

Walk Worcestershire Barnt Green

1 Barnt Green

Barnt Green is an ideal place to start and finish a walk. The village contains destination shops, a well-equipped play area for young children and has tea shops and a well-appointed pub situated conveniently near the recommended start and finish of the walk.



Children's play area at Millennium Park, Barnt Green



Barnt Green contains many destination shops and services



The Tea Shop on Hewell Road, Barnt Green

2 At the crossroads of Coopers Hill and Foxhill Lane

At the crossroads you can choose one of two routes to Withybed Green. If the ground is very wet underfoot consider turning left down Cooper's Hill and picking up the marked bridle path about 400m on the right.

The recommended path proceeds along Foxhill Lane. Look out for the path which turns left just after the barn conversions. Enjoy the tree-lined path across the fields and down to the Crown Inn and the magnificent views back towards Barnt Green and across to Weatheroak Hill.



3 Withybed Green

When you arrive at Withybed Green consider calling into the Crown Inn, a hidden jewel, for refreshments. Withybed Green was developed to provide housing for workers on the canal and the nearby Scarfield Hill brickworks. A withy is the term for willow or hazel grown for thatching or hurdle making.



Looking down to Withybed Green



The Crown Inn at Withybed Green

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4 Lower Bittell Reservoir

Bittell Wharf and Lower Bittell reservoir were constructed to supply water to the canal. The canal links Birmingham to Worcester and the river Severn. As you will probably see, this stretch of water has become a very popular mooring. Originally designed and built to be 14ft wide the money ran out at Hopwood and hence the bridges and locks down to Worcester are all 7ft.



View across the canal over Lower Bittell Reservoir



The towpath at Lower Bittell Reservoir

5 Upper Bittell Reservoir

Looking over the reservoir you will see Barnt Green Fishing and Sailing Club. The right-hand side of the reservoir is a Special Site of Scientific Interest. It is reported that many bombs were dropped on the reservoir in World War two as it was easily mistaken at night for the nearby Austin works.



The short cut back to Barnt Green

As you leave the reservoir go straight on and left along the bridleway to return to Barnt Green*.

At the end of the bridleway proceed along the road to the right for 20m and then follow the path across fields and then into the Parish Council's playing fields at Parker's Piece.

Exiting the playing fields you will pass the Baptist Church on your right before joining Bittell Road where you should turn right. Turn left at the mini roundabout into Hewell Road.

*Before you do return to Barnt Green consider turning right along the bridleway for approximately 100m or so to see the ducks and swans swimming on the pools and then return.

6 Cofton Parish Church

En-route to St Michael's and All Angel's Church Cofton Church Lane you will pass two de-

A church may have existed on the site in the 12th century, as a "chapel" at Cofton is mentioned in a Papal Bull of 1182. The present building dates back to the 14th century and was probably built in 1330 by Robert de Leycester as a chapel for the Manor House. In 2014, one of the church bells was replaced following an earlier theft.



The parish church of St Michael's and All Angels on Cofton Church Lane



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The Lickey Hills Visitors' Centre



The children's play area just below the Visitors' Centre



7 Lickey Visitors Centre

The Lickey Hills Visitor Centre and Country Park serves a five hundred and twenty-four-acre area of woodland, heathland and amenity grassland. Attractions within the Country Park include views from the top scope over Birmingham, an orienteering course and a public golf course. There is a ranger service offering public walks and talks as well as educational study sessions.

In 1904, J.R.R Tolkien of 'The Hobbit' fame, moved to Rednal with his mother, who was convalescing. The hills became a favourite haunt and are the inspiration for the mythical Shires, where the hobbits lived in his book.

8 Lickey Woods

There are well marked paths through the ancient Lickey Hills woodland back to Barnt Green. The woods are at their best in May when much of the woodland is covered with bluebells.



9 Barnt Green railway station

The station at Barnt Green was built in 1846 following the opening of the Gloucester to Birmingham line in 1840. For much of the 20th century the railway was not only used to transport passengers as there was a thriving cattle market in the village. Today the station provides important commuter links to Birmingham and Redditch with mainline trains also stopping at the station.



Further information about points of interest along the route is available on Barnt Green Parish Council's website at www.barntgreen.org.uk.