

Shenstone Heritage Trail: Yellow Route (1.1 Miles)



1 Retrace your steps from **Vine Cottage** to the crossroads, cross over the road into Fotherley Road. The footpath is on the right. Walk down Fotherley Road. After about 100 metres on your left is Fotherley House which was built in the 18th century and was once the home of Frank Webb, Sir Richard Cooper's agent, a man he relied upon to run his huge estate when he was away from home

2 Continue down Fotherley Road until you reach the crossroads. Cross over the road towards the stone pillars of Court Drive. On the corner behind a high fence is The Lodge, now derelict, which was built about 1884 at the same time as Shenstone Railway Station and was once known as Station Lodge. It was built for the Bagnall family, owners of Shenstone Moss from 1863-1889. Richard Powell Cooper renamed Shenstone Moss and called it Shenstone Court. The Lodge has sadly been allowed to deteriorate since the 1990s.



3 Go between the pillars and start walking up Court Drive. On your right is the entrance to **Court Manor**. This is a much-enlarged property, previously called Court Farm which was then a small cottage built in the 1920s within a spinney of mature trees accessed through a farm gate. It was developed in the 1990s and the new building incorporated the old cottage.

4 Continue walking up Court Drive. On the right-hand side, interspersed with more modern houses are **8 large semi-detached villas**. Two of these were built around 1910 to house Sir Richard's senior staff and families. The others were built around 1920 using bricks from the recently demolished Shenstone Court. These were so damaged that the houses had to be completely rendered in pebble dash. The entrance halls have wonderful, Victorian patterned, encaustic tiles also reputed to have come from the Court. Each villa had a wide strip of land adjacent to the house to enable them to be self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables.

5 After about 500 metres the road is unmetalled, continue on this road. On your left a curved iron fence, which has seen better days, encloses typical English Parkland. In ancient times it was called **Dovehouse Piece**. A well-used cricket pitch and pavilion used by the Bagnall and Cooper families were sited here but the field was ploughed up during the war for food production. It has since been reinstated as meadowland. A footpath to the church once crossed this meadow.



6 Next on your right is the **Cart Hovel**.

This building restored in 2009 was once a cart house with a hay loft at one end. It was formerly part of the farm and stables which served the great house.

7 Across the courtyard you will see **The Barns**. You would once have heard much activity in these buildings - converted into homes in 2009/10 - as it was the estate farm in previous centuries.



It was later well known as being one of Sir Richard Cooper's farms where prize winning Shropshire sheep, Shorthorn cattle and pigs were reared. From the 1950s the buildings were used as stables for at least 15 horses. Other occupants were long-eared and pipistrelle bats now housed in bat boxes nearby.

8 Next, you will see three houses which were built in 2017 on the site of **Shenstone Court's Farm Cottage** and the **Old Dairy** demolished c2016.

9 Further along is **The Old Bothy**, previously called Shadow Lawn. This small single-story property was built attached to Shenstone Court's large walled garden.

10 As the road bends off to the left, on your right are **Fairlawn and Westmere**. These two impressive, semi-detached period houses, remodelled in 1847, were once coach houses to the original Shenstone Court and serve as a reminder that the Court was a very substantial building indeed. The bay windows were once entrances to the two coach houses and there was accommodation above for the grooms. Both houses share the original walled garden of the Court.

11 Follow the drive around the bend until you get to the gates of **Shenstone Court**. The present house was built in 1926 and is a seven bedroomed country house. It was built in the grounds of the original Shenstone Court pictured (previously known as The Moss) the mansion home of Sir Richard Powell Cooper, Veterinary Surgeon, Industrial Entrepreneur and Farmer known for the famous sheep dip called 'Cooper's Dip'. It was demolished around 1920 along with many similar properties after WWI. The gates, drive, avenue of trees and parkland are remnants of the old house. The ancient Moss Lake, still in the grounds, was once part of a medieval Grange owned by a monastery which was run by



Augustinian Monks.

12 Continue along the drive until you reach the stone pillars. On your left is **Stroud Lodge**, Grade II listed in 1964 and according to the listing, built in the early 19th century. It has long been connected to the McLoughlin family who moved there in 1944 but before it was also the home of the Cheney family. At this point **retrace your steps** to the start of Court Drive, turn right and walk up to the top of Holly Hill.



13 On your left is Haddon House. This substantial property was rebuilt in 1972. The original property of similar design, was reputed to be dated to about 1640. A priest's hide-hole filled with water was discovered by the current residents and the entrance to a blocked up tunnel which was supposed to lead to the old church. A former occupant was Sir Richard Cooper's sister-in-law Miss Margaret Ashmall, a founder member of Shenstone's WI. The present house contains many items of historical architectural salvage. The old lampposts in the front garden were from the Mall in London.



This is the end of the Yellow Route. Continue on the Blue Route.



Shenstone Heritage Trail



Take The Trail From Saxon Seneste To
Shenstone





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

Yellow Route

Shenstone Heritage Yellow Trail Map



MAP KEY

-  - Yellow Trail Start
-  - Point of Interest
-  - End of Yellow Trail
-  - Blue Trail Direction

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 Yellow Trail forms part of the complete Shenstone Heritage Trail in addition to the **Blue** and **Red** routes. This part of the trail takes in the old Shenstone Court and the amazing surroundings and history of this fascinating part of our village. This trail is approximately 1.1 miles on its own or 2 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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