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Ale Trail 2011

Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire

MINIMUM TIME: 1 hr 45 min

DISTANCE: 3.25 miles

LEVEL/GRADE: Easy, level with kissing gates (4 shallow steps)

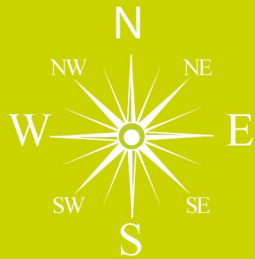
PATHS: River towpaths, field paths, gravel and tarmac

LANDSCAPE: River, village and pasture

An easy level walk including stretches of the River Avon and the pretty village of Welford on Avon with its thatched cottages, church, store and maypole

KEY TO SYMBOLS

	Your route
	Public road
	Footpath/Bridal Way
	River
	Railway track
	Points on the route
	Pub



Please drink responsibly

SUGGESTED STARTING POINT

Welford-on-Avon is a 10 minute drive from Stratford-upon-Avon. Take the B439 towards Evesham. After about 4 miles, turn left into Binton Road (signposted Welford) and follow this into the village centre. There is plenty of roadside parking in Welford-on-Avon, near to the Bell Inn where the walk begins

OS MAPS

Explorer 205 (Stratford-upon-Avon & Evesham)

Landranger 150 (Stratford-upon-Avon) or 151 (Worcester & The Malverns)

THE WALK

1. Walk past the Bell Inn (☎ 01789 750353) and take the footpath that runs alongside their car park. At the end of the footpath, turn right at the thatched cottage and go through the kissing gate.
2. When you meet the end of the tarmac'd road, continue on the footpath alongside Pathway Cottage. Follow the grass path past fields used for highland cattle and a small orchard. At the main road, turn left on the pavement for a short distance until you reach Cinder Meadow Sports Ground (from here you can see the second pub, the cream-painted Four Alls (☎ 01789 751470), a short distance on the other side of the road. If you pause there, just return to this entrance to Cinder Meadow Sports Ground afterwards).
3. Follow the track down by the Cinder Meadow Sports Ground sign, keeping straight ahead, through the gate into the sports ground.
4. Keep to the right hand edge of the playing fields and go through another gate with a "permissible route" sign and follow the grassy track until you reach the River Avon.

5. Turn left and follow the bank to the corner of the field and another kissing gate. Follow the river to the end of the fields and one more kissing gate out onto the lane. Ignore the footpath ahead of you and turn left up the lane (by Boat Lane Pumping Station).
6. Walk past rows of thatched cottages on both sides until you reach St Peter's Church where you turn right down Headland Road. Turn left opposite Mill Lane down a marked footpath and past the "Churchyard Extension". When you reach another footpath marker, ignore the path off to the left and continue straight on. When you reach the tarmac path, go left and through the kissing gate and emerge onto the High Street by the Maypole and village store.
7. Cross over the road and turn left and then immediately right by the Maypole down Montagu's Corner and the Shakespeare Inn (☎ 01789 751417) is just a few yards down on your right.
8. On leaving the pub, turn right and walk past Pool Close and continue straight on past Millers Close sign into a no through road. Just after the "No through road" sign, go through the kissing gate and take the footpath on your right by the sign for Borden Hill Nurseries. Follow the

path through another kissing gate as it runs parallel with the nursery driveway.

9. When you meet the gravel track, turn left. At the crossroads, go straight across and follow the footpath sign on the Avon River Walk, also signed to Marcliff 5¼ miles. Continue on the footpath up 4 shallow wide steps and follow the river bank through a narrow belt of trees.
10. At the end of the bridleway join the tarmac and continue for 10 yards and then take the tree-lined path on the right next to the house called "Riverbank" where there is a public footpath sign "Shakespeare's Avon Way". The path joins the drive of "Willowmere" so keep to the hedge side. At the end of the drive keep going straight ahead and follow the footpath all the way back to the village and the Bell Inn which is on your right.

ALTERNATIVE START POINT: To start the walk from the Four Alls, leave the pub and turn left following the pavement until you reach the sign on your right for Cinder Meadow Sports Ground and then pick up the directions from POINT 4.