

CROSS BRITAIN WAY

Addendum: February 2022

GENERAL

Please do not attach any waymarkers where CBW coincides with National Trails Offa's Dyke and Glyndwrs Way, in Powys, where signing is not allowed. Staffordshire waymarkers are smaller and rectangular to fit SCC fp discs. Waymarkers in Wales are in Welsh and English.

CBW is now shown on **O.S. online mapping and on 2019 sheet maps** (check before buying).

Bear in mind some minor changes are carried out by Councils on an ongoing basis, notably stiles being replaced by kissing gates, which cannot all be covered below so please make allowances.

DETAILED UPDATES IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER (referenced by guidebook page numbers)

P.10 The CBW START sign is **finally shown on St Botolphs' notice board** in front of the church!

P.24 (Para 2): path to **Pickworth**; one cross hedge has gone so route directions partly superseded, but path is fairly straight and well-defined on the ground. The last stile, photo P24, is now a gate.

P.25 (end of first para): path to **Sapperton**: where wood ends on left, DON'T GO THROUGH GAP but turn right in front of hedge, continue with hedge to left, follow yellow posts to pick up diagonal path across field and resume route; tractor ruts reported are somewhat confusing.

P.32 **Woolsthorpe**: post office is now just village store. Serves hot drinks.

P.34 **Stathern**: Red Lion currently closed. Good news is the Plough is open (Sunday carvery)

P.36 (Para after first Note): **Hose**: Church Lane is in fact Bolton Lane --- apologies.

P.42. (Second Para): beyond A60 be ready for new, large and smelly chicken sheds.

P.44 **Normanton on Soar**: now has a community shop located in the hall opposite the church. **Also Note**: on left, before church, the **ferry across the Soar** is open at weekends, April to Sept. If you use this: turn right on far bank; shortly left on signed footpath, cross two fields, merge with green lane from the right and after 300 yds left into Pasture Lane and back on route.

P.47 **Diseworth**: FOOTPATH DIVERSION; in penultimate para, instead of "go diagonally right across...", now turn right along hedge to right, up to farm track crossing, turn left over stile and continue, to rejoin lane into village. **Note**: One pub is closed but The Plough is still open.

P.50 Breedon golf course no longer operating --- but the route is pretty much the same. And **Melbourne**: final Note: these paths are public rights of way not permissive as stated.

P.53. (final para): **Calke Abbey**: good news; Covid-required changes have been lifted. Use the surfaced path through the woods for the last hundred yards or so of the exit drive if you wish.

P.55 **Ashby de La Zouch:** (Para2 line7): at “right/left over stream....”, path now becomes a tarmac path serving new housing. Resume directions from: “continue past back gardens....”.

P.57 **Moira:** (second line): unmade track is signed to Newfields Farm, and (line 7) yellow post not now signed Ivanhoe Way.

P.59: **Overseal:** Robin Hood pub has closed.

P61 **Rosliston:** the alternative route referred to in the Note, avoiding the stretch of Walton Rd, is now accessible **and is now part of the National Forest Way**. So now IGNORE ROUTE DIRECTIONS SHOWN ON MOST OF PAGE 61 and, instead, before leaving Rosliston:

Just before Bulls Head, turn left between hedges onto surfaced path. Follow this with fence to left, then right/left over stream, and continue on left edge of field. Go through cross hedge past Redfern Wood signboard, then take left hand of two wide grassed paths, through cross hedge, across bridge over stream, and on through kissing gate on left hand bend. Through cross hedge and bear right aiming for right hand corner of field and go over stile at end of cross hedge. Bear left up to next field junction and turn right over stile. Continue on left hand edge of big field of crop, then through left hand corner to cross bridge over mini ravine(!). Aim diagonally up to top right hand corner of long field, go through and continue with hedge to left; soon through cross hedge, and go up next field to stile in overgrown left hand corner. Now go straight up across next field to stile in cross hedge then bear right aiming for far right corner. Over stile then follow track down right hand edge of field, and finally go through kissing gate to join lane on right, shortly before Walton on Trent. Follow footways into the village, bear right where road joins from left, and carry on down to main village junction. Go across into Station Lane opposite the White Swan PH and resume route directions (ie last two lines of P61).

P.67 **Hoar Cross:** middle para; **now, do not continue up hill** on road, but at village signboard, opposite tiny lane, turn left off road over stile (which has currently been reported to SCC because it is not in good condition--- if you feel this is too dangerous, please continue up the lane as per guidebook directions). Cross small paddock, go over stile to right of open barn, and soon go right over further stile. Go up through trees, over stile, then continue along left edge of field, through cross hedge, and continue until the path skirts shelters on left. Emerge over stile into lane at Bentilee Farm. Cross into farm drive to resume route (centre of para).

Note a slight change here also. **To clarify:** from farm drive, go over (somewhat rickety) stile on right into field, then immediately over low electric fence; keep left past farm buildings along left edge of field, soon over stile in cross hedge; now aim for new double stile in next cross hedge, further along to the right than previously; after which, veer back towards left hand edge of field and continue with trees to left. Recent problems at Bentilee Farm are therefore resolved.

P.69 **Abbots Bromley:** B&B The Butter cross, Market Place 07793 503013 £90

P.69 **B5013 :** penultimate para; after Blithfield reservoir, when the footway ends, the next stretch of fairly busy road now has more limited verges, particularly for a the next 200 yds, to use to get off the road if need be. So, before hedgerow restarts on left, CROSS WITH CARE to

right hand side where the hedges are more intermittent and PROCEED WITH GREAT CARE along right hand side of road until lane on right into Admaston, when wide verges are available again. Then CROSS WITH CARE BACK TO LEFT HAND SIDE before turn into Steenwood Lane.

P.72 **Little Haywood:** General Stores B&B (and two pubs but neither does food). Come off canal at Bridge 72 and turn right for 250 yds. 01889 881579 £85.

P.72 **Great Haywood:** High Meadows GH, 01889 882449 £75

P.72 **Shugborough : alternative path avoiding main road.** Final para; leaving on entrance drive before A513, at Estate signboard, take well-used path on right to cut out section of busy A513. Follow path uphill through edge of wood. Soon take left fork and continue uphill, then down to cross bridleway at the bottom, up again and continue, ignoring crosspaths. Go through SCC unmade car park, then tarmaced track that bears left downhill to A513. KEEP AS FAR RIGHT AS POSSIBLE TO INCREASE VISIBILITY TO LEFT AND CROSS WITH GREAT CARE! Then continue straight ahead up across grass to merge with parking area and Cannock Chase entrance up to the right to rejoin route, on line 3 at top of P.73. (Courtesy of CBW walker Ken Brockway)

P.73 **Cannock Chase:** (penultimate para before Note): there is now a sign at the right turn.

P.77 **Gailey:** ALTERNATIVE ROUTE; basically ignore the paragraph following the Note. **Instead, follow the directions contained in the Note.** So, DO NOT turn off the canal at Gailey Tower, but continue down the canal, leave at Bridge 78A, turn right on tarmac road, go over railway bridge and use Gravelly Way and its new footway to reach A449 to resume the route.

P.77 **Crateford Lane:** (11 lines up from bottom): no cut path in evidence Aug 2021.

P.80 (**Note** halfway down page): boggy section referred to now significantly improved.

P.82 (Near end of final para): careful not to miss the unsigned left turn which is only 20 yds past sharp right hand bend.

P 83 **Sutton Wood:** (Line 6 of para following **Note**): slight diversion here. Last section of path up to bungalow now closed off; so go through gap on left, head half left to double white gates visible, go through gap to right and turn left onto track, round right hand bend to resume route.

P.84 **Jackfield:** DIVERSION: final paragraph: the works to stabilise the hillside approaching Jackfield have finished, so now EITHER carry on past Maws Museum to the right on reinstated Severn Valley Way across newly landscaped hillside until it merges with road, then pass Jackfield church on the right and continue to rejoin route: OR, the better option and not possible at the time of writing the guidebook, if you turn right/left at Maws Museum to continue on the lane alongside, then turn right and immediately left off new access road to the Boat Inn, you can use the reinstated path down to and along the river, then shortly up steps into the tiny Church Lane in Jackfield then pass the front of Jackfield church to soon resume the route where village lane merges with lane from left.

P.89 **Presthope:** at the end of first paragraph before Note; along this SECTION OF B4371, after crossing the junction of the minor road on the right, I think for once here it is safer to walk on the LEFT HAND SIDE of the road. This is because traffic from behind has more advance vision of pedestrians as you approach the crest of the rise than vehicles coming towards you, and there is marginally more scope for stepping off the road, if need be, on the left. TAKE GREAT CARE!

P90 **Longville in the Dale:** Sadly, the Longville Arms is no longer open.

P95 **Church Stretton:** Brilliant B& B: Birchwood House: it's on the route as you come down Clive Avenue into the town, on your right. £65 b&b for CBW walkers. Self contained with kitchen. 07906 305950

P97 **Bridges:** Horseshoe Inn still open but sadly no accommodation for the present.

P99 **Stiperstones:** Similarly, the Stiperstones Inn open but now no accomm.

P101. **Hope:** B&B! The Stables Inn (right at first x-roads up hill past church); £70, (£75 Sat)

P103 **Middle Walton:** REINSTATEMENT OF CORRECT LINE of footpath. Basically, ignore first 12 lines of paragraph following the first Note (referring to the "tricky section"). So, after going through gate off track, DO NOT bear left after 50 yds through second gate, but continue straight ahead across large field with hedge to left. Go over new stile at the end then aim diagonally left towards left end of Middle Walton farm complex up ahead, to join lane and resume CBW.

P103 **Welsh Border:** Final para: no blue b'way sign at gate and still no cut path through field.

P109 **Llanerchydol:** (top photo), proposed chicken broiler house here refused. Appeal pending.

****NOTE!** BARMOUTH BRIDGE WILL CLOSE FOR REPAIRS FROM 12/9/2022 TO 12/12/22 when CBW will finish at Morfa Mawddach Station just south of the bridge, from where replacement buses will run, 2-hourly, to Barmouth. More information can be found on: networkrail.co.uk/barmouth. Fairbourne, one mile southwest, can be reached via the Wales Coast path (turn left just before bridge), and also has some b&b options. There is also a ferry at Fairbourne across to Barmouth during the summer.**

Should anyone walk the whole 280 miles I can send you a certificate to mark the event!

Also, if you are doing the walk over time, check with me at tim.brunton@btinternet.com to see if there are later Addenda available. Finally, GOOD WALKING AND GOOD FUNDRAISING!