9

Shallowbrook Lane

Using Sopworth Lane, Shallowbrook Lane, Sherston 36 & 21 and Brook Hill.

2.4 miles - *relatively flat, quiet road then a track and across fields. May be muddy.*

Either: Leave Sherston heading towards Luckington down Brook Hill. Approx 2/3rds of way down Brook Hill just before the factory take the footpath (SHER22) on your right - this initially appears like a pavement/ driveway and takes you in front of a row of cottages. Cross the wall/stile and follow the winding footpath along the embankment (the flat field at bottom of embankment has no public access). Exit the footpath over a wall stile onto Sopworth Lane, bearing left.

Or: From the High Street turn left at the Post Office, go along Court Street and pass the recreation ground. This is known as Penny Mead and was bought for the village in 1934. At the crossroads turn left down Sopworth Lane. As you walk along past the school on your right, note the school Nature Reserve.

About 3/4 of a mile along Sopworth Lane you come to Stan Bridge where a white egret is often to be seen.

The following part of this walk can be added to the end of the Sopworth Walk.

Cross the bridge and continue for a further 220 yards and then take the track on your left. Go up this small road towards a barn and continue until you come to a pair of stone pillars. Turn left just before these pillars onto the track that is Shallowbrook Lane. The lane drops down and may be wet and muddy at the bottom. It then rises up, becoming SHER36. Follow it up the hill for 300 yards to a break in the trees on the left where you will see a waymarker on a fence by a stile. Climb over the stile and take this footpath, SHER21, keeping to the left of the bush in front, and walk straight across the field aiming for the tall gateposts ahead. This is known as the 'Flying Field' as Lady Blanche Douglas, sister of the late Duke of Beaufort and a great early aviation enthusiast, used it as such during the 1930s. Go through the gate and cross the field, keeping the wall to your right. (There may be horses in this field.) Go through a second gate, noticing the lovely view of the river and cliff ahead. Then veer right as you make your way between the fenced trees down the hill, known as Reevers Hill. On reaching the flattened part of the slope above the gardens, turn right and walk to the kissing gate then out onto the road. Turn left here to go back up Brook Hill and into Sherston High Street, being vigilant of traffic where there is no pavement.

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