

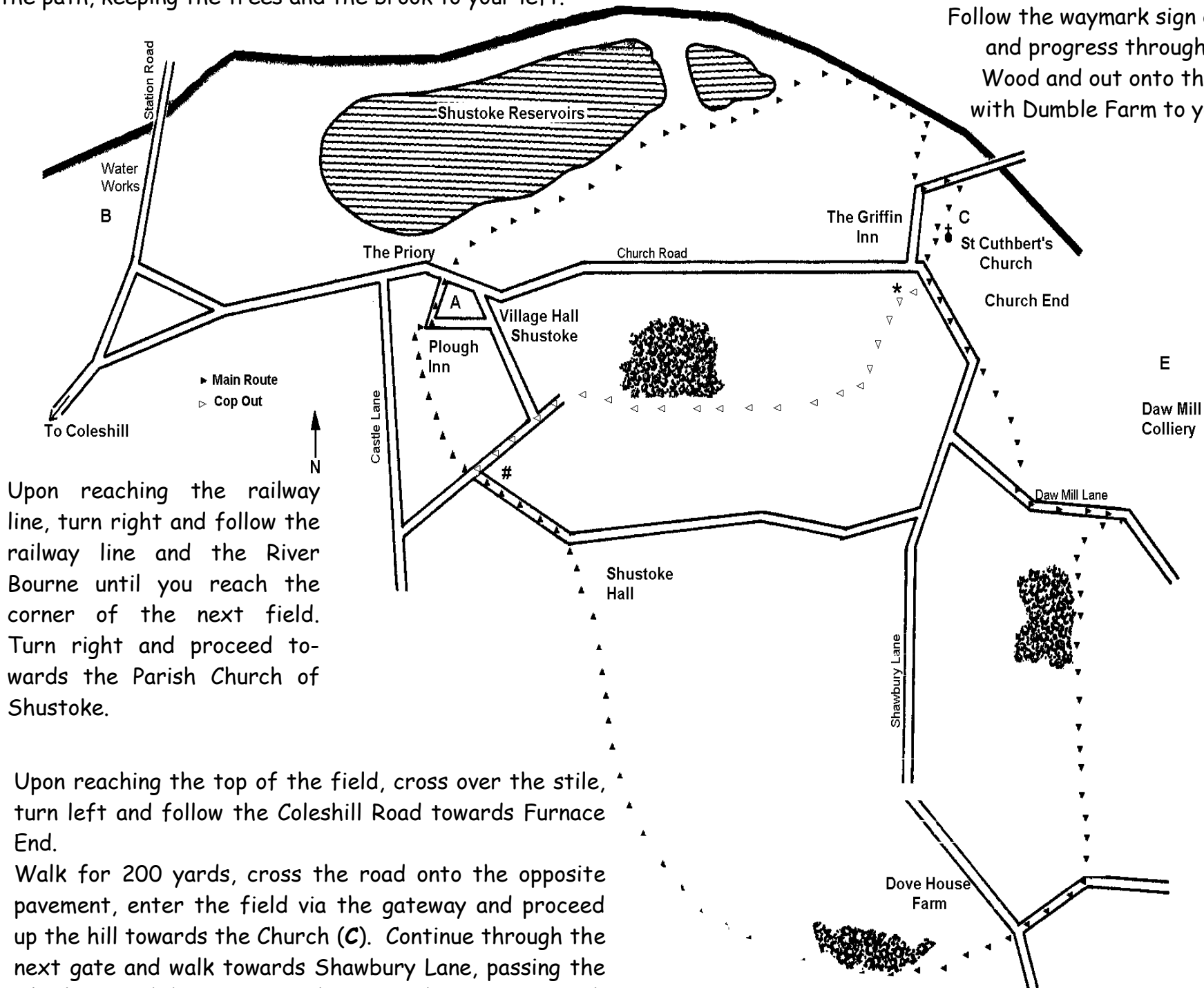
Shustoke Walk

Main Route ▲

The walk starts at The Plough Inn (A), directly opposite which is Bixhill Lane, which is part of The Centenary Way long distance footpath (*). Proceed along Bixhill Lane. With Shustoke Reservoir on your left, take in the views of the Victorian Waterworks (B). Continue until you reach a left turn with a field directly ahead. This is private property and is marked accordingly. The path, however, is a public right of way. Enter the field and, following the line of the hedge, continue past a house on your left. In the corner of the field a stile allows you access into the next field. Proceed along the path, keeping the trees and the brook to your left.

Turn left, walk past "The Old Rectory" on your right, and up towards the pond. Follow the waymark sign across the field, taking in the views of Birmingham and Herefordshire beyond. Continue across the field until you reach Daw Mill Lane, turn left and proceed past "Over Barns", with Daw Mill Colliery (E) to your left. Upon reaching "Withy Wood" on your right, follow the waymark signs around the edge of the wood and across the fields until you reach Shawbury Lane. Turn right and proceed down the hill to the crossroads.

Follow the waymark sign opposite and progress through Dumble Wood and out onto the fields, with Dumble Farm to your left.



Upon reaching the railway line, turn right and follow the railway line and the River Bourne until you reach the corner of the next field. Turn right and proceed towards the Parish Church of Shustoke.

Upon reaching the top of the field, cross over the stile, turn left and follow the Coleshill Road towards Furnace End.

Walk for 200 yards, cross the road onto the opposite pavement, enter the field via the gateway and proceed up the hill towards the Church (C). Continue through the next gate and walk towards Shawbury Lane, passing the Almshouses (D) on your right. At the junction with Shawbury Lane you can opt for the shortened walk ("cop out") or continue along the main route.

COP OUT:

When you reach Shawbury Lane, turn right towards the main road and follow the waymark sign in the hedge opposite. Cross two stiles and cut across the centre of the field until you reach a hedge. Turning right along the hedge, you have now joined "The Heart of England Way" (**). Continue straight on until you come to a junction of four paths. Leave "The Heart of England Way" and follow the waymark signs towards Shustoke village. The path then meets a lane. Continue down the lane until you reach a white cottage opposite Moat House Farm Lane. You have now rejoined the end of the main route of the circular walk. (See # following.)

Opposite the farm, turn right across the corner of the field, over a stile and a bridge, and follow the brook. Opposite a cottage across the fields, leave the brook and head towards the left of Shustoke Hall Farm. Continue past the farm and onto Moat House Farm Lane.

(#).

Turn left, passing the cottage on your right, until you reach a T-junction. Directly ahead is a white cottage, to the right of which is a waymarked path across a field. Head towards the right of Green Farm and cut across the front of the bungalow.

Turn left onto Back Lane and walk back to The Plough Inn

(*) For further information on The Centenary Way long distance footpath, contact Warwickshire County Council on (01926) 410410.

(**) For further details on The Heart of England Way long distance footpath, write to: John Roberts, 8 Hillside Close, Bartley Green, Birmingham

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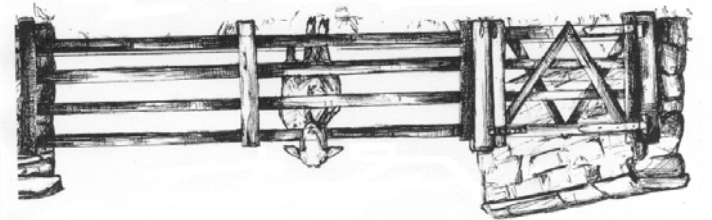
A circular walk, which contrasts a rich industrial heritage with scenic rural charm in the beautiful countryside around the village of Shustoke.



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNITY LEISURE

Points of interest

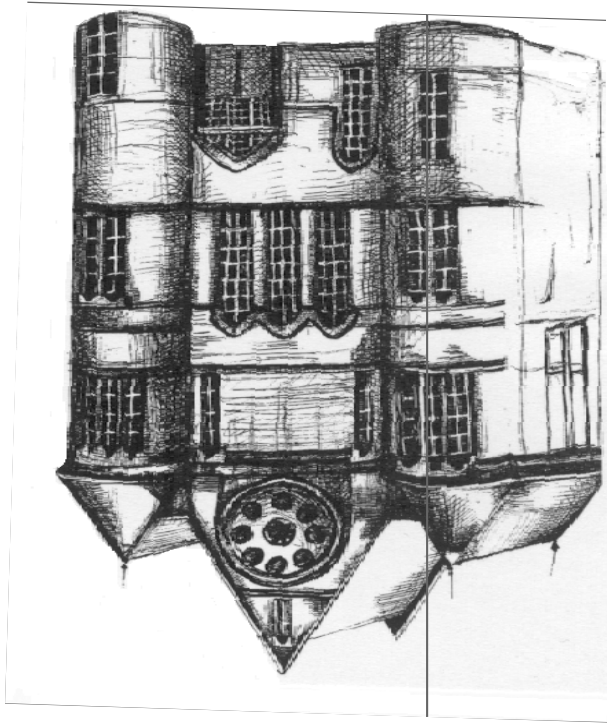
(A) The Plough Inn: Dating from 1790, this public house is a listed building which has retained many of its Georgian features. Adjacent to the Inn is The Pound, where sheep were penned. Ready for collection for market along with any stray animals awaiting to be claimed by their owners.



The Pound, adjacent to The Plough Inn.

(B) Whitacre Water Works: A prime example of Victorian industrial architecture, which supplied water from Shustoke Reservoir to Nuneaton and Coventry.

Right, the impressive Victorian building of Whitacre Waterworks which housed the beam pumps, one of which is preserved in Birmingham Science Museum.



(C) St Cuthberts Church: The original Church was Saxon. It was replaced in the Norman period, again in the 14th Century, and was completely altered in the Victorian era, following a fire in 1886. The Church contains the tomb of Sir William Dugdale, who was born nearby in the "Old Rectory".

(D) The Almshouses: Situated at what used to be the centre of Shustoke until the Plague in 1650, when the village moved to its present location. Part of the cottages were built on the site of the former village school



Goldfinches (right) are commonly seen around the fields and lanes of Shustoke and are easily identified by the yellow and red patches on the head. In the autumn and winter, they fly around in groups

(E) Daw Mill Colliery: The only working colliery in North Warwickshire, Daw Mill is a "super pit" and is a major local employer.

Length of walk

This walk is suitable for all the family. It is clearly way-marked, predominately across flat countryside, and provides a relaxing walk in a rural environment.

Main Route: 5 miles (approx. 2.5 hours)

Cop Out: 2.75 miles (approx. 1.25 hours)



Starting Point

The walk starts from the centre of the village. Parking is available at the Plough Inn and at Shustoke Reservoir. Please park carefully as you will be away for some time.

Further Information

For further information on other circular walks in North Warwickshire, Countryside Events & Activities, and Cycleways, please contact North Warwickshire Borough Council, Community Development Division, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone, CV9 1BG, telephone (01827) 719207. More information about activities and events in Northern Warwickshire can be obtained by visiting the Northern Warwickshire Information Centre, Kingsbury Water Park, Bodymoor Heath Lane, Sutton Coldfield, Telephone (01827) 872660.

If you find any problems on public footpaths, please contact Warwickshire County Council's Countryside Access Team on (01926) 410410.

For **HAPPY** walking follow the country code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work

Keep all dogs under control

Keep to public paths across farmland

Fasten all gates

Guard against the risk of fire

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone

Help to keep all water clean

Take your litter home

Protect wildlife, plants and trees

Make no unnecessary noise

Take special care on country roads

Follow the waymarkers which indicate the route of the walk

Wear strong water-proof footwear

