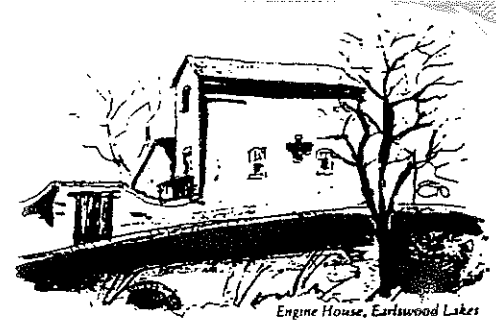


**A SOLIHULL WAY
(SOUTH SECTION)
EARLSWOOD - SOLIHULL TOWN CENTRE
(More Rural Route)**



Engine House, Earlswood Lakes

- 1

Earlswood Lakes

From The Reservoir PH at Earlswood cross-roads (Walk 3 in Country Walks Book 2 starts close to here) follow Shutt Lane; at Salter Street TL (2).
- 2

Salter Street

TR Vicarage Road (1.3km/0.8m); at the bend, cross stile on the R; follow line of occasional trees (and marker posts) to a stile; continue over bridge and round the edge of wooded hollow (on L) to another stile; cross field to gate at Illshaw Heath Road (3A).
- 3A

Illshaw Heath Road

TR for 100 paces and TL along access drive; after gate, cross stile on R; follow field edge to footbridge; continue beyond through area of gorse to track; TL along track to stile and beyond to front of Sidenhailes Farm (4A) (3km/1.9m) - demolished after fire: Note: business park being built here and footpath diversion proposed.
- 4A

Sidenhailes Farm

Follow path to right of building to stile; continue ahead on track to farm access bridge over M42; TL alongside motorway to stile; bear R to hedge corner, deviation from Definitive Map here; follow hedge to Stratford Road (5A) (3km/1.9m).
- 5A

Stratford Road

X Stratford Road and TL; follow footway round M42 interchange and continue alongside A34; cross over River Blythe and cross stile on R by gate; follow leafy path which passes at back of housing - to Shelly Lane; cross Shelly Crescent, passing Shelly Farm PH to junction Shelly Crescent/Monkspath Hall Road (6A) (6.1km/3.8m).
- 6A

Monkspath Hall Road

X Monkspath Hall Road, TR and follow Monkspath Cycle Route - alongside Hillfield Park, past The Field House PH, X Widney Lane to take tarmac path at bus shelter - Libbards Way; TL Hillfield Road (7A).
- 7

Hillfield Road

Continue on Monkspath Cycle Route past Hillfield Hall, under railway to Church Hill Road (8.1km/5m) and TL; X to path between Nos 55/57 Church Hill Road; at path end, TR up Church Hill Road to St Alphege Church; TR New Road for rural Middle Section of walk; X at War Memorial to High Street (8) (Walk 4 in Country Walks Book 2 starts close to here); TR Mill Lane (9km/5.6m) to continue on direct Middle Section of Walk or to end of High Street for bus connections at Poplar Road.
- 8

**Solihull
Town Centre**

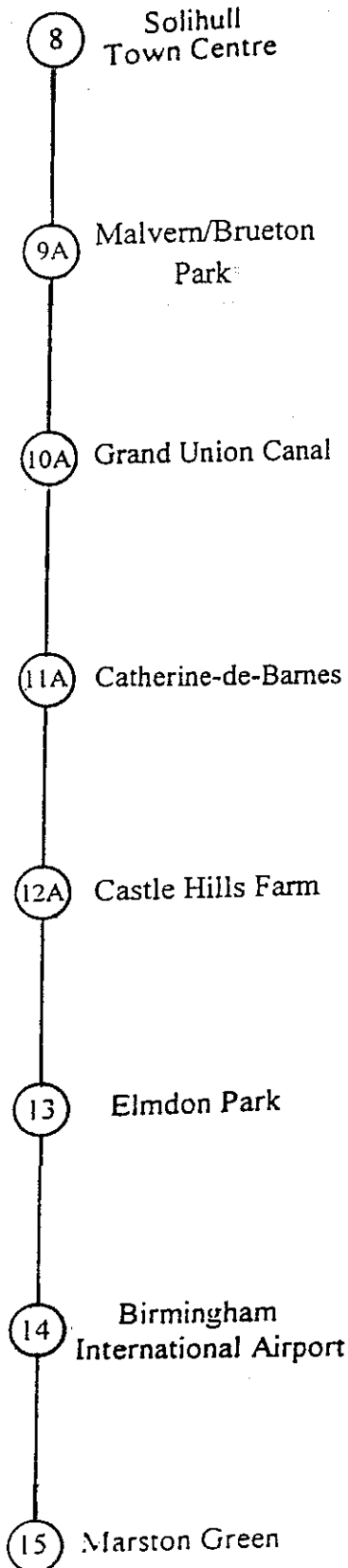
TR = Turn Right X = Cross TL = Turn Left

A SOLIHULL WAY (MIDDLE SECTION) SOLIHULL TOWN CENTRE - MARSTON GREEN

(More Rural Route By-passing Town Centre)



St. Alphege Church



From Poplar Road bus stops, go down High Street (8).

At end of High Street X to War Memorial (route from south joins here) at St Alphege Church; continue straight ahead on New Road and follow Park Road into Malvern Park (9A) - for more details of this Park see Strolling in Parks Leaflet No. 5; pass through gateway and head for Boehm's imposing statue of horse and horse tamer; follow path round to right, at back of Malvern Hall; keep to main path in open, past toilets to car park and at "Old" Warwick Road TR (walk 4 in County Walks Book 2 starts here); TL Barston Lane to its end and continue on tarmac path up to by-pass; cross over with care to signpost opposite and follow path, initially tarmaced, down to gate; continue between fences and parallel to M42; at next gate keep following motorway on tarmac footpath and then road (other end of Barston Lane); cross over canal bridge and immediately take path down to Grand Union Canal (10A) towpath at Henwood Wharf (3.6km/2.2m).

Proceed northwards on towpath (canal on left); bear R off towpath onto track at wooden chicken house to Catherine-de-Barnes (11A) (5.1km/3.2m) - walk 10 in Country Walks Book 2 starts here.

TR to roundabout and follow Solihull Road; cross stile at farthest corner of Hampton Lane Farm; follow muddy track round to the R to stile by gate; TL, following hedge to top of field; TL and follow hedge (on right)- walk 2 in Country Walks Book 2 - to Catherine-de-Barnes Lane; TR and X to stile after 90 paces; bear L to hedge corner and TR across the field approximately parallel to hedge on L - to stile to left of gaelic football posts; follow hedge alongside football ground; just past pavilion (footbridge down on R), TL across narrow field to steps leading down to footbridge; bear R diagonally across field towards area of thicker vegetation (about ¾ way up right hand field boundary) - to stile by gate; follow hedge on L and make for stile to R of Castle Hills Farm (12A) (8km/5m).

Go round to R of farm buildings and follow track down to footbridge (walk 6 in Country Walks Book 1); follow hedge on L to stile where path is enclosed between fence and hedge; TL at Danson Parkway; X dual carriageway and take road (signposted Elmdon Church/Public Bridleway) between Land Rover Works and Golf Range/Restaurant; after Land Rover fence TL into Elmdon Park (13).

Walk up hill approximately parallel with road, towards old gnarled sweet chestnut tree; continue beyond to beacon and follow line of trees to exit road from car park; at junction of tracks continue straight ahead; TL along track with Elmdon Grange on R; follow path through woodland fringe planted area to housing; cross Victor Road and Rangoon Road to A45 Coventry Road and enter Birmingham, X with care and TR; TL between cottages (Tiger Island Cottages) (11km/6.8m) to Birmingham International Airport boundary fence (14).

Follow fence with Hatchford Brook Golf Course on left; continue round to end of runway and head for bridge under railway (13.3km/8.2m) for the continuation of the walk northwards.

For those wishing to pick up a bus at Marston Green Station, cross over Hatchford Brook and continue up the hill, back into Solihull, to Elmdon Lane; TL, cross over footbridge to bus stops (15) (14km/8.7m).

TR = Turn Right X = Cross TL = Turn Left

**A SOLIHULL WAY
(NORTH SECTION)
MARSTON GREEN - CASTLE BROMWICH
HALL GARDENS**



Castle Bromwich Hall

- (15) Marston Green
- (16) Hatchford Brook
- (17) Kingshurst Brook
- (18) Meriden Park
- (19) Cole Bank
- (20) The Ridge
- (21) Beechcroft Open Space
- (22) Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens

From Marston Green railway station cross the footbridge to Elmdon Lane; after a short distance TR, just before the car park entrance, on to a path; go through the gate into Birmingham's Sheldon Country Park and down the hill to cross the Hatchford Brook (16) - the middle section joins from the left.

The route northwards continues to the right following the path under the railway line to Bell Lane (The Bell PH); cross over to the path (into Solihull) through the first of many areas of open space, Holly Lane Fields; at the Friendly Inn, go under Gloucester Way (1.6 km/1.0m) and where Low Brook joins Hatchford Brook - Kingshurst Brook (17) is formed.

Continue through Bellbrook Fields; cross the brook by the footbridge and follow the brook on the other bank; after passing under Bosworth Drive we enter Queen's Gardens; after passing under Chelmsley Road (2.6km/1m) we enter Meriden Park (18).

Pass the lake, toilets, bowling green and children's play area and follow the entrance road to Moored Avenue (walk 12 in Country Walks Book 1 joins here); TL and X; after crossing the River Cole Bridge, TR to follow the river in Cole Bank Open Space (19).

Follow the River Cole, under Bacon's End Bridge; where the river turns right to the M6, proceed up the hill to the left of the E11R cipher cut in the bank (3.9km/2.4m); go clockwise round the roundabout to the third exit road; TR to follow The Ridge (20) between Auckland Drive and the Collector Road/M6.

Continue in this narrow open space with Coleshill Church on the hill to the right; cross an access road to the Collector Road (6.5km/4m); enter Bosworth's Wood and Lanchester Park; after the access road to Forest Oak School, take the path at the back of the housing with the school on the right to Water Orton Road (7.6km/4.8m); TR and X; after the end of the housing, take the path at the back of the housing into Beechcroft Open Space (21).

Follow the path through the open space with Birmingham City Centre skyline coming into view; X Parkfield Drive (9km/5.6m) and continue through the open space past the children's play area to Kingsleigh Drive (9.7km/6m); go up Kyter Drive; TR up the unadopted Rectory Lane; at Chester Road TR past the church; TL into the car park and Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens (22).

Bus connections can be picked up from Hall Road at the mini roundabout adjacent to Castle Bromwich Hall at the bend in Chester Road.

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