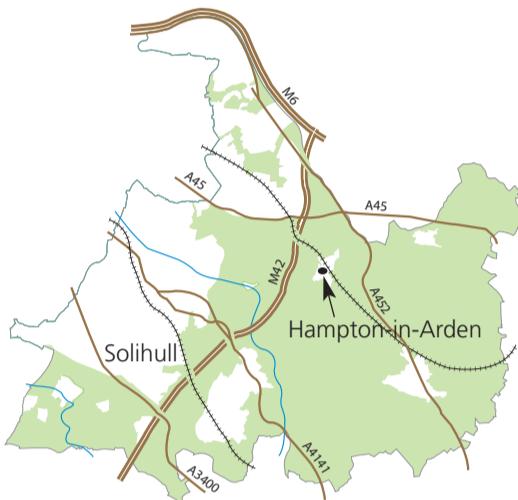


How to get to Hampton-in-Arden

The three walks described in this leaflet will take you around the villages of Hampton-in-Arden and nearby Barston.

All of the routes are clearly waymarked. You can also look out for the traditional oak fingerposts, which mark the start of the footpaths and bridleways within the borough, including the routes that you will follow as part of this leaflet.

The walks range in distance and terrain and we have attempted to describe the walks as accurately as possible so that you can decide whether they are suitable for you.



Hampton-in-Arden is situated 3.5 miles east of Solihull and just 2.5 miles from junction 6 of the M42.

For further information on public transport links to Hampton-in-Arden please contact Traveline West Midlands on 0871 200 22 33 or at <http://www.travelinemidlands.co.uk>.

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



Solihull Countryside Walks

A guide to walks in the local area



Hampton-in-Arden

Solihull Countryside Walks

Hampton-in-Arden

An introduction to Hampton-in-Arden

Hampton-in-Arden with its population of just 1900, is located within the area of the historic Forest of Arden and is one of just three villages locally which share the suffix 'in-Arden'.



High Street

Many of the oldest and prettiest buildings remaining in the village are timber framed and are recognised as being of national importance. These mainly lie next to the Solihull Road and High Street.

Hampton appears in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as 'Hantone' but it was also known as 'Ardene'. It has been suggested that the Forest of Arden is the setting for the Shakespeare play 'As you like it' from 1599/1600, with some sources claiming that the comedy may be set in the village of Hampton-in-Arden itself.

In 1968, the central part of the village was designated a Conservation Area, which is an "area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance."

There are a number of other suggested walks in the area which you may like to explore. These walks are detailed within six leaflets which have been prepared by the Local History Group. Copies of these can be purchased in the village corner shop and at the Post Office both located opposite the church.

We would like to recognise the support and assistance given in the creation of this leaflet by Robin Watkin of the Hampton-in-Arden History Group, the Hampton Society and the Fentham Trust.

Points of interest

- 1 Marsh Lane Local Nature Area and Packhorse Bridge** Thought to date back to the 15th Century, this picturesque five bay bridge sits across the River Blythe at the Marsh Lane ford.
- 2 Parish Church of St Mary and St Bartholomew** Heavily restored in 1878 the current building stands on the site of a former anglo-saxon church recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.
- 3 Ring of Bells building.** Originally a public house which closed in 1939, the building has subsequently been used as both a shop and garage.
- 4 Hamlet of Walsal End.** Follow the public footpath through this picturesque hamlet which allows excellent views of the old timber properties.
- 5 Bull's Head pub, Barston.** Thought to date back to the 1490s, the pub is believed originally to be a staging inn .
- 6 West Midlands Golf Club and lakes.** Featuring an 18 hole golf course, there are public rights of way in the area which form a pleasant loop around the fishing lake.
- 7 Hampton-in-Arden Railway Station.** Serving the village and local area this station is on the main Birmingham, Coventry to London line. There are frequent trains to both Birmingham and Coventry.

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
- Consider other people



Solihull Countryside Walks Hampton-in-Arden

Walk 1 Barston and back

Approximate distance: 4.5 miles
Walk time: 3.5 hours

Beginning at the Beeches **8**, turn left out of the Fentham Hall carpark onto Marsh Lane and follow the road in an westerly direction to its junction with the High Street. Here you can see the parish church **2** and the building known as the Ring of Bells **3**. From here turn left 20 meters later onto Belle Vue terrace. Follow the footway down to the bottom of the road where it will join a public footpath which runs between hedges. Once you are on the footpath you will notice that the path forks. At this point turn left and follow the footpath which takes you south directly away from the village. This will take you across a number of fields and a footbridge heading towards the picturesque hamlet of Walsall End **4**. Please be aware that there are a number of changes in gradient and surface condition on this section of the route.

Walking through Walsall End, continue heading south towards the village of Barston. Leaving the footpath you will join Oak Lane, and then Barston Lane, which will take you through the village. As you are passing through Barston you may wish to stop for refreshments at the Bulls Head pub which is open daily **5**.

Continue through the village until you reach the junction of Ryton End Lane. A short walk along this country lane, takes you to a bridleway that will allow you to continue on towards Barston lakes which form part of the West Midlands Golf Club **6**. From here continue along the bridleway which will take you back to Marsh Lane local nature area **1**. From here and taking care, follow the historic Marsh Lane in a north westerly direction back into the village of Hampton-in-Arden and your start point at the Beeches **8**.



Walk 2 The Packhorse bridge water and rail side wander

Approximate distance: 3.75 miles
Walk time: 2 to 2.5 hours

This route can be done as two individual shorter walks or one larger loop, both start at the Marsh Lane local nature reserve area **1**. From here follow the old line of Marsh Lane, crossing the Packhorse Bridge. To your left you will see the line of the London to Birmingham railway line crossing the river which stops in the village. Continue on following the line of Marsh Lane to its junction with Windmill Farm Drive. From here follow the public footpath across the fields before linking back onto the main access drive to the West Midlands Golf Club and Lakes **6**. Turning right, join and follow the drive and then the connecting footpath around the lake back to your starting point at Marsh Lane **1**.

At this point you have the choice to end your walk or continue on to the second part of the walk. If continuing on, take the footpath signed to Hampton-in-Arden which begins from the Junction of Marsh Lane **1**. Crossing the boardwalk follow the footpath in a south westerly direction across the fields towards the village of Hampton in Arden. Crossing Bellemere Road continue on the footpath before turning right and heading north to join Marsh Lane to the side of the Beeches **8**.

At this point dog-leg across Marsh Lane and Join Fentham Road. Continue along Fentham Road to you reach the junction with the footpath on your right. Turning right follow this footpath across the railway. Hampton railway station **7** is to your left. Turning right again immediately after the bridge follow the footpath as it runs adjacent to the railway line before crossing back beneath the railway to join Marsh Lane. From here continue on along Marsh Lane to your start point at Marsh Lane local nature reserve area **1**.