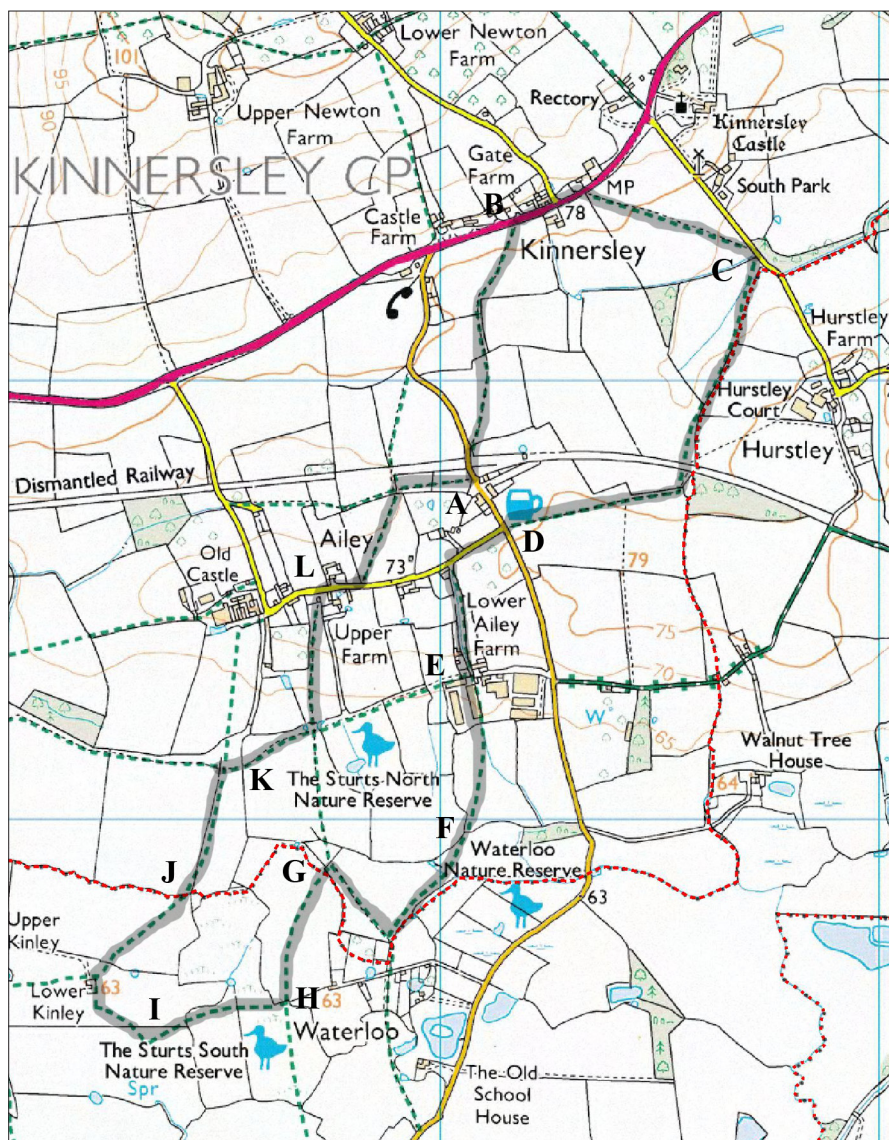




This walk starts at the Kinnersley Arms.

A) Turn left out of the pub car park onto Letton Lane, go over the old railway bridge and carry on for about 200 metres until you reach a metal footpath gate on the right. Go through the gate and follow the footpath diagonally across the field, aiming for the double-gabled black and white timber-framed house on the far side of the main road, to reach another metal footpath gate about 30 metres to the right of the single oak in the hedgerow on the far side of the field. Through this gate, follow the hedgerow on your right to another gate in the corner of this field. Through this, follow the hedgerow on your right to the point where it turns to the right, then cross the field on a diagonal, aiming once again for the black and white timber-framed house, or even better for the obelisk by the hedgerow this side of it, and here you will find a gate out on to a wide verge by the main road.

B) Turn right and keep to the verge past a gate and then barns on the right till you reach a footpath gate. Go through this gate and cross the field diagonally to the far corner, where a gateway will lead you out onto Hurstley Lane.

C) Turn right on the lane and almost immediately take another footpath signposted off to the right, crossing a double stile, and then a bridge over a stream near one of Kinnersley's obelisks and a dead tree. From here the path continues on the line of the bridge to cross the field to the corner in the hedgerow on the far side. This 'corner' might not look obvious until you get closer to it, but if you aim for a point slightly to the left of the right-hand end of the wood on the

horizon beyond the other side of the field, you'll be on roughly the right line. Once you reach the hedge, turn right along it and follow it to the far corner of the field.

Cross the stile in the corner of the field and continue along the hedgerow on your left through the next field, passing out via a kissing gate just to the right of a block of woodland. You'll immediately cross the line of the old railway, and continue across a narrow strip of orchard to pass through a gap in what was once a hedge but is now little more than a bank of rough vegetation, into another orchard. Through the gap, turn right and follow the old hedgeline along on your right, including where it kinks right and then left. At the end of this orchard you reach a stile near another obelisk. Cross the stile and head straight over the next field, aiming just to the right of the tallest conifer. Cross the stile on the far side of the field, then follow the path through gaps left in the lines of trees in another orchard to reach a stile out onto Letton Lane.

D) Cross the road and take that ahead signposted to Ailey. 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.

E) 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.

F) The path crosses an arm of this next field on much the same line that you've been walking to reach a wide concrete bridge into the field beyond. You now follow the field boundary on your left till you reach a footbridge in the next corner. Standing with your back to the bridge, your route leads straight ahead of you across the field to its far side where you will find, slightly to the right of one of the field's corners, a stile. (The path should cross a stile to your left, but that is blocked off at present and is an issue the parish council is pursuing, hence this alternative route at this point.)

G) Cross this and follow the field boundary on your left to a field gate reached after about 100 metres. Go through this and head across the field to its furthest corner, initially aiming to pass between two trees that stand in the middle of the field. In the corner of the field you will find a gateway next to a large oak. Go through this and you will find a wooden bench seat and a three-way finger post on your left.

H) Turn right and initially follow the field boundary on your right for about 10 metres and then carry on across the field to pass through a gateway into the next field. Keep on across the next field, passing to the right of a pond and aiming to the right of a single poplar where, near the corner of the field, you will find a bridge followed by two stiles. Having crossed these, turn right and follow the hedgerow till you come to a double metal gate.

I) Go through this gate and head just to the left of the white-painted Lower Kinley that stands on the far side of the field. When you reach the fence in front of the house, go through a metal field gate and then turn right just past the corner of the house and garden. (OS maps show the path here being on the right-hand [eastern] side of the house, whereas the Definitive Footpath Map shows the route as described, on the left-hand [western] side of the house.) Walk ahead to cross a double stile by a tree in the hedge line, adjacent to a cattle-handling area on your right. Across the stile, aim for the far right-hand corner of the field where you cross a stile followed by a bridge.

J) Once over this ditch, the path crosses the next field, technically aiming for the a point just to the right of the white-painted farmhouse on the far ridge. (This is a large arable field and footpath lines aren't always re-instated, so depending upon the crop in the field and availability of tramlines, you may want to use the headlands on the right of the field as an easier route.) As you near the far side of this field, you need to look out for a gateway in the hedgerow to your right, and this you head for and pass through.

K) Once through the gate, head towards the far left-hand corner of the field where you go through a gate in the hedgerow on the left, reached just beyond a small pond. A wide footpath curves up this next field to The Sturts Nature Reserve car park. (Note the obelisk on the right-hand side when entering the car park.)

L) 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 a footbridge into 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 Letton Lane, where another obelisk is to be found.

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust's The Sturts South Nature Reserve

The 16.1 hectare reserve lies in the flood plain of the River Wye at the western edge of a low-lying basin known as Letton Lakes. This entire area is flooded every winter when the water levels rise in nearby rivers and streams, enriching the grassland soils. The reserve comprises a complex mosaic of grassland and wetland communities. Meadow-sweet, lesser-pond rush and pepper saxifrage can be seen at various areas throughout. There is a wide variety of birds species here throughout the year.

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)