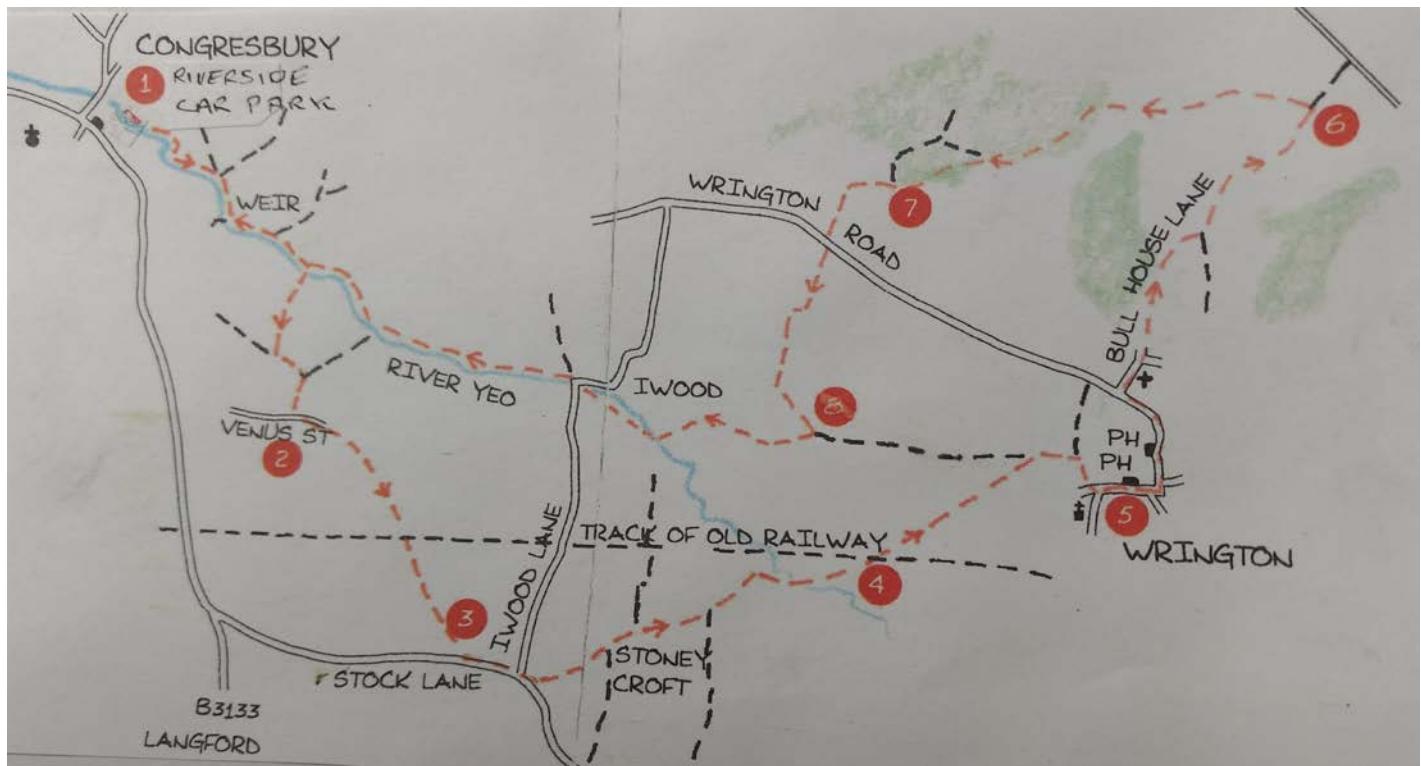


WALK 4

By the Yeo to Wrington. Distance 6.5 miles. Varied terrain, with level river walks, some hill climbs with spectacular views, bluebell woods and a pretty village. Suggested lunch stop at the Golden Lion or Plough in Wrington.



- Park in the Riverside car park and walk over the Millennium Green past the blue bridge, leave the Green in the southwest corner and continue to follow the river on the Two Rivers Way, passing the weir. Walk upstream, with the river on your right, through the next gate, then after 200m, turn right through a gate and over a stone arch bridge over the river. *You should see traces of "Somerset Lane", which crosses this bridge. The lane used to cross the moors, passing Pineapple Farm and Urchinwood on route to Bristol. It was frequently used to transport teasels for the wool trade.*

Follow the path with a rhyne on your left. Go over the bridge with double gates ahead and follow the left-hand boundary to another gate. Go through and go diagonally across the field. *Park Farm, on your right, was at the centre of a late medieval deer park created by the DeRodney family sometime after 1370.* Here go through another gate, following the hedge to the right. After 20 metres, go through a kissing gate, bear right with the hedge still on your right. After 30 metres there's another kissing gate leading to a lane, which takes you to Venus Street. *Venus Street is a corruption of Venny Street, meaning "street leading to the boggy place". Sproads Leaze, an ancient field to the north of Venus Street was named after its owner, Sprud.* Turn left and immediately right through a gate.

- Follow the left hand boundary past a cottage, (*the old corrugated shed in the garden here is the old oil store from Congresbury railway station, thought to be the last remaining building from the site*). Cross through a pedestrian gate in the SE corner of the field (not the field gate). Head diagonally right to a tree in the far hedge, to the left of a telegraph post. Cross a bridge and walk through the solar farm to a raised area which is the line of the old Wrington Vale railway line. *This was a branch of the Cheddar Valley Railway. The Bristol and Exeter Railway Company built the track connecting Yatton to Wells in 1869. This became known as 'The Strawberry Line, for its role in carrying Cheddar Strawberries towards Bristol. It was a victim of Dr Beeching's cuts in 1965. The branch from Congresbury Junction to Wrington and Blagdon opened in 1901, with support from the Bristol Waterworks Company who used it to carry material for the construction of its reservoir at Blagdon. The field names in the vicinity, Rydings, Green Earl and Kayses, suggest origins as medieval woodland.* At the end of the solar farm, take the bridge ahead, and head diagonally left to the right of the electricity substation to a kissing gate onto Stock Lane.

3. Turn left along the road. Take great care on the road, for a very short distance before you can get onto a narrow grassy verge. After passing Iwood Lane, (*note the boundary stone here*) turn left after the first house and follow a track. *Lots of work is going on here to create the new power line from Hinckley Point.* At Stoneycroft continue straight on through two gates onto a track. Where this bends left, take the kissing gate ahead into a large field. Cross the field diagonally, just to the left of two trees, staying roughly parallel to the power line, to a gate in the far hedge, (*at some times of year, you may need to walk round the boundary if the maize is too high*) and after the gate, turn right and continue through two narrow fields, and cross the river by a bridge in the left hand hedge near the end of the second field. Cross the next field diagonally right, heading towards Wrington Church, and cross the stream by a stone bridge.

4. Take the gate onto the Wrington Vale track again, cross the track and take the steps down to a gate. Continue diagonally right across the field to gate and bridge over the stream. *Wrington Sewage Treatment Plant is on your right.* Continue in the same direction across 2 fields passing 2 further sets of gates and bridges. Carry on towards some electricity poles, then, leaving a number of gardens to your right, pass through two modern kissing gates and turn right through a older one down to the road (Ladywell).

5. Turn left and left again into Broad Street, Wrington, passing the Golden Lion on the left. Turn left into High Street passing The Plough, and continue up Westhay Road. (*to miss out the village, you could turn left before the old gate and head up a field with houses on your right until you come to Westhay Road where you turn right to rejoin the walk at Chapel Hill.*)

Turn right into the next road (Chapel Hill) opposite the large stone house, continuing uphill past the chapel to the corner. Proceed up the no-through road Bullhouse Lane. The road becomes a muddy track. Continue uphill for approximately half a mile.

6. Just before the track levels off at the top of the hill turn left through a gate into a field with tin sheds. Cross the centre of the field to a gate, then head diagonally left to a large gap in the hedge in the corner of the next field. From here, keep the wood on your left, and pass two fine oak trees on your right. Take a gate into the woods and follow the path downhill passing the old stone water-catch on your right. *Water catches were a means of catching rainfall for domestic use. This one was in existence in 1903. One of the earliest instances of water catches, in the 14th century, is in the name 'Watership Down' of rabbits fame. ('waater-scope' the water reservoir). Look out for bluebells in April/May.*

Fork left (downhill), follow this path through the wood for about 700 metres, with fields to your left for most of the way.

7. Leave the wood by a kissing gate, keeping to the left hand hedge, and go through a gate at the bottom into a field with Llamas. After this field, follow the short drive through some black gates with white horse-heads, on to Wrington Road. Cross diagonally left to a footpath opposite, and follow a track. Go immediately to the left of the bungalow, (not though the gate alongside) following a long narrow path between two hedges to another gate.

8. Cross the field diagonally left through a gate and turn right after the gate, joining the Two Rivers Way, which comes from the gate to your left. Head across the next field to a metal gatepost, then follow the right hand hedge and stream over a gate and bridge, continuing diagonally left to a bridge beyond the power lines. Cross the Yeo and turn right following the river to Iwood. *The mill here was first definitely referred to in 1228, but was probably a 'Domesday' mill. Unfortunately, it was burnt down in 1892, before the Banwell Volunteer Fire Brigade could reach it. At that time it belonged to the Sheppy Family, who moved their business to 'Sheppy's Mill' in Congresbury the day after the fire. At some times of year, the old mill wheel is still visible here, but the water from the river now generates power for Iwood Manor in a modern turbine house.*

Cross the river by the stone bridge on Iwood Lane and immediately through the gate on the left following the river back to Congresbury passing the weir. Walk through two more fields and the Millennium Green, to the Riverside Carpark.