

Turn away from Dumble Farm and walk along the path, keeping the wood on your right. At the corner of the field you will see a waymarked stile a few metres to your left. The stile leads on to a bridge, which you cross. The bridge leads into a field where you turn left. Walk along the headland of the field, keeping the hedge and stream on your left. The stream meanders through an enormous arable field. In the middle you will see an old cottage; this is Lower Metlins. The Metlins are in fact a pair of cottages, part timber-framed. There is also a large threshing barn at the top of the field behind the Lower Metlins. In the attic of one of the cottages a stud book was found. It revealed that over a hundred years ago the owner bred shire horses which were sold to places as far away as Yorkshire. He employed local village boys to walk the horses to their new owners. We tend to believe that village folk of long ago didn't travel very far - some obviously did!

Follow the headland to the corner of the field where you will find a waymarked stile on your left leading into a thicket. A second stile brings you into an arable field with electricity pylons crossing it. Walk up the headland, keeping the hedge on your right and ignoring a stile in the hedge. Continue until you are near the pylon then strike off diagonally to your left towards a medium sized oak tree near the left corner of the field. About 15 metres to the right of the tree there is a stile and bridge into the next field. Your route lies diagonally across the field to a stile in the middle of the

hedgeline. There is a good view of Shustoke Hall from this point. The Hall is an excellent example of early Georgian architecture and was the home of the Huntbach family, benefactors of Shustoke.

Cross the stile, a plank bridge, and second stile, into the next field. You will see a post and wire fence ahead with a stile. Head towards the stile and cross over it. From here you can see the spire of St Cuthberts Church in Shustoke and Coleshill Parish Church. Such an uplifting view will provide the energy to follow the path up the rise to the left corner of the field. Here you will find a stile and waymarker leading you over a plank bridge into Moat House Lane.

Turn left in the lane and walk past Cottage Farm. At the end of the lane there is an old white painted cottage with a small triangle of grass, or Godcake, at the junction. Turn left at the junction, down Hollyland, towards the junction with Castle Lane. You will pass the curious Square Cottage on the left. As you walk note the old holly trees in the hedgerows. Cross Castle lane on to a short length of tarmacked track. On the right is Yew Tree Cottage. The size of the yew is an indication of the great age of the cottage. The track becomes a green lane that opens into a large arable field. Keep the hedge on your right - the path takes you under a pylon. Look to your left as you walk and you will see the two ecclesiastically styled Victorian buildings of the old Birmingham Water Works.