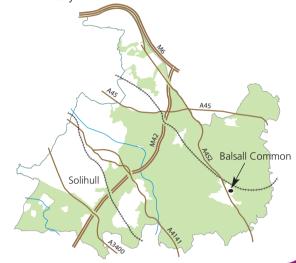
How to get to Balsall Common

The walk described in this leaflet will take you around Balsall Common and allow you to explore the area's historic past and points of interest.

Balsall Common is situated just 8 miles from Solihull town centre and is conveniently located off the A452 Kenilworth Road.

For further information on public transport links to Balsall Common please contact Traveline West Midlands on 0871 200 22 33 or at www.travelinemidlands.co.uk.

If you are travelling by car, please remember that parking may be limited and so please always park considerately.



Countryside code

When using these walks, please respect, protect and enjoy the countryside you pass through. You can do this by:

- Being safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control at all times
- Consider other people

Solihull Countryside Walks

An introduction:

The village of Balsall Common sits in the rural greenbelt known as the Meriden gap that separates the urban areas of Birmingham and Coventry.

It sits on the line of the Kenilworth Road, which is a former turnpike road which runs from Kenilworth to Stonebridge. Whilst the Village now seen is relatively recent in origin, the name Balsall dates back to Saxon times. Originating from the Ango-Saxon words for Baelle, meaning corner of land, and "heale" meaning a sheltered place.

Balsall Common as recently as 1800's consisted of no more than a collection of dispersed hamlets and cottages. Ribbon development started to link these; however it was not until the 1930's that more substantial development took place and not until after the second world war the village really began to grow.

Today, Balsall Common is one of the larger villages in the Borough and has a busy village centre with a range of shops and facilities including a Library, a nearby train station (Berkswell Station) and local schools.

The village still retains close links to the surrounding countryside and there are lots of excellent and very popular walks in the surrounding area. In addition to this leaflet, The Millenimum Way, A Coventry Way and the Hearth of England Way run close to the village and offer both long distance walking opportunities as well as more local circular walks. For further information on other suggested walks in the Borough please see our web pages at: http://www.solihull.gov.uk/transport/publicrightsofway_23454.htm



Solihull Walks

A guide to walks in the local area



Balsall Common

Points of interest

Lavender Hall Park 1

One of the newest of the borough's parks, Lavender Hall Park provides a mini green oasis in the middle of the village. The park provides the latest skate boarding equipment and large open space for football and activities.

Balsall Common Village Centre 3

Here you will find a good selection of shops and facilities. Located in the heart of the village just off of the main Kenilworth Road, there are a range of shops where you can stop off and pick up some refreshments before, during or after your walk.

Berkswell Train Station 4

Taking its name from the nearby village of Berkswell within whose parish it sits, the station is actually located much closer to Balsall Common. Having opened in 1853 and originally named Dockers Lane, the station is located on the west coast main line. Berkswell Station was also the junction of the now closed line running to Kenilworth. It is this line that has now been converted into the Kenilworth Greenway.

Kenilworth Greenway 6

The Kenilworth Greenway is a disused railway line. It is now a



The Brickmakers Arms



Waste Lane, Balsall Common

popular recreation and wildlife corridor managed by Warwickshire County Council that stretches 4.5 miles from Kenilworth to Berkswell Station. The route is open to walkers, cyclists and horse riders (horse riders by annual permit only), For further information please visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk.

Lavender Hall Fisheries 10



With 5 different fishing pools, Lavender Hall Fisheries is open daily throughout the year. There is a cafe on-site which is also open daily and serves a range of refreshments including all day breakfast. For further information please see: http://www.lavenderhallfishery.co.uk/

George in the Tree 16

Pub and restaurant associated with the attached hotel. The pub is located at the northern end of the village on the Kenilworth Road. It serves food and refreshments daily.

The Brickmakers Arms

A 17th Century village inn located between the village centre and Berkswell Train Station. The pub is open daily serving food and refreshments.

Walk 1 - East

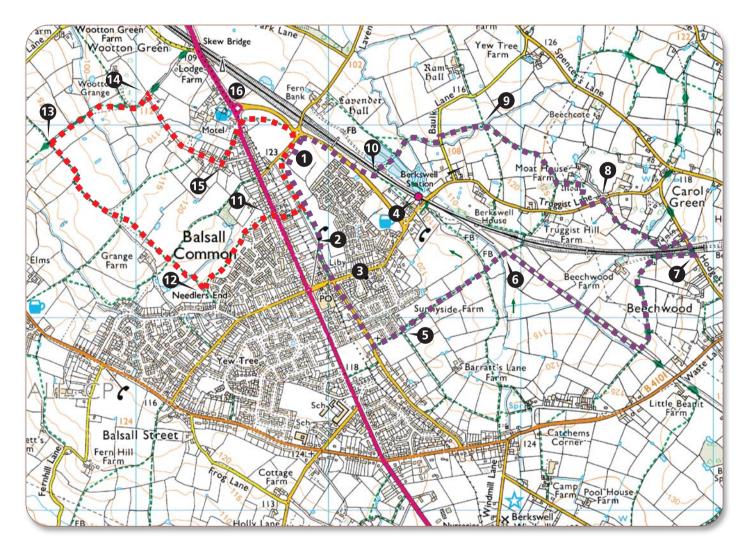
Starting at Lavender Hall Park car park (1), follow the tarmac footpath down past the play area. At the bottom of the park, the path turns sharply left and splits off into three (2). Turn right onto the track (Green Lane) and follow the lane down between the houses to the junction with Station Road. Cross the road and head along Meeting House Lane. Immediately after the church, turn left through the cycle barriers and follow the footpath along the left side of the recreational field.

The path exits the field to join Barretts Lane **5**. From here cross the road and take the path ahead. Follow the waymark disks until you join the Kenilworth Greenway **6**. Turning right, walk along the Greenway. After approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile look for a footpath which crosses the Greenway. Turn left and follow the footpath north towards the railway line.

Before reaching the railway line you will join a track, take the stile on your right and then follow the footpath and then track again heading for the junction with Hodgetts Lane (2). Cross the rail bridge and after a short distance turn left and follow the footpath along the access track and across the fields to reach Truggist Lane (8).

Turn left and follow Truggist Lane for 80m. Turn right onto a footpath to Moat Farm and Moat Barn. Follow this path as it turns left, crosses the stile and heads across two fields. Crossing this farm drive follow the footpath as indicated by the waymark discs across the field. At the field edge, go left towards the bridge which crosses over a stream **9**.

Crossing the footbridge, take the footpath to your left and then follow the edge of the field to meet up with Baulk Lane. At Baulk Lane turn left and then right after 30m across the stile. Follow the footpath as indicated, across the field to the footbridge. Carry on straight ahead around the fishing lakes and up onto the rail bridge **(**). Turn right here and follow the footpath through a wooded area to Hallmeadow Road. Turn right and follow the pavement along Hallmeadow Road until you reach a kissing gate on your left. Head into Lavender Hall Park and back to your starting point **(**).



Walk 2 - West

Begin at Lavender Hall Park car park ①. Head towards and the pass the skate park and play area. After 250m there is a narrow walkway on the right signed with a way marker. Take this path to come out on to the Kenilworth Road (A452) ①. Turn right and head towards the roundabout and then onto Dengate Drive.

Shortly after the road bends to the left, you will see a tarmac path on your right leading to the open green space. Follow this path through the open space. Shortly after passing Glebe Way on your left, you will see a grass path to your right. Follow this path past the pond and then across a small bridge and skiing gate before heading out into the fields.

Continue following this path as it runs across and then along the edges of fields with crops in and then grass. You will pass though a number of kissing gates before coming into another grass field. Halfway along this field you will see another footpath heading off to the right **(3)**. Take this path as it drops down to a brook then climbs toward Wootton Grange. Crossing the two fields and bearing right, you will come across a stile which will lead you onto the drive of Wootton Grange and then onto Wootton Green Lane **(4)**. Turn right and follow the road as it takes you back into the village. After 500m take the path on your left (which can be easily missed) between the houses towards the Kenilworth Road **(5)**.

Turn left and follow the Kenilworth Road up to the George in the Tree 16. Taking care, cross the road using the traffic island and then take the path opposite the pub. You will go through two gates before following the path across a football pitch and then through two more gates to exit onto Hall Meadow Road.

From here, taking care again to cross the road, head back into Lavender Hall park and trace your way back to the start point at the car park 1.

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