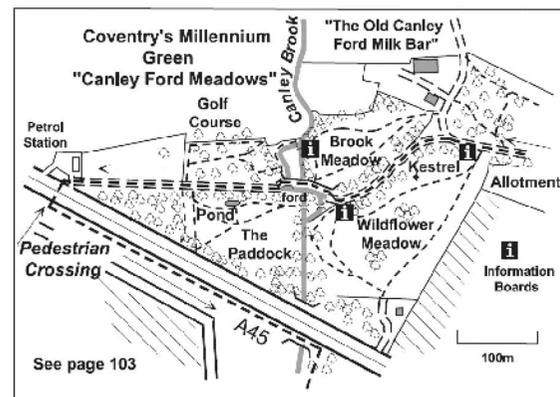


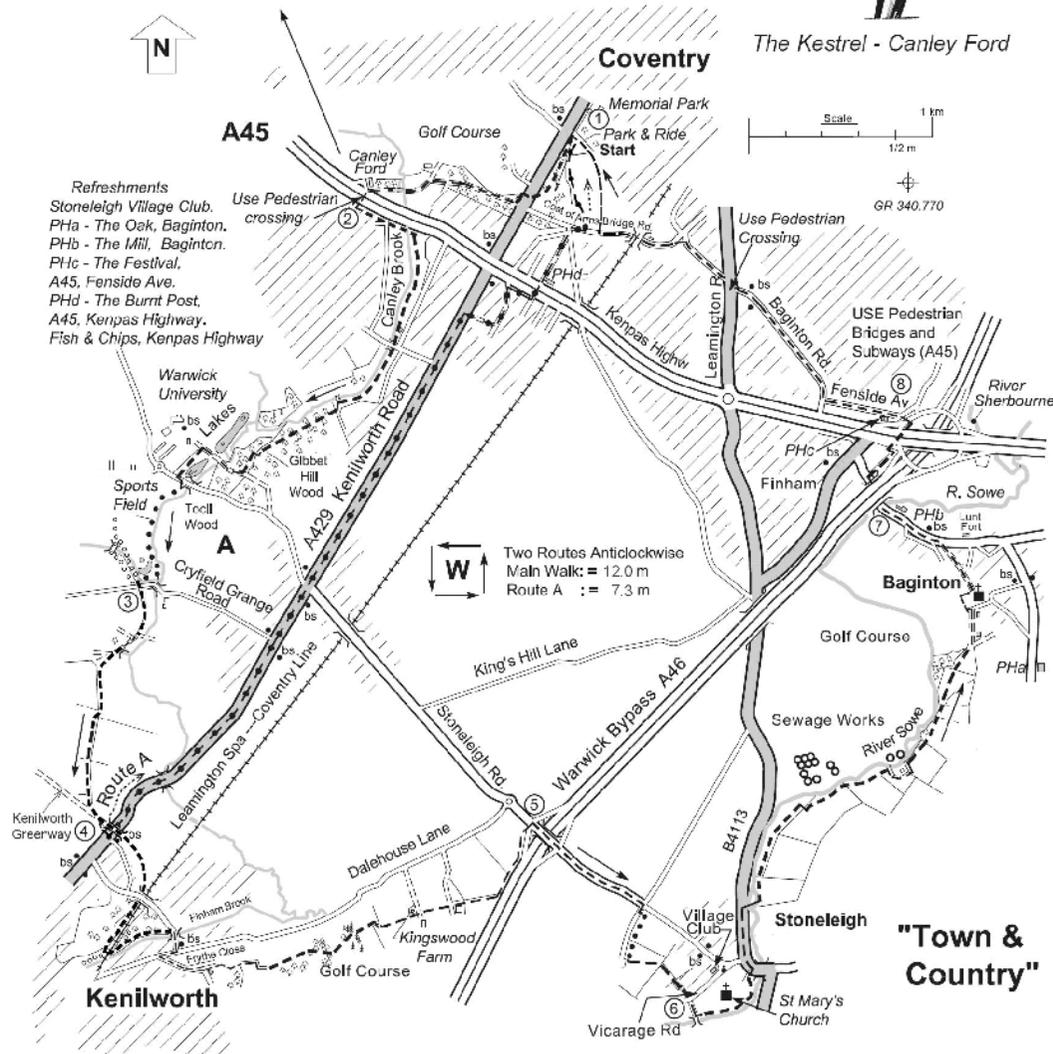
Main Walk

1. Leave Park & Ride by the p/g into the copse adjacent to the Kenilworth Rd. **T/L** thro' copse, keep parallel to main road, look for second pedestrian crossing lights on right and cross to other side. **T/L** and then shortly **T/R** into Canley Ford. **Fwd** passing allotments on left. Where lane turns right keep **fwd** thro' wooden bollards down green lane to pass the ford on your left. Continue up the lane to the A45 and garage. Cross A45 using pedestrian crossing.
2. **T/L** for 250m to cross over Canley Brook (bridge 248 70Q), shortly **T/R** down bank, keep brook on your right **fwd** to Cannon Hill Rd. **Fwd** over road with brook right, when level with a f/b, don't cross over, **V/L** hg-right, in 20m **T/R** thro' gap & over f/b, **fwd** thro' new wood to hedge gap ahead. Thro' gap, after 40m **V/R** into Tocil Wood via small path, keep left on path until you reach Cycleway. **T/R** down to just past the Lakes, **T/L** with lake on left **fwd** to go thro' k/g onto road. Opposite and just to the left, x-stile, keep stream on left, **fwd** thro' gap to pool, keep round pool on your right. **T/L** over f/b to meet Cycleway. **T/L** and cross Cryfield Grange Road to Cycleway opposite.
3. Follow Cycleway towards Kenilworth Greenway. Do not go ahead thru tunnel, **T/L** up ramp onto Greenway and **V/L**. In 100m **fwd** over bridge (A429). (For **Route A** fork right down slope before bridge, to road.)
4. Continue on Greenway thro' cutting, under bridge (Common Lane), railway on L, down to T-jcn with brook ahead. **T/L** passing under railway bridge. **Fwd** on path with brook on R to emerge onto Common Lane. **Do not cross road, T/R with care** over Finham Brook bridge & pass shops to road junction, **T/R** & then **T/L** to go up Knowle Hill. Immediately after Frythe Cl. **T/L** to follow Waymark signs thro' fenced walkway & golf course. Cross last fairway to k/g hidden on return hedge opposite. Thro' k/g, **T/L** & cross-field just right of farmhouse to tarmac track. Cross-field to exit onto another track via k/g. **Fwd** to follow Waymark signs thro' paddocks to boundary of Warwick Bypass. Thro' k/g on left, **fwd** with bypass right, thro' k/g & another field to go thro' k/g to steps on right leading up to road. This is a **busy** junction of roads & bypass connections.
5. Over bypass & continue down road (pavement left). At junction **T/R** & in 40m thro' k/g on left, **T/R** hg-right **fwd** thro' k/g, **fwd** hg-right to k/g (do not go thro'). **T/L** cross-field to go thro' k/g off field corner, hg-left, thro' k/g into enclosed footpath to road.
6. **Fwd** across road down tarmac track to bridge over river. Do not cross river, **T/L** thro' gate, follow river bank and when level with church **H/L** to main road near bridge. **T/L** & follow main road round to right for 350m (cross road carefully). Just past detached house **T/R** thro' k/g & f/g to cross the Sowe via two footbridges. **T/L**, keeping river left, thro' k/g & then hg-right thro' k/g at end of this hedge. **T/L** river left now passing thro' a series of seven fields via k/g's keeping field boundaries and sewage works extension on left. **T/L** in front of metal gate. Over slab bridge up past cottages on right towards the church at Baginton. **T/L** & then **T/R** thro' churchyard, **T/R** & **T/L**, **fwd** fc-left down track, **V/L** down entry fronting detached houses to the main road. **T/R** & **T/L** down main road past The Old Mill on right to go over the bridge (River Sowe).
7. Pass under by-pass bridge & immediately **T/R** up cycleway, at top **T/L** up and over pedestrian bridge. Follow under A45 subway on left & **fwd** to cross pedestrian bridge forking left to Leaf Lane. **T/R** & then immediately **T/L** into Fenside Ave.
8. **Fwd** to Baginton Rd. **T/R** & walk up to junction with Leamington Rd. Cross road using pedestrian crossing (on left) **T/R**, **T/L** to continue down final part of Baginton Rd. Just before joining Stivichall Croft enter copse on left, **V/R** to monument. Under Coat of Arms Bridge & continue on pavement to just before School entrance. Cross road to enter park & **fwd** to start area.

Route A At end of Note 3 **T/L** along pavement for approx. 1.7km, **fwd** over Gibbet Hill Rd. towards the city for approx. 1.4km, to Cannon Hill Rd, cross to other side & after approx. 300m on right go thro' k/g to a spinney path to Woodside Ave. **T/L** up to A45 & **T/R** up to cross A45 at pedestrian crossing near shops. Down Wainbody Ave (N) to Green Ln. **T/L** to Coat of Arms Bridge Rd. **T/R** and enter park on left, **H/L** along path to start area.



Start : War Memorial Park, Coventry
Grid Ref: SP 321.773
Parking: Public Car Park



WALK 5 "TOWN & COUNTRY"

Start: War Memorial Park,
Coventry
Grid Ref: SP 321,773
Direction: Anticlockwise
Main Walk: 12 miles
Route A: 7 miles
OS Maps: Landranger 140
Pathfinder 955
Explorer 221

Parking: Public car park

The former school at Baginton was founded by Lucy Price in 1814 to support the "poorest inhabitants of the village". Some of the private gardens of Stoneleigh and Baginton are occasionally opened to the public under the National Gardens Scheme. The meadow where the Sherbourne joins the Sowe is readily accessed by following the path and riverside just over the bridge from The Mill at Baginton.

From collected poems and epigrams of George Hamilton.

"To Town? His plodding mare and rumbling tyres

Roll on to Coventry, city of spires,
Ribbons and bicycles, where Peeping Tom
Hopes the white shade Godiva still may come."

On route A the walk down Kenilworth Road is described as the finest approach to any city in the British Isles.

Brief Information and Outline of the Route

Starting in **Coventry** (*Couentre* in 1043 and *Couentreu* in the DB, tree of a man called Cofa), at the War Memorial Park officially opened in 1921 and the City's War Memorial unveiled by Field Marshal Earl Haig in 1927. Then through the trees lining the Kenilworth Road to Canley Ford, worn deep by the passage of vehicles over hundreds of years and once the main route from Allesley to Stivichall village. There are signs of quarrying on the right hand side.

Now through Canley Ford, Coventry's only Millennium Green, comprising three hay meadows maintained in a traditional manner. In the first meadow on the left can be seen the Kestrel by Walenty Pytel. At the western boundary of the small meadow and copse adjacent to the A45 there are twenty plus concrete cylindrical blocks used as obstacles on the A45 to prevent enemy aircraft from using the road as a landing strip during the 1940 invasion scare. Follow Canley Brook then through Tocil Wood, university sports fields and farmland to the outskirts of Kenilworth.

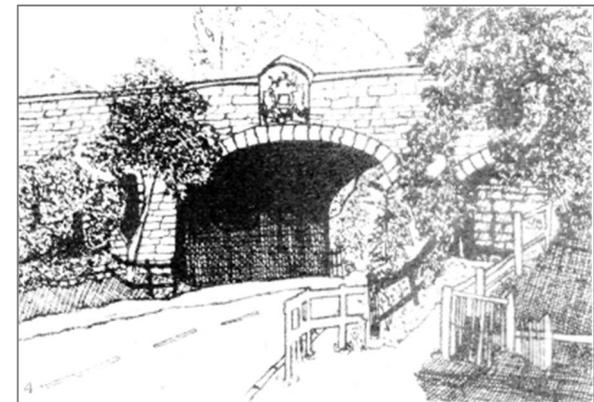
Cross the golf course, riding school, A46 and round to **Stoneleigh** village. (*Stanlei* in the DB, stony woodland clearing). Down the hill to the River Sowe (*Sowa* in the DB pre English river name) past the Norman Church of St Mary the Virgin across Stoneleigh Meadows created by the villagers into a Trust for the public in 1982.

Then along the main road towards Coventry past the old site of a petrol station and Co-op that was formally one of two mills in the village. Cross the river and pass Coventry's sewage works on the left bank. Follow the River Sowe to **Baginton** (*Badechitone* in the DB, estate of a man named Badeca) up the hill to the 13th century church of St John the Baptist, time for a rest to admire the fine view. The rectory and school (now closed) are nearby. Beyond the church but in private fields are the ruins of a 14th century castle destroyed by fire in 1706. Through the churchyard, with wonderful views and memories of comrades lost in the last war and across

the "park", these were the elegant grounds of Baginton Hall, destroyed by fire in 1889. Continue to Mill Hill, to the right uphill is the renowned reconstruction of the Lunt Roman Fort.

Turn down Mill Hill to The Old Mill Hotel, once a working mill, and opposite is Russell's Garden Centre. If you wish to visit the confluence of the Sherbourne (*Scireburne* in DB, a bright or clear stream) and Sowe, turn right after bridge along footpath and keep river on right as near as is practical. Make your way back to the main walk by aiming for the roundabout at the junction of A45/A46 and through a gap in the hedge adjacent to footpaths leading to underpass and footbridges over this busy junction.

On approaching the War Memorial Park you go through Stivichall Hamlet, passing the Gregory Hood memorial and the old Smithy probably built in the 18th century. Under the railway bridge built in 1842 with the Gregory (then the landowner) coat of arms on both sides. Near the bridge on the left side of the road is an old animal pound first recorded in 1663. The Stivichall Hamlet was acquired for preservation by Coventry Council in 1929 and includes the Smithy and several cottages.



Coat of Arms Bridge

Wildlife

An early morning stroll suitable for all times of the year but perhaps most enjoyable in the early part of the summer. On leaving the War Memorial Park you enter an old woodland with numerous old oak trees and often containing young ash, elm and frequent mature holly and hawthorn. Open access to the woods has damaged the woodland flora which contains bramble, bracken, rosebay willowherb, ivy and woodland grasses. More oak woodland is to be found after crossing over Kenilworth Road, this area is less disturbed and includes hazel, rowan, aspen, wood avens, ferns and hedge woundwort.

The path then passes through Canley Ford which is flanked by a series of rich grasslands. Species include bird's foot trefoil, great burnet, lesser knapweed, pignut, meadow vetchling, cat's ear, ox-eye daisy, lady's bedstraw and musk mallow.

On crossing the A45 and following the course of Canley Brook the early risers may be rewarded by the punctuated "plop!" of a water vole as it drops from the brook's bank into the water to escape a potential predator. Once a very common species on British waters the water vole is now nearing extinction in Britain due to the introduction of mink. We are fortunate therefore to have a very healthy population on our doorstep.

As you follow the Canley Brook down towards the University of Warwick (Coventry), summer wanderers will be drawn by the opulent pink and aroma of the himalayan balsam. This impressive plant is an introduced species which has spread along many British waterways and is thought by many to be an invasive pest. On through the new Gibbet Hill Wood, which was planted in 1999 by local people, students and girl guides, in partnership with The Woodland Trust, University of Warwick and Coventry's Countryside Project.

Eventually, you enter into Tocil Wood the remnant of an ancient oak woodland containing frequent sycamore with hawthorn, hazel, holly and rowan. The wood

includes areas that used to flood and contain alder, ferns, sedges, bugle and a localised invasion of himalayan balsam. On the outskirts of Kenilworth the path passes along the side of Kenilworth Common, a Warwickshire Wildlife Trust reserve noted for its reptile populations. This partially wooded area used to contain adders but none have been recorded for many years. Going north of Stoneleigh the path follows the River Sowe. It is sometimes possible to see signs where badgers have been foraging within the rough pastures along the banks of the river. Badgers are particularly fond of worms and use their powerful front claws to open the turf in search of such delicacies. If walking during the summer keep an eye open for banded demoiselle, a large colourful damselfly. This species is particularly associated with emergent common club-rush (or bulrush) because the aquatic larval stage uses this plant to escape the water prior to emergence.