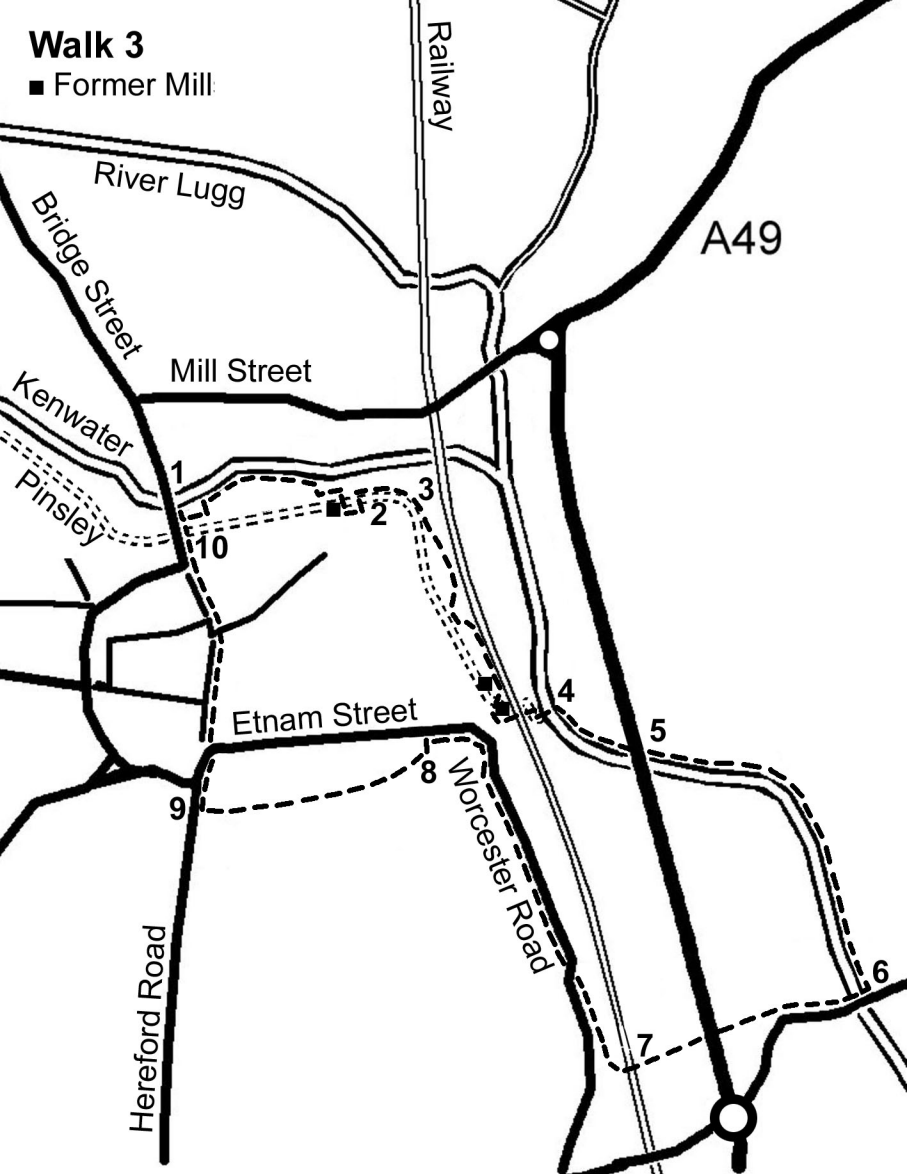


Walk 3

■ Former Mill



Walk 3: includes historic Pinsley Brook and the medieval defences. (There are steep steps on the railway bridge).

1 Set off from the Kenwater Bridge and head downstream, past the Fire Station, and following the line of the river. Turn right at the end of the car park and walk up The Priory lane. The brick cottages on your left at the top of the lane are on the site of a very early monastic fulling mill. (1193). This was powered by the Pinsley Brook, a stream probably canalised by the monks who built the Priory founded in 1125, but possibly by those building the earlier monastery founded in 633. It defines the boundary of the Priory lands to the east and was used to power several mills.

At the top of The Priory turn left and go down the path by the car park, through the gate, and right to Pinsley Mead. (You have just crossed the line of Pinsley Brook again).

2 The stone building you can see on the right is the Infirmary building, part of the original Monastery. You can see the arches under it where the Pinsley ran underneath the monks' lavatories.

3 The path turns a sharp right angle; to your right is the line of the Pinsley, defining the churchyard and Saxon Priory lands. The path continues through the Millennium Field, with wild flowers and apple trees, and then runs along beside the railway line past the site of the recently demolished Pinsley Mill which was the medieval Priory's mill. Continue to the White Lion Inn (also once a corn mill), and turn left down the path which takes you over the railway bridge.

4 Cross the Butts Bridge (so named because it used to give access to the Town Rifle Butts) and bear right on the path along the edge of the Lugg. Across the river is the town's old Lammas Meadow where people with Commoners' rights grazed their animals from Lammas Day to Candlemas Day. Then hay was grown, and individual commoners allocated strips by casting lots to achieve a fair distribution of the crop. Controversial Enclosure Acts ended the system.

5 The path continues under the by-pass via the 'Mosaic Bridge'. On the opposite side you can see the mosaic - a community effort recently repaired - whose colours shimmer with the reflections from the river.

6 Continue to follow the path through the Millennium Wood along the river. Crossing a stile you find you are walking between a field and the river, towards Eaton Bridge. This is beautiful Listed bridge, probably built in the 16th century. The two smaller semi-circular arches are original, but you can see that the central one has been altered under a scheme to make the Lugg navigable. The bridge was widened on the north side (visible under the arches).

7 Cross the bridge and turn back towards Leominster, till you reach the pedestrian crossing leading to the old road bridge over the railway. You are now on the Worcester Road, for centuries the route between Worcester and Wales. Leominster was on the crossroads with the road up the Marches from Chepstow to Chester. As you go up Etnam Street, and begin to see the Burgess plots laid out for the medieval town, you will see a little pedestrian link on the left, going to Caswell Crescent.

8 If you follow the path bearing right you will be tracing the line of the old defences of medieval Leominster, now along the back gardens of the Etnam Street houses. The little path leads you round in a curve till you reach South Street.

9 This is the site of Battle Bridge, said to have once been a drawbridge over the town's defensive ditch. The battle in question was in 1055, between Radulph, Earl of Hereford and Prince Griffith of Wales, who had occupied Leominster. Earl Radulph's army lost, but Griffith was later defeated some miles further south by Harold Godwinson (later king).

10 If you turn north and return to the Kenwater Bridge by walking up South Street to the High Street and then down Broad Street, you will cross the site of the Red Cross Bridge at the bottom of Broad Street, opposite Vicarage Street. Until only a few decades ago the Pinsley Brook ran here under the road, going eastwards under the doorway to the building on your right, where the brick work is inset.