

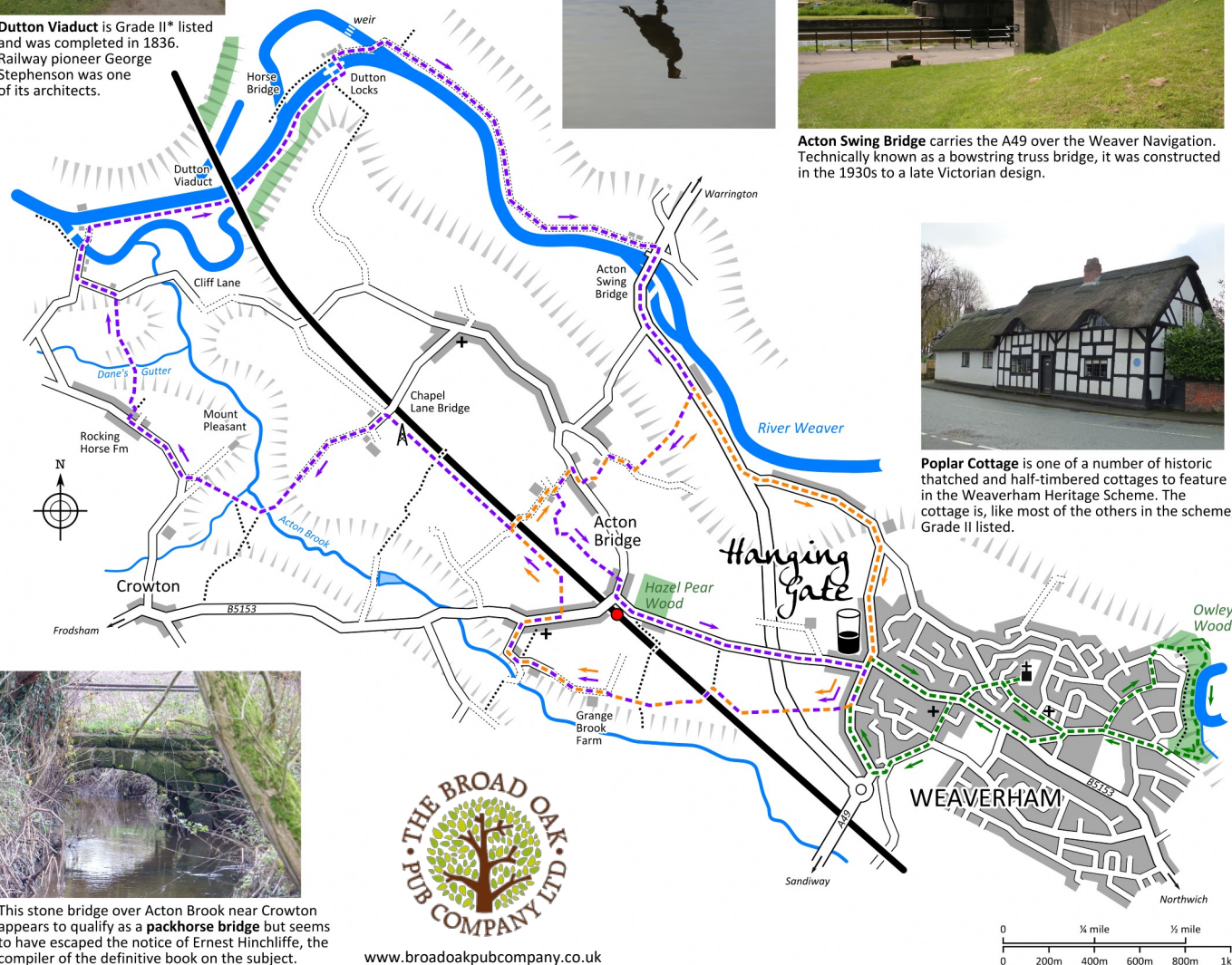


**Dutton Viaduct** is Grade II\* listed and was completed in 1836. Railway pioneer George Stephenson was one of its architects.

**Cormorants** are frequently seen along the River Weaver. Formerly confined mainly to coasts, they are now fairly common inland, to the chagrin of coarse anglers.



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



This stone bridge over Acton Brook near Crowton appears to qualify as a **packhorse bridge** but seems to have escaped the notice of Ernest Hinchliffe, the compiler of the definitive book on the subject.



[www.broadoakpubcompany.co.uk](http://www.broadoakpubcompany.co.uk)



**Poplar Cottage** is one of a number of historic thatched and half-timbered cottages to feature in the Weaverham Heritage Scheme. The cottage is, like most of the others in the scheme, Grade II listed.

# Three circular walks from the Hanging Gate

Weaverham, Cheshire



## Weaverham stroll 2.9 miles: Fairly easy

A pleasant stroll around the village including a riverside section within a Community Woodland.

## Acton Bridge 3.5 miles: Moderate

A walk along field-paths to a neighbouring village, with views over the Weaver valley.

## Dutton Locks & the Weaver 8 miles: Moderate

Varied walking through rolling countryside with a scenic stretch along the Weaver Navigation.

### THE HANGING GATE

1 Sandy Lane, Weaverham, Northwich CW8 3HG

tel 01606 852969

website [www.hanginggateweaverham.co.uk](http://www.hanginggateweaverham.co.uk)

email [info@hanginggateweaverham.co.uk](mailto:info@hanginggateweaverham.co.uk)

OPEN: Mon to Sat 12 noon–11pm

Sun 12 noon–10.30pm

FOOD SERVED: Sun to Thu 12 noon–9pm

Fri to Sat 12 noon–9.30pm



# Weaverham stroll

## 2.9 miles: Fairly easy

*Allow 2 hours. Mostly on tarmac, but with a moderate stepped descent and ascent and muddy ground within Owley Wood.*

**1** From the front door of the Hanging Gate, cross into High Street and walk towards the village centre. **2** Pass the Wheatsheaf Inn and turn left into Church Street. **3** At the junction with Pinfold Way, near to the parish church, bear right into Church Lane (or continue straight ahead to visit the church, returning the same way). **4** At the T-junction beyond St Bede's RC Church, turn left along Wallerscote Road, then left into Barrymore Road. **5** Pass Owley Wood Club on your left, then turn left into Ainsworth Road. **6** At the end of the road, cross over, turn right and go through the kissing gate into Owley Wood. **7** Follow the path ahead past a bench and into the wood, ignoring a stile in the fence on your left. **8** Turn left (signposted "Riverside Walk") and go down the steps. **9** Turn right at the bottom, and join a boardwalk section alongside the river which ascends via intermittent steps. **10** The path leaves the river, initially following a small stream, then swings right and up a flight of steps. **11** Bear right to the kissing gate at the corner of the wood and turn left into Wallerscote Road. **12** Turn right and follow the road towards the village centre, passing Weaverham Cricket Club on your left. **13** At the Ring O' Bells, turn right along Northwich Road, passing a row of shops on your right and Lakehouse Field on your left. **14** Opposite the Wheatsheaf, turn left into Forest Street. **15** Follow the road to its junction with West Road, near the Weaverham Roundabout. **16** Turn right and follow West Road back to the Hanging Gate.

## Acton Bridge

### 3.5 miles: Moderate

*Allow 2 hours. Some minor slopes; may be muddy after wet weather. Multiple stiles, and some road walking at the end.*

**1** From the front door of the Hanging Gate, turn right along West Road. **2** Opposite the narrow entrance to Tower Lane (on your left), turn right into a narrow footpath between hedged gardens. **3** Follow the fenced path to a stile then descend into the cutting containing the A49. **4** Cross the busy road quickly but carefully, and go up the other side. **5** Bear right to a stile then follow the left-hand edge of the field, bearing right at the railway line. **6** Cross the footbridge on your left and head half-right across a field on the other side to a stile by a gate in the corner. **7** Follow the left-hand edge of the next two fields, joining a metalled lane beyond a final stile. **8** After Grange Brook Farm, pass some houses on your left and, ignoring a driveway on the left with a footpath sign, follow the road round to the right. **9** On reaching the B5153 in Acton Bridge, turn right and walk past Milton Baptist Church on your right. **10** Before the road begins to rise to cross the railway, turn left at a footpath sign over a stile next to a gate.

**11** After a short trackway between gardens, bear left and right to the railway, which you follow to the left. *For the Dutton Locks & the Weaver walk, jump to step 12 below.* **12** Otherwise, after a fenced section between kissing gates, turn right over the railway bridge and follow the lane out to the public road. **13** Turn right past the Tennis and Bowls Club, then turn left onto a footpath through a gate alongside a garden fence (*the path here was subject to a minor diversion at the time of writing: follow on-site notices and signage*). **14** After a gate and stile, walk down the left-hand side of a field to the right of a house and then cross two stiles to the end of Strawberry Lane. **15** Turn right along the hedged green lane. **16** When the way ahead is blocked by a gate, turn left over a stile. **17** Follow the path downhill with views over the Weaver valley. **18** At the bottom of the hill, go through a kissing gate onto the A49. **19** Cross carefully and turn right, along the pavement. **20** At the junction with Sandy Lane (B5144, signposted "Weaverham"), turn left. **21** Follow the B-road for about three quarters of a mile, passing the junction with Well Lane on the left partway along, until you find yourself back at the Hanging Gate.

## Dutton Locks & the Weaver

### 8 miles: Moderate

*Allow 4–5 hours. Some minor ascents and descents and may be muddy or overgrown in season. Numerous stiles, and some road walking at the end.*

Follow steps **1** to **11** of the **Acton Bridge** walk, above.

**12** After a fenced section between kissing gates, pass a bridge and continue beside the railway for a further three fields, passing (but not crossing) a footbridge and then a mobile phone mast in the last. **13** At Chapel Lane Bridge, turn left, away from the railway, past a handsome house on the right. **14** At the more modern house at the farm entrance, keep right down a muddy tractor track. **15** Continue along the narrowing green lane as the track ends, eventually descending to a small stone bridge. **16** Once over the stream, turn immediately right and cross the field to a footbridge. **17** Walk up the left-hand side of the next field to a gate by a stable building. **18** After a second gate, turn left down the drive from Mount Pleasant and then turn right at the road. **19** 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. **20** 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. **21** Climb the bank beyond to a gate, then follow the left-hand edge of the following field until you reach Cliff Lane. **22** Turn left to a T-junction, then turn right down a no-through road. **23** After some cottages and at the entrance to a mobile home park, turn right (with a Weaver Way signpost towards Northwich). **24** Cross the former course of the Weaver and continue to the main Navigation. **25** Turn right and follow the path to and below Dutton Viaduct. **26** Continue past the Horse Bridge (on the

opposite bank) to Dutton Locks. **27** Cross via the lock gates and turn right past the houses. **28** Cross the bridge over the weir stream and follow the metalled track alongside the Weaver for a mile, until you reach Acton Swing Bridge. **29** Climb the steps next to the brick control tower and turn right across the near footway of the bridge. **30** Follow the A49 round a left-hand bend (ignoring a footpath on the right) and cross the end of Acton Lane onto a combined footway/cycleway. **31** Just after the Riverside Inn, turn right through a wooden kissing gate onto a footpath. **32** Climb the hill via a series of stiles until you emerge in a green lane, which you follow to the right. **33** At the beginning of the metalled lane, turn left and, beyond two stiles, walk up the right-hand side of a field to the left of the last house. **34** A further stile leads to a gate and thence out to the road (*the path here was subject to a minor diversion at the time of writing: follow on-site notices and signage*). **35** Turn right past the Tennis and Bowls Club, then left into Old Lane opposite a thatched and half-timbered cottage. **36** Leave the lane at a house called Acorns, over a stile on the left. **37** After a further stile at the end of a small, narrow piece of land, turn right along the hedge towards the railway. **38** After the next stile, turn immediately left and follow the hedge-line to a stile on your left. **39** Cross the fence and walk parallel to the railway line across two fields, to a stile leading into a narrow path between houses and gardens. **40** On reaching the road, turn right to the Hazel Pear pub. **41** Turn left before the railway bridge and follow the B5153 past Hazel Pear Wood on your left. **42** After half a mile, cross over the A49 and continue for the short distance beyond, back to the Hanging Gate.

## The Hanging Gate



The Hanging Gate is a beautiful country pub situated in the rural Cheshire village of Weaverham, where you can enjoy quality food and drink in relaxed and inviting surroundings. The Hanging Gate is easy to find just off the A49 in the village and there is plenty of parking available.

Open roaring fires and a sumptuous décor offer a warm and welcoming environment. We pride ourselves on offering a range of quality cask ales and beers, an extensive selection of wines along with a menu packed full of mouth-watering dishes and daily specials for you to enjoy with friends, family or business colleagues.

During the summer months our gardens and patios are the perfect place to enjoy a glass of wine or a tasty bite to eat.



Text, mapping and photography  
© David Dunford 2018. All rights reserved.  
[www.walksfromthedor.co.uk](http://www.walksfromthedor.co.uk)