

Turn ◀ and pass under the old railway bridge and continue for about 200 metres to the junction with the private driveway to Snowford Hill Farm. Cross the stile to the right of the drive and cross this field obliquely ◀ to a waymark post and stile about 75 metres in from the left corner. Cross this stile and the next about 20 metres further on and continue in the same direction aiming just to the left of a power pole in the middle distance. At a point about three-quarters of the way across this field turn half ▶ and follow the line of the old ridge and furrow down to a stile and a railway sleeper footbridge across a large drainage ditch. Cross the stile and bridge and go straight ahead across the next field. There is a waymark post about 200 metres away which only becomes visible as you climb about a quarter of the way up this field. The waymark post marks the junction with a bridleway from the right. Take the track to the ◀ which is a public road and pass a Dutch barn after about 200 metres to reach one of the highest points on the Blue Lias Ring Walks, at an elevation of 86 metres. *Looking back down the track you can see the Itchen valley stretching away to the north. Turning in a clockwise direction Snowford Hill Farm comes into view to the right of the track with the west end of Long Itchington behind. The main part of Long Itchington is hidden by the shoulder of the hill. The chimney of the Cement Works dominates the view to the east. Continuing around, Bascote comes into view with Southam directly behind it. Southam College is clear on the ridge just to the right of Bascote. Long Itchington Wood and Ufton Wood are obscured by the overgrown hedge to the south but Print Wood is clearly visible to the west.*

Continue along the track downhill another 300 metres to the bridge over the canal. From the bridge the track is much better made. Continue along it for another 350 metres heading directly towards Long Itchington Wood, to the junction with another track and turn ◀. This is Pudding Bag Lane which is also a Public Road. Continue past a junction with a bridleway on the right and Bascote Lodge Farm on the left heading directly towards the Cement Works chimney. Follow the Lane around for about 500 metres up to its junction with the Bascote-Bascote Heath road. Turn ▶ and then ◀ at the finger post and go through the gate with a running wheel on the bottom. The path lies diagonally across the field on your right (if this is not accessible go up the concrete drive). At this point there are views ahead of the Cement Works chimney and Southam School. Turn ◀ off the concrete path at the way mark post, another high point on the walk at 97 metres, and go ◀ through the gateway into the field. Cross this field keeping the wire fence on your left to the waymark post in a former hedge line. Cross the next field to the wood where another waymark post is visible. At this waymark post enter the wood and walk down to a stile in the fence. Cross the road (Welsh Road West) to the waymark post opposite. *The Welsh Road from the Middle Ages to the middle of the last century was a drovers' road from north and mid-Wales to the markets of the Midlands and London. Cattle, sheep and even geese were driven along it, the geese being shod to protect their feet.*

Follow the path through a small copse, across a bridge and a stile and carry straight on. It then meanders through an area of trees and gorse before entering an open field at a stile. Go through this field past a gate on your left over a stile into the next field and carry straight on until you reach a gate. Passing through this gate, you enter the site of the Stoneythorpe Mill. *The mill belonged to the Stoneythorpe Estate; the entrance to the grounds over the mill-race can be seen in the hedge to your right. The wheel was about ten feet in diameter. The wheel pit is by the bend in the path before the weir.*

Follow the path to the weir, which is crossed by a concrete and metal bridge. This is the River Itchen which joins the River Stowe about 200 metres upstream. The path goes diagonally ◀ through the remains of an avenue of pollarded willow. Cross a stile to the right of a gate, and go diagonally to the right hand corner of the field to a double gate. The River Stowe is now on your right. The remains of a ford can be seen in the river about halfway across the next field. Cross the next gate to reach the Holy Well. *The Holy Well was mentioned in a Charter of King Ethelred in 998. The water was regarded as a cure for bad eye- sight and was also supposed to relieve various aches and pains. The water has been intermittent in recent years due to lower than average rainfall.*

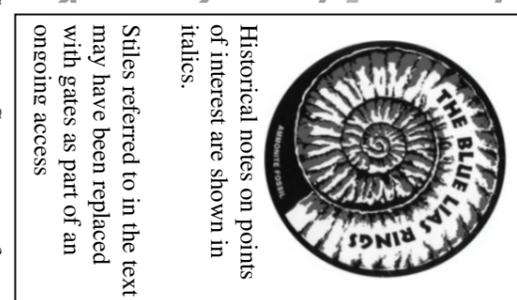
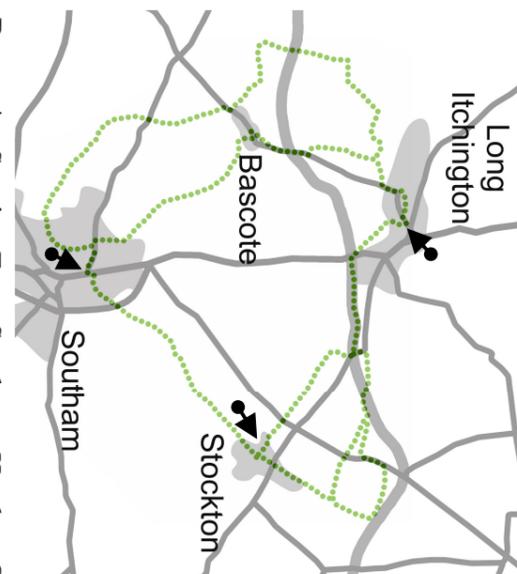
After passing through the kissing gates at the Well, cross the next field to a gate and into the next field with a small barn on the left, to a smallholding. Do not take the metal foot-bridge on your right which takes you up the bank to Warwick Road. Pass through the small-holding to a metalled road heading towards the recreation ground and turn ◀ up the hill and half way up go through the metal kissing gate into the recreation ground. Cross the recreation ground aiming for a point to the left of the spire to a metal gate into the churchyard. Carry straight on towards the church and turn ◀ and follow the path through an avenue of lime trees to come through the lych-gate and turn ◀ onto Park Lane. Turn ▶ into Little Park and go up the footpath on the right immediately after Victor Hodges House. Turn ◀ after the bungalows, go past the Scout Hut and come out onto Welsh Road West. Turn ▶ and then ◀ into Coventry Street.

**OUTER LOOP B** - At Stockton (extends the main walk by approximately 1 km). An alternative loop is available through the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Reserve at Stockton Cutting some of which is along permissive paths rather than public footpaths. To take the loop turn ▶ at the end of the path from Stockton and ◀ after 50 metres onto the concrete track. Carry on straight ahead until you reach the course of the disused railway line. Turn ◀ and enter the nature reserve where there are paths leading off to the left through the trees or straight ahead along the disused railway line. The wild flowers in the Reserve attract many different species of butterfly. Please respect the Reserve and do not pick any flowers or cause any damage. Both paths lead up to the main Rugby Road . Turn ◀ and after about 250 metres, cross over the road (**take care crossing**). Go down the bridleway which is to the right of the entrance to the Waste Disposal Site. Follow this track for about 400 metres, past Griffin House and straight ahead along the narrow path between the hedges. You rejoin the main walk just before the disused railway line.

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**Blue Lias Rings - Main Walk and Outer Loop**  
**Southam, Stockton, Long Itchington and Bascote**  
 A circular walk of 13½ km (8 miles). There are a number of optional loops that can be used to lengthen or shorten the main walk. Refer to leaflet **Blue Lias Rings - Inner Loops**.



Historical notes on points of interest are shown in italics.  
 Stiles referred to in the text may have been replaced with gates as part of an ongoing access

**POINT A** - Starting From Southam. Head up Coventry Street out of Southam on the right hand side and after about 75 metres turn ▶ at the arrow marked "Stockton" onto a tarmac/crushed stone path leading eventually to a kissing gate and the by-pass. Cross carefully and go through another kissing gate opposite, straight across this field, heading for the houses in Stockton which are now visible. Once through the gap in the hedge directly ahead, go straight across the next field heading for the gap in the hedge 50 metres to the left of the large tree straight ahead. Once through into the next field, go straight ahead towards the corner and through over a stile in the hedge about 20 metres to the right of the corner. Keep the hedge on your left for about 150 metres. Turn ▼ and follow the hedge on your left for about 100 metres until you are in line with the two large trees on your right hand side.

*The route continues on the inside of the leaflet.*

