

Walk L Upton Warren and Grafton (4 miles)

This walk starts by the Ewe and Lamb in Brickhouse Lane, but alternative start points at Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior, Swan Lane, Upton Warren and Stoke Heath can be used. It follows the River Salwarpe around the Christopher Cadbury Nature Reserve, goes through village of Upton Warren and then on to Grafton Manor.

Roadside Parking is available near the start point. The Ewe & Lamb and The Swan Inn at Upton Warren may allow walkers to park but please check. There are seven Geocaches on this walk. Boots are recommended during wet times of the year.

- 1. Brickhouse Lane.** – Head down the lane, past the country store. Just before you reach the entrance to ‘The Priory’, lower down the hill, turn left through kissing gate on to footpath.
- 2. Old Mill House.** At the opposite side of field go through kissing gate and on to an enclosed path, passing alongside Old Mill House which was formerly the site of a water mill. The original mill burnt down in 1896 and was replaced by a large ugly brick mill. When milling ceased it was, for a time, occupied by the LG Harris paintbrush company prior to its demolition. Pass through a tunnel and over a bridge to reach the road through kissing gate.
- 3. Shaw Lane.** – Cross road to the footpath and turn right (this avoids walking in the road). Cross back to the other side of the road just before the bend (footpath sign) and continue straight along the footpath, following the River Salwarpe. Go through a kissing gate and a stile to finally reach the A38 by the The Swan. Cross the road and down Swan Lane. There is a shop at the Shell garage (turn left down A38).
- 4. Upton Warren.** The first house on the left was originally another Salwarpe mill and mill cottage. St Michael’s church further along on the left is a simple building with several interesting plaques. Turn right through kissing gate (footpath sign) just opposite a cottage within the churchyard. Two more kissing gates take you to Rectory Lane. Go past The Manor and Rectory Farmhouse where road becomes a bridleway.
- 5. Motorway Bridge.** - Immediately before bridge go right down steps across ladder stile. Keep alongside M5 to inaccessible stile by generally open gate. Turn right for about 100 metres then bear left, following tree/hedge line. At a gap in the hedge cross to the other side and continue along the hedge line with it to your left. At the end of field go through kissing gate and over plank bridge. Turn left over another plank bridge into enclosed path and gate. Aim diagonally left to line of small trees with footbridge almost at end below line of poplar trees further away. Keep in same direction to stile by field gate.
- 6. Grafton Manor.** The original Manor House was rebuilt in the 1560's but largely destroyed by a fire in 1710. It was a seat of Catholicism in Worcestershire. Look over the hedge and the attractive lake. The Chapel is followed by the Hotel and Restaurant. Just past the entrance turn right across ditch crossing and stile. Go half right up to gate. Cross field aiming for Bowling Green Farm. Cross track alongside fence to driveway. Continue downhill to A38 by Heathbrook House. Turn right along A38.

[to return directly to Stoke Prior at this point continue along A38. Go left at Puddle Wharf Island and cross the road at the brow of the hill (continue straight on to the Hanbury Turn pub). Go through kissing gate at side of driveway (footpath sign). Cross stile and kissing gate to reach Brickhouse Lane. Turn right for Stoke Prior.]
- 7. Former Bromsgrove Guild Yard.** Turn left by footpath sign into former yard entrance (now driveway to houses). Note the reliefs set into the wall on the left. Turn right on reaching Hanbury Road and left at mini roundabout into Ploughmans Walk. At top continue straight on and through gate into open space. Turn right on stoned path into alleyway. Cross Redditch Road by pedestrian lights.
- 8. Stoke Heath Recreation Ground.** - Follow enclosed footpath alongside recreation ground. Much of the land in this part of the parish is owned by Bournville Village Trust, founded by the Cadbury brothers. Cross the driveway leading to Stoke Grange (John Corbett's matrimonial home, now occupied by Bromsgrove School). Previously, it had many interesting associations as Avoncroft College with the Cadbury family, adult education, and farming improvements. Cross the Cricket Ground and leave through the opening and kissing gate. Cross the road to reach the start point.

Bus Routes

Bus No	Route	Points Served
145 145A	Bromsgrove – Stoke Prior - Droitwich (Mon-Sat)	3 & 8 Also links with Bromsgrove bus station
144	Bromsgrove -Droitwich	4 & 8 Also links with Bromsgrove bus station

For times contact Traveline: 0871 200 22 33 www.traveline.info

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