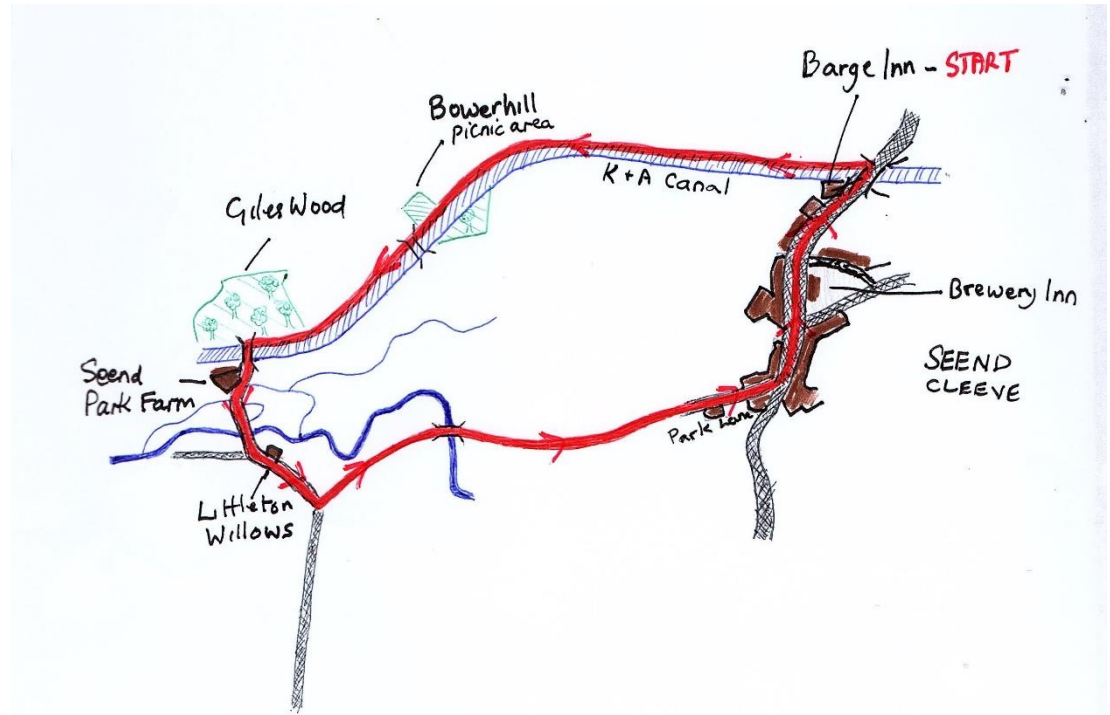


WALKS AROUND SEEND AND SEEND CLEEVE

The following walk descriptions and maps have been contributed by a few villagers who like to walk; they are not the responsibility of Seend and District Ramblers, the Parish Council or any other body. They are as accurate as a group of amateurs could make them!

Walk No. 1.

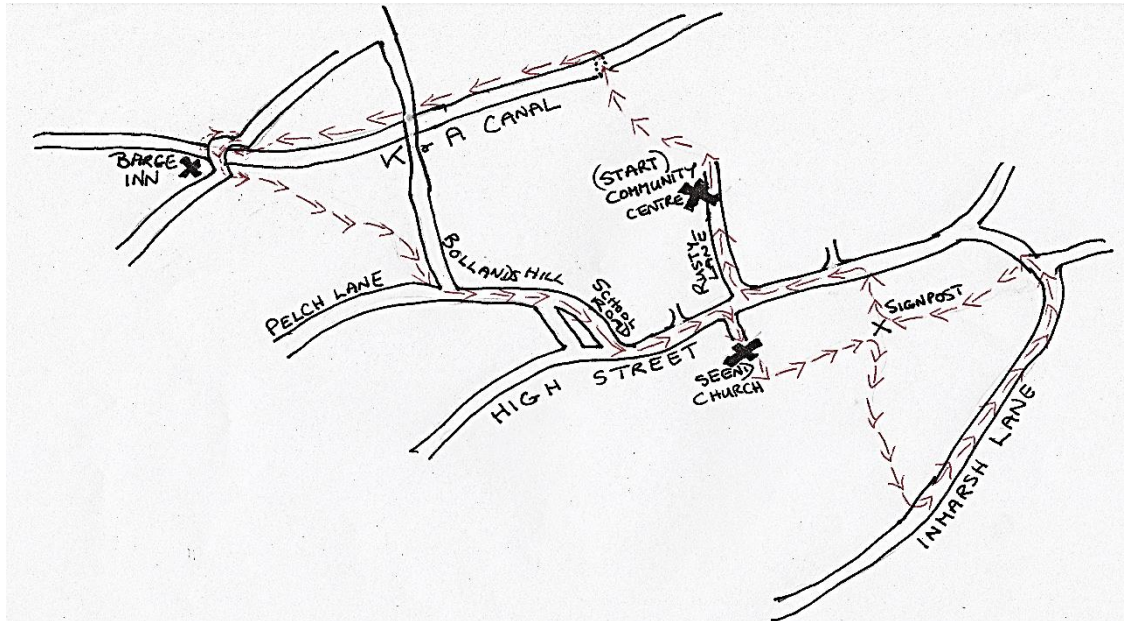
Seend Cleeve,
Kennet and Avon
Canal and Littleton
circular. An easy
leisurely 3 mile
walk with no stiles.
Starting point The
Barge Inn, Seend
Cleeve. OS
Explorer map 156
Grid Ref: 932614



1. Start at the Barge Inn Car Park. Turn left out of the car park, go over the canal bridge. Drop down onto the canal towpath and turn right towards Semington.
2. Continue along the towpath. Hopefully you will see some colourful canal traffic and ducks, swans and maybe a heron. At the first swing bridge look out for the picnic area on your right. The Bowerhill residents group have created a delightful nature haven with trees, shrubs and flowers to attract insects and wildlife.
3. Continue to the next bridge. Here, on the right, you will find Giles Wood, 5,000 trees planted from 1993 by Freddie Giles, local entrepreneur and benefactor, for all to enjoy.
4. Cross over the bridge and continue on the metalled track, past Seend Park Farm to Littleton.
5. Turn left at the junction and walk past Littleton Willows on the left.
6. At a slight right hand bend, go through the large metal farm gate on the left onto the signposted Bridleway.
7. Follow the path diagonally to the gap in the hedge.
8. Continue towards the wooden bridge over Semington Brook.
9. Go over the bridge and head for the small metal gate in the hedge and walk ahead onto the verdant Bridleway
10. Continue on the Bridleway which, after another metal gate, becomes Park Lane.
11. At the top of the lane turn left and continue along the road past the Brewery on your right until you reach the Barge Inn Car Park. Just before the car park, look to your left and you may see Wadworth's magnificent Shire horses grazing in their paddock.

Walk No. 2

Figure-of-eight walk from Seend Community Centre in Rusty Lane, where there is normally plenty of parking available, though if it should be busy you can park on



the main road or in the residential roads nearby.

Approximately 4 miles, taking about 100 minutes, with a couple of moderate ascents and four stiles. Each loop of the figure-of-eight on either side of the High Street could be done as a separate shorter walk, but together they offer a range of canal towpath, country lanes, rustic footpaths, views across toward Salisbury Plain and glimpses of grand houses. There are several benches on the route should you need a rest, or you could stop for refreshment at the Barge Inn or do a slight detour to the smaller Brewery Inn, both in Seend Cleeve.

At the far end of Rusty Lane, with your back to the Community Centre entrance, go left down the lane between high hedges. You soon come to a junction of several paths; continue straight down Rusty Lane which is between the paths to Spiderweb Paddock and Little Foxes.

Follow the path all the way to the canal. Cross the swing bridge and turn left along the towpath.

After Lock 21 you have to cross the road to rejoin the towpath. Please take care as there is often fast traffic on this road.

After Lock 19, go under the road bridge then take the path to the left of the Canal and River Trust Rubbish Disposal Point, doubling back on yourself on to the bridge. (Have a look at the information panel about Seend Ironworks which operated during the 19th century.)

Cross over the bridge toward the Barge Inn but turn left over the stile at the end of the bridge, taking the grassy path between fences. * Follow this uphill, passing a circle of willows on your left, until you reach a stile. After climbing the stile, bear right towards the clump of trees and follow the fence around the left-hand edge of the trees to another stile. Climb the stile and follow the fence on your left until you reach another stile. Climb the stile and cross the road turning left along the pavement until you reach a road junction. Follow the signpost towards Seend and Worton. **

Cross the road at the lowered pavement and take the left fork on to School Road. Continue along this road, passing Seend School and stopping to admire the mosaic wall created by a resident of Oriel Villa just past the school.

Turn left when you reach the main road and walk along Seend High Street, passing the village shop, until you reach a turning on the right, just before a dropped pavement, signposted to Seend's beautiful 15th century church, which you are welcome to visit. Immediately after entering the churchyard through the gate or kissing gate, take the left-hand path through the graveyard around the church until you reach another kissing gate. (There is a bench to your right at the bottom of the graveyard where you can sit and admire the view.)

Go through the kissing gate and follow the path ahead, with glimpses of the rear of the grand houses on the southern side of the High Street on your left, some built by wealthy clothiers in the 18th century, and a superb view towards Westbury and Salisbury Plain on your right.

Pass two lone chestnut trees on your left. Go through another kissing gate, follow the path with a high fence on your left (looking out for a decorated tree on your right) until you reach some stone steps, where there is a bench and a signpost. Turn right at the foot of these steps and follow the wide, grassy path (signposted to Inmarsh) which narrows and bears right through trees.

Follow this path downhill until a stile takes you on to a narrow road, Inmarsh Lane. Turn left and follow the road until you bear left at the top of the hill at the aptly named Brow Cottage.

Immediately after the 30mph sign before you reach the main road, there is a kissing gate on your left. Go through this and follow the path ahead with a fence on your right until, as the view opens up in front of you beyond the trees, you go through an iron gate and turn right. There is a fence on the right which eventually becomes a hedge and then a wall, at the end of which you go through a stile (broken and just a gap in the fence at the time of writing) and turn right taking the grassy path signposted to High Street, through a gate to a circular bench around a tree.

Turn left along the High Street. Cross the road and turn right down Rusty Lane, just past the Lye Recreation Field, which takes you back to the Community Centre.

** The first 20 metres or so of this path can be boggy in very wet weather. If impassable, an alternative route is as follows:*

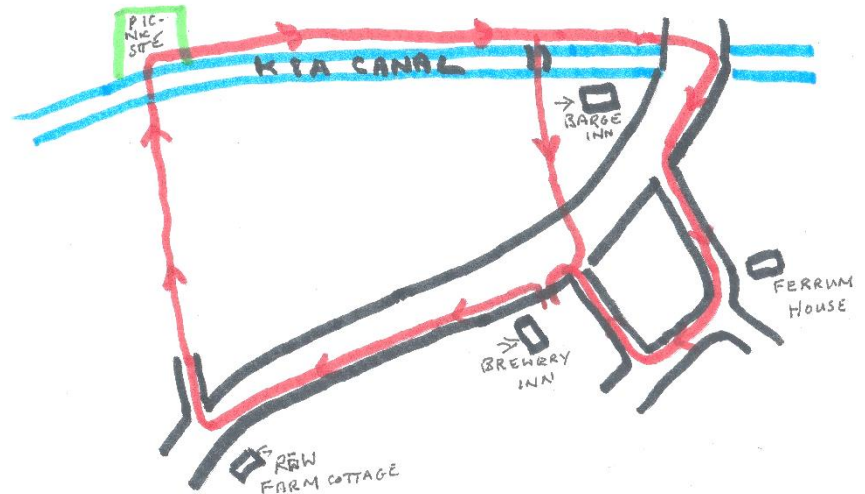
Just past the stile, turn left up the bridleway which has the names of Dormer Cottage and Ferrum House on stone pillars. Keep right on the bridleway, ignoring the fork to Dormer Cottage on the left. Stop and look over the field gate on your left a bit further up the bridle path, and you will see what looks like a heap of rubble at the far side of the field. This is in fact all that remains of the ruins of the huge ironworks described in the information panel

you have recently passed. At the top of the bridleway, turn right with a stone wall on your right until reaching another pair of pillars at which you turn left along the road. Continue along this road (Pelch Lane) which bears left at the entrance to a farmyard, until you reach a road junction. (There is a bench at this junction if you need a rest.) Take the pavement to your right, following the fingerpost in the direction of Seend and Worton. At this point you can rejoin the instructions at **.

Walk No. 3

Walk from the Brewery Inn, through Seend Cleeve and back along the canal.

Approximately one hour.
All field tracks on this walk can be very muddy in wet weather so suitable footwear is needed.



On leaving the car park of The Brewery Inn turn left following the road uphill. Pass the telephone box (now used as a book exchange) and, ignoring the sharp turning left, continue until you reach Park Lane, the first turning on the right, opposite Rew Farm Bungalow. Go down the lane, past all the houses, until you reach the farm gates that lead to two separate bridleways. Take the right-hand gate leading to the track between the field hedge and a wire fence.

Please make sure you shut this and all other gates behind you. Go through the gate at the end and straight across the field to the gap in the hedge which is sometimes gated. There are occasionally cattle in this field. Continue straight ahead across the next field along the grass track through the meadow to reach the gate by the swing bridge over the canal. If the bridge is open you can push it closed from this side of the canal. Cross the bridge and turn right along the towpath. You could stop for a while at the picnic site on the other side of the bridge.

The canal bends gently right with an old woodland on the opposite bank and then a good view of Seend Cleeve village on the hill.

(If you wish to shorten your walk, after lock 17 cross the stone footbridge and follow the well-fenced footpath across the field. This land is owned by the Wadworth brewery and you may see their shire horses grazing there. At the road, turn right and follow it back to the Brewery.)

Otherwise carry on until you reach the road bridge by The Barge Inn. To cross the bridge go up the narrow path to your left just before it. By the small car park at the top you will find an information board about the Seend ironworks that were here in the 19th century.

Cross the bridge and take the immediate left turn up the bridleway between the stone pillars marked Dormer Cottage and Ferrum House. Bear right up the hill, ignoring the drive leading to Dormer Cottage.

If you look to your left at the far end of the field you will see a rocky mound. This is the remains of one of the blast furnaces from the iron works. The large building with two towers further up the hill is Ferrum House, originally the home of the iron works manager. To your right is a field recently planted as an arboretum of native trees.

The track takes a sharp right bend at the top, leading to a grass triangle in the road. Follow the road to the right, then turn right into Perrys Lane, the roughly metalled road that leads downhill. At the bottom turn left and you will find yourself back at the Brewery Inn.