

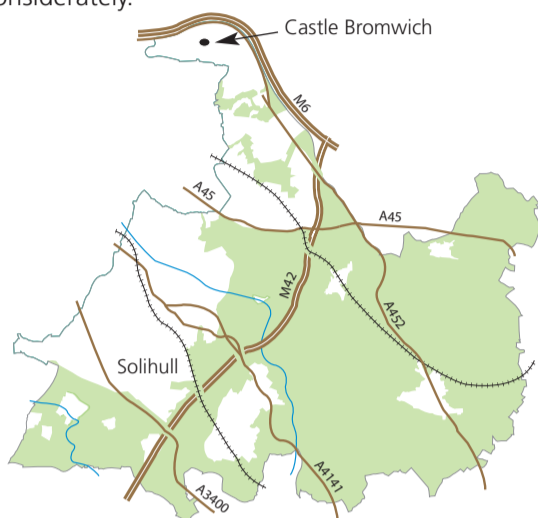
How to get to Castle Bromwich

The walk described in this leaflet will take you around Castle Bromwich and allow you to explore the areas historic past and points of interest.

Castle Bromwich is situated just 8 miles from Solihull town centre and is conveniently located off of the A45 and junction 6 of the M42.

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

If you are travelling by cars, 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.

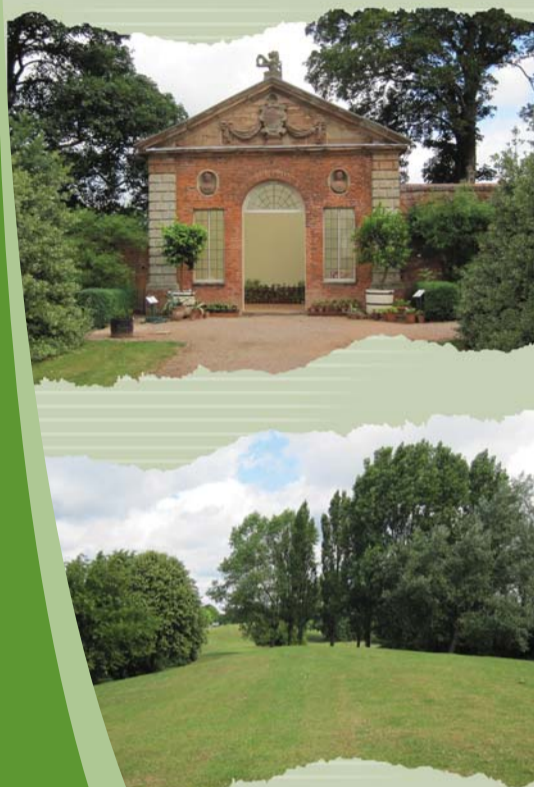
You can do this by:

- 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 Walks

A guide to walks in the local area



Castle Bromwich

Solihull Countryside Walks

Castle Bromwich

An introduction to Castle Bromwich

The parish of Castle Bromwich is now considered an urban area, however this was not always the case, and many of the buildings which make up the oldest part of the parish still hint to and give a feel of its village origins.

For many years, Castle Bromwich fell within the boundary of the County of Warwickshire, and it is thought that there has been a settlement in this area since before Stone Age times.

The area was originally known simply as Bromwich. It is thought that Brom element of the name originates from the wild plant Broom which occurs naturally on heath land and has been known to grow on the area around the local landmark of Pimple Hill. The suffix wich may derive from either the latin Vicus which means a civilian settlement outside a fort, or more likely indicate that it was the site of a farm. The addition of the prefix 'Castle' is thought to be a medieval addition which refers to the ancient Castle Mound situated to the north of Castle Bromwich Hall. The motte and bailey castle once stood at this location, which is known locally as Pimple Hill. The site is now a grade one listed monument. Access is restricted however views are available from Point 8. The first documentary evidence for the Castle is on the Close Roll 1287 naming Henry de Chastel de Bromwyth.

The Chester Road which runs through the village follows the line of a pre-historic road, whose origins probably lie as an ancient track way from the pre-Roman era. The Bradford Arms public house, located on the Chester Road is formally a coaching inn. The original building was built in 1723 on the site of an earlier pub called 'The White Lion'. The high doors to the coach houses can still be seen. Law courts and Catholic services have been held here. It is the oldest pub in the village.

We would like to recognise the assistance given in the creation of this leaflet by Jerry Dutton of the North Arden Local History Society and Castle Bromwich Parish Council.



St Mary and St Margaret's Church

Points of interest

Arden Hall 1

Arden Hall is owned and run by Castle Bromwich Parish Council. It was opened in October 1965 to serve the needs of the Castle Bromwich community. Arden Hall takes its name from the historic Arden Family who are Shakespeare's maternal ancestors and lived at nearby Park Hall for about 350 years. Meeting rooms are available for hire. For further information about the Hall and the Parish Council please visit their website at www.castlebromwichpc.gov.uk

Parks and Open Space 2 4 5 6

There are a number of parks and open spaces within Castle Bromwich which are maintained by Castle Bromwich Parish Council and Solihull Council. These areas offer a range of facilities including pub and local shops and opportunities for exercise and open air recreation.

St. Mary and St. Margaret's Church 8

Located at the western end of the original village. It is thought that a small wooden chapel was sited at the current location as far back as 1175. The current church is a 15th Century timber framed building that was entirely encased in red brick and stone in the 18th Century. The only visual cue of the churches wooden frame can be seen in the roof where the large Oak timbers are still visible. The building is considered to have outstanding architectural and historic merit.

Castle Bromwich Hall and gardens 9

The Hall is a Jacobean style 17th Century mansion which is Grade 1 listed, as is the Bakehouse. The Stable Block and Pigeon House, both Grade 2 buildings, complete an interesting group of buildings. The Hall was built for Sir Edward Devereaux, the first MP for Tamworth in Staffordshire. The property remained in private hands until the 1930's after which the building was used for storage and offices. The house is not open to the public

The hall gardens are an excellent surviving example of English formal gardens of the period 1680-1730. restoration of the gardens commenced in 1985 with the formation of the Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust. The gardens extend to eight acres and are open to the Public between Easter and the end of September between 1.30pm and 4.30pm on Mondays – Thursdays (inclusive), and between 2pm and 6pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The Green 10

Originally part of a parcel of land called Seven Acre Green, the village green was given to the village by Viscount Newport in 1895 and is maintained by the Parish.Council. The War Memorial, designed by local architect Charles Edward Bateman was erected in 1920 and sits on a small island nearby. Please do take a moment to look around this interesting area, which is also the home of the Youth Council Sensory Peace Garden.

Solihull Walks - Castle Bromwich



The walk described below is based on the Festival Way. The Festival Way was developed in 1994 by Castle Bromwich Ramblers Association to celebrate 100 years of Castle Bromwich Parish Council. This new route remains largely true to the original, however some small amendments have been made to take into account the changes to the area that have come about as a result of recent development in the area.

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



The walk begins at Arden Hall **1** on Water Orton Road where car parking is available. Heading out of Arden Hall turn left onto Water Orton Road before crossing the road after a short distance into the thin wooded strip of land known locally as the Spinney **2**. It is thought that the Spinney is a remnant of the ancient Forest of Arden. Follow the natural path through The Spinney as it runs alongside Green Lane and West Avenue. At this paths junction with Hurst Lane North **3**, leave The Spinney and continue on along Green Lane which turns into Auckland Drive. A short cut is available at this point which is shown on the plan as a dotted green line. If taking this shortcut you will need to skip forward to point **6** below.



The Spinney

Continue along Auckland Drive to its junction with Lanchester Way. At this point turn left on to Lanchester Way and then walk up onto the grassed bank known as The Ridge **4**. Walking on the bank, continue along away from Auckland Drive following the line of Lanchester Way. As you make your way along the bank you will cross over the access road to the Collector Road and eventually come into Bosworth Wood and Lanchester Park **5**. Walk along the northern edge of Lanchester Park as it traces the line of the Collector Road. On your left you will pass Park Hall School as you make your way to Water Orton Road **6**.

Crossing Water Orton Road, and then the lay-by, you are now entering Beechcroft Open Space. Follow first the grass and then the tarmac paths through this area before crossing over Parkfield Drive and continuing through the grassed area between housing and the Collector Road. Continue following the tarmac path which will take you past the play area before leading you on to Kingsleigh Drive **7**.

Turn right onto Kingsleigh Drive and follow the road down to its junction with Chester Road. In front of you is St. Mary and St. Margaret's Church **8**. At this point there is an opportunity to deviate from the walk and visit Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens **9**, the entrance to which is to your right. If you do not wish to visit the gardens, turn left onto Chester Road, follow the road down past the Church and then Castle Bromwich Hall which will be on your right hand side. Shortly after you pass the Hall you will come to a roundabout. In front of you is the Parish Council open space known as Bradford Gardens. At this point turn left and follow this road which will take you past the village green **10** and then on to your start point at Arden Hall **1**.



Castle Bromwich Hall

