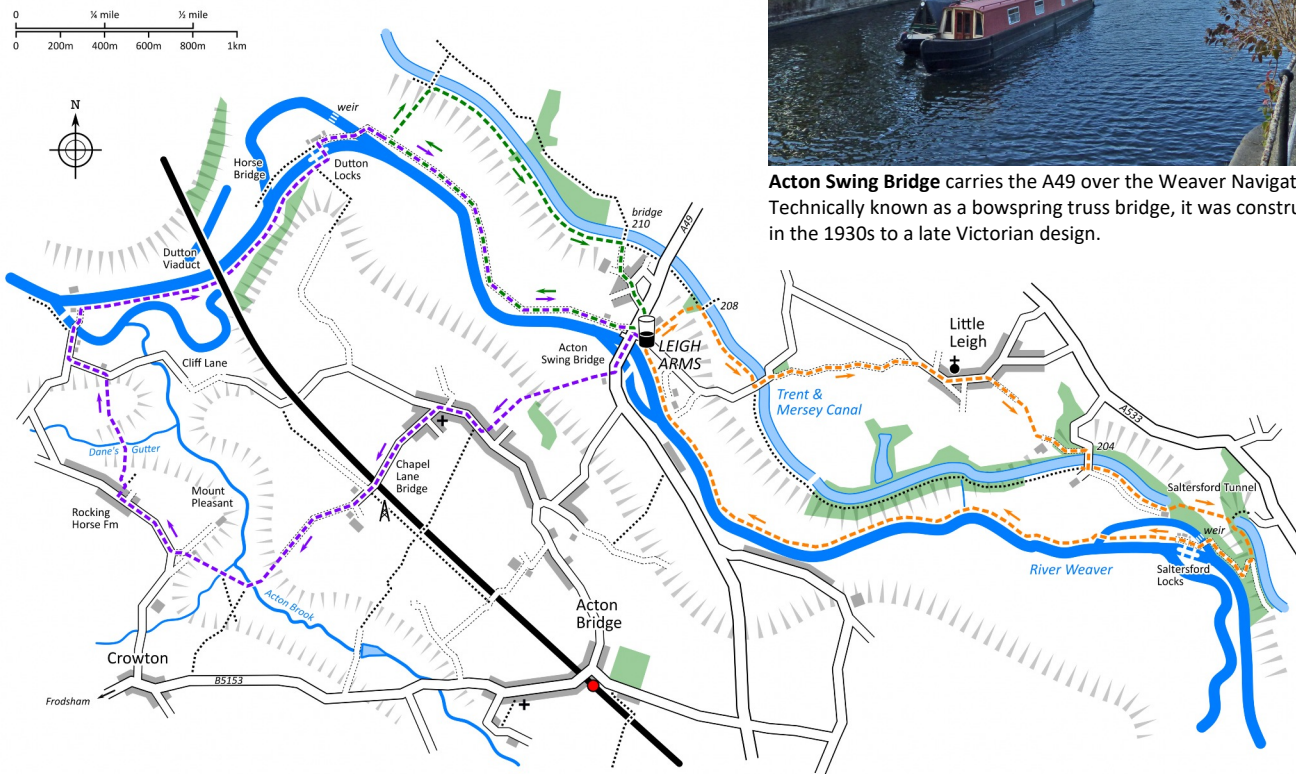




This packhorse bridge spans Acton Brook near Crowton.



Acton Swing Bridge carries the A49 over the Weaver Navigation. Technically known as a bowspring truss bridge, it was constructed in the 1930s to a late Victorian design.



Dutton Viaduct is Grade II* listed and was completed in 1836. Railway pioneer George Stephenson was one of its designers.



St Michael and All Angels Church in Little Leigh was built in 1879 to a design by Edmund Kirby, who trained with E. W. Pugin and John Douglas.



Salterford Tunnel on the Trent & Mersey Canal is 424 yards long. As one end cannot be seen from the other, a timed entry system operates.

three circular walks from

The Leigh Arms Acton Bridge, Cheshire



Leigh Arms,
Little Leigh
18th December 2018

River and canal stroll

2¼ miles: Easy

A simple and pleasant stroll beside the River Weaver, returning along the Trent & Mersey Canal.

Little Leigh and Salterford

4½ miles: Fairly easy

A varied walk by way of village, canal tunnel, capacious locks and quiet riverside fields.

Dutton Viaduct & the Weaver

4¾ miles: Moderate

A walk through rolling countryside to an impressive viaduct with a straightforward riverside return.

River and canal stroll

2¼ miles: Easy

Allow 1½ hours. One minor climb. May be muddy in places after rain.

1 From the car park entrance, turn left and walk out to the main road. **2** Cross carefully and follow the no-through road opposite as it bends left towards the river and bridge, and then right past some houses. **3** Follow the metalled road alongside the river for a little under a mile, until you are within sight of the bridge at Dutton Lock, then turn right through a metal hand-gate onto a footpath signposted to Dutton. **4** Follow the footpath along a hedge between fields and up the slope to the Trent and Mersey Canal. **5** Turn right onto the towpath and follow it for three-quarters of a mile. **6** At bridge 210, just beyond a canal milestone showing the distances to Shardlow (near Derby) and Preston Brook (near Runcorn), turn right and follow the track away from the canal. **7** Turn left at the bottom, beyond the farm, and walk out to the road. **8** Turn right and follow the road past a mobile home park to emerge on the main road. **9** Cross carefully and follow the road opposite back to the Leigh Arms.

Little Leigh and Saltersford

4½ miles: Fairly easy

Allow 2–2½ hours. May be muddy in places after rain.

1 From the car park entrance nearest the pub, cross Willow Green Lane into the road opposite. **2** Before the first house, turn right onto a footpath alongside the garden. **3** Follow the path along the right-hand edge of a field and through some trees to the canal. **4** Drop down left onto the towpath and turn right, under bridge 208. **5** Follow the canal for quarter of a mile to the next bridge, where you leave the towpath and turn left over the road bridge. **6** Turn immediately right into a byway which runs to the right of Friar's Rough, a scrap of ancient woodland. **7** The path crosses a field and joins a hedged farm track, which leads out to a road. **8** Turn right into Little Leigh, passing the church on your left. **9** When the road bends slightly left, take a signposted path on the right, by a dog bin. **10** This hedged track narrows to a footpath beyond a gate then after a wooden gate leads between hedges to a house. **11** Pass respectfully and follow the driveway down to the road. **12** Turn right over the canal, then turn right onto the towpath and right again to pass under the bridge (bridge 204). **13** Follow the towpath for quarter of a mile to the entrance to Saltersford Tunnel. **14** Follow the path beside the house and climb past a canal milepost and pass the top of a tunnel airshaft before descending through a metal gate to rejoin the towpath at the far end of the tunnel. **15** Follow the right-hand bank of the canal basin to a road, where you turn right, marked "No entry" (for cars), and wind down to the River Weaver. **16** Follow the road alongside the river to Saltersford Locks, where you cross the weir-stream and pass the lock-keeper's house. **17** After a second house, follow the riverside path to a footbridge over the weir-stream. **18** Having crossed, bear

left. **19** Follow the river for a mile and a half, passing through a series of gates with the wooded slopes below the canal away to your right, and, after a while, houses on the far bank of the river. **20** As you approach the swingbridge, you pass a brick building; ignore a farm track off to the right and continue along the riverside past the rowing club. **21** Keep left alongside the river when the access road swings right then, before the swingbridge, turn right up steps back to the Leigh Arms.

Dutton Viaduct & the Weaver

4¾ miles: Moderate

Allow 2½–3 hours. This route may be muddy after rain, and possibly a little overgrown in places in summer.

1 From the car park entrance, turn left and walk out to the main road. **2** Cross carefully and turn left, over the swingbridge. **3** Continue along the pavement as the road swings left and look out for a stile on your right just after a road-sign. **4** Drop down past a smallholding to a stile and footbridge, and bear half-right in the field beyond to a metal kissing gate beside a farmer's gate. **5** Bear left to a wooden stile, then climb the scrubby bank beyond to another stile. **6** Walk along the right-hand side of a grassy enclosure to another stile, which gives access to a path between gardens out to the road. **7** Turn right and follow the pavement for 250 yards, passing the end of Wetton Lane. **8** Turn left into Chapel Lane, passing the Methodist Church on your left. **9** Follow the road down to Chapel Lane Bridge and cross the railway. **10** Pass a handsome house on your right then, at the more modern house at the farm entrance, keep right down a muddy tractor track. **11** Continue along the narrowing green lane as the track ends, eventually descending to a small stone bridge, thought to be a pack-horse bridge. **12** Once over the stream, turn immediately right and cross the field to a footbridge. **13** Walk up the left-hand side of the next field to a gate by a stable building. **14** After a second gate, turn left down the drive from Mount Pleasant and then turn right at the road. **15** Pass houses to left and right, then opposite Rocking Horse Farm (on your left) turn right between buildings and cross a stile to the left of a brick barn. **16** Go over another stile ahead and turn left, then follow the field boundary round to the right and down into the minor valley of Dane's Gutter. **17** Climb the bank beyond to a gate, then follow the left-hand edge of the following field until you reach Cliff Lane. **18** Turn left to a T-junction, then turn right down a no-through road. **19** After some cottages and at the entrance to a mobile home park, turn right (with a Weaver Way signpost towards Northwich). **20** Cross the former course of the Weaver and continue to the main Navigation. **21** Turn right and follow the path to and below Dutton Viaduct. **22** Continue past the Horse Bridge (on the opposite bank) to Dutton Locks. **23** Cross via the lock gates and turn right past the houses. **24** Cross the bridge over the weir-stream and follow the metalled track alongside the Weaver for a mile, until you reach the swingbridge. **25** Cross the road to return to the Leigh Arms.

WELCOME TO THE LEIGH ARMS AT LITTLE LEIGH

There has been an inn here for many years and the original road went past the front of the pub and crossed the River Weaver on the old bridge, which is now part of the Acton Bridge Cruising Club. It is now an ideal place to enjoy a drink or a meal in relaxing surroundings. Relax in the lounge and read complimentary newspapers, enjoy a drink in the cosy snug, or sit outside in the garden where children can play in our play area. Dogs are very welcome in the snug!

We serve a range of ales and lagers from Robinson's Brewery. Our cask ales will suit the connoisseur with the guest selections changing frequently.

Our extensive wine list covers all tastes with wines from New Zealand, South Africa, France and Italy. Of course, we have a large selection of soft drinks as well as tea and coffees. You are welcome to eat in the bar areas.

We have a variety of freshly made meal choices whatever the occasion. Have a meal or a snack from our menu or choose from the specials board. Booking is advised at busy times.

- All major credit cards accepted
- Family-friendly
- Outdoor children's play area
- Disabled facilities
- Friendly staff
- Dog-friendly (in bar area and snug)
- Large beer garden
- Large car park
- Live music every Thursday

THE LEIGH ARMS

Warrington Rd, Little Leigh, Northwich CW8 4QT

tel 01606 853327

email jo@leigharms.co.uk

web www.leigharms.co.uk

Opening hours

Mon–Sat 12:00–23:00
Sun 12:00–22:30

Food served

Mon–Thu 12:00–14:30, 17:30–20:30
Fri–Sat 12:00–20:45
Sun 12:00–17:00