

The Cross Foxes and River Dee, Erbistock, Wrexham



Challenging Terrain

5.5 miles
Circular
2.5 to 3
hours

161213



Access Notes



1. *The walk follows a mixture of field and woodland paths alongside the River Dee, all of which can get very muddy so good waterproof boots are a must (along with a change of shoes for the pub!).*
2. *If the River Dee is in flood (after periods of heavy rain) some of the paths can be flooded so do not attempt the walk at these times.*
3. *There are several climbs and descents throughout and you will need to negotiate several gates plus seven stiles.*
4. *Many of the fields are likely to be holding dairy cattle and these showed some aggression towards our dog, so this isn't a walk we'd recommend for dog walkers unless you are very confident around cattle.*

The Cross Foxes is a wonderful pub sitting high on the banks overlooking the River Dee.

A 5.5 mile circular pub walk from the Cross Foxes in Erbistock, near Wrexham. The walking route heads east over pastures and through woodland to reach the nearby village of Overton, before returning along the banks of the beautiful River Dee. A lovely walk with chance to explore the classic farmland of this part of North Wales, plus the picturesque, peaceful, meandering River Dee.

Getting there

The walk starts and finishes from the Cross Foxes pub, which is situated on the A528 Wrexham Road just a couple of miles north of Erbistock.

Approximate post code **LL13 0DR**.

Walk Sections



Start to Ansey Park Farm



From the pub car park, cross over the road with care and then turn right along the pavement. Follow this over Overton Bridge with the River Dee running far below. Continue up the hill and past a red brick farmhouse. Immediately afterwards turn left down the lane marked as a 'no through road'. Follow this pretty lane between hedgerows for some distance.

You will pass the property called Dol Goed, and then follow the track as it swings right passing another pretty brick cottage on the left. Just a few paces later, immediately before a large oak tree, turn right through a wide farm gate (Note: you are likely to come across dairy cattle from this point so take care, particularly if you have dogs with you). Keep left through an open gateway and you'll see the footpath sign to your left (hiding behind the oak tree). Stay close to the hedge line on the right through this long pasture. At the far end of the field you'll come to a wide metal gate with the farm buildings of Ansey Park Farm to the left.

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1 → 2 Ansey Park Farm to Dorlan Plantation



Go through the gate and keep straight ahead along the left hand edge of this next cattle pasture. Pass through the next gate and after just a few paces the hedge line on the left, swings away to the left. At this point keep straight ahead through the centre of the field (heading for the left-hand edge of the furthest hillside woodland on your right).

Keep ahead as the field narrows and you'll come to another metal gate at the end. Pass through this to join a section of woodland path, with the River Dee now visible through the trees to your left. Soon you'll be walking alongside a section of particularly majestic, tall, straight poplar trees. At the end of the woodland section, pass through a kissing gate and keep straight ahead through the next pasture (again likely to be holding cattle), keeping along the left-hand edge alongside the river. At the far side you'll reach a stile into the next section of woodland, the Dorlan Plantation.

2 → 3 Dorlan Plantation to Argoed Lane



Once over the stile, fork right to take the path heading steeply uphill, passing diagonally through the woodland. Take care on this path as it can be very slippery when wet. At the top, pass through the gate and turn right along the right-hand edge of this field. Cross the stile into the next field and cross this at 11 o'clock, heading for the left of the farmhouse visible ahead.

Towards the far corner (before you reach the farmhouse), turn left over a stile, and then turn right following the right-hand field hedge line. When the hedge ends (and a wall begins), go right out through a metal gate and turn left along the farm access lane. After just a few yards you'll come to a T-junction with the road, Argoed Lane. Argoed Lane has its own claim to fame. In 1939 Miss Wybergh of Argoed Lane (but previously of Overton Hall) joined the ATS (the women's branch of the Army) at the age of 69, but saying she was just 55. She is thought to have been the oldest serving ATS member in the country. She was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours of 1945.

3 → 4 Argoed Lane to Sleeper Bridge



Turn right along Argoed Lane. After just a few yards, turn left over a stile marked with a footpath sign for Bangor Road. Cross straight over this field and take the stile on the opposite side out to Bangor Lane. (Note: if for any reason you don't want to take this path – like excess mud, stile height or cattle! – you can continue along Argoed Lane and there are two more footpaths, via gates, which cross to Bangor Lane, so take your pick).

Turn right along the grass verge alongside the lane and follow it into Overton village. (Take care of any traffic and cross the road when necessary to stay on the widest verge). Once within the village keep ahead on the pavement and follow the road into the centre of the village. At the end of Turning Street you'll come to a T-junction with the main road. Turn right (signed to Wrexham and Ruabon).

You'll pass a pretty row of terraced cottages, known as Dispensary Row, with their distinctive arched doors. Continue on the pavement, passing the playing fields and heading out of the village. Look out in the hedge line on the left for a footpath sign. Cross the main road with care to take this, passing through a metal kissing gate into woodland.

Keep straight ahead on the stone path swinging left and heading downhill. Half way down, the path swings right and heads through the centre of another majestic section of tall trees. As you emerge from the woodland you'll come to a sleeper bridge with a stile just beyond.

4 → 5 Sleeper Bridge to End



Cross the bridge and stile and then take the right-hand of the two footpaths, passing through the centre of the field (again you may come across cattle here). After just a little distance you'll be following the path along the grass banks with the River Dee immediately on the left.

The River Dee rises in Snowdonia and flows for a total of 70 miles. Beyond this point it flows through the city of Chester and then flows out to sea via the Dee Estuary (which forms the north-easternmost section of the North Wales coast and the western

coast of the Wirral).

At the end of the field, pass through the gateway and follow the track through the edge of woodland (with the river still on the left). Pass through the next gate and keep right following the woodland edge on the right. Beyond the next gateway take the left-hand of the two paths (the level path close to the hedge-line on the left).

The path continues through the next gate into woodland with the river once again visible on the left. Continue through a section of pine forest and you'll emerge through a gate into another open field. Keep ahead along the left boundary and in the corner you'll hear the roar of the river water rushing over the weir. (There's a small path down to the left if you wish to see this up close). Bear right and follow the fence-line on the left as it climbs and winds along the field edge.

After passing a couple of properties on the left, turn left over the stile and you'll come to a T-junction with the main road. Turn left for a few paces, then cross over with care to join the pavement on the opposite side. (You should now recognise this section from the outward leg). Continue for just a short distance to reach the Cross Foxes for some well-earned hospitality.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

