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the Newinn

Gannaway Wood Walk

5 miles (8km)



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Gannaway Wood Walk

1. Leave The New Inn pub car park using the pedestrian path. Turn left onto Snitterfield Lane before turning left into Church Road. Go into the churchyard and exit via the kissing gate at the bottom left corner of the churchyard. But first, stop and admire the view from the cemetery, which extends to Warwick (due west) and Edge Hill (south-west).

Continue down the edge of the field to its corner. Do not follow the footpath to the left, but turn right onto the permissive path towards the field's entrance. At the road, turn left and continue on the tarmac road through a sharp bend to the right and pass the sign marked "Private No Through Road".

2. After about 600m, the road enters a farmyard. Bear slightly left, passing between the barns. Just beyond the left-hand barn, look for a metal gate to the left with a footpath sign. Pass through the gate into a field and head uphill, keeping the field boundary on your right. At the top of the field, admire the view before carrying straight on and down to a walkers' gate. Go through and cross the bridge into a second field. Turn left and continue along the edge of the field until it meets a rough grass vehicle track on the right. Turn right onto this track towards the houses.

Pass through a gate marked with a yellow footpath sign and continue on the driveway to the right. Stay on the driveway for just over 1km until emerging onto a road.

3. Turn right (uphill) onto the road; after about 500m, turn left onto a gravel track marked Blacon Farm. Go up the track, passing a lone pine tree about halfway up on the right. Beyond the pine, glance back for good views of Leamington and Coventry. Follow the track as it bends right around the corner of the barn. Proceed along the track for about 1km, after which it emerges onto a road. Look back shortly before reaching the road to get good views across South Warwickshire with Ilmington to the south by south-east.

4. At wet times of the year, the next part of the walk can be muddy. If this is the case, the walk can be shortened by turning right onto the road and heading back into Norton Lindsey on the pavement opposite.

! Cross the road, bearing slightly left, to a marked bridleway immediately to the left of a gated farm track. (Do not take the marked footpath to the right of the gate.) The bridleway continues between a hedge to the left and wire fence to the right. Follow the path; after 300m, the footpath bends sharp right. Continue and after another 500m you will meet a vehicle track crossing the footpath. Carry straight on over the track, continuing on the footpath for a further 100m where you will see a waymarker on your right, beside a twin sleeper bridge over the ditch.

5. Cross the bridge and pass into a field. Go straight across the field to the right hand corner where the wood meets it. Enter the wood (being careful not to enter the clearly marked 'private wood'). After

200m, the track emerges at a stile into a field. Continue straight on, ensuring the field boundary is to your left. Exit by the stile, and follow the track past a second stile to emerge at a road.

6. Turn left onto the road and after 100m, turn right onto a walking track marked with a public footpath sign through a spinney. This track emerges at the corner of Norton Lindsey sports field. Follow the boundary clockwise around the sports field to the diagonally opposite corner. Exit onto the tarmac footpath and turn left. Go along the footpath until it ends at a point where a Victorian Jubilee signpost (a listed building) sits at the junction of the road. Cross the road into Main Street, where you will see three other listed buildings: The White House (16th century, white timber framed house) on your right, Barn Cottage (17th century, opposite White House) on your left and Tudor Cottages (17th century, opposite The New Inn) on your right.

Retire to The New Inn for some well-earned refreshments.