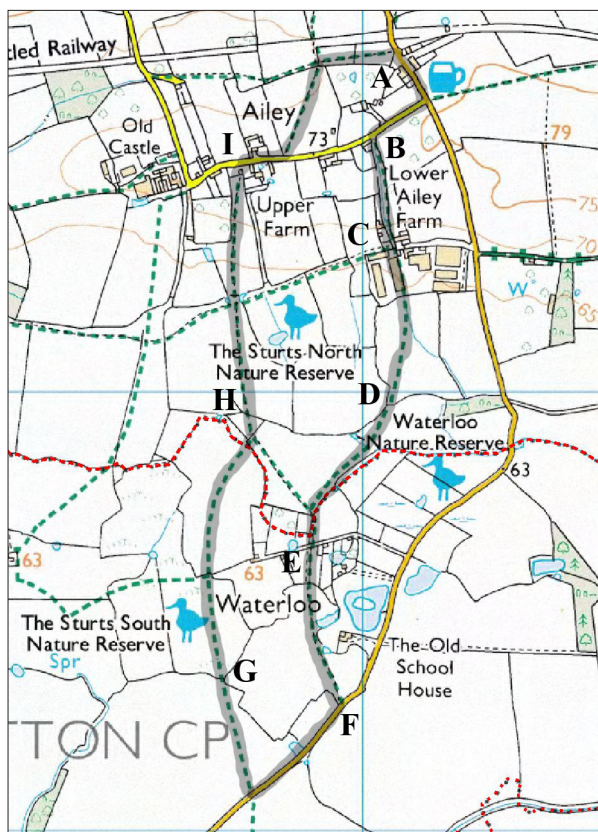




This walk starts at the Kinnersley Arms.

A) Turn right out of the pub car park and walk down the lane towards Letton. Take the first road right towards Ailey.

B) Turn down the gravelled approach to the first house you come to on the left, reached after 250 metres along the road, the footpath continuing through the garden of the cottage and then follows a sunken footpath (which can be very wet as it follows a water course), going through a small gate at the end and then climbing up a steep bank. Continue ahead, keeping the hedgerow on your left to leave through a field gate and then keeping to the left of Myrtle Cottage.

C) Enter the farmyard and continue straight ahead to a small gate to the immediate right of a barn (possibly needing to pass through a gate across the tarmacked lane en route) and which is reached by going down three steps. Keep straight ahead, walking alongside a poultry shed to its far end, passing through a kissing gate and then through a field gate ahead of you. Turn right and then left round an array of solar panels and head across the field to a kissing gate set in a fence and so enter the next field. The footpath crosses this field to the far right-hand corner where there is a wide gateway into the next field.

D) The path crosses an arm of this next field on much the same line that you've been walking to reach a wide bridge into the field beyond. You now follow the field boundary on your left till you reach a footbridge in the next corner. Cross this and then follow the field boundary on your right to another stile which you take to leave the field and find yourself on a lane.

E) Cross the lane and take the stile on the far side, then shadow the hedgerow on your left to reach another stile at the far end of this paddock near a large oak. Cross this to enter The Sturts Nature Reserve. Head across the middle of the piece of ground ahead of you to cross an old drainage ditch by a small wooden footbridge, then curve to the left to head for a corner in the hedgerow behind which lies a red-brick house (The Old School House). From this point, the path cuts across a corner of this irregularly-shaped field, aiming to the left of a tall oak tree in the opposite hedgerow and on down to a 'corner' of the field where a well concealed path leads through some scrub to a stile out onto the Kinnersley to Letton road. (If confused as to where this path is, you can leave the field by the gate and car pull in by the boundary with the grounds of the Old School House.)

F) By whichever route you take to reach the road, once on it, turn right and walk along it till you reach a large oak on the left, immediately past which is a stile on each side of the road. Cross the one on the right. The path across the field may be clearly indicated, but if not, your target is the far right-hand 'corner'. As you approach, you may spot a yellow board, which is the sign of the entrance to The Sturts Nature Reserve, and this should become your target. Cross the bridge here, then follow the stream on your right to enter the field proper.

G) The path crosses a corner of this field, heading towards a field gateway to the right of a large oak – if you are on the right line, you will find a narrow plankway across a boggy channel in the field that you need to cross. By the gateway you will find a finger post with three footpath signs and a wooden bench (just to the right). Go through the gateway and the path crosses this next field diagonally towards the far corner, passing between a pair of free standing oaks. Once past these trees, your target is a field gateway just to the left of a large oak on the far side of the field. Go through this gateway and follow the stream on your left for a short way to a bridge which you cross to enter another field.

H) The footpath now heads to a gateway at the top right-hand corner of this next field. Go through this and follow the wide footpath that curves up this field to The Sturts Nature Reserve car park. (Note the obelisk on the right-hand side when entering the car park.)

I) Exit The Sturts onto Ailey Lane and turn right. After approximately 100 metres, take some steps up the bank on your left and cross a stile into a field. The path crosses this field diagonally to the far corner where there is another stile. Cross this and the footbridge to enter another field. Turn right along the hedge and, when it makes a right-hand turn, carry on across the field, aiming for the white-painted house to the left of the Kinnersley Arms. You leave the field by a double-gate onto the Letton road, and here another obelisk is to be found.

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust's The Sturts North Nature Reserve

The 20.5 hectare reserve comprises seven fields lying in the River Wye flood plain which are subject to regular winter flooding. This leaves a layer of silt deposited onto the meadow which enriches the soils and produces really botanically diverse grassland – great for wildlife as well as for grazing livestock and creating top quality meadow hay. Species include great burnet, meadow fox-tail, meadowsweet, cuckoo flower, devil's bit scabious, greater bird's-foot trefoil, dyer's greenweed, crested dog's tail, sweet vernal grass, common knapweed, betony, tormentil, marsh bedstraw – to name but some! Mire and swamp communities occur in the most low-lying sections the reserve.

Please avoid trampling the vegetation in the wet areas, and use the bridges to cross streams and ditches. Conditions underfoot can be wet even in summer so boots are advised.

(Text from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust)