

Litmarsh, The Vauld and Ash Grove Farm

Wildfowl on the lake, an attractive hamlet, and views of the Black Mountains. 2 short sharp climbs

3.5 miles (5.5 km.)

Start:- Car park opposite St Michael's School

Explorer 202 or Pathfinder 994 GR 531 511

From the car park take the footpath, Church Walk (A), immediately opposite the school gate and then along the ancient cobbled footpath past the mounting block and into St Michael's churchyard. Walk to the right of the Church, leaving the churchyard by a metal gate and cross the River Lugg by the footbridge to a signpost (B).

Walk straight ahead, signposted "Litmarsh" to a footbridge and climb the steps through Ash Grove Wood bearing left at the top by the site of Rusland Cottage (D) and follow the path along the top of the wood, leaving it by a stile, straight ahead. Here there are extensive views towards Dinmore Hill.

Walk downhill, following the hedge on your left and turn left at the bottom of the field, walking with Little Berrington Lakes (F) on your right, to a stile ahead. Cross the stile, turn right and follow the track round to the left until you reach the road. Turn right into the road and immediately left along the lane through Litmarsh until the lane turns sharp left at the junction with a track coming from the right. Here take the left of the two stiles opposite and continue on the same line to cross the field to cross another stile at The Vauld (E).

Turn right into the road, bear left at the fork and continue through the hamlet to the last



The Church footbridge and signpost

house, Norton Court, on your left. Leave the road by the stile on your left and walk up the field through the gap ahead and turn right to follow the hedge now on your right. Cross a stile and bear left through two gates to reach a crossing track where you will get extensive views with the Black Mountains in the distance.

Turn left along the track, crossing a stile on the way to Ash Grove Farm where, just before the farmyard, you take a stile on the left and then follow the fence on your right to cross another stile and continue on the same line to join the farm drive. Turn left to follow this drive until it reaches the road. Turn right down Cuddy Meadow Hill, locally corrupted to God Almighty Hill, because of its steepness, until you reach the electricity sub-station on your right. Here turn left into Smeadal Lane and in 400 metres cross the stile on your left. Head across the field to a stile in the far right hand corner and continue on the same line to another stile where the hedge ahead joins the river bank. Cross this stile and follow the river on your right until you reach the footbridge and return to the car park through the churchyard.

