



# Straight as an arrow ... well not quite!

Wendy Sladen and Eileen Garvey from the Ramblers' Mortimer Group lead a short linear walk to celebrate a new walking trail along the length of the River Arrow

**S**taunton-on-Arrow (not to be confused with Staunton-on-Wye) is a small village, one of five in the Arrow Valley that once boasted a motte and bailey castle. After passing through Pembridge the walk finishes at Eardisland, where the ruins of another castle can be seen. The entire route is level and never far from the attractive river Arrow.



**Top:** The millrace at Eardisland  
**Above:** River Arrow at Pembridge

❶ The church and the Millennium Garden at Staunton-on-Arrow are both worth a visit. Afterwards find the narrow path left between the church and the motte down to the stile in the left hand corner of the field. Turn right and after a short distance fork right across the Gig footbridge. This is the first meeting with the River Arrow which we now follow for the whole walk. Turn left along the river bank then walk across the field to the red-brick house on the other side. Go through the gate then walk down the lane at the side of this house. Turn left onto the road. Walk to the junction on the main road passing the Court of Noke on your left.

❷ Cross this road and go through the gate facing you. Walk straight ahead to the next gate and continue along this wide farm track with the River Arrow winding its way further over on your left. Continue on this track until you see the Leen cottages ahead. Cross over the river

toward the cottages. Immediately after passing the cottages, turn right. This opens onto a small track passing between the head of a lake on your right and the front of the Leen Farmhouse on your left. In 1780 the now famous breed of Hereford cattle was first registered here and as such is the oldest in the world.

❸ Go along the farm track, cross the disused Leominster-Kington railway line and then walk up the field on your right. The hedge is close on your left. At the end, turn left over the double stile. Cross the farm track, and over another stile which takes you onto the path skirting around New Mills Farm. The bell tower of Pembridge church can be seen from here.

❹ Walk along the narrow path to the left side of the farm buildings and finally when it opens out into a wide grassy area, move onto the track that leads out onto

**Getting there**

**Start:** Staunton-on-Arrow village hall.  
GR SO 370601.

**Finish:** Eardisland carpark by war memorial  
GR SO 419587.

**Maps:** OS EXP 201 and 202.

**Distance:** 4 miles.

**Stiles:** 13.

**Nearest town:** Leominster.

**Public transport:** Limited bus service (Tuesdays) to Staunton from Eardisland and Leominster. There is a regular bus service from Eardisland to Leominster. Check details on Traveline 0971 2002233 or [www.herefordmove.org](http://www.herefordmove.org)

**THE RAMBLERS**

The Ramblers is Britain's biggest charity working to promote walking and improve conditions for all walkers. There are four groups in Herefordshire: Hereford, Mortimer, Ross-on-Wye and Leaden Vale. For more information contact Tom Fisher: 01886 821544. Email: [tom.fisher52@gmail.net](mailto:tom.fisher52@gmail.net).



ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPPING © CROWN COPYRIGHT MEDIA 045/12



**Left:** New Inn at Pembridge  
**Below:** Staunton-on-Arrow church



the road into Pembridge. The picnic area beside the picturesque three-arch bridge and car park make a good place for a rest.

There is much in Pembridge to interest visitors. Among its 50 listed buildings it boasts an open-sided mediaeval market hall and a 13th century church with an unusual detached bell tower. There are several good places to find refreshments including the amusingly named New Inn, built in 1311!

**5** Cross the bridge and go down to the river bank (on the other side to where you arrived). The route for some time now is over very flat land as it is the flood plain of the river. Walk along this track to the kissing gate and then proceed for some distance over the long meadow, with the hedge on your right. After crossing the double-gated footbridge, carry on over the next four fields. You eventually hear the sound of a weir as the river comes closer.

**6** Cross the stile into a large field and walk ahead. The millrace is close beside you on your left. Continue, ignoring the bridge, and where the field narrows into a triangle you will see on your right a double stile with steps. Go up, and you will be

greeted by the sight of the black and white buildings of Eardisland.

**7** Turn left, and after this first field go over the stile into a small meadow. Cross it then walk round by the hedge to the double stile. Go over, then continue slightly right, skirting the hawthorn trees, to the next stile. Go on again and after a small rough patch you will reach the kissing gate that leads to the road running through Eardisland. This is a fitting end for this walk as it was here that Greta Pennington lived and worked for many years on local footpaths. Turn left to reach the centre of the village and car park.

The old black and white buildings of Eardisland have now been joined by some 20th century examples, built by Border Oak. Other points of interest in the village include the Staick House, the church, the Georgian dovecote, now a community shop, and of course the motte. As with Pembridge, there are several good places for refreshments. ■



This walk is taken from the book Arrow Valley Trail which describes in detail the entire route of 34 miles, set out in four sections, and was originally devised

by Greta Pennington who submitted a number of walks for this magazine. The walk begins in the hills above Kington and ends near Leominster. In the later stages, short circular walks could be developed from the described route.

After Greta Pennington's death in November 2011, it was completed by members of the Mortimer Group of the Ramblers. The book, beautifully illustrated with photographs of the countryside and villages along the trail, can be obtained from Leominster Tourist Office (£4) or by post (£5) by contacting 01568 720219. All profits from sales go to St Michael's Hospice.