

King John's Bridge



Tewkesbury's Riverside Walk

This easy walking route meanders along the beautiful River Avon in the town centre of Tewkesbury. It is a short route, is mainly flat and has disabled access until point 6. Along the way you will learn about the history of Tewkesbury and its lovely rivers.

There are fascinating panels along the route which will give you a deeper insight into many aspects of the history of the rivers and the town. Make sure you read the quirky facts on each panel – we have tried to give a fun and interesting piece of history at each point along the route.

Tewkesbury is at the meeting point of three rivers, the smaller Swilgate, the mighty Severn, the longest river in Britain and Shakespeare's Avon, one of the most picturesque boating areas in Britain. The Mill Avon which is the part of the river that runs close to the town, dates back to the 12th century when the Benedictine monks, based at Tewkesbury Abbey, were thought to have diverted the water course to power their mill.



The River Avon

The Bristol to London & Leeds to London Coach



Numbers relate to points on the map. Visit each point to gain further information of Tewkesbury's history.

1 OF BURGAGES, BARNS AND ALLEYWAYS

Tewkesbury has always been shaped by the landscape. It sits on raised land surrounded by floodplains and rivers that restrict the land available for building. Learn about the history of the town here.

2 TEWKESBURY ABBEY

Walk to point 2 on the map. This is a beautiful spot that affords a great view of the Abbey Mill and The Severn Ham floodplain. A little further on and you will see the impressive Abbey which has shaped much of the town and dates back to 1102.

NOTE: There is a walkway bridge to the Severn Ham here. See the Severn Ham Walk on the reverse.

3 TEWKESBURY & RELIGION

Walk to point 3 on the map. Prior to the early 16th century, the main religion was Catholic. After Henry VIII became King, the religious makeup of the town changed significantly. In 1540, the Abbey monastery was closed during the dissolution, when Henry disbanded England's monasteries and destroyed many of their buildings. Find out more about the history of the different religions of the townspeople and the places they worshipped.

4 COACHING & INNS

Walk to point 4 on the map. Tewkesbury has always been well connected by road and river. Its many inns offered a place to stop, rest the horses and refresh oneself before travelling onward. There is a long history of coaching and inns in Tewkesbury and many of the buildings here hide historical evidence of a place to stay.



Start your Riverside Walk from Location 1 or 7. It will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.



Heavings Mill circa 1928



Boat building in the 1950s

5 TRADE, CRAFTS AND INDUSTRY

Walk to point 5 on the map. In medieval times, Tewkesbury grew as a market town to service the needs of the surrounding agricultural estates. Over time, many different types of crafts and industries developed, making it a vibrant and important town.

6 MILLS & MILLERS

Walk to point 6 on the map. Milling has enjoyed a long history as a key industry in Tewkesbury. Rivers provided power to early water mills and a means of transport for grain and flour.

NOTE: There is a walkway bridge to the Severn Ham here. See the Severn Ham Walk on the reverse.

7 SHIPS, RIVERS & TRADE

Walk to point 7 on the map. From the earliest times to the 1800s, Tewkesbury's rivers provided the main method of moving goods around.

This is the final stopping point on the Riverside Walk. You may now like to cross the river at one of the crossing points to walk around the beautiful Severn Ham.



The Battle Trail Walk

You can also pick up a copy of the Battle Trail which takes you on a self-guided tour of the fields surrounding Tewkesbury which saw the penultimate, and one of the bloodiest battles in the Wars of the Roses.

Use the map to guide you around the story of the significant events of 4 May 1471 when the Yorkists defeated the Lancastrians at the Battle of Tewkesbury. It is easy walking terrain and takes approximately 45 minutes to complete.

These are available from Tewkesbury Tourist Information Centre.

WWW.VISITTEWKESBURY.INFO



© Tewkesbury Borough Council, all rights reserved. All details correct at the time of going to print – October 2017.