



Market Drayton - Taste of the Town Tern Valley Walks

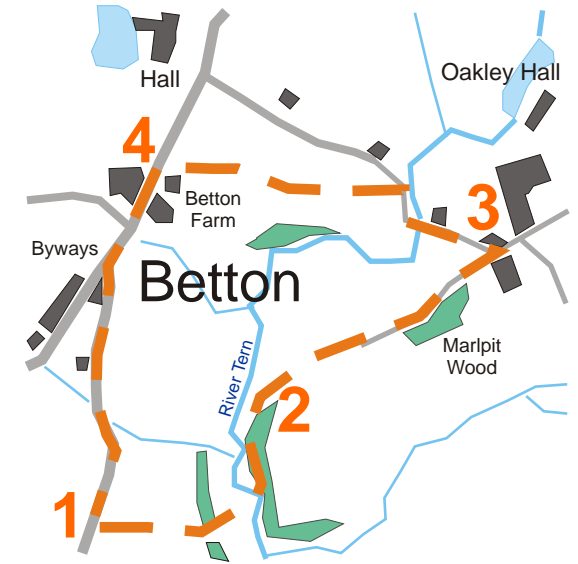
Betton This is a stroll along the valley of the River Tern to the east of Market Drayton. As it is low-lying the ground can be quite wet and so suitable footwear is advisable. (2¼ miles - 3½ km)

To reach the starting point find Tunstall Hall at the eastern side of Market Drayton on the A53 by-pass. Head west towards Shrewsbury for a short distance and take the first lane on the right, signposted Betton and Norton in Hales. About half a mile along this lane there is a rough lay-by on the left where you can park a car. The start of the walk is a few yards ahead on the right where a fingerpost next to a gate points across the field.

1. Follow the fingerpost direction which points slightly to the left across the field. This leads to a stile, to the left of a gate, in the far hedge. Cross the stile and follow the path down the bank to the right into the valley. At the bottom a glance to the right reveals a gate into the field you have just left, and a track leading from it. Turn left to join this track and go straight towards the river where you will find a wooden plank bridge with handrails. Cross and turn left to follow the riverbank through a rough thicket until you reach a crude stile into the corner of a meadow.



2. Enter the meadow and follow the right hand fence until you meet a stile and a track coming in from the right. Cross the stile and follow the track to a wide metal farm gate at a junction of tracks in the corner of a field. Go through the gate and turn right. Follow the track through the field towards Marlpit Wood. Continue past the left side of the wood towards the farmhouse directly ahead and you will meet a rough roadway onto the Oakley Hall estate.



3. Turn left and follow the roadway down towards the river. After Mill House (a modern house near the site of Betton Mill) cross the old stone river bridge. The roadway now leads right and upbank and you will reach a stile on either side of the track where a path crosses. Take the left hand stile and head diagonally across the field towards Betton Farm in the distance. Go over a stile in the far fence, over a small field to a stile in the left corner of a paddock. Enter the paddock and follow the left hand fence, passing the half timbered building near to Betton Farm on your left, and go through the kissing gate onto the Norton in Hales road.

Opposite, behind the trees, is Betton House - the home of 'Taste of the Town' member, Sian Walkden, who rears sheep on her 680-acre farm in Wales. The farm is a designated Grade 1 Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its mixture of lichens and mosses. Only about 150 lambs per season are available for sale and Sian prefers to deal with individuals by advance arrangement.

4. Turn left. Betton Farm is on the left and Moss Lane on the right. The road now rises to reach a fork at 'Byways'. Take the left fork and follow the lane back to the starting point.