

✿ Weaverham Petal Walks

Weaverham & Acton Bridge

A 4 mile circular walk exploring the villages of Weaverham & Acton Bridge.

Start by St Mary's Church, Church Street, Weaverham

1. Walk down Church Street until you reach the main Road.
2. Cross over the road opposite the Wheatsheaf into Forest Street. Turn right into Fieldway and continue straight ahead. Cross the playground into Tower Lane and go to the end.
3. Turn right at West Road and then left at the Hanging Gate pub into Station Road.
4. Continue along Station Road over the bypass until you reach a sandstone wall.
5. Cross over the road onto the public footpath and follow the path down the side of the field with the hedge on your right.
6. Go over the railway footbridge and follow the path over three stiles to Sandfield Lane and continue to the end of the lane.
7. Turn right onto Milton Rough and carry on until you see a gate, stile and footpath sign on your left. Follow the track into a field and cross this diagonally towards the railway.

If you wish to visit the Hazel Pear Public House and/or Hazel Pear Wood continue along this road crossing over the station bridge ahead of you. You can then rejoin the walk by walking past the public house car park and taking the footpath to the left at the smithy, crossing over the stile, walking through the field to the next stile which is on your left and then follow the signs.



St Mary's Church



Wheatsheaf Inn



Forest School



8. Follow the footpath between fences alongside the railway, then turn right over the railway bridge.
9. Follow the track into Old Lane and at the end turn right onto Hill Top Road.
10. Shortly after Acton Bridge Parish Rooms on your right, cross the road and follow the footpath through the iron gate. Keep to the right and cross a stile into a paddock until you reach Strawberry Lane.
11. Turn right and follow the grass track to a gate. Turn left over a steep stile and follow the path downhill, going over a number of stiles until you reach the main road opposite the Riverside Restaurant.
12. Turn right and walk along the pavement. Go past the Vale Royal Falconry Centre and cross the main road into Sandy Lane using the designated crossing at the central reservation for safety.
13. Follow Sandy lane up the hill and bear left into High Street opposite the Hanging Gate pub. Turn left at the garage into Church Street all the way to the church.



Acton Bridge Parish Rooms



Cyclists on Sandy Lane



The Hanging Gate



Cattle grazing



Action Swing Bridge carries the A49 over the river while close by runs the West Coast Main Line. The railway crosses the River Weaver on Dutton Viaduct, designed by leading railway engineers Joseph Locke and George Stephenson. When it opened in 1837 it was the longest viaduct on the Grand Junction Railway with twenty sandstone arches, splayed at the base for extra stability.



Acton Bridge
Acton Bridge is a small village on the bank of the River Weaver. It used to be called Acton in Delamere, but became Acton Bridge in recent times to avoid confusion with Acton near Nantwich. The Saxon spelling is Acture, Ac meaning oak, and tune or tun meaning farm or place, so the name meant 'Oak Farm' or 'a place in the oak forest'.

Weaverham Petal Walks Weaverham & Acton Bridge

Welcome to Weaverham & Acton Bridge
Come and explore the villages of Weaverham & Acton Bridge in the heart of the Cheshire countryside.

This area was once famous for its orchards and indeed there is an old Cheshire apple variety called Wareham, named after Weaverham. Road names such as Russet Road and Strawberry Lane all give clues to the rich heritage of the area.



Saltscape - a unique landscape

Salt was first discovered in Cheshire during the Iron Age and by 1700 the salt towns of Northwich, Middlewich and Winsford had grown around the thriving salt industry. The River Weaver was the key transport corridor that continued to serve the chemical industry that followed. Although much of the industry has gone there is a legacy of unique habitats, post-industrial landscapes, rivers and canals. Salt marsh vegetation normally found on the coast thrives around brine springs while the flashes caused by salt subsidence and lime-beds created from industrial waste are rich in wildlife.



Up until the Second World War fruit was graded and packed into hampers ready to be loaded on the 5.20am train to Liverpool.

Fruit trees and orchards have been an important feature of the landscape since medieval times. Apple, pear, cherry and plum trees were common in workers' gardens as well as the larger homes. 'Plant pears for your heirs' was an old Cheshire saying as pears were less trouble than apples although they were picked rather than shaken off the trees, a job that required skill and strength.

Acton Bridge was known for its fruit trees, particularly pears, and still has six historic orchards today. Hazel or Hassle pears were one of the most common varieties grown in the area, sometimes called 'toadbacks' because the black dots on their brown skins looked similar to toads.

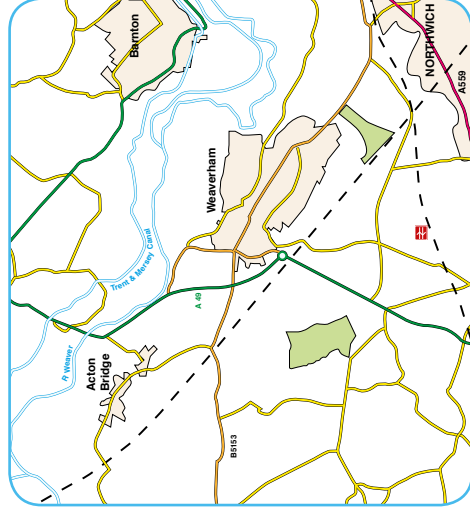


Local Orchards

Up until the Second World War fruit was graded and packed into hampers ready to be loaded on the 5.20am train to Liverpool.



Weaverham Petal Walks Weaverham & Acton Bridge



A 4 mile circular walk exploring the villages of Weaverham & Acton Bridge.

Weaverham Petal Walks have been devised by Weaverham Trust and funded through Saltscape Landscape Partnership.

www.weaverhamtrust.co.uk

Saltscape - Follow the story at www.saltscape.co.uk

For information on Acton Bridge visit

www.actonbridge.org

Weaverham remained a quiet rural village until the 1920s when ICI needed more housing for their workers as demand grew for new chemical products such as dyestuffs, plastics and paint. Owley Wood Housing Estate was a well planned development with wide, tree lined roads and many facilities including allotments, tennis courts, bowling greens and a hall for social events.

John Brunner and Ludwig Mond came to salt-rich Cheshire in 1872, looking for a site to build an ammonia works. Winnington Works was the first and started producing soda ash for the cotton industry in 1874.



Weaverham was an important Saxon hamlet on the banks of the River Weaver. The land passed to the Crown in Norman times and when Edward I founded Vale Royal Abbey in 1277, supposedly in thanks-giving for being saved from a shipwreck, he gave it to the Cistercian monks. The monks ruled for the next 300 years, collecting taxes and maintaining a prison and a courthouse.

In 1819 Ormerod, who wrote a history of Cheshire, described Weaverham as 'a charming village of courtyards and foaming blossom'.

Weaverham Petal Walks Weaverham & Acton Bridge

Weaverham



SALTScape

Weaverham Petal Walks Weaverham & Acton Bridge

