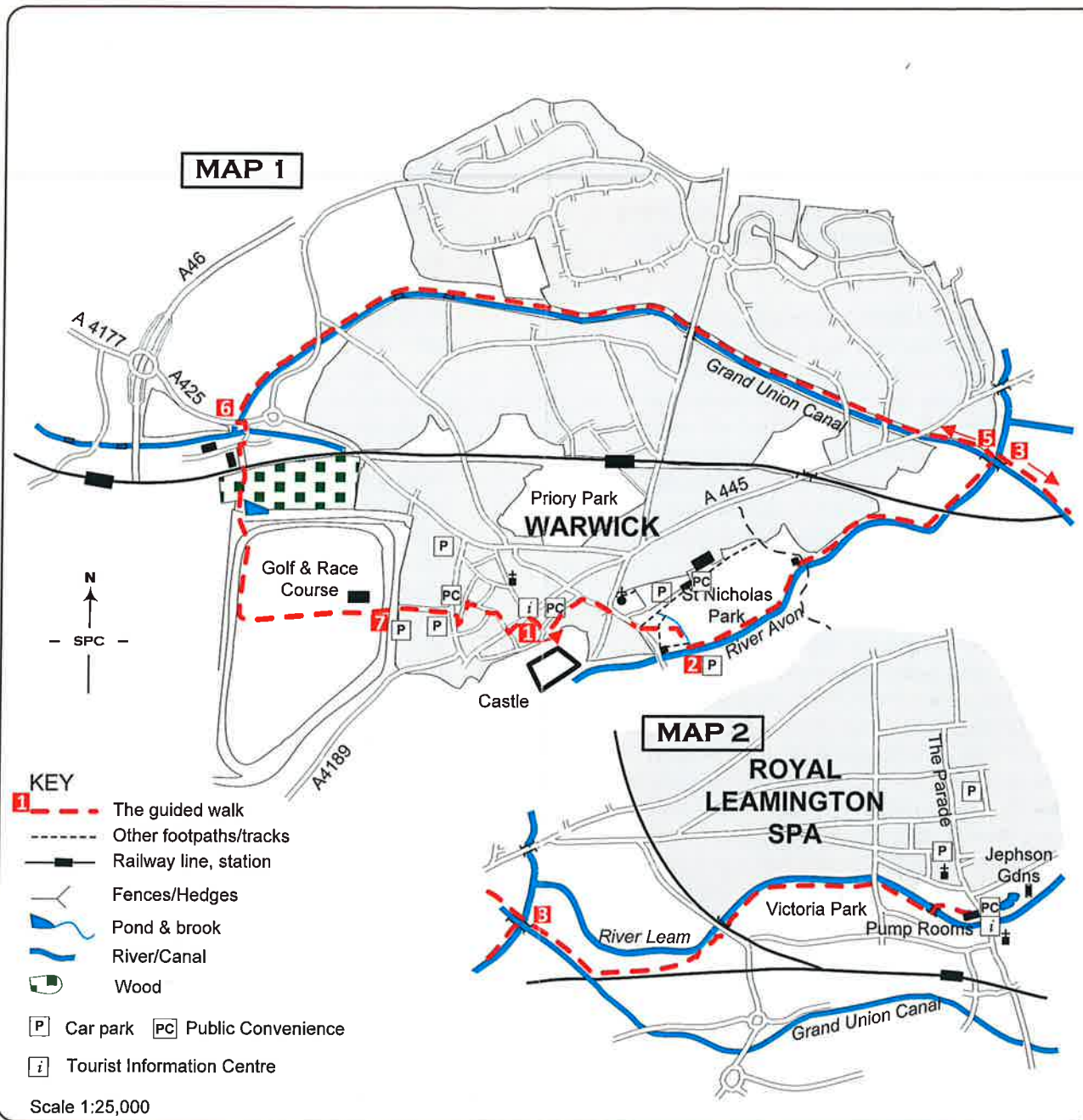


# WARWICK

## Rivers and Canal Walks

Enjoy a 5 mile riverside and canal circular walk around Warwick or a 2¾ mile walk to Leamington Spa



### Warwick Tourist Information Centre

The Court House, Jury Street,  
Warwick, CV34 4EW

@morewarwick

Warwick Visitor Centre

01926 492212  
info@visitwarwick.co.uk  
www.visitwarwick.co.uk



## 5 mile circular walk around Warwick & a 2¾ mile walk to Leamington Spa

1. Start either the Circular Walk (Map 1) or the Leamington Walk (Map 2) from the Visitor Information Centre. Turn left along Castle Street then left into Castle Lane. At the Banbury Road turn right and cross Mill Street and if you wish to enjoy the view from the bridge of the Castle keep straight on. Otherwise at the pelican crossing cross over, turn right and, at the main gates to St Nicholas Park, take the side gate. Follow the path right turning to reach the River Avon. The river is 85 miles long from its source at Naseby in Northamptonshire to its confluence with the River Severn at Tewkesbury. On its course to the Severn its catchment area extends to 1033 square miles.
2. Turn left to follow the riverside footpath passing the Sea Scouts boat shed. Cross the adjacent path and keep straight ahead along a grassy bank to pick up the path that drops down and continues along the river. After a short distance, pass a barrier and continue through an area where the going can be quite soft in the winter. The path continues under the bridge of the Birmingham – Marylebone railway line and then passes the National River Authorities flow measuring station. This station continuously records the volume of water flowing along the river. Through the trees and bushes on the left is a Tesco supermarket, but between 1920 and 1973 it was the site of the Avon Power Station. The power generated here provided electricity for the local area and a tramway. A look along the river's edge reveals some significant civil engineering which would have been part of the power stations structure. The next bridge is the aqueduct carrying the Grand Union Canal, from the underside of which cascades

a perpetual overflow of water. Go under the canal, turn left and follow the path to climb a flight of stairs and reach the towpath of the Grand Union canal. At this point on the canal we are 25 miles from its start in Birmingham and 120 miles from its end in London.

To follow the **Circular Walk** turn right along the towpath and continue at direction no. 5 below.

3. To continue to **Royal Leamington Spa** turn left over the river and continue to the abutment of the aqueduct over the railway and take the path left alongside the railway, signed Princes Drive. The path winds across open land before squeezing between Leamington's water reclamation works and the River Leam. The 'Leam' is approximately 30 miles long from its spring at Helidon in Northamptonshire to the River Avon.
4. Cross Princes Drive and continue along the path under the railway viaduct. This railway line connects Leamington with Coventry, providing a connection from the Midlands and the North to Oxford and also the south coast. Follow the footpath through Victoria Park, alongside the Leam, and after passing the bowling greens take the under pass. Continue along the footpath taking the steps or ramp and crossing the footbridge into the Pump Room Gardens. Turn right to visit the Pump Rooms, Jephson Gardens and explore the rest of the town. To return to Warwick catch the G1 Bus service from any of the bus stops on the Parade.
5. To continue the **circular walk**, follow the towpath west, as the canal gently winds past Tesco and the northern suburbs of the town. Depending on the time of year the canal may be busy with holiday hire boats. The wharf of Warwick and Kate Boats are the town's

contribution to this industry. The stretch of flat canal ends with two locks close together. At the second lock is the Cape of Good Hope Pub. Passing it is not a problem, but getting to it, although not as challenging as the southern ocean passage, does require crossing the lock gates if you wish to enjoy its hospitality.

6. At the third bridge after the Cape of Good Hope Pub take the ramp right to the Birmingham Road. Cross the road and turn left and right into Budbrooke Road. Cross the bridge over the Saltisford arm of the canal. In the 1790's this was the termination of the Birmingham-Warwick canal where it joined with the Warwick-Napton canal. Follow the road around to the right and take the footpath left, between the fences. Cross over the railway bridge and continue via a barrier straight ahead through a gate to the racecourse. Pass under the rails and turn right between the race track and the edge of the golf course. At the footpath marker post turn left along the side of the golf course.
7. Pass the Club House and continue across the race track and car park into Linen Street. Continue up the hill to reach and turn right along Bowling Green Street. Cross the road at the pelican crossing and turn left along Market Street. At Market Place, to return to the start, turn right into Swan Street and left back along Jury Street.

Surveyed and written by Warwick Town & District Councillor Stephen Cross.