

Countryside Code

- Use alternatives to your car whenever possible.
- When you do use your car, park responsibly avoiding verges, gateways and passing places.
- Keep to public rights of way and designated areas of public access when crossing farmland.
- Use appropriate gates and stiles to cross field boundaries.
- Close all gates that you have opened.
- Avoid damaging or disturbing wildlife, including plants and trees.
- Keep dogs under close control and always clean up after them.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Make no unnecessary noise.
- Take your litter home and dispose of it responsibly.
- Support local businesses and services.
- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.



Public Transport

Why not leave the car at home and get to the walk by bus?



The 382 bus service calls at Pershore, Eckington, Defford, Norton and Worcester. The 550, 551 and 557 services travel from Evesham via Pershore (see map for nearest stop).

For further public transport information call:

TRAVELINE 0871 200 22 33
NATIONAL RAIL ENQUIRIES 08457 484950

or visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/transport

Walk Fact File

START/FINISH Pershore Bridges Picnic Place. OS Grid Ref: SO 953451.

LENGTH 5 miles. 8kms (approx. 2½ - 3 hours).

TERRAIN Mostly flat with two slight slopes and one flight of steps. There may be muddy patches after heavy rain or flooding.

GATES 18 gates (no stiles).

FINDING YOUR WAY The circular walk is clearly indicated all the way round by waymark arrows. Simply follow the arrow which is closely accompanied by the route logo and you won't get lost.

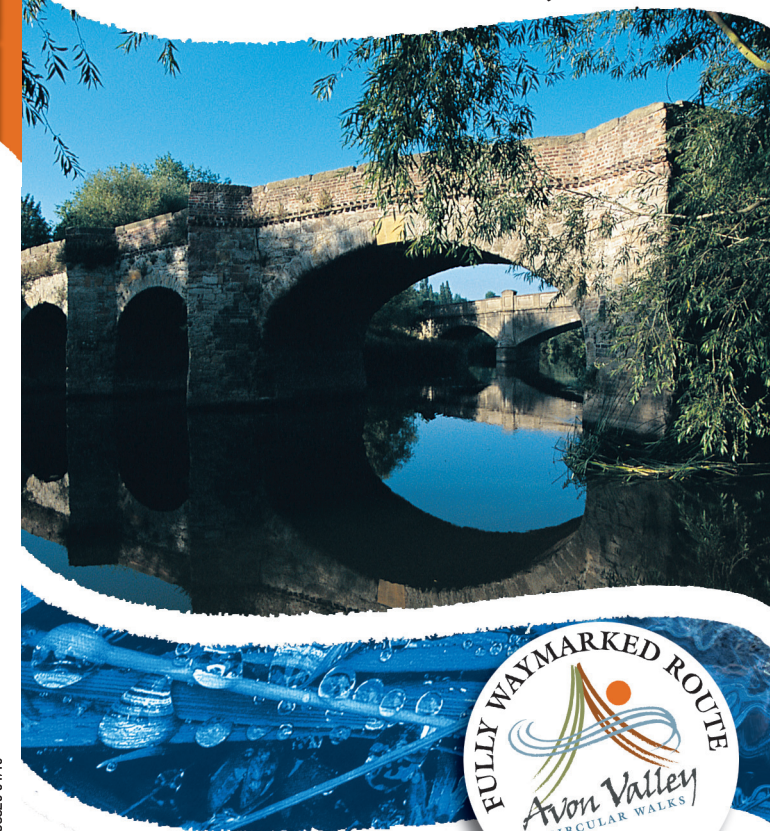
POINTS OF INTEREST Look out for numbered discs along the route which correspond to the numbered text inside the leaflet.

MAPS You won't need one to find your way but the OS map for the area is Explorer 190 - Malvern Hills and Bredon Hill.



PERSHORE BRIDGES CIRCULAR WALK

A 5 mile, waymarked riverside walk in the Worcestershire countryside

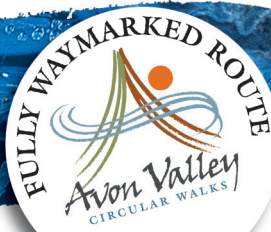


This circular walk is managed by Worcestershire County Council and it is one of a series which was developed by a partnership between Worcestershire County Council, Warwickshire County Council, The Environment Agency and Natural England

For more information about walking in Worcester, or to order copies of our circular walks leaflets please contact:
Worcestershire Hub on: 01905 766493
email: worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk
web: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside

This publication can be made available in other formats (including large print, audio tape, computer disc and Braille) on request from the Worcestershire Hub on telephone number 01905 765765 or by emailing worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

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Safe Walking

- During or following prolonged wet weather, check the river level by telephoning:
Environment Agency Floodline 0845 988 1188
- Plan your walk with care, especially if you are walking alone, and make sure someone knows where you are going and when you expect to be back.
- Take care during or following wet weather when paths can become slippery.
- Always wear suitable clothing and footwear.
- Keep children away from the water's edge.

Walking the Way to Health

Walking is a form of exercise that is free, fun, suitable for all ages and a great way for families and friends to get fit together. Just 30 minutes a day of brisk walking, on a regular basis, can have a positive effect on your health and quality of life.



Other Local Attractions



EVESHAM COUNTRY PARK Garden centre, restaurant and shops set in 130 acres. Located on the Evesham by-pass (A46) at the junction with the Stratford Road. Tel 01386 41661.



THE SPRING BLOSSOM TRAIL Between mid-March and mid-May the Vale of Evesham is filled with scent and colour from the region's orchards. Follow the route by bike or car. Tel 01386 565373.



PERSHORE COLLEGE GARDENS & PLANT CENTRE Visit Pershore College Gardens and Plant Centre. One mile from Pershore on the B4084. Tel 01386 552443.



PERSHORE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE Town Hall, 34 High Street, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 1DS. Tel 01386 556591 Fax: 01386 561996 E-mail: tourism@pershore-tc.gov.uk

Find out more online:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside



A peaceful stretch of the River Avon is combined with a beautiful woodland to create this easy and enjoyable walk close to the Georgian town of Pershore. There are good views of Pershore and the surrounding countryside from the highest point of the walk.

1 START From the Picnic Place car park, walk across the medieval bridge and then carefully cross the main road to a footpath which runs along the north bank of the River Avon.

2 This young wood has been planted with a mixture of mostly native trees and shrubs including oak, beech and rowan.

3 The riverbank is lushly vegetated for much of the year with a variety of different plant species including yellow flag and water mint. Look out for the banded demoiselle as it darts above the waters edge. Even in winter the hollow, dead stems of plants such as common reed and common nettle provide shelter for insects.

4 Turn left and walk for 100 metres alongside the road and then take special care when crossing.

5 The track ahead leads into Tiddesley Wood, initially passing through dark coniferous woodland.

The conifers are gradually being felled and will eventually be replaced by native, broadleaved species which support more wildlife than the conifers. Stand and watch a felled log stack for a while and the chances are that you will see a delightful little wren, searching for spiders or other similarly juicy snacks.

6 The track ahead shrugs off the dark conifers as it enters a lovely area of coppiced, broadleaved woodland. Coppicing, which is cutting a tree down to ground level, doesn't kill the tree and it soon grows lots of new shoots from the cut stump. This can be repeated many times and means longer life for the tree and optimum conditions for many other woodland residents. Spring flowers such as dog's mercury, primrose and bluebell flourish here, while butterflies and dragonflies are present throughout the summer. Hazel is the tree species most often coppiced but here you will also see lots of ash, with its smooth, grey-green stems.

7 Having gently climbed through pasture with Tiddesley Wood on your right and apple orchards to your left you are now afforded a view of Pershore Abbey. The Abbey tower soars above the town with the Lenches villages providing a backdrop, the Cotswolds forming the horizon and Bredon Hill dominating the entire scene.

8 Walk left along the road and then cross, with care, at the waymark post. Continue along pavement then turn right to re-join the river, re-tracing your steps back to the Picnic Place.

FINISH

The River Avon



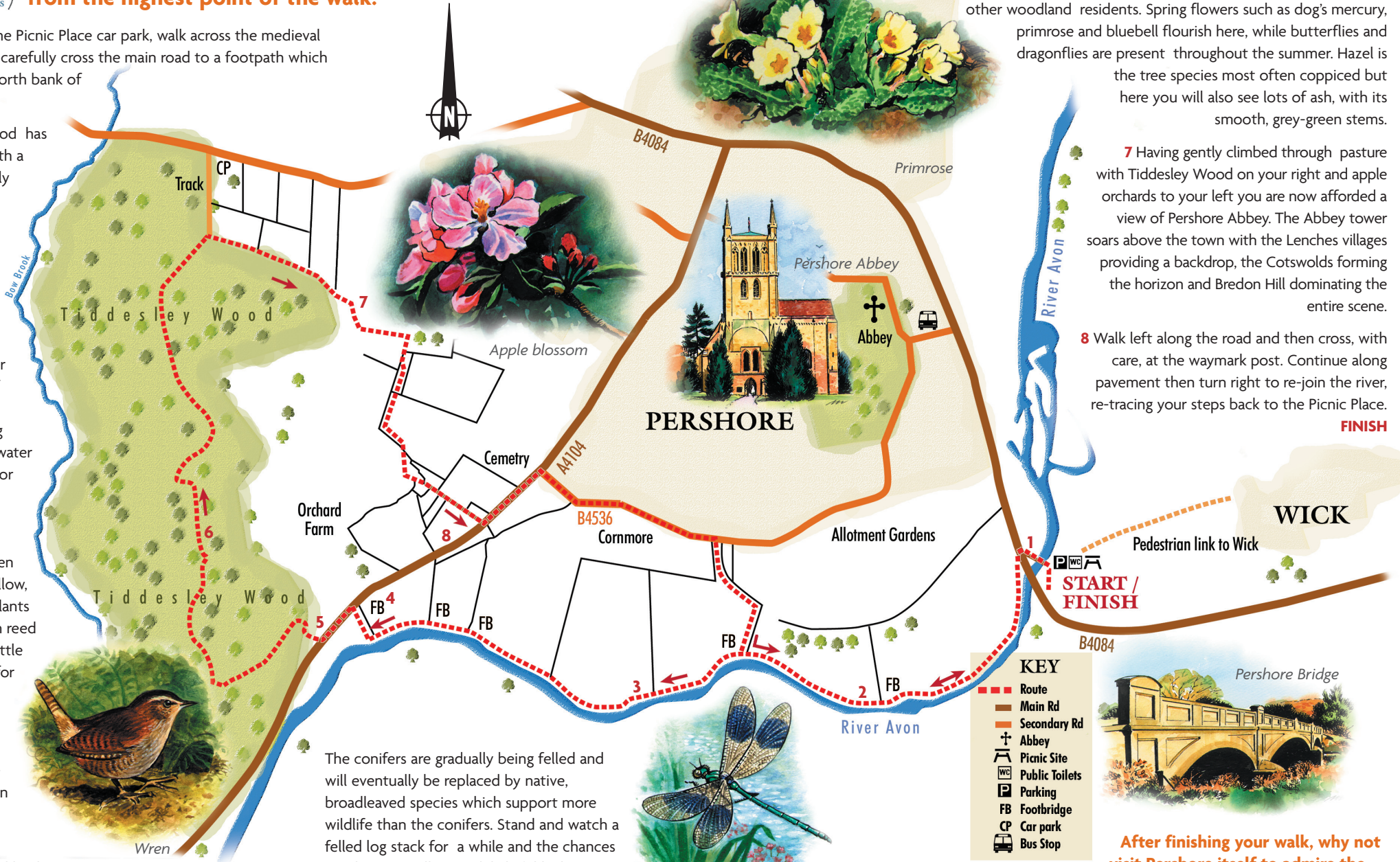
The River Avon rises near the English Civil War battlefield of Naseby (1645) in Northamptonshire, and flows for 112 miles (179km) through Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire before joining the River Severn at Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire. Its catchment is predominantly rural, but the Avon also enhances a number of towns, including Stratford-upon-Avon, Evesham and Pershore.

Though the Avon starts life as a small stream, its many tributaries ensure that by the time it reaches Stratford-upon-Avon it is already a substantial river. Flooding is an obvious natural hazard and, for centuries, river flows have been managed to protect people and property from inundation. A large river such as the Avon has a floodplain, a natural mechanism for the storage of excess water, but in recent years floodplains have increasingly been under pressure from developers. It is essential that floodplains are kept as free from development as possible and the Environment Agency advises local planning authorities on this matter. The Agency also provides a flood warning service.

The Avon is navigable from Alveston, near Stratford-upon-Avon, to Tewkesbury. In 1639 it became one of the first English rivers to benefit from a system of locks and weirs to control water levels. Today, it's a vital link in the Avon Ring, a popular cruising route which also incorporates parts of the River Severn and canals such as the Worcester and Birmingham, Grand Union and Stratford-upon-Avon.

The Avon supports other leisure activities too, such as canoeing, rowing, sailing, angling, birdwatching and walking. Riverside pubs and tea rooms draw visitors, while moorings and caravan sites occur at intervals along its banks. It also supplies water for drinking and irrigation, acts as a natural drainage system and plays a role in the dispersal of treated effluent.

Not only does the Avon have considerable landscape value, it also supports a huge variety of wildlife, including charismatic species such as otter and kingfisher. No fewer than 89 Sites of Special Scientific Interest are scattered across the river's catchment. Though much of the associated wetland habitat has been destroyed, a project is currently underway to recreate lost habitat wherever possible.



Wren



Banded demoiselle

KEY

- Route
- Main Rd
- Secondary Rd
- + Abbey
- + Picnic Site
- + Public Toilets
- P Parking
- FB Footbridge
- CP Car park
- BS Bus Stop



Pershore Bridge

After finishing your walk, why not visit Pershore itself to admire the historic Abbey and glorious Georgian houses? It's just a short stroll up the road and is well supplied with tea shops and pubs.