

## Walk two – brief overview

This turnpike-era themed walk along part of the old turnpike route includes historic mile markers, former tollhouses and evidence of an 1820's tramway.

Beginning in the market town of Shipston-on-Stour, it follows the route of the former Stratford to Long Compton Turnpike north to Newbold-on-Stour and then across country following the Shakespeare Way footpath for a while and then the Centenary Way before returning to Shipston. In all it is approximately 12 miles. There are shorter permutations centred on Newbold and taking in Halford Bridge for example (see map).

Start : Free public car park opposite The Old Mill, Shipston-on-Stour

Lunch: White Hart Newbold-on-Stour (or start here on the shorter walk and return for lunch or the Halford Bridge Inn). There are also village shops at Newbold and Halford.

Getting there:  
By car -  
By bus -

OS Map: Explorer 205

Notes on long distance footpaths featured along this walk:

- Shakespeare's Way – follows a path that Shakespeare may have followed between Stratford and London
- Centenary Way – marks the centenary of the governance by County Councils 1889-1989

## Points of interest: Milepost theme – Walk two

**1 Shipston on Stour** derives its name from 'sheepwash-town' as it was once an important sheep market. During the c18th and first half of the c19th the town was an important staging post for stagecoaches and many former coaching inns remain in evidence in the town centre. Saint Edmund Parish Church has a c15th tower. The Gothic Revival architect G.E. Street rebuilt the rest of the church in 1855

**2 The restored cast iron milepost** now resembling the post recorded in a photograph of the Ship-ston Picture House c1913 the details of which has formed the basis for the restoration of the series of remaining mileposts along the former Stratford on Avon to Long Compton turnpike.



3 Honington Toll House  
Old photograph taken in the 1920's.  
(copyright restrictions apply)

**3 Honington Toll House** Grade II Listed Former road toll house at Honington Turn Gate, now Old Tollbar Cottage. The principal structure is thought to have been built for the Stratford to Long Compton Turnpike Trust in the 19th century in the form of a vernacular cottage.

**4 St. Gregory's church**, Tredington has Saxon origins and the tallest spire in Warwickshire. The front door shows the remains of bullet marks from the English Civil War.

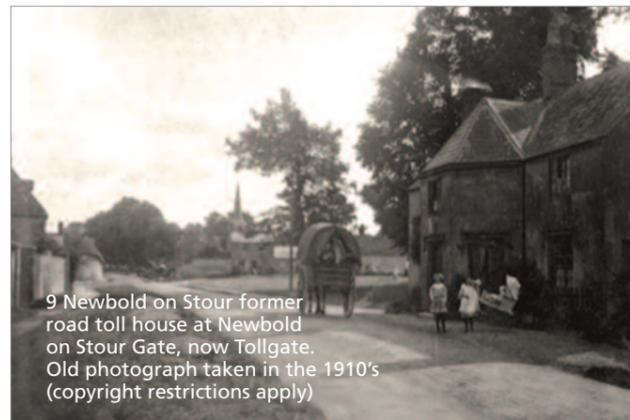
**5** Going north from Long Compton, the fifth cast iron restored milepost.

**6 Fosse Way.** The word Fosse is derived from the Latin 'fossa' meaning ditch. For the first few decades after the Roman invasion in AD43 the Fosse Way marked the western frontier of Roman rule in Iron Age Britain. It is possible that the road began as a defensive ditch that was later filled in and converted to a road or possibly a defensive ditch ran alongside the road (220 miles – Exeter to Lincoln). ??

**7** An early milestone without discernible markings lies in the undergrowth along this short stretch of annexed Fosse Way.

**8** The sixth restored cast iron milepost.

**9 Newbold on Stour** former road toll house at Newbold on Stour Gate, now Tollgate. The principal structure is thought to have been built for the Stratford to Long Compton Turnpike Trust in the 19th century in the form of a lodge house with protruding front.



9 Newbold on Stour former road toll house at Newbold on Stour Gate, now Tollgate. Old photograph taken in the 1910's (copyright restrictions apply)

**10 Carved milestone** erected by the Shirley family of Ettington Park replacing an earlier cast iron milepost of the type restored along the former turnpike. An inscription on one of the shields reads:

6 Miles  
To Shakspeare's [sic] Town whose Name  
Is known throughout the Earth  
To Shipstone 4 whose lesser Fame  
Boasts no such Poet's Birth.

**11 Line of the Stratford to Moreton Tramway** established in 1825, one of the first railways. At Newbold there was a wharf and the line branched off towards Ilmington at this point. Newbold Wharf was the site of Thomas Hutchings lime kilns until about 1895. There is a restored wagon by Cox's Yard in Stratford displaying his name. Steam locomotives had been prohibited from operating on the tramway north of Newbold (where the tramway ran alongside the public road).

**12 Talton House** a grade II listed building late c17th with c18th additions

**13 Talton Mill.** A mill at Talton is mentioned in 1308. Various owners are known from the 16th to 19th century. Corn milling ceased in 1938, but the wheel continued to be used to generate electricity for Ettington Hall until 1942. The mill then fell into disuse and was demolished in 1956. All that remains is the wheelpit. There is a cafe and farmshop here.

**14 Ettington Park and Manor.** The Manor at Lower Ettington has been held by the Shirley family since the Domesday Survey in 1086 and possibly long before. No other family in England is known to be able to make such a claim. The family seat, a neo-Gothic mansion, was once named the most haunted hotel in Britain.

**15 Halford.** The village is where the Fosse Way crosses the river Stour. By the river but very difficult to see, are the earthworks and buried remains of Halford Castle, a motte castle, believed to be the predecessor of the present Manor House.

**16 Halford Bridge** is first mentioned in the 13th century, and it is during the English Civil War that the bridge's significance becomes obvious. Demolished first by the Royalists in 1644, it was later destroyed by the Parliamentarians also. The value of the bridge for transport, communication and trade beyond the parish is perhaps seen by the fact that its repair was paid for by the county itself.

**17 Halford Bridge Inn** is a grade II listed c18th former coaching inn.

**18 Cast iron milepost** at junction of Fosse Way with Queen Street. There are no other mileposts of this type along this stretch of the Fosse Way in Warwickshire.

**19 Honington Hall** is a grade I listed building constructed by Henry Parker in 1682. It was later owned by Joseph Townsend who carried out considerable alterations in the mid c18th.

**20 Honington village.** This small village is centred around a triangular green, south-east of the church at the junction of three roads. The River Stour flows west of the village and the road to the south crosses it by a bridge of c.1685. The oldest house is probably 'Magpies', a former farm-house facing east towards the green. The walls are of timber-framing of the first half of the 16th century.

**21 Fell Mill Farmhouse** and attached mill is a grade II listed building. It has a Datestone 'WP/1697'. Said to have a cockpit in rectangular extension to rear.



# Finding the Way

A Heritage Lottery funded Milepost restoration project along the former Stratford-upon-Avon to Long Compton Turnpike

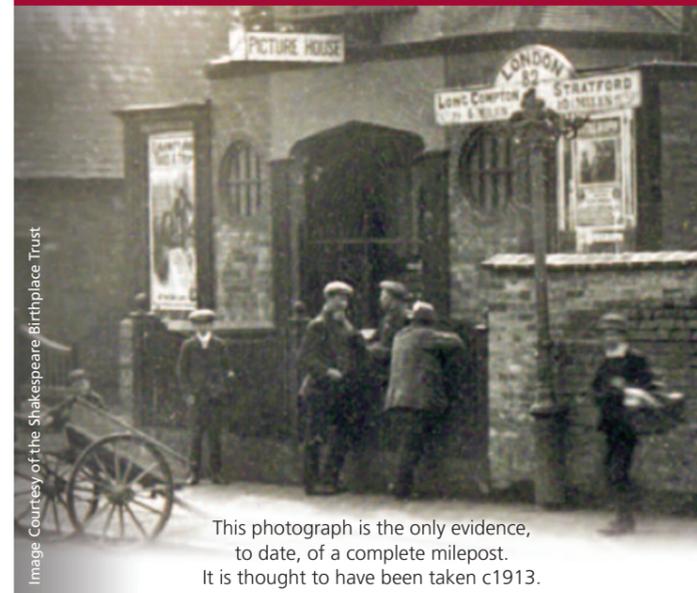


Image Courtesy of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

This photograph is the only evidence, to date, of a complete milepost. It is thought to have been taken c1913.

The HLF funded Project has restored the remaining six mileposts to their functioning state.



**LOTTERY FUNDED**