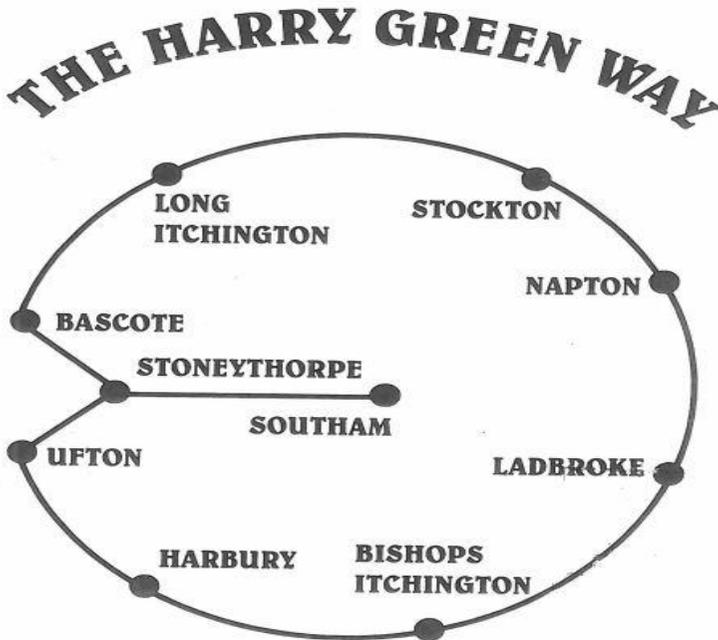


# The Harry Green Way

A 20 mile circular walk linking eight villages around Southam



This booklet is dedicated to the memory of Harry Green. Harry was the chairman of Southam Ramblers for 20 years, until his untimely death in May 2006. He was born in Epworth, Lincolnshire in 1938, and moved to Southam in 1979. With his unbounded enthusiasm he inspired a generation of walkers in this area and helped to set up the local Ramblers group. This walk was devised by Harry in 1988, and the route was updated and waymarked in his honour by Bob Dodd in 2007.

The booklet has been updated by Southam Ramblers during the Covid-19 Lockdown of 2020. A significant amount of work has been done over the past 13 years, by volunteers and Warwickshire County Council, to improve and clear

paths and to install gates instead of stiles. There is still however work to be done and some of the remaining stiles should be crossed with great care. The construction of HS2 will inevitably create some difficulties and diversions on the route, but these should be suitably signposted.

The Walk is recognised by the Long-Distance Walkers Association and at around 20 miles is one of the shortest long distance walks in the country. To encourage walkers of all abilities the walk has been split into five manageable parts.

It is recommended that you wear appropriate clothing and footwear when walking. Whilst this guide is adequate to allow you to follow the route safely, it is advisable to carry the relevant OS Landranger Map 151 Explorer Maps, 221,222,206

Please follow the Country Code as revised in 2020:

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Please report any problems to [southamramblers@gmail.com](mailto:southamramblers@gmail.com)



## Walk One Southam to Long Itchington



The Harry Green Way starts and finishes at Wood Street Car Park in the centre of Southam. This walk goes as far as Long Itchington. Leave the car park and turn **Right** up Wood Street to the Post Office. Cross the main road using the crossing and turn **Left** towards Market Hill. With the Library on your right, turn **Right** up Park Lane and cross over to enter the churchyard via the Lychgate. Follow the path past the church to the war memorial. From here go down the wide concrete steps through the churchyard to a metal kissing gate. Go through the gate and cross the recreation ground keeping to the higher level. In the far fence you will find another kissing gate. Go through this.

Turn **Left** and follow the road down past houses on your right, ignoring a path to the left that crosses the River Stowe. Where you see a sign for the Holy Well pointing straight on, take a gravel path at a slight angle to the **Left** following the riverbank. At the next kissing gate keep ahead, following the gravel track through a further kissing gate until you reach the Holy Well, with its oak fencing and seat. Go through the gates at the well and across 2 fields until you come to a double hedge with 2 kissing gates. Go through both gates and then follow the path around the left-hand edge of the field to arrive at another kissing gate. Go

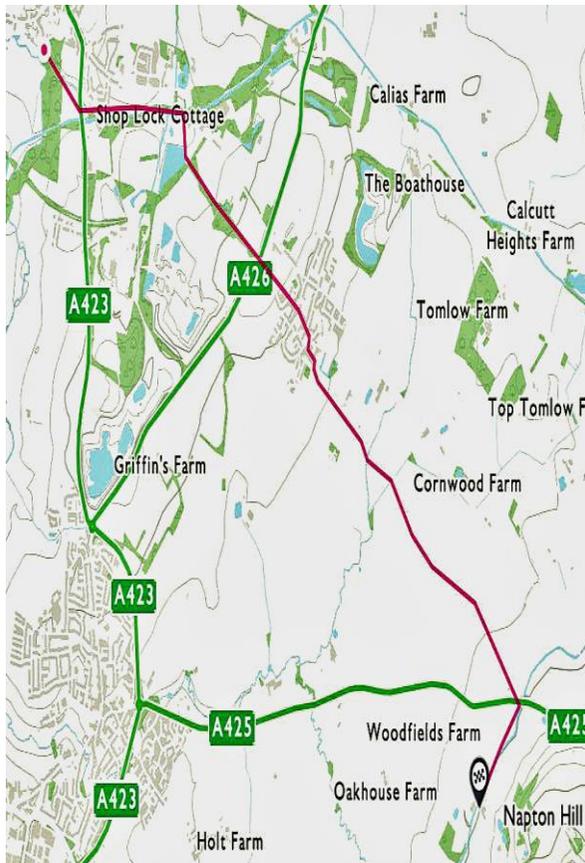
through and follow the path to a kissing gate just before the weir and bridge over the River Itchen. Cross over the bridge, keeping the mill pond on your left, until the path dog-legs round to your right. Go through a further kissing gate. This is the site of the old Stoneythorpe Watermill. At the next kissing gate, ignore the path on your left and keep ahead, with the hedge on your right, to a kissing gate. (This is where you have to decide which way to walk The Harry Green Way, clockwise or anti-clockwise). These direction follow it clockwise, so keep ahead, again with the hedge to your right. Continue to a small spinney. Follow the obvious path through the spinney, over a footbridge to Welsh Road.

Cross the road with care and go straight ahead, uphill through the wood. At the end of the wood turn slightly **Right** and follow the path to reach a concrete drive. Turn **Right** and follow it until it reaches Bascote Road. Turn **Right** and follow the road through Bascote until you reach a bungalow on your left. Just beyond this there is a gateway. Go **Left** through the gate and then head for a kissing gate in the far right-hand corner and emerge back on the road by a pumping station. (If the gate is locked follow the road round to the canal bridge). Keep on the road over the canal. After 150 metres turn sharp **Left** into a field. Follow the right-hand hedge to the corner, then follow the field edge around, until you reach a marked path going **Right** into a wood. Go down the steps, cross over the disused railway track to a kissing gate. Go through the gate, walk down the hill. with the hedge to your right. until you reach a kissing gate. Turn **Right** and with the hedge on your right, go through 2 kissing gates. Then go straight over the next field to another kissing gate and emerge on to road where you turn **Left** towards Long Itchington. Then turn **Right** into the village then on to the Church.



*The River Stowe*

## Walk Two Long Itchington to Napton



Start by the church and go into the churchyard and, at the far end, exit and bear slightly **Right**. Go down the lane until you reach a gate on the right. Go through kissing gate and keep ahead, then go diagonally across 2 fields, passing through 3 kissing gates, to arrive at the towpath. Turn **Left** and go past 2 locks until you see the Blue Lias pub on the opposite bank. Leave the canal here, via a wooden gate to the left of the bridge. Turn **Right** and cross the bridge. Turn **Right** into the Blue Lias entrance.

Keeping ahead, you will shortly arrive at a reservoir that is used for topping up the canal. Follow the path round to your **Left** and go through 2 old kissing gates, crossing the old railway line. Go through the small spinney and pass a piece of fence into a field, where the hedge is on your right., Keep ahead for 80 metres. Then go **Right** then immediately **Left** with the hedge now on your left. Continue following the path, through a small patch of woodland, to find a small sleeper bridge. Go over this and, with a wire fence on your left, keep ahead to go through a gap in the hedge. Walk up the side of this field, with the hedge to your right, to find a small flight of steps in the bank at the far end. (Take great care crossing the A426).Go over the road and cross the stile.

Keep ahead, with the hedge to your right, and you will exit the field onto a small lane. Follow the lane down to the square in Stockton. (If you take the first road on your right from the square you will eventually find a path that leads back to Southam). Keep straight on, passing a school on your right and the ex-Barley Mow pub on your left. Follow the road round past the churchyard until you reach another burial ground. Keep to the lane as it swings to your **left** until you reach a T junction. Go straight at a gate and cross a field to a stile in the hedge. Alternatively, if the gate is locked, turn **Left** past a concrete barrier to a waymark. Turn **Right** along the edge of the field and turn half right to the stile. Cross the field to a wide wooden bridge. Go over this and keep straight on to a waymark (You have now reached the Southam to Broadwell bridleway at New Zealand Farm .(If you turn right here you can follow the bridleway back to Southam). Turn **Left** at the bridleway and go a few metres, then turn **Right** along the side of the field, to a wooden bridge, and then turn slightly **Right**. The next large field has 5 electric poles in it. Head for the middle one that has a large yellow arrow on it. Follow the waymarks to emerge at the side of a car park at what was Napton Bridge Inn, now Bridge House. Turn **Left** and walk in front of the house and turn **Left** off the bridge and take care down some steps. Turn **Right** to join the towpath for approximately 1km.to canal bridge 112 at the Napton Industrial Estate



*The Oxford Canal*

## Walk Three Napton to Ladbroke



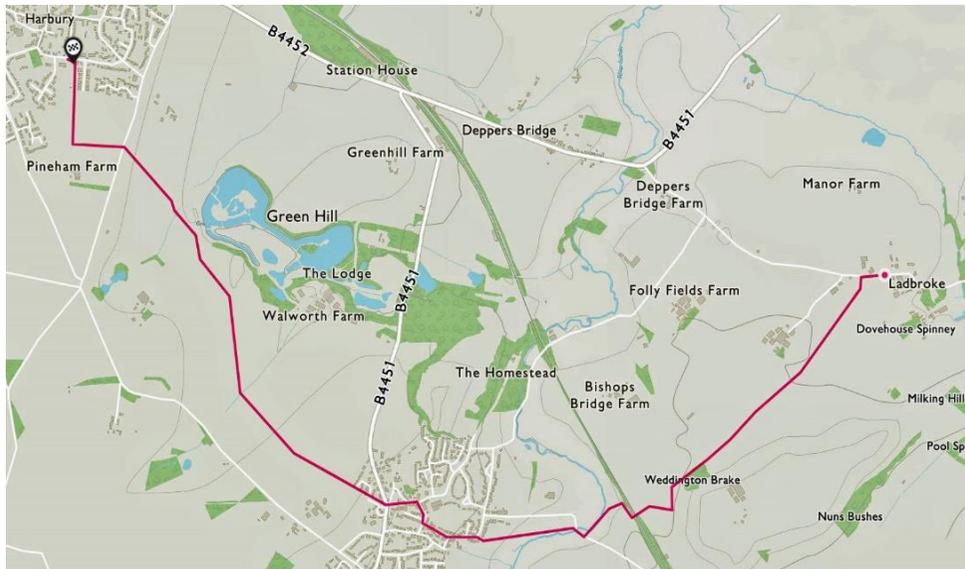
At Napton Industrial Estate continue along the tow path to canal bridge 113. After you go under the bridge, turn sharp **Right** at the road up to The Folly pub. Just before reaching the pub, and beside a red telephone box, take the stile on your **Left**. (If you wish to return to Southam at this point turn sharp right). Carry on to a kissing gate in the far hedge. Go through this gate to a gate in the right hand corner of the next field, then turn sharp **Right**, go over a broken fence, then turn half **Left** on a permissive path, going slightly uphill to a stile in the far corner of the field. Keep on this heading through the next field to a stile and fence, go through and head half **Right** through a field towards a tree plantation. Find a broken stile at the entrance, then follow the path through the plantation to a stile. Cross the stile then turn **Left** and follow the right side of hedge for 400 metres, until you find a break in the hedge to go through. Now with the hedge on your right, keep ahead until you reach Welsh Road and turn **Right** towards Southam. Follow the road for 500 metres, passing the entrance to Holt Farm, until you reach a house on your right. Turn **Left**, cross the road, and walk slightly uphill with the hedge on your right. At a waymark in the next field, walk steeply uphill to the edge of the field. Turn **Right** and immediately **Left**. Go into the

reservoir compound and go half **Right** alongside a paddock which leads to a concrete drive at Ladbroke Hill Farm. Turn **Right and** follow the drive for approximately 450 metres and, where the hedge ends, turn **Right** at a waymark post. Follow the right edge of the field along the ridge, enjoying the fine views all around you. Near the far corner of the field there is a waymark post. Turn **Right** downhill, bearing slightly **Left** at the bottom, go through some bushes, cross a stile, to emerge into a grass field and turn half **Right**. Go down the field, passing a standalone stile, to find a very tall stile by the Ladbroke By-pass. Cross the road with care, go over another tall stile, walk towards a gate on your left, then cross a stile onto Windmill Lane in Ladbroke. Turn **Right**, and just before the first bungalow on your left, turn **Left** and follow the narrow path that leads to the main street (if you turn left here, the Bell Inn is 200 metres up the road). Turn **Right** in front of a thatched cottage, ignore the road off to the left and keep ahead until the road turns sharp right. Here, turn **Left** into Ladbroke Millennium Park (a good spot for a picnic). Follow the path through the park, leaving via a kissing gate to head for the church, passing some ancient fishponds on the way. (Just before you enter the churchyard a path on your right leads back to Southam) Leave the churchyard by a stone stile next to the lychgate.



*Standalone Stile*

## Walk Four Ladbroke to Harbury



With your back to the church turn **Right** and follow the road until you see a cottage on your left. Here at the waymark post turn **Left** through the kissing gate. Keep the hedge on your left, go through another kissing gate, and then go half **Right**. With the hedge on your right, cross the next field to the next kissing gate. Cross the next field diagonally to the next way post/kissing gate. Keep the tall hedge to your right, walk to a kissing gate, go through, and with a ditch now on your right, keep straight on, reaching a small footbridge by Waddington Brake Spinney. Cross the footbridge, climb the stile, then turn **Left** and, with the spinney on your left, walk to the end of the field. Then turn **Left**, go through the gate, and turn **Right** down the edge of a field to a waymark. Turn **Left** and keep ahead to the railway and cross with great care.

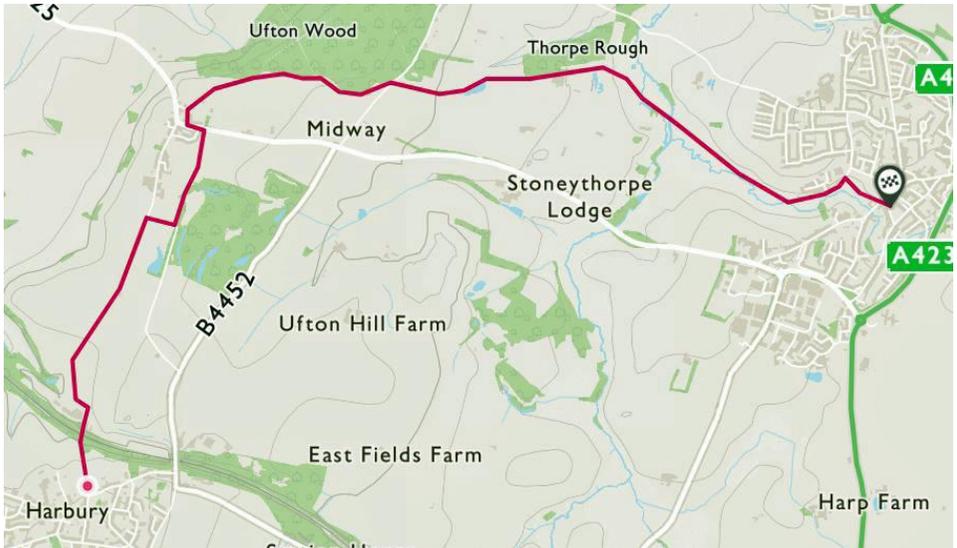
Turn **Right** and follow the path, firstly left at the waymark, then left again at the next waymark, at the far side of the field. Follow the path, with the edge of the field on your right, until you arrive at Hambridge Rd. Turn **Right**, walk over the bridge, then go sharp **Left**, down the slight slope, through the kissing gate. Go ahead over the next 2 pasture fields. There is a waymark at the end of the first field here go slightly right towards the houses ahead, keep to the left-hand side of the last house on your right, to find a wooden kissing gate. Go through and

turn **Right**. Walk along the road, then turn **Left** into Central Drive. Keep ahead bearing slightly left up the path coming out by the school, then the chip shop, Butchers Arms (another good pub) and the Greaves Club. Keep on past the pub until you reach a T junction, cross over the road, to Mount Pleasant almost opposite. Follow the path on the left and then take the obvious and well-marked path towards Harbury. In the first 2 fields, the hedge is on your left. Cross the bridge and stile at the end of the second field and turn half **Right** to walk diagonally across a large field. At the top of the field, walk for 200 metres, with the hedge on your left to the next stile (to your right are the old abandoned cement quarries, a haven for wildlife). Cross the stile, keep ahead through the next gateway, then go half **Right** to a stile. Cross it, and then go **Left** and then ahead, with the hedge on your left, to reach Bush Heath Road to Harbury. Cross over the road, and follow waymark signs through fields towards a playing field, then turn **Right** to pass allotments and join South Parade. Turn **Right** into Ivy Lane and continue straight through the village to leave the village by Bull Ring Farm Road.



*Bishops Itchington*

## Walk Five Harbury to Southam

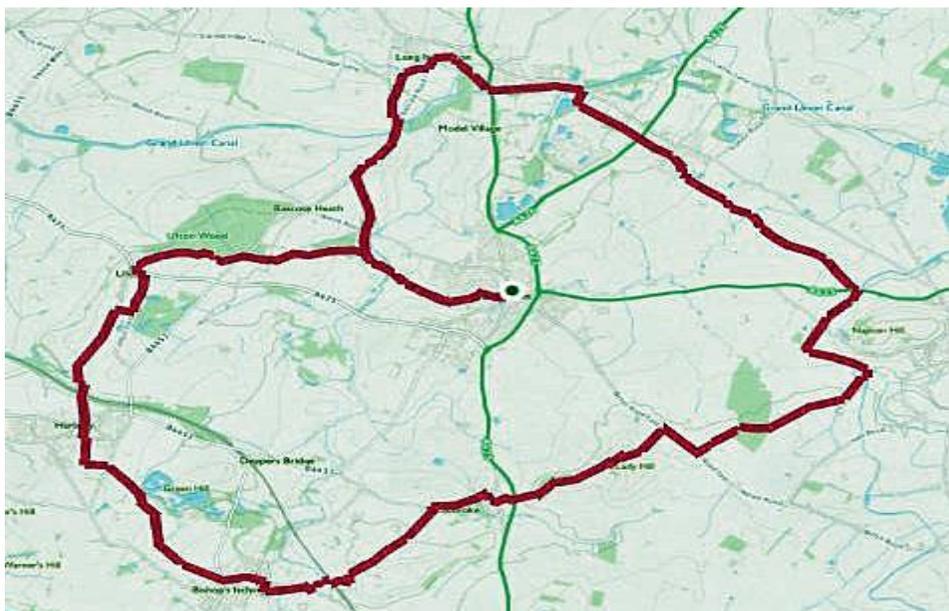


Walk down Bull Ring Farm Road to arrive at a large bridge crossing the railway (this is the site of Harbury Cutting which was dug entirely by hand). Go over the bridge and past Bridge End Farm on the right. At Hill Top Stables turn **Left** and go through a small copse to re-join a stone track and turn **Right**. Follow the track for 400 metres, with the hedge to your right until you reach a gate. Go through the kissing gate, straight across the field to another kissing gate. Here turn **Left** and almost immediately **Right**. Go through two fields to meet a lane and turn **Right** and follow the lane until it turns right. Here go sharp **Left** into Ufton Nature Reserve. Go through the Reserve, turning **Left** at the far end then continue to the main road. Cross with care. Then turn **Left** and after 80 metres go **Right** into White Hart Lane. (A third of the way down the lane on your left, you will find the well which was Ufton's water supply in years gone by). When the lane goes to the left, the path goes straight on into a rough paddock (the White Hart pub is on your left with fine views from its gardens and if you look over your left shoulder you will see the village stocks against the churchyard wall). Exit the paddock and go half **Right** to a kissing gate in the far corner of the field. From here go slightly **Right** to follow the track along the outside of Ufton Wood until you reach a road at Bascote Heath. (From here the Fox and Hen pub is

approximately 500 metres away to your left). Cross the road, go through a kissing gate, and keep the hedge on your right. Continue on the same heading to go beside the Polo Grounds on the right and cross a track beside the Stables. Continue on to reach the road. Cross the road, using the small gates on each side, and go half **Right** down a field to a kissing gate in the bottom right hand corner. You have now completed the Harry Green Way. Follow the waymark signs past the Holy Well back into Southam



*The Holy Well*



*The Harry Green Way*