

A WALK AROUND KEMPSEY VILLAGE (2.75 miles)

The walk starts from St. Mary's Church where there is limited parking.

1. Walk away from the church along Lyfs Lane and Rookery Road. At the end of Rookery Road, on the corner with Aston Close, continue straight ahead onto a short alleyway. Go straight on at a staggered junction with another alleyway and come out at the A38. Cross this busy road with care and go down the alleyway on the opposite side which comes out on Old Road North.
2. Turn right and walk along Old Road North to the sharp bend where the doctor's surgery is situated. Walk through the surgery car park, keeping the surgery on your right and walk past the houses and straight ahead onto the footpath which runs along the back of one of the houses. Follow the path to a stile on your right.
3. Cross over the stile into an orchard and then straight ahead over the Hatfield Brook to emerge at a large field. Turn right and walk along the field edge with gardens on your righthand side. The path then continues straight ahead between a fence and shrubs to come out onto Post Office Lane.
4. Turn left and cross the road to follow the footpath onto Blossomfields estate. The path meanders through the estate, with the housing on your right, and then goes through a metal gate onto a track which widens (Foxes Hill) and then meets Napleton Lane at the back of the playing field.
5. Turn left along the road and then take the footpath on the right immediately after the back gate to the playing field. Walk along the edge of a field with the playing field on your right side. Cross a stile and continue down a grassy area to a road. Cross the road and continue straight on down a track. On the corner of the last house (Bannut House), just before the A38, turn left along an alleyway.
6. Continue along the alleyway with the houses on your left and separated garden areas on your right. You come to a junction of paths, with a metal gate on your right. Go through the gate, across a grass field to another metal gate to the A38.
7. Cross the road with care and then go straight ahead down Pixham Ferry Lane, with a housing estate on your right. At the junction with Old Road South, go straight ahead to continue on Pixham Ferry Lane.
8. Go through the gate onto the Ham and follow the bridleway straight ahead towards the River Severn.
9. At the riverside turn right and follow the path (the Severn Way) keeping the river on your lefthand side, until the pathway curves to the right and then the left to cross the Hatfield Brook. Continue on the path up the hill towards the church.
10. Go through the metal gate to return to your starting place.

- A. Lyfs Lane is named after a British chieftain. This area near to the church was the original settlement. Named after another British chieftain (Kemys) and with the river on one side and the brook and marshy land around half of it, the area was almost an island, so it was called Kemys eye (and eventually Kempsey). Over the years the area was a Roman settlement and later still the site of the Bishop's Palace.
- B. The houses in this area were built in the 1960s after a large house, The Rookery, was demolished. The house had extensive grounds, including orchards.
- C. Aston Close was the site of Aston's coaches. These would originally have been horse drawn. The company is still in existence but has now moved to Earls Croome.
- D. Old Road North (and Old Road South) was originally the main road through the village. Quite a lot of buildings were demolished for the widening of the A38, which then became the main trunk road from Birmingham to the West Country, until the building of the M5.
- E. Hatfield Brook meanders through a large part of the parish of Kempsey, with various bridges and crossings, and even a ford by the church. The fast moving water which can be heard from the orchard here is the remains of the mill race, all that is left of the mill that was situated here.
- F. This path and its extension to Bestmans Lane is called the Coffin Path as it would have been the route used by mourners carrying a coffin from Kerswell Green for burial at St. Mary's Church. Many of the paths in the Parish of Kempsey lead from the hamlets or the 'big' houses to the village.
- G. A Ham is a flood meadow and this area floods on a regular basis as the River Severn overflows its banks. The flood defences (pumps, bund and overflow pond) were put in to stop the Hatfield Brook backing up when the River Severn is in flood. When the ford measures 6 foot, the pumps kick in. From the Ham you have views across to the Malvern Hills and also Stanbrook Abbey, once a convent, now a hotel and wedding venue.
- H. Pixham Ferry was once a busy ferry across the river. It was used daily by workers going to and from the fields on the opposite bank of the river. It was also used by locals visiting Powick Hospital and Madresfield Court.
- I. The earliest part of St. Mary's Church dates from about 1250, although a chapel was built on the site in 868. There are some holes on the south wall of the church tower, which are said to have been made by musket balls at the time of the Civil War.