

Eighty one FRODSHAM –A WEAVER WANDER.

This is a ramble through a lovely agricultural landscape with hamlets, fields, farm ponds, streams and wonderful flora and fauna in Spring and Summer. The final stretch is a stroll by the placid River Weaver.

Catch the stopping train to Newton-Le-Willows and change there to catch the Chester/North Wales train soon after on the same platform. Alight at Frodsham Station. *The line emerges from a little tunnel in a sandstone cliff. This is the same red sandstone as found at Eccles.*

Leave the platform and go slightly right across the car park. Go through Collinson's Court and out onto Church Street. On the left is The Helter Skelter (*This sells many real ales on hand pumps. The pub sells bar meals and also has a restaurant. Open every day. Tel: 01928 733361. Website: www.helterskelter-frodsham.co.uk*)

Walk left along Church Street out of the centre. Pass a bus stop and where a street sign says Red Lane look across the road. There is a set of steps. Go up these and follow the path to the top.

Opposite is The Ring o Bells -*an ancient pub with tiny rooms, sells real ales on hand pump. 12.00 to 14.00 with food then 17.30 onwards. [Tel:01928 732608](tel:01928732608). You are now in the village of Overton.*

Turn left past the Parish Church of St Laurence –*take a look, it's an attractive building dating from 1180. Beyond the church note Church House Farm, the fine Overton Hall on School Lane, the unusual Glebe House, and finally the huge vicarage hiding in the trees.*

Cross Red Lane and go onto Townfield Lane opposite.

Where it opens out, keep ahead with a hedge on your right.

Opposite number 93 turn right onto the restricted bridleway and descend, eventually entering woodland. *This is an ancient lane that has cut deep into the land.*

Cross the bridge and ascend into open countryside – *the occasional cobbles and large stones show this must have been an important route.*

At the hamlet of Bradley turn right. Go straight across a complex road junction onto Watery Lane.

Go through another hamlet *where a lovely stream gurgles under the road.* walk a short way to a large hedge on your left. Look for a lone tree in it, and go left over the stile next to that.

Walk past a field gate. Go right over a stile in the field hedge and then go diagonally across the field. *Aim slightly to the left of the pylon ahead of you.*

Cross the stile next to a pond and head for the big tree and gate.

Go over two stiles now to cross the farm road and then through the field opposite keeping to the hedge side.

At the farm road turn left (*but there is a moated farm, Peel Hall, ahead*).

Follow this road gently downhill past a wooded valley on your left. *This is pheasant shooting country.*

Go through the gate and along the left side of Belle air farm, leaving the tarmac to walk straight across the grass.

Cross the stile *next to the farm scrap yard!* Go towards the pylon and pass it straight down to a gated stile.

Cross the lane and follow the path opposite. It bears slightly right and takes you to the banks of the River Weaver.

Turn left and follow the bank back towards Frodsham. *Good picnic spots.*

The river splits with the broader navigation going off right. Pass an old lock and sluice gate on your right. *As you continue the Stephenson railway viaduct crossing the Weaver comes into view.*

Where the path heads through a stile into a wood there is a double pylon terminating the power line on your left. Go to the stile and turn left in front of it. Go uphill with the stream on your right (*it has cut down into the sandstone here*) and through another stile.

Turn right across the stream at the next stile.

When you can see the houses on Ellis Lane do a hairpin left turn onto the path signposted to Townfield Lane.

Follow it through two hedges and right up to a T junction with a wider lane.

Turn left and then right onto Langdale way. This curves down to left. Pass the shops and cross Fluin Lane to go along Blue Hatch almost opposite.

At the end of Blue Hatch, go down the entry, cross another path and go through the iron fence. Descend into the station car park (once the goods yard.)

Walk along here and turn right onto the station. Cross the footbridge to the other platform for your train back to Newton le Willows. At Newton change onto and Eccles train (same platform).

CATEGORY: MEDIUM LENGTH EASY (some muddy patches in wet weather).

ARCHITECTURE, VIEWS, PUBS, CAFES,
COUNTRYSIDE, RIVER,

RAIL FARE: category three.

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 117

Phillip's Street Atlas Cheshire.