

Bentley Walks



This walk combines a delightful mix of open farmland with woodland. It follows quiet roads, ancient trackways, and streams to link Bentley Park and Hoar Park.



North Warwickshire
Borough Council

POINTS OF INTEREST

(A) Horse and Jockey Public House The inn sign outside the pub depicts Sir William Dugdale winning the 1952 Grand National on a horse called Cloncarraig.

(B) Bentley Cemetery The church of St John in this small cemetery was built in 1837 to replace holy Trinity Chapel located about 1/2 km south.

(C) Bentley Park Wood Bentley Park Wood is part of the Merevale Estate. It is a mixed woodland of hardwoods including oak and ash, and softwoods such as larch and pine. The flora underneath includes bluebells, wood anemones and ferns. The woodland is a site of specific scientific interest (SSSI).



King Alfred's Cakes, a common fungi found on dead ash. So named as they are supposed to look like King Alfred's burnt cakes!

(D) Birchley Heath A small village, originally a farming community, but increased with houses built for workers at nearby coal mines.

(E) Hoar Park A collection of varied craft-related shops, in old restored farm buildings dating back to 1730. There is also a garden centre, antique shop, and a children's farm. Refreshments are also available.



Hoar Park Craft Village and Children's Farm.

(G) Green Lane Lanes of this type were used to be the main form of road between settlements. They were used for driving animals, and the occasional cart. They are often sunken, partly through centuries of use, but also from the high banks on either side, planted with hedging to prevent stock escaping. Some were lanes gradually improved and are today's surfaced roads, but many others are now only paths, or have disappeared completely.

Bentley Walk

I HORSE AND JOCKEY TO BIRCHLEY HEATH □

From the Horse and Jockey Public House (A), carefully cross the main road and follow the bridleway to the left of Bentley Cemetery (B). Follow the track past a cottage on your right to a fork in the track. Take the path to the right and walk across the field to a stile on the far side. Over the stile, follow the well marked track through Bentley Park Woods (C). At the edge of the woods, cross over a stile and out onto a road. This is Birchley Heath (D). To return to the Horse and Jockey from this point, simply retrace your steps, or follow II/ below to Hoar Park.

II BIRCHLEY HEATH TO HOAR PARK ○

To continue the walk, cross the road, turn right, and then left into The Rookery. Follow the road for a short distance to a stile. Cross the stile and walk straight ahead along the edge of the field to the edge of Bentley Wood. Turn right and walk along the edge of several fields to a farm on your left. Just after the farm buildings, cross over a bridge, turn right, and walk down the track to Birchley Heath Road. Turn right and walk for 100 metres to where the road bears right. Take the footpath to the left through a gate along an old green lane.

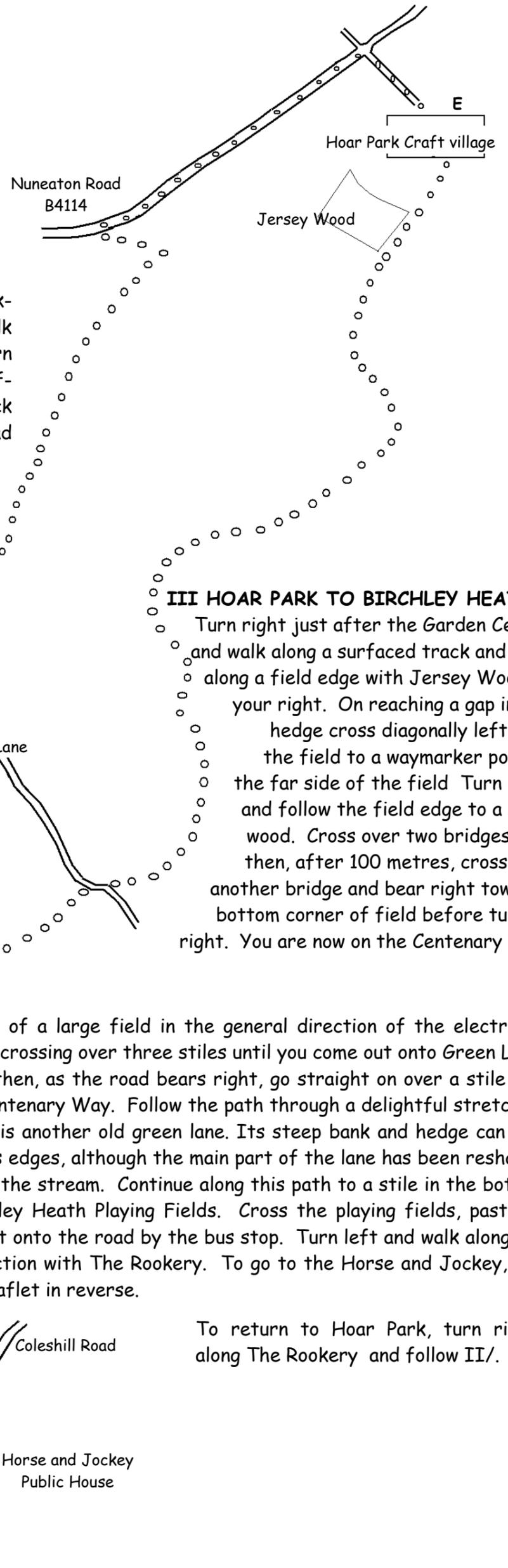
Follow this lane until Green Lane is reached. Cross a stile opposite, and walk along initially a farm track with a hedge on your left. On reaching a large gap in the hedge, go through the gap and continue with the hedge on your right. Follow a short length of new hedge, crossing a gap to a more mature hedge.

Turn left and follow the hedge on your right to a stile. Cross over the stile and follow the path with a hedge now on your left. At the end of the hedge, bear left and follow a farm track to some green gates and out onto Nuneaton Road.

Turn right and walk carefully along the road until you reach the entrance to Hoar Park. Turn right and walk down the access road to the Craft Centre (E). To continue the walk, follow III.



Bluebells in Merevale Woods



III HOAR PARK TO BIRCHLEY HEATH ○

Turn right just after the Garden Centre and walk along a surfaced track and then along a field edge with Jersey Wood to your right. On reaching a gap in the hedge cross diagonally left over the field to a waymarker post on the far side of the field. Turn right and follow the field edge to a small wood. Cross over two bridges, and then, after 100 metres, cross over another bridge and bear right towards bottom corner of field before turning right. You are now on the Centenary Way.

Follow the edge of a large field in the general direction of the electricity poles eventually crossing over three stiles until you come out onto Green Lane. Turn right and then, as the road bears right, go straight on over a stile still following the Centenary Way. Follow the path through a delightful stretch of woodland. This is another old green lane. Its steep bank and hedge can still be seen along its edges, although the main part of the lane has been reshaped by landfalls and the stream. Continue along this path to a stile in the bottom corner of Birchley Heath Playing Fields. Cross the playing fields, past the play area and out onto the road by the bus stop. Turn left and walk along the road to the junction with The Rookery. To go to the Horse and Jockey, follow I/ on this leaflet in reverse.

To return to Hoar Park, turn right along The Rookery and follow II/.