

Shenstone Heritage Trail: Red Route (1.4 Miles)



Go past the library, turn left and walk down Doctors Lane noting the historic brick wall on the right, until you reach the telephone exchange. On your right is a short footpath between the houses which leads to Barnes Road. At this point turn left into Barnes Road and walk down the road towards the Village Hall. Follow the road until you reach the Village Hall and walk straight ahead, through the car park to the end. Go through the gap onto the Birmingham Road.

1 Look to your right to see the **Bulls Head**. This Grade II listed building, originally a farmhouse, has existed in Shenstone since at least the 1700s. In 1825 the turnpike road was straightened bringing the road much nearer to the house making it convenient for stagecoaches and other passing trade. Owners combined innkeeping with farming. From the 1850s it was an integral part of the village with a Court Room which held Petty Court sessions twice a month. One can only wonder why there is a secret staircase in the attic where maltings and beer were brewed!



2 On the opposite side of the road - where No 45/45a, Birmingham Road are now - stood the old **Toll-gate Cottage**. The A5127 was formerly the A38 and previously one of the roads of The Lichfield Turnpike Trust established in 1729. After this time Turnpike users were required to pay a toll. Toll-gates and cottages were put in place to facilitate this. Shenstone's Toll-gate cottage was demolished when the road was improved after WWII. In the 16th century, Shenstone's roads were a favourite haunt of 'Little Neddy' a notorious highwayman who was hanged for his exploits.

3 Turn left down Birmingham Road. On the opposite side of the road is **Shenstone Hall**. This beautiful, Gothic style, Grade II listed building was built in the early 17th century. It replaced an earlier timber framed house, Shenstone Old Hall. It has a magnificent Jacobean porch on the east side. During the English Civil War, it was owned by the Rugeley family who had supported the King. After King Charles I was executed, parliament set a forfeit of £33.3s and seized his house which was part pulled down (slighted). The farm next door, now barn conversions, once belonged to the Hall and was last farmed by the Foden family.



The walls in front and to the side of Shenstone Hall are also Grade II listed. They date from the 16th and 17th centuries.

4 Continue to walk along Birmingham Road towards the Island. After about 20 metres, look down on your left, don't miss the **Milestone**. This early 20th century Cochrane designed cast iron milestone is in the Staffordshire inclined triangular shape, painted white and inscribed 'Shenstone Parish'. It is also Grade II listed..



5 As you reach the Island, note the old **Crane Brook Bridge**. The far corner of Mill Lane and Birmingham Road was the site of Shenstone's **Medieval mill and mill pond**, mentioned in the Domesday Book. The later 18th century mill, built on the same site, was demolished in 1980s. In 1939, William Thompson was the corn merchant and miller there. The Crane Brook Bridge which passed over the old mill pool is Grade II listed.

6 Turn left at the Island onto Pinfold Hill. Cross over the road towards the **Lammas Land**. Walk through the entrance which is to the right of the SSWW Pumping Station. Lammas lands have common grazing rites which go back to the middle ages and only exist between August 1st (Lammas Day) and February 1st (Candlemas) when commoners removed their animals to allow crops to be grown, usually hay. The land was almost lost to the village in the 1960s when it should have been registered as common land.



The confluence of the **Fotherley Brook** and **Crane Brook** is in the Lammas Land.

7 Follow the **Leppard's Way** path. The path takes you on a delightful $\frac{3}{4}$ mile meandering walk by the side of the stream to Lynn Lane. This lovely walk was named in memory of Stephen Leppard who fought long and hard for 25 years, through the courts, to keep the Lammas Land an open amenity for the village.

8 After about 500 metres on your right at the edge of a small grassy area is a footbridge over the stream. From the bridge you can see the **Shining Stone**, pictured, which sits in the brook. It is a piece of stainless-steel artwork created by Jo Naden. The name is derived from the old name for Shenstone, Seneste which is believed to mean 'beautiful or shining stone'. Return to the gravelled path and follow it towards the railway line.



9 Go through the low tunnel and in front of you, as you emerge back onto the path, is **Calder Crossing**. This bridge is named in the memory of Jim Calder who worked tirelessly to maintain and preserve the Lammas Land for the benefit of the village. A great place for spotting trout or for playing Poohsticks.

10 As you enter the next section of the path look out for a **crocodile**, a **reindeer** and a **woodpecker**. See if you can spot these as you stroll through the Lammas land.



11 At the end of the path go through the gate and cross over the road (take great care crossing here). Walk over the Railway Bridge - good view of the Railway Station - and return to the centre of the village. Turn right at the Cenotaph, go along Main Street and back to the Library.



Shenstone Heritage Trail



Take The Trail From Saxon Seneste To
Shenstone

*A guided walk around our village,
exploring the history and stories around*

Red Route

Shenstone Heritage Red Trail Map



MAP KEY

-  - Red Trail Start
-  - End of Red Trail
-  - Point of Interest
-  - Blue Trail start

Not to Scale



Located three miles south of Lichfield is the village of Seneste, or Shenstone, which lies around the hill on which the Church of St John the Baptist resides. The village's history can be traced back to the Roman and the Saxon days and was the only village in the area to be mentioned in the Domesday Book, ...'There is one acre of meadow and a wood three-leagues long and one and a half wide. It is worth a hundred shillings'.

Several worthy folk have settled in Shenstone, among them were Admiral of the Fleet, Sir William Parker; and farmer, industrialist and agriculturist, Sir Richard Cooper. With its long, fascinating history take our Heritage Trail and explore Shenstone, where there are many stories to be told, buildings to see and the past to imagine.

This Red Trail forms part of the complete Shenstone Heritage Trail in addition to the **Blue** and **Yellow** routes. This part of the trail takes in the natural beauty of the Lammas Land and the buildings and stories that you encounter around and on this delightful walk. This trail is approximately 1.4 miles on its own or 2.4 miles when walked as part of the Blue Heritage Trail route.

See the full trail and more details at

www.shenstonecommunitylibrary.org/shenstone-heritage-trail

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