

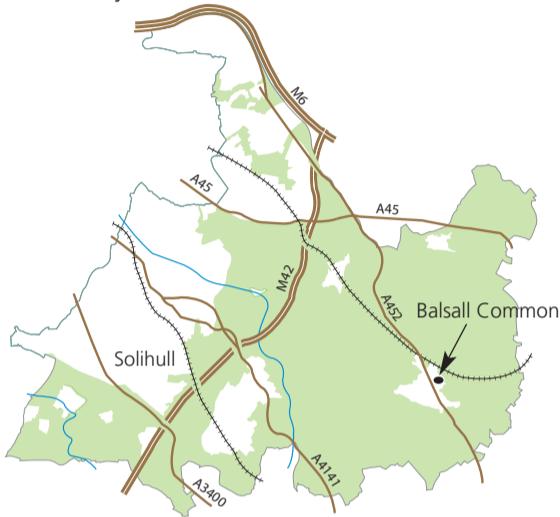
How to get to Balsall Common

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 Anglo-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 Millennium 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



The Brickmakers Arms



Waste Lane, Balsall Common



Solihull Walks

A guide to walks in the local area



Balsall Common

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 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.

