barn.
9. Go to left of barn and across field to yellow marker post - keep obelisk to left.
10. Cross lane and follow waymarked path. Note churchyard and dilapidated church on right. The next part of route is likely to be muddy as it is used by cattle.
11. Continue ahead towards another church that can be seen in the distance. Keep hedge on right. Enter churchyard and go to right of church to 'pick up' path, which soon becomes a wide metalled track after passing derelict wooden church building. Follow track to road and turn right to Hockley Heath.
12. Cross road when footpath ends to footpath on other side of road and follow this around the left hand bend to road junction with A3400. Continue over canal bridge and left through car park of Wharf Inn to Stratford on Avon Canal.
13. Turn left over canal footbridge and follow canal for about 2 miles. At Bridge 33, located just past the Lapworth Marina, cross bridge and continue along the tow path until gap/gateway in hedge is reached - At this point tow path and road are only a few feet apart. Leave canal here, cross road with care, and turn left and in a few minutes you will be back at Lapworth Village Hall.