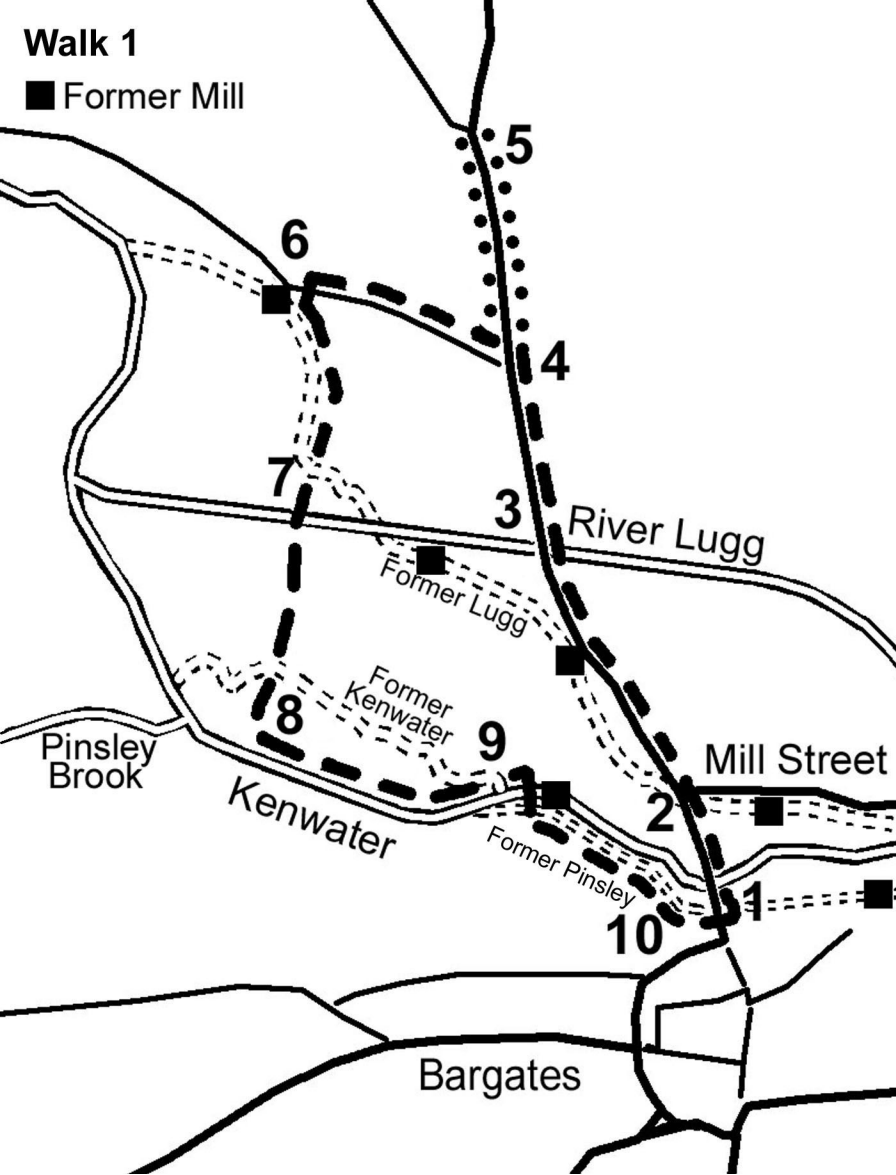


Walk 1

■ Former Mill



Walk 1: This is a real country walk and you may need boots as some of the paths can be muddy. The route explores the marshy area and streams to the north of Leominster which once powered Crowards Mill, Osborne Mill, Marsh Mill and Porters Mill. The walk passes another mill site, Bannister's Mill, on the Kenwater 200m west of Kenwater Bridge.

You can also trace the evidence of the postwar alterations in the route of the Kenwater which was diverted onto the Pinsley Brook, deepened and straightened.

- 1 Start the walk at the Kenwater Bridge on Bridge Street, and take a moment to admire this fine Georgian structure from the side. It was built in 1828, and cost £450; the then MP Lord Hotham donated £100. Now walk northwards towards Mill Street.
- 2 At Mill Street ('Old Lugg Bridge') the Lugg used to cross under the road at what is now a mini-roundabout - you can still see its course along the edge of the Jewsons car park - and ran along the south side of Mill Street to Porters Mill.
- 3 New Lugg Bridge. The embankment here is a former railway line, which exacerbated the flooding problems of the town. The whole northern section of the Lugg was diverted in a new cut alongside this embankment.
- 4 You have arrived at New Bridge, a fine stone arch over a small stream which turns south alongside the road to join the Lugg. Take the side road signed to Eyton, or continue up the main road detour to Spital's Bridge.
- 5 The stream under the two-arched Spital's Bridge defined the northern boundary of Leominster and was (in 1394) where armed townsmen attempted to stop a fiery Lollard preacher, Walter Brut, entering the parish; two men died in the crossfire. The bridge is named for the Priory's isolation hospital further up the hill on the left.
- 6 Turn left off the lane onto a marked public footpath by Crowards Mill, along a wide beaten roadway which follows the line of the former river Lugg; only a small stream survives.
- 7 Crossing the Lugg again, the route now veers off to the left on a footpath between Summergalls Farm and a former landfill site.
- 8 The path emerges into a strange no-man's-land between the old and new courses of the Kenwater. Surviving clumps of willows mark the old route. Walk a little way upstream to see where the Pinsley tumbles into the Kenwater, and note the stone strengthening of the straightened banks. The path continues downstream and emerges onto the sports field.
- 9 Cross by Cranes Lane Bridge, a modern replacement of an early crossing point by Bannister's Mill, and turn left to follow the river. Once the Pinsley ran at a higher level, parallel to the Kenwater here and its route can still be discerned as a shelf halfway down the river bank. The Pinsley Brook, canalised probably in Norman times, ran along Vicarage Street and under Broad Street towards the Priory.
- 10 Walking back into town along Vicarage Street it is difficult to imagine the substantial stream of the Pinsley flowing along its edge; houses on the south-west side all had access bridges. Continue across the main road to the Kenwater Bridge.