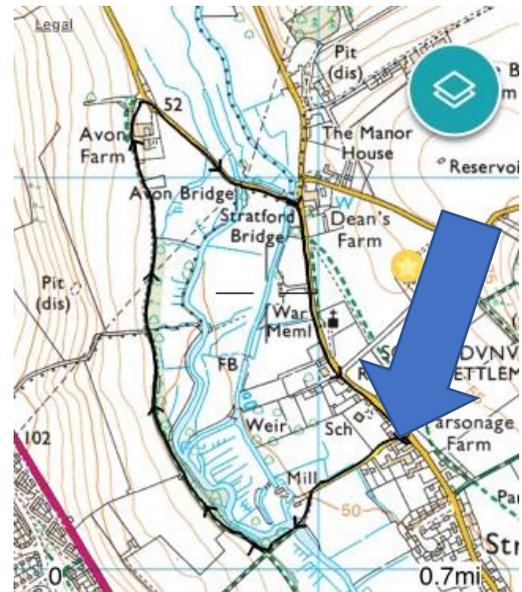


A circular walk from Stratford sub Castle towards the Woodford Valley 1.8 miles

This short walk follows public footpaths for the majority of its route. The remainder is comprised of a quiet 'No Through Road' (Mill Lane) and a stretch of road from Avon Farm to Stratford Bridge that doesn't have a pavement or wide verge and is usually fairly busy with traffic.

For a few weeks during April/May 2018 the road from Avon Farm was closed to all traffic during maintenance works at Stratford Bridge. To avoid walking this section, simply follow the suggestion at stage 4 below, to turn this into a **Linear walk from SsC to Avon Farm.**

When walked in mid-April 2018, some sections of the route were quite muddy and walking boots or wellingtons are recommended. It's not suitable for wheelchairs or mobility scooters but all-terrain buggies would cope in drier conditions



1 Leave Stratford Road at Mill Lane (grid reference SU 132 323 - indicated by the blue arrow on the map above). Follow this quiet lane down to the River Avon.



2 Cross the pedestrian bridge and maybe pause to admire the views....
(What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare.)



Looking south from the footbridge, with Salisbury Cathedral spire visible even on this misty day.



Looking northwards. The river levels were higher than normal when this photo was taken.

3 Having crossed the bridge, continue for a few yards and then turn right. The footpath runs along a bank with fields to the left and a slope to the right with views through trees down to the river.



As you progress along this path, through the trees and hedges you may catch glimpses of St Lawrence Church and Dean's Farm estate buildings.



4 The path enters an arable field and runs parallel to the hedgerow until it approaches Avon Farm.

Note: For the linear route option, turn around and retrace your steps from this point in the directions.

5 To continue along the circular route, follow the public footpath as it veers to the right. It follows a tarmac driveway, passing the Avon Farm dwellings.

At a boundary wall, a footpath sign points towards the direction you have just come



from and within a few yards the driveway meets the Woodford road.

6 At the Woodford road, turn right and follow the road for approx 300 yards to cross Stratford Bridge. During the bridge-works, pedestrian ramps were in place.



7 Continue along the Stratford Road pavement, past St Lawrence Church, the Reading Room and several houses. In a few minutes you will have returned to the starting point at Mill Lane.

When this route was walked on 15 April 2018, it was a delight to be able to walk along traffic-free roads. However, when Stratford Bridge re-opens, you may wish to make this a linear walk by stopping just before Avon Farm and re-tracing your steps. It's an attractive short walk whichever option you may choose.