



Market Drayton - Taste of the Town Tern Valley Walks

Market Drayton This leaflet does not give the route for a specific walk; rather it is designed to draw attention to locations near the town that have easy access to the River Tern. The British National Grid References are used to point to the general areas which can be found with reference to the relevant Ordnance Survey map.



(a) Picnic Area SJ 676 338

The Swimming Centre car park can be found at the bottom of Phoenix Bank on the A529 south of the Town Centre. From here a wooden footbridge crosses the Tern to the Town Picnic Area. Cross the bridge and turn right to follow the riverbank. The pathway leads along the river then bears left through a small conservation area to return to the picnic field. In recent years this field has flooded after heavy rain has swollen the river.

Shortly before reaching the Picnic Area, at Tyrley Castle Mill on the other side of the A529, the river has been split into two streams. The smaller stream was used to power machinery at the tannery which was at the bottom of the hill where the small industrial units are now. This then flows under the road and along a wide culvert, then turns 90° to pass underground alongside the Swimming Centre before rejoining the main river.

(b) Conservation Area SJ 669 333

There are two areas which have been set aside for habitat conservation close to the '5 - ways' road junction. This is easily reached from the Swimming Centre; go along Newtown then round the right hand bend where the road continues as Walkmill Road. 5-Ways in the next road junction you meet. Turn left, signposted to the Golf Club. After crossing the river bridge continue along the road with the small business estate on your right. This was the site of the original Walk Mill, a place where material (old rags, wood pulp etc.) was trodden (walked) in a trough with water from the river to supply the raw material for the Victoria Paper Mill (no longer in existence). After this, where the road bends sharply to the right, the area on the right has been set aside and developed as a marshy area for wildlife preservation. A little further along the lane a gateway leads into this area and a viewing platform.

Another conservation area is reached from 5 - Ways by continuing westward up the hill into Summerhill Gardens. This then becomes Dalelands Estate and goes downhill to a crossroads. Turn left to reach a small car park by the Severn-Trent Sewage Treatment Works. Behind the Treatment Works the Water Company has given permissive access to an extensive area alongside the River Tern. The main footpath follows the riverbank westward. Here the land is quite flat and the Tern begins to meander. A pond has also been constructed to encourage aquatic life, though it quickly gets choked by weed and rushes.

(c) Bridle Path SJ 666 331

From the western end of the Severn-Trent area a permissive footpath provides a link to a Bridleway which follows the Tern along the valley towards the Buntingsdale Estate.

(d) Buntingsdale SJ 658 332

The Bridleway continues to meet Buntingsdale Road close to the Gatehouse to Buntingsdale Hall on the left. It is possible to cross the road here (or bring your car and park at the roadside) and continue alongside the river as it passes through the steep, wooded valley behind the Muller Yoghurt Factory. The way is eventually blocked when it reaches the boundary fence of Fordhall Farm. Please do not cross the fence. Access to Fordhall Farm can be gained along the official farm driveway off the main Shrewsbury road (A53).