



From the Town Hall walk through Butter St. & down the High St. Cross Swan St. & continue down Bleachfield St. At the bottom of the street just before the allotments, go through the kissing gate on your left.

Walk with the hedge on your right through an open gate and follow the river to pass through another kissing gate onto a road.

Turn right over the 17th century bridge into Oversley Green. Turn right along Mill Lane & then left up Primrose Lane passing delightful black & white Tudor cottages. At the top of the lane cross the bridle bridge over the A46. Go through a metal gate, turn right & continue uphill along a concrete farm road towards the farm buildings of Lower Oversley Lodge.

Turn left past the silos to follow the farm track for half a mile to a path junction.

Note the view of Ragley Hall away on your right.

Bear right passing two converted barns, Lower Lodge Barn, Lime Tree Barn & a cottage. The track continues through the remains of an avenue of laburnum trees.

Another junction is reached & here a short cut can be taken to shorten the walk if desired. We however will take the left-hand track around the hill with the hedge on the left. *Views of the Lower Arrow Valley & the Cotswolds* begin to open out.

Turn downhill when the track meets an access road to properties at Oversley Castle. Continue downhill until you see a kissing gate on your right waymarked Heart of England Way. Go through the

gate passing a large house then through decorative wrought iron gate.

Turn immediately right on a lane alongside Wixford Church.

The banksides here are covered with snowdrops in late January/February. Also, in the churchyard there is an old thatched stable once used for the vicar's horse. You are now on the old Roman Road, Ryknield Street which having crossed the River Avon at Bidford runs in an almost straight line to Lichfield.

We will only follow it (now only a footpath, as far as the A46). Halfway along the short cut from Oversley Castle joins us from the right. Your path now widens to a farm track. As you approach the A46 look out for the path angling to your left to the main road.

Cross the A46 with care & continue along a path through trees that eventually reaches a tarmac lane. Turn right along the lane passing a caravan park Look out for a waymarked path on your left leading down to a footbridge over the River Arrow.

Continue along the tarmac path to Bleachfield Street & re-trace your steps back to the centre of Alcester & the end of your four & a half mile walk.

Wherever you go follow

The Country Code

- Respect the life of the countryside
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Leave gates as you find them
- Keep your dogs under close control
- Keep to public paths across farmland
- Use gates & stiles to cross fences, hedges & walls
- Leave livestock, crops & machinery alone
- Take your litter home
- Help to keep all water clean
- Protect wildlife, plants & trees
- Take special care on country roads
- Make no unnecessary noise

Civic society publications

Local walks leaflets

1. Oversley Hill – 4.5miles
2. Alcock's Arbour – 5 miles
3. Coughton – 4.5 miles
4. Alcester Heath – 6 miles
- 5.
6. Broom – 6 miles

Oversley Castle

There is an interesting story behind the white building at Upper Oversley Lodge. It seems that the Prince of Wales was staying with the second Marquis of Hertford at Ragley Hall. Prior to departure he said, *"All this view needs now to make it perfect is a folly!"* Needless-to-say, it was not long before the tower was built on the highest point of the hill opposite.

Recently Oversley Castle has been massively altered & a much altered building is now under construction

For further detail see:

OS EXPLORER MAP 205
STRATFORD & EVESHAM
1:25,000 scale

ALCESTER CIVIC SOCIETY

Local Walks

No. 1

Oversley Hill



Wixford Church

Length 4.5 miles

Time 2 hours