

## The Alderminster and Whitchurch Parish Paths Partnership Figure of 8 Walk

Following the Partnership's successful attempt to have the bridge on footpath SD61 re installed following its collapse in 1947 (Yes – the bridge has been missing since 1947 and access across the river has not been possible since then), it has opened up a pleasant stroll along country lanes and across meadows in this delightful Warwickshire area just 5 miles south of Stratford upon Avon.

Parking is available on the road adjacent to the church in Alderminster. Leave the parking area turning right towards Shipston on Stour and head along the A3400. At 'Bridge House' you will find a marker post for footpath SD59. Follow the path down to the river Stour and cross over the white bridge. You now have two alternative routes across the flood plain. You can either veer slightly left and head for the far left hand corner of the field to a kissing gate or go straight across the field to a kissing gate. Either route will take you onto a country lane (the former in the village of Crimscote), the latter at a couple of cottages.

In both cases you now turn right and proceed along the country lane towards Wimpstone village.

On entering Wimpstone take the path entrance on your right and follow this through two fields, negotiating two kissing gates on route and head across the flood plain towards the new bridge over the River Stour. This is footpath SD61.

Once over the bridge head for the new small concrete bridge over the watercourse and head on up the slope to the A3400.

Once on the A3400 you have two choices

You can turn right and head back along the A3400 to your car at the Church.

For the more energetic turn left and after a short walk along the A3400 you will find the kissing gate entrance to footpath SD60. Go through the gate and head down the slope, veering slightly to your right and go through the bushes following the path to a kissing gate and a small open field. Follow the well marked path through to another kissing gate and then across the raised flood plain and head towards the farmhouse at Alderminster Farm. At the farm drive go through the field gate and head immediately over the driveway and through the hedge at the rear of the barn conversions. Turn left at the end of the garden fence and then right onto the other farm drive.

At the end of this drive turn left onto the country lane and head towards the bridge over the River Stour and into the village of Wimpstone. At the telephone box turn left into the village and walk through until you reach the start of footpath SD61 again which will be on your left as you leave the village. Follow this path back over the new bridge on up the slope to the A3400. This time turn right and head back towards the Church and your car along the A3400. (perhaps calling at the Bell for some refreshment).