

WALKING PAGE - THREE CHURCHES WALK

This walk will take you around the 3 parish churches of Meriden, Eastern Green and Berkswell. It is clearly waymarked and broken into 3 sections, all of which have some stiles. You can start the walk anywhere but if you live in Meriden, you'll probably want to start with Leg 3.

Leg 1 Eastern Green to Berkswell

Approximate distance: 2.5 miles Approximate time: 1 - 1.5 hours

From Eastern Green Church continue along Church Lane to Home Farm. Proceed through the farmyard and continue on through two fields. On entering the third field, turn left and head for a gate sited 30m from the corner of the field. Proceed through the next field and onto Shirley Lane. At the end of the lane, turn right on to Back Lane.

Taking care, follow Back Lane for half a mile. 60m after passing Greenways Farm Shop on your right, leave the road and take the footpath to your left. Cross the stile and proceed along the track past two fields until you reach a field gate. On entering the third field leave the track and head right diagonally across the field towards the yellow topped waymark post. Leave this field via a stile and then continue away from the farm along the track for 100m. Turning right off the track follow the footpath crossing two fields before heading down a track past Blind Hall Farm on to Meriden Road. Turn left and follow the road for 150m before crossing the road and taking the footpath which will lead you into Berkswell Churchyard. The entrance to the church is via the main door on the far side.

Leg 2 Berkswell to Meriden

Approximate distance: 2.3 miles

Approximate time: 1 - 1.5 hours

Retrace your steps from Leg 1, back past Blind Hall Farm. At the end of this track, enter the field through the same gate, but now bear left diagonally across the field towards the yellow topped post at the side of a pond. Exiting this field in the corner, follow this footpath along field edges to emerge on Back Lane. Crossing Back Lane take the footpath opposite which will take you along a track and then through a wooden kissing gate. Cross this field diagonally to the opposite corner and leave via another wooden kissing gate. Continue following this footpath heading north across open countryside through five fields. On exiting the fifth field 50m from the right hand corner you will join Church Lane. From here, turn right and head up the road to enter the churchyard to Meriden Church through a gate 120m on left.

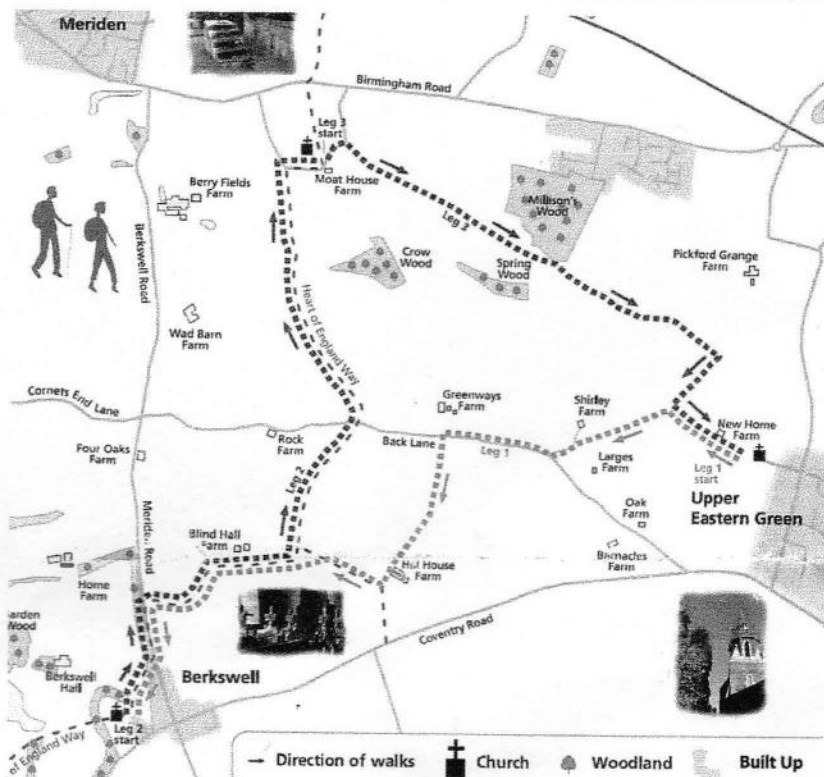
Leg 3 Meriden to Eastern Green

Approximate distance: 1.75 miles

Approximate time: 0.75 - 1 hour

Exit the churchyard via the side gate opposite Moat House Farm. Turning left follow Church Lane around a bend. From here, look for a wooden arrow on the tree ahead; this indicates a right turn. At this point, turn right and crossing the stile head across the field to the field edge track to the far field gate. Continue following the footpath along this track through the gate and then leave the field at the kissing gate on the left.

Heading East, follow the footpath across the field to the far corner of Millisons Wood. Cross a stile and turn right before following footpath along the bottom. From here continue following this footpath along the bottom of the next three fields before turning right onto a connecting footpath. Crossing the bridge, continue on up the hill. Two-thirds of the way up the next field, where power cables cross the hedge, pass through the kissing gate on your left. Proceed through the next two fields before entering the farm yard. Continue through the yard retracing your steps from Leg 1 to reach Church Lane and then Eastern Green churchyard. You can enter the church through the main door on the left.



Points of interest

- 1 St. Andrew's, Eastern Green** This late Victorian church, now on the very edge of the City of Coventry, was built as part of a suite of buildings including the School, Vicarage and stable block. They provided a focal point for what was a small, but growing, hamlet. The church is still an important building in its community and local history is celebrated and explored here. The churchyard is a haven for wildlife.
- 2 St. John Baptist, Berkswell** St. John's is one of the finest Grade I churches in the country in a rural setting, with fine examples of wood carving by the 'mouseman' Robert Thompson. The ancient Norman crypt is a peaceful haven for visitors especially on a warm summer's day - pilgrims have been coming here for centuries - and the churchyard leads onto excellent footpaths across farmland.



- 3 St. Laurence, Meriden** Its hill top setting means that fantastic views can be enjoyed from the Churchyard at St. Laurence church. It is thought that the original church was founded by Lady Godiva who owned the manor here. Inside is a magnificent alms chest dating from 1627 and the Arts and Crafts stained glass, much of it made by studios in Smethwick in Birmingham, is particularly fine. Ancient monuments dating from the 1400s remind us that this is a place steeped in history.

Countryside Code

Please respect, protect and enjoy the countryside you pass through by following signs, leaving gates and property as you found them, protecting plants and animals, keeping dogs under control, taking your litter home and considering other people.



If anyone would like to contribute a walk for future issues, please get in touch with Chris Bannister (see back page for contact details)