

SEVERN WAY (NORTH) AND KEMPSEY GROVE

The River Severn is prone to flooding after heavy rainfall. The Hams (flood meadows) are designed to take flood water. Please note: This walk is not possible when the river is in flood.

1. The walk starts from Kempsey Church. Walk down Lanes End to the river.
2. Turning right, the path (the Severn Way) continues along the river edge on the line of the old towing path. There is a slight diversion around the edge of a slipway and back to the river bank. Continue along the river bank behind the raised chalets, across a bridge, beside the Upper Ham, across another bridge, along the edge of an arable field and then along the edge of meadow land.
3. Go through a kissing gate to the tarmacked road through the Severn Motor Yacht Club. The road veers off to the right but the Severn Way continues along the edge of the river through a wooded area.
4. This emerges to take you under the dual carriageway Carrington Bridge and to a caravan park. The Severn Way continues along the river bank to Worcester but this is the farthest point of our walk.
5. Turn right just after the caravan park reception and before the caravans up a hill and then steps into the car park of the Ketch pub on the A38. Turn right to the cycle and footpath underpass to go back under the Carrington Bridge, this time up above the Severn Way.
6. The underpass comes out just before the petrol station. Take the track to the right to the Severn Motor Yacht Club. Just before the gates to the club, take the footpath on the left behind the garage.
7. Follow this footpath behind the garage, at the edge of two sections of rough land, then down steps to a sunken path. Follow this and then go through a short section of wood and along the edge of an arable field. A short distance before some industrial buildings the path veers right back into a wood with a steep slope down to the right. It emerges behind the industrial buildings and then down a grassy slope to a track.
8. Turn left along the track towards a house and then between a gap in the fence on the left to the edge of an arable field. Turn right along the field edge, with the house and garden on your right, then continue along the edge of the field towards the houses at the edge of Kempsey.
9. At the far end of the field by the white oil pipeline sign there are steps down between two houses. Follow the road (The Grove) between the houses to a T junction and then turn right (Kings Hill). At another T junction turn right onto Windmill Lane and then on the right hand side there is a footpath at the side of a bungalow (no. 21). Follow this and then turn left along a track.
10. Follow the track until you get to Rookery Road and Lyf's Lane. Turn right along Lyf's Lane and walk towards the Church and your starting point.

- A. There used to be a Wharf at the bottom of Lanes End, where barges which brought wood and road-making materials to the area were unloaded. On the right hand side, a house, now known as Severn House, was called the Severn Trow, and was used as a public house, restaurant and overnight lodging house, with stabling. There was also a ferry from this point across to Callow End and the Old Hills. At the top of Lanes End was the Village Pound.
- B. Throughout this walk there are views of Callow End, the Old Hills and Stanbrook Abbey. The full length of the Malvern Hills is to the far west, with the ridge clearly showing the ramparts of British Camp and the gap made by the Wyche Cutting.
- C. Across the river to the left are the Powick Hams. This was the scene of the Battle of Worcester in the Civil War.
- D. There is a more elevated view across to the Malvern Hills and also the Abberley Hills. The full size of the North or Upper Ham can be seen. This is one of the oldest types of river meadow. Its permanent grass is enriched by the frequent flooding.
- E. There was a tyre store in this area during World War 2. Keep a look out for birds and signs of other wildlife, deer, foxes, badgers.
- F. Some of the tracks in this area were part of the old Roman Salt Way from Droitwich.