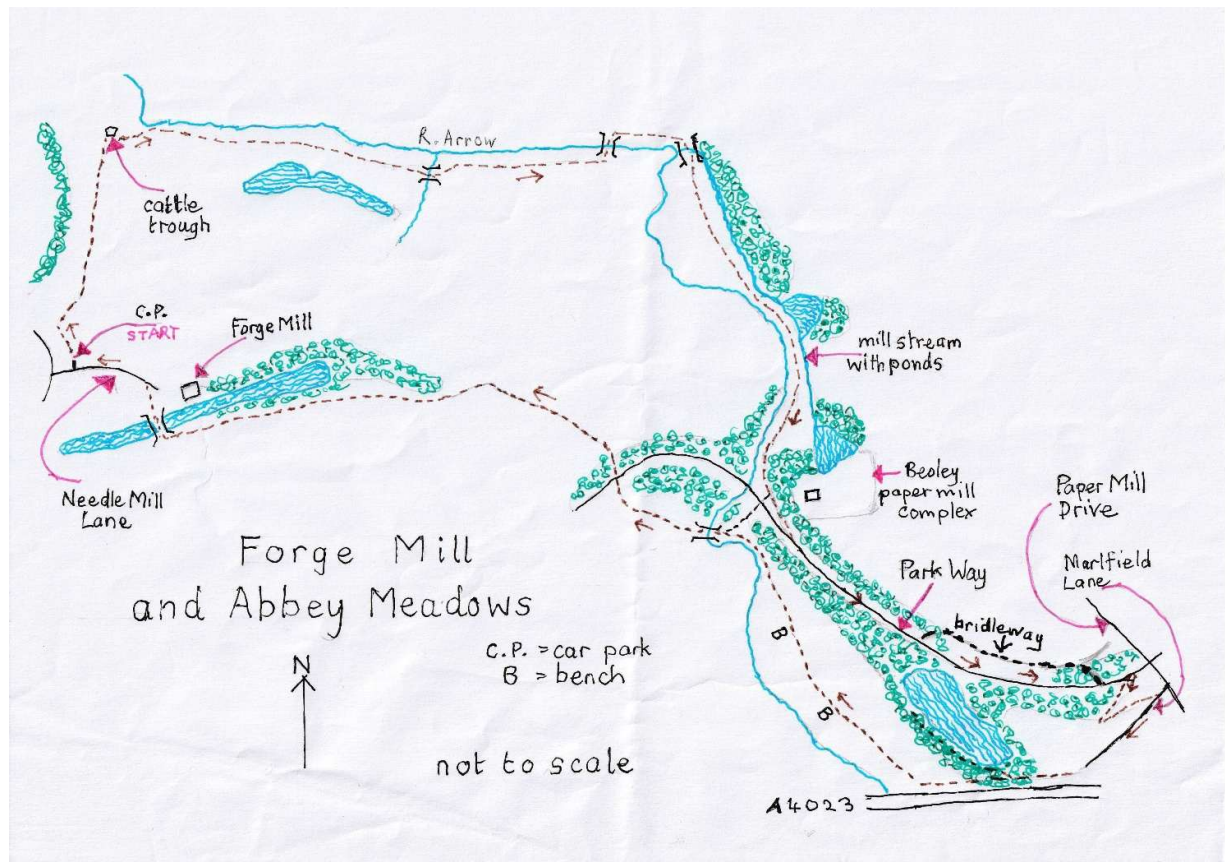


WALK 5 - FORGE MILL AND ABBEY MEADOWS

Walk details : A walk of just under 3 miles, mostly flat, no stiles, 2 benches. Some paved paths and some grassland. Park at Forge Mill first car park. It's the first car park you come to when you turn into Needle Mill Lane, B98 8HY.

The route is a bit of a mixture of previous routes you may recognise but there are new stretches as well.



Walk description : In the car park walk up to the notice board describing St Stephen's Chapel with the giant redwood tree behind it in the graveyard. Then head off left and right at the corner to reach a metal gate into the graveyard.

Leave the graveyard by the metal kissing gate at the top. Walk uphill with a high hedge on your left. You will reach a notice board telling you about the monastic remains spread out before you. Continue ahead over the brow of the hill and you will see further down what will turn out to be a metal drinking trough.

At the trough veer right towards a gap between trees and make for a fence ahead and there bear right. Follow this boundary for nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mile as far as a metal gate leading on to a wooden bridge over a stream. After this turn left and walk alongside the stream.

Carry on as far as a metal gate. Here cross the stream, then turn right. Cross 2 small bridges and at a larger bridge turn right to cross over and follow the main path ahead. You will cross a board walk and pass pools on your left while eventually coming alongside the river on your right.

After passing two small bridges on the left bear slightly right to stay on the main path and you will reach the complex of buildings containing Beoley paper mill beyond the hedge on the left.

Continue to a meeting of three paths near a bridge with a road over the top. Don't go under here but turn left before it and you will come out on Park Way, the bus route. Bear left here and walk along the route. Look out for an opening in the trees on the left where a grassy bridleway, marked by a post, goes off, and follow it until your next opportunity to come back onto the bus route.

You will soon reach metal railings either side where Park Way goes over Paper Mill Drive.

Just before you reach the metal railings cross over and look out for a narrow path almost hidden among trees going down on the right. At the bottom turn sharp left, doubling back on yourself, along a path which brings you to Paper Mill Drive. Don't cross this but turn sharp right. Go through a wide metal gate with notices and along Marlfield Lane, a quiet backwater. Soon you will continue on an unpaved track passing allotments on the right beyond the trees. Just before a fence follow the path right. When you get to metal railings on the right go past the gate to the fence and turn right. Keep along by the wooden fence on the left. After passing more metal railings on the right with the pool beyond, by a gate turn left to make a very short fairly steep descent, which could be difficult in wet weather but there are objects to hang onto.

Continue as far as a park pathway near a bridge. Turn right, then bear left with the main path. There are a couple of benches along the next stretch. At the very end of the path is a signpost pointing four ways. Bear left here towards a bridge over the river. Continue ahead, crossing another path and then skirting the Dolphin Road prefabs on your left.

Just before reaching the road turn right along a pavement to reach the bus route. Cross over and take the unpaved path opposite. Almost immediately go through a metal gate and walk diagonally left through the wild flower meadow. Go through a gap between trees and the path nears houses on the left.

Continue on this grassy track round the back of Forge Mill pond and it will bring you to the bridge over the pond. Cross this and turn left along Needle Mill Lane until you are back at the car park.

And finally, another area to explore.....