

Walk 9 (4¾ miles)

River walk to Leintwardine

Note: *this walk has been temporarily suspended owing to withdrawal of access to the permissive track alongside the river Teme. It is hoped that renewed access can be negotiated and the route reopened in the future.*

Linear walk - flat, easy route along the rivers Redlake and Teme. Return by bus, or you can walk the same distance back by three possible routes

Point A

Turn L in front of the church and follow the footpath past the churchyard and along by the river into the village. Cross the road onto a stony track opposite the Sitwell Arms, and pass through two kissing gates into the meadow beyond. Go to the far end of the field, through a gate and then bear half R to the second stile over the railway. Ahead of you is the wooded Coxall Knoll, which hides of an iron-age hill fort.

Point B

Turn L after the stile and walk along the edge of the field by the railway. Don't go through the gap at the end of field, but turn R and pass under the power line until you reach the corner of the field by the end of the wood. Above you is a stile partly obscured by a tree. Cross this stile into the meadow beyond.

Head for the house and cross the stile in the far corner. Go straight ahead past a red brick barn to the corner of the field, then turn R and walk along to the finger post in the hedge. Cross the stile and turn R onto the road.

Point C

Walk up the road for about ½ mile

Point D

Just past a small wood on your L a fingerpost directs you through a gate, then half R across a field and just to the L of a group of trees. Keep straight on past a waymarked post at a field corner and follow the hedge on your L to a gap. Bear slightly R across the next field, then follow the hedge on your R through two gates to a track.

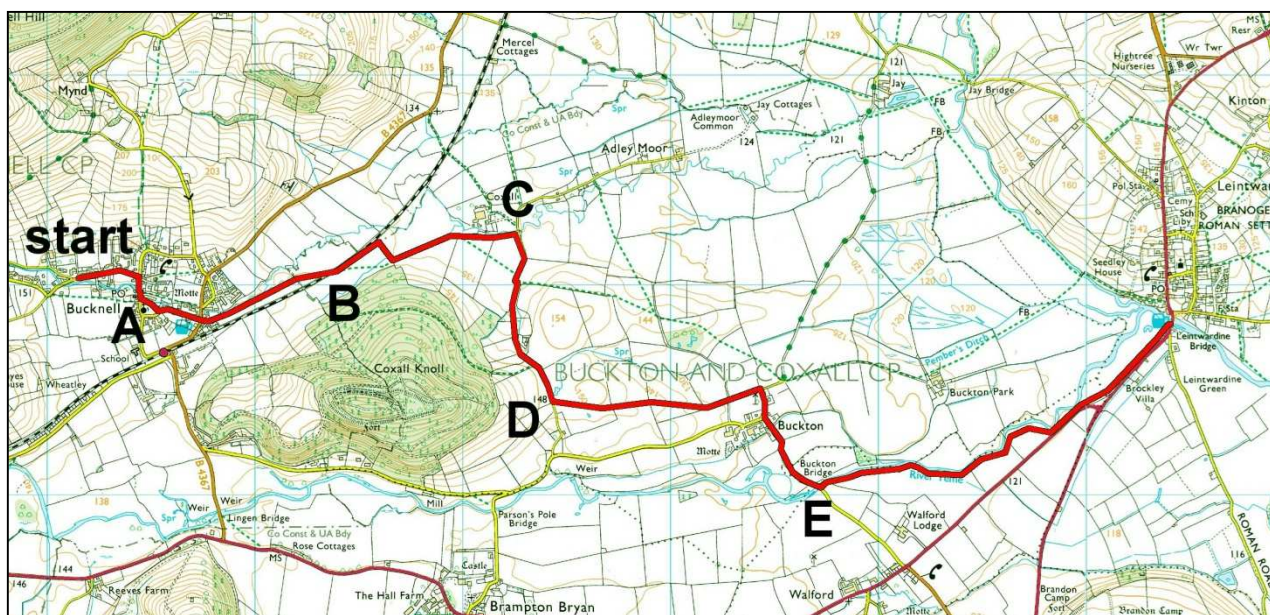
Turn L and then immediately R through a gate, and cross the field keeping close to the hedge on your R. You exit onto a road (at a bend), where you turn R and walk through the village of Buckton.

Keep L at the fork, cross the leat of an old water mill, and carry on until you reach the river Teme. Cross the bridge and turn L over a stile.

Point E

Shortly afterwards you pass through a gate and enter a large field. Keep close to the river bank through this and the next field. The Teme is rich in wildlife including otters, trout and salmon, and many different bird species can also be seen. At a gate bear half R and cut off the next meander of the river – Leintwardine church is to your L.

Your route now brings you close to the hedge by the road, which you follow for the remaining ½ mile into Leintwardine. Leave the field by a stile and you will find the bus stop next to a convenient seat on the far side of the bridge.



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Local Information

Bus 740 - leaves for Bucknell at 1.08, 4.13 and 6.08 p.m., Mon-Sat (check with timetable at bus stop).

Leintwardine - is the site of the ancient roman fort of Branogenium. The church is worth a visit in its own right and to see one of the oldest church clocks in the country (early 16th century). It boasts a new misericord dedicated to Flossie Lane (see below). It is reached by walking up the main street and taking the first turning on the R.

Refreshments - available at the garage shop, Lion Hotel (01547 540203) and the Sun Inn. (01547 540705).

The Sun Inn - is one of the few remaining "classic" pubs in the UK. It was run as a parlour pub by the landlady Flossie Lane for 74 years, where you could enjoy a local pint of beer in her cosy front room by an open fire, whilst munching fish and chips from the shop next door. Following her death in 2009 it was bought jointly by the owners of Hobson's Brewery and the fish and chip shop and sympathetically extended. The original front parlour with its fish and chip experience has been retained. A real time-warp pub that has been saved for future generations to enjoy. Not to be missed.

Sun Inn opening times – 7 days a week from 11 a.m. (17.30 on Monday).

Fish and Chip shop opening times - closed Sun & Mon; Tues-Thur 12.00-2.00 p.m. & 5.00-9.30 p.m.; Fri & Sat 12.00-2.00 p.m. & 5.30-10.00 p.m. (tel. 01547 540610 or www.fiddlerselbowfishbar.co.uk).

Return to Bucknell

You can either catch the bus or walk back by one of three routes (all about 4 miles). Firstly, you can retrace **Walk 9** along the rivers Teme and Redlake. If you fancy something different, then walk along Mill Lane (between the garage and the Post Office) for ¼ mile and cross the bridge over the river Clun. You are now at **point G** on **Walk 5b**, which you can either reverse or continue.

Walk 5b From Point G

(For plenty of reward with very little extra effort, you can cross the bridge and then turn R to follow the track into Leintwardine (under ½ mile), exiting by the Lion hotel and the village shop. Don't forget to reverse your route to continue the walk).

Otherwise, turn L before the bridge and follow the fenced-off path alongside the river Clun, crossing into the main field where directed by a waymarked gate. After about 1 mile you reach the confluence with the river Redlake.

This whole stretch is proper water meadow (south-east England speak for housing estate). If the rivers look docile, try to imagine yourself standing in a foot or so of water, with a lake to your L as far as the eye can see, as happens not infrequently after a heavy storm!

Just past the confluence is a white-painted footbridge over the river Redlake, next to a sign threatening doom to Birmingham anglers. Cross the bridge (see footnote) and immediately turn sharp L and walk along the edge of the field (probably overgrown, but it keeps you close to the river) for about 120 yards, until you meet a lone telegraph pole. Shortly after you will see another flimsy-looking concrete footbridge through the undergrowth, where you cross back precariously over the river (see footnote).

Point H

The waymark on the stile beyond directs you to a gate on the far side of a pasture, just to the R of a line of trees. Depending on the time of year, this field and the next one are wonderful flower meadows, reminiscent of how the countryside used to look before intensive farming.

Once through the gate head towards a stand of tall trees, where you pass through a gate to rejoin walk 5a at **Point E**. Refer now to the description for walk 5a to get back to Bucknell.

Walk 5a From Point E

Aim for the wooden footbridge on the far side of the field. If the construction of the bridge appears over the top, you should see the river when it's in flood! Turn L after the bridge and walk to the gate in the far R corner (by a large oak tree). Once through the gate you are now on Adleymoore Common, with its tussocky grass and gorse bushes.

To your R Jay Cottages enjoy a tranquil setting. Walk ahead to the dirt road, turn L and follow this track across the common. The track soon becomes a metalled road that takes you through the hamlet of Adley Moor. You follow this road for the next ½ mile.

As you leave the houses behind, the road curves to the L and you rejoin the river Redlake. Cross the bridge and immediately climb over the fence on your R. You are now back on familiar territory (**Point C**).

Walk ahead along the field edge, past a brick barn and across a stile, then over the meadow to the stile on the far side. Cross the stile and turn down R, going round the end of the field to reach the railway. Turn L here and walk alongside the railway until you come to a gate across the tracks. Cross the railway here and then turn L to follow the remains of a grassy earthwork to a gate on the far side of the meadow. Pass through the gate and walk alongside the river back to Bucknell.

