

How to get to Meriden

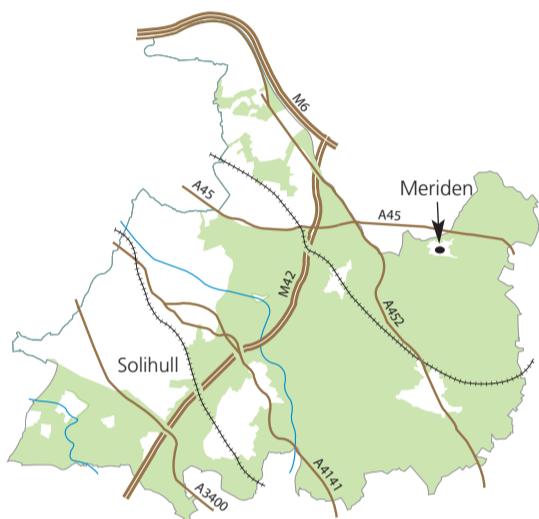
The two walks described in this leaflet will take you from the village of Meriden and allow you to explore the surrounding countryside.

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.

Meriden is situated just 6 miles from Solihull and 4 miles from Coventry and is conveniently located just off of the A45 and 2.7 miles from junction 6 of the M42.

For further information on public transport links to Meriden 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 always park considerately.



Solihull Countryside Walks

A guide to walks in the local area



Meriden



Solihull Countryside Walks

Meriden

An introduction to Meriden

Meriden is reputed to be the 'Centre of England'. A 500 year old stone cross lies in the centre of the village on the Green to illustrate this claim. This medieval village cross is a grade II listed monument.

The village is located in an area of rural green belt which separates the cities of Coventry and Birmingham. This area takes its name from the village being known as the Meriden Gap. There are many popular walks in this area which allow you to explore this countryside, these routes include the Heart of England Way, A Coventry Way and the Millennium Way. Further information on rights of way in the Borough is available on the Council's website at <http://www.solihull.gov.uk>.



The village is situated at an historical crossing of route ways to the south of the main A45 Birmingham-Coventry road. The original settlement, known as Alspath ('road to Al's dwelling') was on the hill to the east of the present-day village and was held by the Countess Godiva before 1066 and by Nicholas during the time of the Domesday survey of 1086.

The establishment of the London Road drew the centre away from the hamlet on the hill into the valley alongside the road. This was turnpiked in 1821 and Meriden became a coaching stage with several inns and ale houses. The A45 by-pass, opened in 1958, reduced the amount of through traffic, returning the road to local use through the village.

The centre of the village today is at the crossroads of the London Road with the Fillongley Road (Solihull to Nuneaton). It is along these two roads that development can be traced.

Meriden was the home of the Triumph Motorcycle factory, which moved from Coventry during the Second World War. The factory continued making bikes until it was finally closed in 1983. The site is now occupied by houses, whose street name retains a link to its past heritage.

Points of interest

Queens Head Public House 1

The Queens Head claims to be the oldest Inn in Meriden and has been licensed for over 300 years. It is now established as a public house offering refreshments including meals at lunchtimes each day.

View point 3

There are fantastic views from this point on the walk. On a clear day, the City of Birmingham is clearly visible to the west.

Meriden Church 6

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 Arts and Crafts stained glass, much of it made by studios in Smethwick in Birmingham.

Berryfields Farm Shop 7

The farm shop offers a variety of locally sourced food including home reared pork. There is also a newly open coffee shop which serves fresh food from the farm.

Meriden Hall 9

Is a large three-storied stone house of the early 18th century. The property is currently privately owned and used as offices.

Bulls Head 10

The Bulls Head is a traditional village pub set at the heart of the village. It serves traditional food and refreshments daily.

Meriden Cross 11

On the village green is a mediaeval stone cross, traditionally reputed to mark the centre of England. The cross is a scheduled ancient monument.

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 time
- Consider other people
- Clean up after your dog and dispose of any waste in an appropriate bin.

Solihull Countryside Walks - Meriden



Please be aware that the routes described in this leaflet are relatively hilly and that underfoot conditions will vary throughout the year as the routes cross working farmland. We have attempted to describe the walks as accurately as possible so that you can decide whether they are suitable for you.

Walk 1: Walk distance: 3.5 Miles Length of Walk: 2.5 - 3hrs

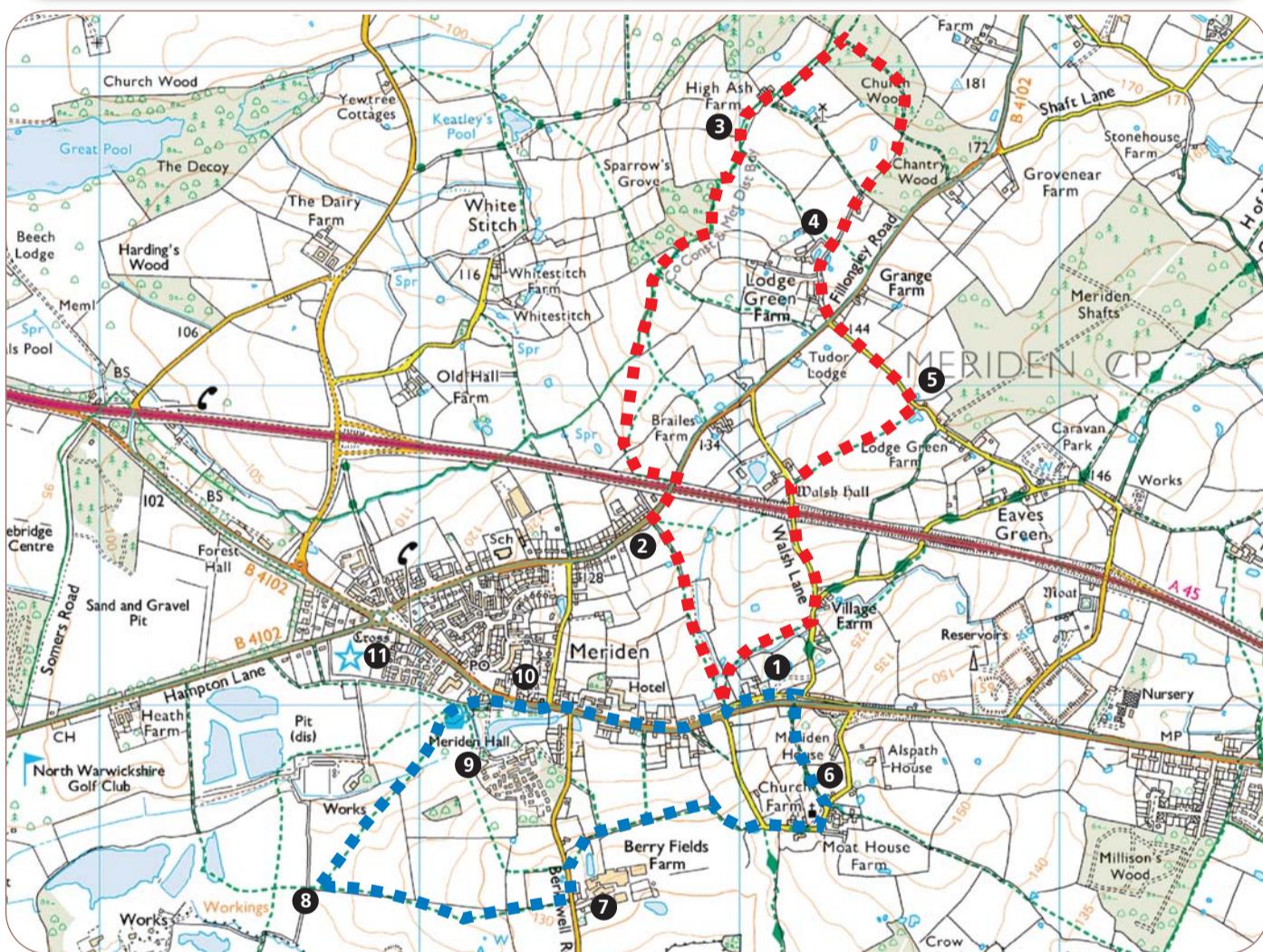
Start at the beginning of Old Road with the Queens Head Pub **1** to your right, go through the metal kissing gate on the road side before heading north along the field edge walking uphill before exiting the field via a metal kissing gate to join the Fillongley Road **2**.

Taking care cross the road and turn right, walking away from the village. After crossing the bridge which spans the A45, take the first footpath on your left directly after the bridge. Having gone through the metal road side kissing gate, you will follow the line of the A45 before turning right through another gate and then heading across the field walking away from the main road. On the far side of the field, you will cross a stile and then follow the path as it traces the field edge past Sparrows Grove towards High Ash Farm **3**.

At this point you will need to cross the farm drive, with the farm building on your left, before continuing to follow the footpath towards and then into Church Wood. Shortly after entering Church Wood, the footpath will split. At this point, marked by a yellow topped marker post, turn right following the established path through the woods and down towards the Fillongley Road. Before reaching the main road, a path will be available to you on your left marked by another yellow topped post. Take this path which will take you along the edge of Chantry Wood before it joins the junction of High Ash Farm drive and Lodge Green Lane North **4**. Continue heading down Lodge Green Lane North until you reach its junction with the Fillongley Road. At this point you will need to take care and cross the Fillongley Road, before continuing along Lodge Green Lane for a distance of approximately 350m.

Just before Landor Cottage there will be a public footpath on your right **5**. Take this footpath across the field and follow it until you join Walsh Lane opposite Walsh Hall. At this point turn left and walk along Walsh Lane crossing over the A45 again.

Continue along Walsh Lane. Shortly after its junction with Eaves Green Lane take the footpath on your right located opposite the Village Farm. Follow this footpath along the field edge as it takes you back to your starting point on Old Road.



Walk 2: Walk Distance: 2.5 Miles Length of walk: 1.5 - 2hrs

Starting at the Queens Head **1** public house, take the set of steps dead opposite and then cross the road at the top. Directly in front of you is a metal kissing gate, go through the gate and follow the path up to the Church **6**. At the roadside turn right, follow the road for approximately three hundred yards and directly in front of you, will be a farm gate, walk to the right of the gate and continue on along the path until you come to a waymark post. At this point turn right and follow the headland until you find a large gap in the hedge, go through the gap and turn immediately left, again following the headland, until you reach a kissing gate. Go through the gate and bear left, until you reach the next kissing gate. After going through this gate, head diagonally across the field, in the corner is another kissing gate. At this point you are now on the Berkswell road, turn left (being careful of the road) and you will come to Berryfields Farm Shop **7**, dead opposite is a public footpath. Take this path and follow the field edge until you come to a farm gate, go through this gate and carry on for a little while until you reach a hand gate in the fence line on your right-hand side, you now need to go through this gate and turn left heading towards the quarry. The headland will now be on your left-hand side. When you reach the corner of this field, directly in front of you is a large kissing gate **8**, DO NOT GO THROUGH THIS GATE, but turn right and head diagonally back down across the field, you should now be heading back towards Meriden. After walking across this field you will reach a hand gate, bear left and go through another hand gate and then across a small bridge. After the bridge turn right and head towards the kissing gate in the corner of the field. Go through the gate and follow the small section of path which will bring you on to the drive of Meriden Hall **9**. Turning left, this will bring you back onto Main Road. Opposite you is the Bulls Head **10**. To your left is the heart of Meriden village and Meriden Cross **11**, where there are a number of shops available. To return to your start point, turn right and follow the road back to your starting point at the Queens Head **1**.