



Soulton Wood and the Hundred Steps

From the town car park Wem Walk 6 takes you along quiet lanes, through woods, across meadows with distant views, up the Hundred Steps before returning you to Wem.

Letters in brackets refer to the notes at the end of these directions.

Category: Moderate
Distance: 13.5 km/8.5 miles
Time: 3.5 to 4 hours
Stiles & Gates: 29
OS Maps: Explorer 241/Landranger 126
Start & Finish: Town Centre Car Park
 Closest Sat Nav SY4 5AA
 OS Map Ref: SJ 514 288

1

With the public toilets to your back walk down the car park, bearing left at the bottom along the tarmac path towards the railings. Follow the railings to the pedestrian bridge and cross to a kissing gate. Cross the field towards the road, cross over and Turn Right. Turn Left into Cordwell Park Road. At the end Turn Right into Soulton Road and cross Churchill Drive. Shortly afterwards, before reaching the cricket club, Turn Right down the waymarked footpath.

2

Go through the gate, round the righthand edge of the cricket field and pass through another gate. Ahead, pass through a gate and Turn Right onto Church Lane. Follow the lane until the apex of the third bend - Turn Left through a kissing gate and walk along the hedge line. A waymarked gap appears half way along the hedge. Turn Right through the hedge and bear slightly left across the field to pass through a kissing gate onto an enclosed path. Go through another kissing gate onto Alderley Lane. Turn Left.

3

Proceed along the lane for ½ mile to a farmyard where the lane becomes a farm track which passes in front of a bungalow. Shortly after the bungalow cross the stile/gate and continue ahead along the left hedge line. Look out for a waymarked bridge on your left. Cross the bridge and Turn Right into Soulton Wood **[A]**.

4

The winding path leads you through the wood with the river on your right. Eventually you go up an incline and into a field. Turn Right. Follow the field edge above the river, past two waymarks. At the third waymark go down the slope and cross the footbridge.

5

Cross the field, heading due East, to a pole to the left of the pine trees. After the field gate/gap continue ahead keeping the hedge on your left, through a second field gate/gap and up the hill to a kissing gate and the A49 trunk road. Cross with care to another kissing gate and then go straight up the field to a stile next to a farm gate at the top boundary.

6

Cross the **stile** and descend into a small disused quarry. In the right hand corner go through the kissing gate onto a lane. Turn Right. At the T-junction Turn Right up the road. Go past the steps and stile that appear on your left and when the road levels off Turn Left down a Restricted Byway. When the Byway turns sharp left, Turn Right over a stile and head for the power-line pole in the middle of the field.

7

From the pole bear right towards a stile in the field corner. Go ahead, with the fence on your right. The path eventually descends, levels off, then descends steeply down a gully to a stile and finger post. Cross the stile and walk out to the edge of the A49 trunk road. Turn Left along the grass verge

8

Continue along the verge until opposite a metal bar-gate. With a good view of traffic in both directions cross the road, pass round the end of the gate and go down the Restricted Byway **[B]**. At the bottom Turn Left up a wide shaded gully. At the top of the rising path **[C]** the route becomes a road into Lee Brockhurst. Go past Lee Hill Farm **[D]** and continue until reaching a kissing gate in the hedge on your right.

9

Go through the gate, down the field to another kissing gate and then down to a farm gate onto Lee Brockhurst Lane. Turn Right along the lane.

10

On the left of a bend at Little Lee/Manor Farm go through the kissing gate and head downhill in the direction of the barn/house on the opposite hill, to the left of the trees. Cross the river bridge and then over a stile and up Hundred Steps (**Caution** – uneven and slippery!). At the top go through the kissing gate and Turn Left along Aston Road.

11

Just after the Aston village sign Turn Left down a driveway (Restricted Byway). It becomes a wooded path coming out onto a road. Turn Left. After a short distance Turn Right down Weir Lane. (*You are joined shortly by Wem Walk 4, through a kissing gate on the left*). Continue along Weir Lane. At the end of the lane Turn Left through the kissing gate and walk along the path behind the house to cross the river footbridge.

12

Continue to the left hand corner of the field, pass through the kissing gate. Continue ahead, between the field fence and the gardens, passing through another kissing gate and along the track onto Aston Road.

13

Turn Left towards Wem. Just beyond Orchard Way take the footpath on the left across a field signed 'Leek Street'. On the far side pass through the kissing gate, cross over the railway bridge and take the tarmac path back to the starting point.

NOTES

A: Streams, Brooks & Bluebells: This is one of several water courses you encounter. They empty into the River Roden which rises at Wem Moss, passes through Wem before discharging into the River Tern at Walcot. In the Spring, Soulton Wood is ablaze with bluebells.

B: The Roman Road from Whitchurch (*Mediolanum*) to Wroxeter (*Viroconium*) passes through here.

C: Look West: To the right are distant views towards Wales.

D: Lee Hill: Shortly after Lee Hill Farm there is a steep path on the left leading up to Lee Hill (NT – Free) with circular walks through the woods.

ROUTE MAP

