Walk 6 - Shottery and Anne Hathaway's Cottage

An easy walk that takes you through Stratford and over Shottery Fields to the village of Shottery and the historic Anne Hathaway's Cottage. A 2 km (1¼ mile) loop to Hansell Farm goes into the countryside providing a fine view over Stratford before returning to the town.

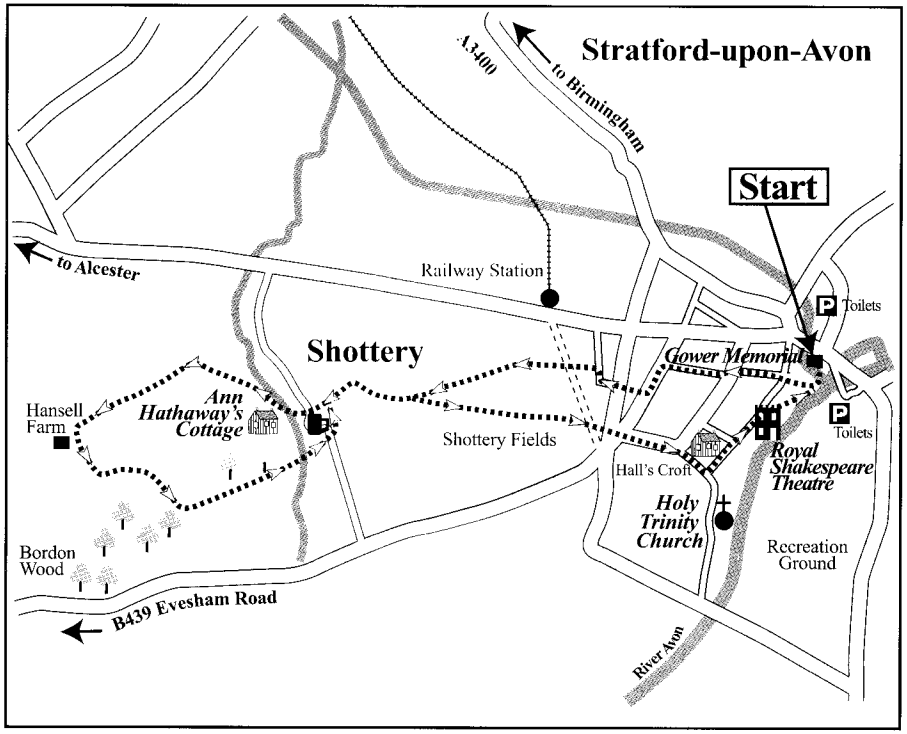
Distance	7 km (4½ miles)
Time	Allow 2 to 2.5 hours
Terrain	Easy walking through the town and along generally good footpaths. Suitable for wheelchairs, but not the loop to Hansell Farm
Car Parking	Bridgefoot multi-storey P&D Park - toilets
Refreshments	The Bell Inn, Shottery or The Cottage Restaurant and Tea Gardens, Shottery
O.S. Map	Explorer 205: Stratford-upon-Avon & Evesham

From the Gower Memorial, cross the canal footbridge and walk through the middle of Bancroft Gardens to reach Waterside, near to the Swan fountain. Cross the road and proceed up Sheep Street, straight over High Street into Ely Street until you arrive in Rother Street. Turn left and walk for 50 m before crossing over the busy street to enter the small triangular shaped gardens. Bear left through these pleasant gardens into Grove Road. Cross over Grove Road and proceed up Albany Road. Turn left onto a path between houses numbered 77 and 79 with a footpath sign to Anne Hathaway's Cottage on the opposite side of the road. Shortly, bear left again and keep straight ahead until you reach a road closed off with bollards and an entrance to Stratford High School. Turn left through the bollards and immediately right onto a footpath that leads into Shottery Fields following the Anne Hathaway's Cottage sign. After walking past the children's play area turn right. Follow the signs towards Anne Hathaway's Cottage via Tavern Lane. This will take you past some very attractive period houses to arrive by a road island near to The Bell Inn in Shottery.

Ahead of you is Cottage Lane but, to the right, you can normally go up a few steps to go along 'Jubilee Walk' which leads through pleasant gardens down to a footbridge over Shottery Brook and a lovely view of Anne Hathaway's Cottage. If the gate to Jubilee Walk is locked you can walk the pavement of Cottage Lane to the Cottage. Continue along Cottage Lane and about 250 m after passing the Cottage and just after passing Hathaway Hamlet, a settlement of timber-framed houses on your right, go left up the tarmac drive to the signposted Hansell Farm.

The drive climbs steadily and as you approach the farm buildings go left through a kissing-gate that leads you to the top of the field and another gate. Just through the gate there is a stone memorial to Charles Turriff who lived on the farm for 40 years and from here there is a good bird's-eye view of Stratford.

You can probably pick out the Royal Shakespeare Tower and Theatre and Holy Trinity Church. On the skyline is the Welcombe Monument (you may have visited this if you have already walked Walk No 5).



Turn left and follow the field path as it bends right, still enjoying the lovely view over Stratford-upon-Avon. The path enters trees and in about 50 m, turn left on a wooded path heading back to Shottery with fields on either side of the trees and then a conifer plantation. After going over a small bridge over Shottery Brook you will arrive at the road by Shottery St. Andrew's Primary School. Go left and at the next road junction you will again see the inviting building of The Bell Inn, where you may choose to stop for refreshments.

Turn right along Shottery to return to Stratford-upon-Avon. At the sharp right bend, look left to see the attractive thatched cottages in Tavern Lane and cross the road with care. Turn left down a lane and footpath between houses and gardens and right along the footpath which will take you back to Shottery Fields. At the field entrance keep straight ahead with Trinity Church steeple just visible in the distance. This path will lead you along the back of houses, crossing 3 residential roads and a cycle track, until you arrive back in Stratford-upon-Avon at Evesham Place. Cross over the two roads and proceed down Chestnut Walk to pass by Hall's Croft and then go left along Southern Lane, past the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and Tower and back to the Gower Memorial.