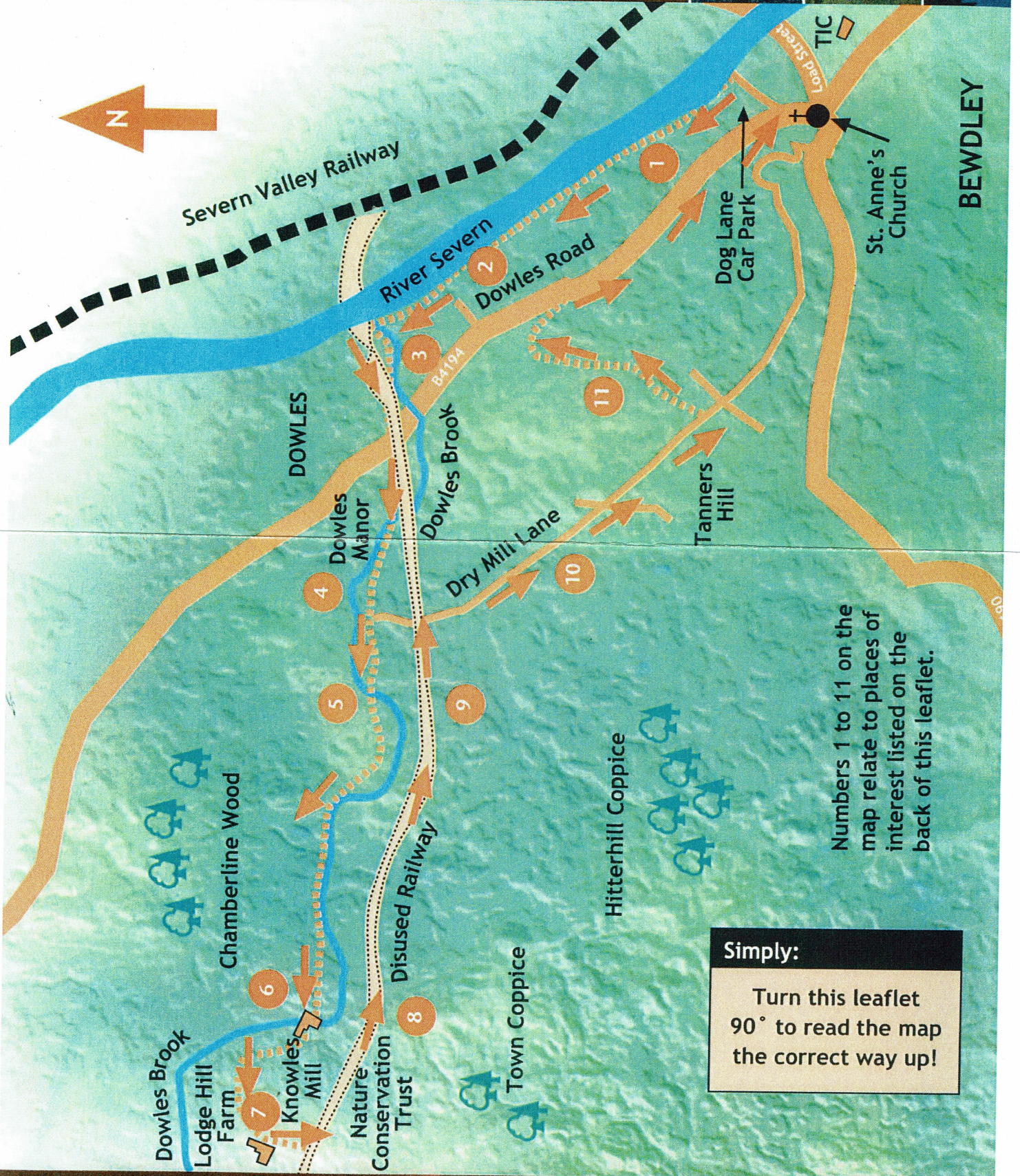


BEWDLEY WALK 3 - "Dowles Brook & Beyond"

A circular walk - Approx distance - 5.5 miles Approx Time - 2 hours

Pictured from left to right: Swans - Riverside Bewdley, Walkers River Severn, Bewdley High St



Numbers 1 to 11 on the map relate to places of interest listed on the back of this leaflet.

Simply:

Turn this leaflet 90° to read the map the correct way up!

For further information contact the Tourist Information Centre
Load Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 2AE. Tel. 01299 404740

The walk starts from Dog Lane Car Park, Bewdley. (grid reference SO 785 755)

From Dog Lane Car Park, walk down towards the river bank.

TURN LEFT and follow the footpath along the river until reaching the Bridge across Dowles Brook.

Cross the bridge and TURN LEFT and follow the path to the Bewdley- Kinetet road (B4194) Cross the Road (*taking great care as this is a fast stretch of road*) and TURN RIGHT to the remains of the old railway bridge.

After the bridge TURN LEFT and up the steep slope (overgrown steps on the left) to the old track.

Follow the track until you reach the steps descending to Dry Mill Lane

TURN RIGHT down the lane then LEFT along the Forest Road. Keep to your right at the fork along the main track.

At Knowles Mill on the Banks of Dowles Brook, TURN LEFT over the bridge, then BEAR RIGHT up the hill, ignoring the "Nature Reserve" stile on the left. Follow the path upwards to a stile.

Cross the stile and follow the path diagonally left to a further stile. See large Nature Reserve Display and offices at Lodge Hill Farm.

TURN LEFT and follow the road to Tarmac track. TURN LEFT (Not right under bridge) and follow the Track eventually passing through a small car park to Dry Mill Lane.

TURN RIGHT up the lane. Keep left at the fork in the road, keeping the house estate on your right-hand side. Immediately before the last house on the left cross the stile and follow the public footpath across the field. Cross the second stile and cross the next field to a stile in the left hand corner.

TURN RIGHT after crossing the stile and walk down the tarmac drive to the B4194.

TURN RIGHT and follow the road back to Bewdley. TURN LEFT to Dog Lane Car Park.

POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG THE ROUTE

1. Next to where the last house is situated alongside the footpath, is the site of **Samuel Skeys Chemical Works** established some 200 years ago. In 1938 it subsequently became the site of **Bewdley Gas Works** operational until 1949.
2. The remains of **Dowles Church and Churchyard** can be seen here. The church was demolished in 1956, the Dowles Parish having been united with Bewdley in 1940.
3. **Dowles Brook** is 5 miles long. This lower section of the Brook is the only stretch that can be fished legally and roach, chub, dace and barbel can be caught here.
4. This area of the forest is managed jointly by **Worcestershire Nature Conservation Trust** and **The West Midland Bird Club** and is a Nature Reserve. To the right are the remains of **Dowles Manor** - a small Elizabethan Manor House burnt down in January 1982.
5. Look over this bridge and see the large holes either side of the arch. These ease the pressure on the bridge at times of flood.
6. Originally there were 5 corn mills along Dowles Brook of which this was one. Note the remains of the mill wheel in the mill house over the bridge.
7. Note large oak with "blob" round trunk. Remains of marker from coppicing days.
8. Note large stones on left bank with axe mark dating from time when track was dynamited. Right Bank received no sunlight hence luxuriant mosses. Deer tracks can be seen on both banks.
9. Glow-worms can be found on this stony bank.
10. Dry Mill Lane was an ancient timber track hence the steep banks. These are cut every year and the native grasses kept back thus allowing the growth of many species of wild flowers.
11. From the footpath across the field can be seen a dense area of the Wyre Forest to the left, The Clent Hills in the distance head, and to the right the river Severn and the rooftops of Bewdley.

NOTE; This route involves several stiles and a fairly steep climb up Dry Mill Lane.

Bewdley has an excellent choice of places to eat so treat yourself to a well earned rest and refreshments after this lovely walk.

Before leaving Bewdley why not visit the QEII Silver Jubilee Gardens or learn a little about the town's history at Bewdley Museum (Open daily from April to end October).

Please remember to:

- 1 Wear stout footwear and carry a waterproof
- 2 Keep dogs under control
- 3 Keep to the footpaths
- 4 Take litter home with you