



08 WARWICKSHIRE STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

▶ Distance: 9½ miles/15.2km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



Tramway Bridge over the River Avon.

PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Tourist Information Centre, Bridgefoot, Stratford-upon-Avon (car park round corner on Bridgeway, bus stops across Bridgeway on Bridge Street), grid ref SP203549, postcode CV37 6YR

Is it for me? Arable and pasture; mostly excellent footpaths but some waymarking issues

Stiles 2

PLANNING

Nearest town Stratford
Refreshments Stratford, plus New Inn at Clifford Chambers

Public toilets Several in Stratford, including some on the route
Public transport Plentiful buses. Trains from Warwick and Birmingham

Maps OS Explorer 205; Landranger 151



CHOSEN BY...
JULIE ROYLE

Though Shakespeare obviously looms large in any walk at Stratford, this one is not all about the Bard. It features the rivers Avon and Stour and the pretty village of Clifford Chambers, where you can peer through wrought-iron gates at the imposing Clifford Manor. This was a Medieval, moated manor house in Shakespeare's day and he is thought to have visited it, as did his contemporaries, the poet Michael Drayton and the polymath Ben Jonson. It was rebuilt c1700 and again in 1918 by Edwin Lutyens, following a fire. Close by is the lovely little church of St Helen, guarded by sturdy horse chestnut trees.

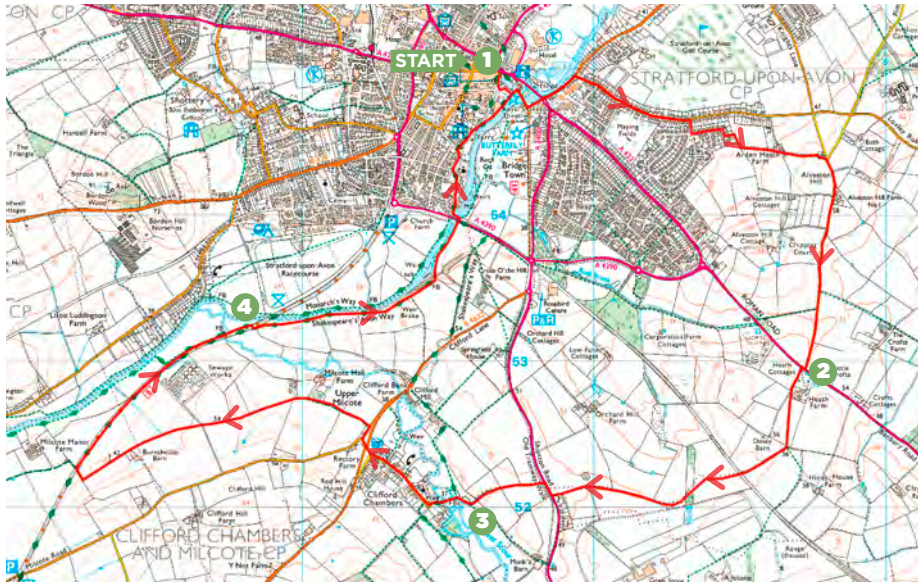
1 Start Join canal towpath near TIC and pass under main road to Bancroft Gardens. Cross canal at footbridge, walk past basin and lock, cross another footbridge and proceed towards Cox's Yard. Turn R across River Avon on Tramway Bridge, proceed to Swan's Nest Lane and turn L. Cross main road, keep straight on for 300m then take Loxley Road on R. After 800m turn R on Avon Crescent, L on Burford Road, R on Wootton Close then L on footpath. Walk along passageway, turn R along field edge, then L on mown path R of hedge. After farmhouse turn R past corrugated-iron building, then L along field edges to lane at Alveston Hill. Turn R.

GRADIENT PROFILE



08 WARWICKSHIRE
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON► OS Explorer map 205 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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DATE WALKED
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2 **2½ miles/4km**
Turn R at Banbury Road, then cross to track which passes R of Heath Farm. Walk past all farm buildings then to far L corner of large pasture. Follow R edge of next field then cross course of dismantled railway to huge field with no waymarking. Go straight across to group of poplars and look for two metal gateposts (no gate, no waymark) near far L field corner. This is the path and it's clear from now on, through the trees then straight across another large field to gate below ash tree, then by R edge of next two fields. Turn R at Shipston Road, then L on footpath past Stratford AGI

and straight on to River Stour.

3 **3 ¼ miles/7.2km**
Turn R then cross Stour at footbridge and proceed to Clifford Chambers. Turn R through village to New Inn and main road. Cross road and go straight on to another road, signed to Weston and Welford. Turn R on cycleway, then L on bridleway (also driveway to Milcote Hall Farm). Ignore farm turn and keep straight on at all junctions, eventually meeting the Greenway (cycleway/footpath). Turn R.

4 **7½ miles/12km**
Approaching a girder bridge, and with Stratford Race Course visible, look for

unsigned path on R. Descend to field, turn L and follow River Avon to Stratford. On edge of town, pass under road bridge to find footbridge. Use either bank of river now; east bank is parkland, green and leafy, but west bank is more interesting (still rather green and leafy), passing Holy Trinity Church (Shakespeare's grave) and Royal Shakespeare Theatre on way to Bancroft Gardens. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

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