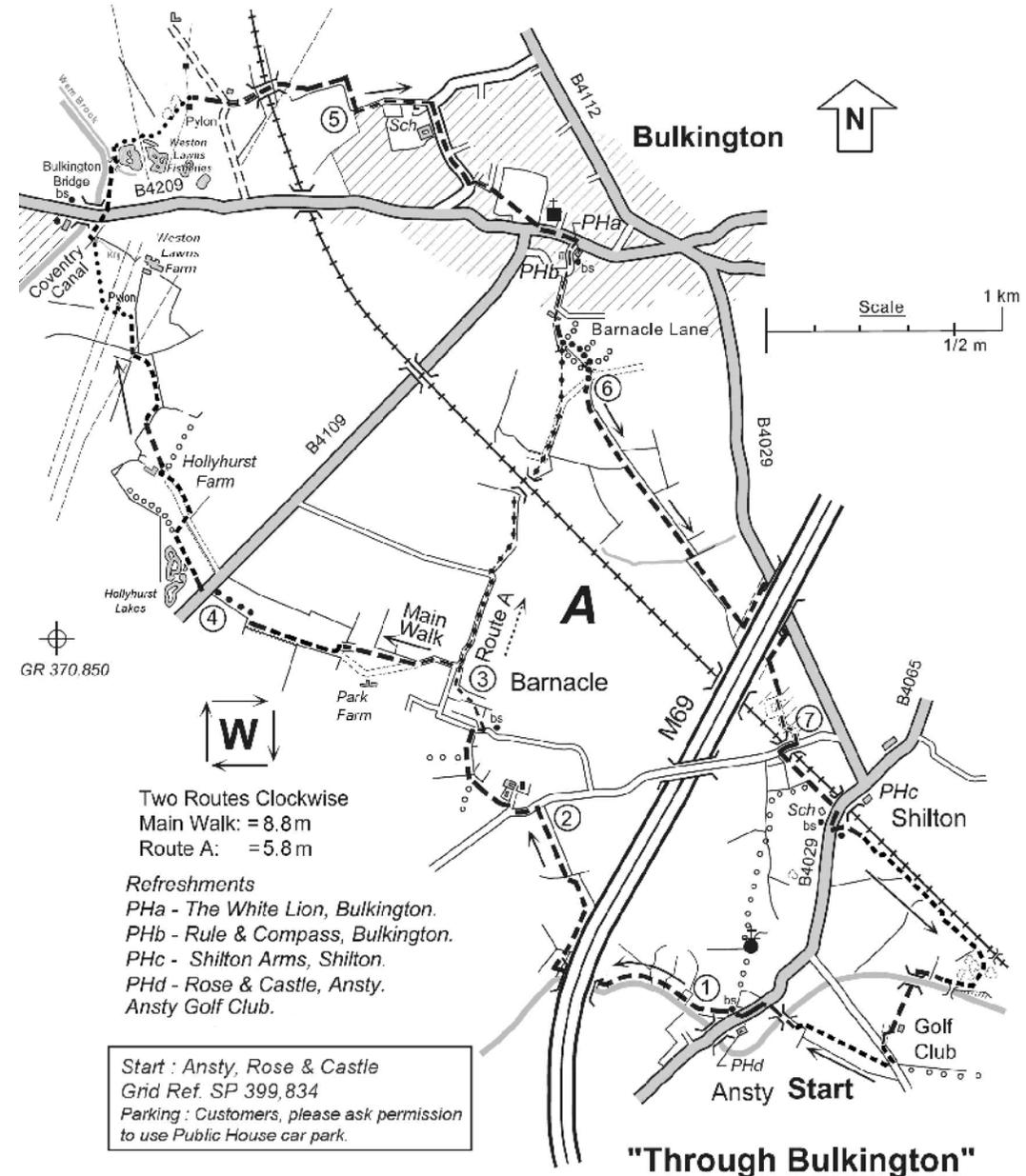


Main Walk

1. Thro' k/g opposite the Rose & Castle. **H/L** down field passing telegraph pole to canal side over 2 stiles. **Fwd** canal left, thro' three k/g's & under motorway bridge (M69). **Fwd** thro' k/g, **T/R** up & thro' k/g in hedge ahead. Keep motorway on right up into field corner. **T/L**, hg-right & continue up to corner & x-stile next to fieldgate just off field corner. **Fwd** hg-right, thro' k/g & over s/b to road.
2. **T/L** for 130m along road, **T/R** & enter drive to Hall & immediately thro' k/g on left. **H/R** cross-field to "outward" hedge corner, **fwd** hg right & thro' k/g. **V/R**, hg-right to go thro' walkway between gardens. At road **T/R** & then follow hedge of house on left (No43) around to enter field. **Fwd** fc-left, thro' k/g & **H/L** to "outward" hedge corner. **T/R** to end of field & thro' k/g onto road. (**Route A** see below).
3. **T/L** up Spring Road opposite. At Park Farm private drive go thro' two gates on right. **Fwd** hg-right, & at outward hedge corner, **fwd** cross-field to cross 4m footbridge ahead. **T/L** and **fwd** to hg. **T/R** along track to corner. **T/R** (ignore gap), **T/L** hg-left to x-stile onto road.
4. Cross road onto shale track (Hollyhurst Lakes). **Fwd**, pools on left to first WMP. **T/R** along track to T junction. **T/L** along track to reach WMP on right just before farm area. **V/R**, hedge & bank left (rubbish) cross-field, stile and f/b to area of trees. **T/R** & follow round keeping trees on left to reach ranch fence corner under OPL. **Fwd** 50m, hg-right & **T/R** thro' f/g (rubbish area). **Fwd** on track hg-right for 140m. **T/L** along field edge, passing pylon on right to corner. **H/R** to k/g in far field corner. **T/R** to reach road. Opposite (WMP) enter track, next to canal. **Fwd** along track to cross f/b over stream, up steep bank to meet fc-right. Keep fc right around top of bank under OPL **fwd** fc-right to reach long pool on right. In 30m **T/L** cross-field past two oak trees to reach pylon. **T/R** to reach WMP near chalet style house. Cross over track & **fwd** with house on left to reach & go over railway. **H/R** cross-field to hedgeline. **T/L**, hg-right to corner, **T/R** hg-right to road.
5. **T/L** along road to junction, cross & **T/R** down main road to where it bends right, continue **fwd** along walkway (house No 25a on left). Over road, walkway into park, cross on asphalt path to far right corner, **T/L** along road, cross over & **T/R** into Leicester Street. Pass shops, & as road bends right, **fwd** down road to Bulkington Club for Young People. **Fwd** on the left side of club into a "green space" & **fwd** down cinder path. Follow path round to the left (ignore footbridge) & in 150m when path turns left **T/R** over s/b into field. **T/L** hg-left.
6. Cross over track, hg & then fc-left for 850m to go over f/b. **Fwd**, hg-right for 300m, keep on same line towards motorway, & thro' k/g onto track. **T/L** to reach road. **T/R** under M69, then **T/R** over steps to track. **Fwd** 100m to x-stile on left, **fwd** 10m to x-stile ahead. **Fwd** cross-field & thro' p/g into enclosed path. **Fwd** to reach & x-stile into small estate. **Fwd**, **T/R**, **T/L** green right, **fwd** down to main road.
7. **T/R** along road over bridge, **T/L** down concrete path and keep railway on left to exit onto main road. **T/R** and in 75m x-stile on left. Down walkway to x-stile into golf course (look out for flying golf balls). **T/L** to railway fence & stay as close to fence as possible for 700m (for much of the way on Left of old fence with new fence on left) to a WMP just before bridge over railway & prominent tree. **H/R** around two small birch copses, aim left of hut to WMP. **T/R**, canal bank left, (ignore canal bridge) to **T/L** under canal and pass clubhouse to road. **T/L** & cross road. Shortly x-stile on right. **V/L** cross-field to hedge line. **Fwd** to reach outward hedge corner. Hg-left to go thro' k/g into greenway. **Fwd** over bridge, thro' p/g & up thro' hedged path to main road. **T/L** along road to Rose & Castle.

Route A At end of Note 2 **fwd** along road to where it turns sharp left. Thro' k/g ahead, hg-right to just before railway. Thro' k/g & under railway. **Fwd** cross-field to go thro' large gap ahead. Now on farm track, hg-right, **fwd** up farm track until it bears right. **Fwd** cross-field to hedge line. Over f/b & **T/R** along cinder path for 150m. When path turns left, **T/R** over s/b into field. **T/L** hg-left to pick up Note 6.



"Through Bulkington"

WALK 14 “THROUGH BULKINGTON”

Start: Rose & Castle, Ansty
Grid Ref: SP 399,834
Direction: Clockwise
Main Walk: 8.0 miles
Route A: 5.5 miles
OS Maps: (p = part)
Landranger 140
Pathfinder 935p
Pathfinder 936p
Explorer 221p
Explorer 222p

Parking: Customers to ask permission to use public house car park.

There is a new area of woodland just to the north of Hollyhurst Farm.

After Bulkington Bridge and just before the chalet style house, look back at the view towards Coventry. It is dominated by the spider web formed by the overhead pylon wires, which are terminated at the large substation near Hawkesbury Junction.

The stable block gained an award from The Bedworth Society "For outstanding environmental improvement 1988". Note the plaque on the gate-post.

Brief Information and Outline of the Route

Starting at Ansty follow the Oxford Canal, go under the M69 and turn right up to **Barnacle** village (*Bernhangre* in DB, wooded slope by a barn). Knights Hospitallers held land at Barnacle that was a place of some note in its early days.

Then across fields to Bulkington Bridge that crosses over the Coventry Canal; the Navigation Inn sits beside it. Follow a track above the canal to go over Wem Brook then cross fields to go over the railway bridge to Weston in Arden. Past the stable block, built in 1896 to serve the nearby manor. During the Second World War it was used by the Bulkington Home Guard and later fell into disrepair. In 1988 it was restored and converted into private dwellings.

Past Weston Hall grounds, now a hotel, the Hall was originally a 16th century manor house. The three gables on the south front are Elizabethan in origin, with the extension on the left built in 1893. There is believed to have been a manor on this site dating back to 1277.

On now into **Bulkington** itself (*Bochintone* in DB, estate of a man called Bulca). George Elliot knew the village well and referred to it as Raveloe in the book of Silas Marner. Past the church of St James dating from the 13th century. The churchyard is noted for its table tombs. One standing to the right of the porch is to the memory of Mr and Mrs Johnson, uncle and aunt of George Elliot, whom she portrayed as Uncle and Aunt Pullet in *The Mill on the Floss*. Now turn south past the White Lion, across the fields and under the M69, then over the railway into **Shilton**, which once had its own station on the LMS Railway. Follow the railway for a short way and cross Ansty Golf Course and up the field into Ansty village.

Wildlife

This area marks the transition from the Dunsmore area into the High Cross Plateau. This is a relatively flat landscape underlain by glacial deposits comprised of clays, sands, chalk and flint. Unlike the Dunsmore, this area is much less acidic and appears to have higher agricultural productivity.

The land bounded by the B4109 and the railway line to the south has a very regimented grid-like field pattern typical of a late Enclosures Act. However, outside of this area field size becomes noticeably larger with relatively few stiles to cross.

This is an area that is intensively farmed and appears to have relatively little wildlife value. However, the grassland areas to the east of Ansty are particularly rich with flood meadow species such as great burnet, meadowsweet and bird's foot-trefoil. Skylarks nest throughout much of the area and their continuous stream of high-pitched twittering song in spring is overpowering.

Barnacle Lane

A small reclamation project converted a former refuse tip and associated wetland in Bulkington into a 'natural' area. Native trees and shrubs have been planted, paths created and marshes and pond areas excavated to provide a variety of different habitats.



Weston Hall - Bulkington