

Main Walk

1. Walk along Eastern Green Lane towards the city for 200m, **T/L** between the middle of four apartment buildings. Thro' k/g & hg-right to go thro' k/g, cross-field to gap, cross-field to & over f/b & k/g. **Fwd**, pick up hg-left & go up thro' a series of k/gs bearing left. Ignore path to right, continue until just after "OPL" at outward hedge corner. Cross-field ahead to pylon, over s/b thro' k/g then cross-field diagonally to field corner. Thro' k/g, over s/b, hg-left, then thro' k/g, down steps to road.
2. **T/L** up road & then **T/R** to next corner. **T/L** via k/g down track towards Pickford Grange Fm. Just past farm, **fwd** then k/g right of metal gate. Hg-right to k/g left of f/g. **Fwd** hg-left down towards two f/b in corner, do not cross. **T/R**, brook on left over next two fields. Thro' k/g and over s/b to continue over next field with initially brook on left, follow hg-left round right until k/g is reached near wood, go thro' k/g. (**Route A** see below).
3. Cross-field, initially keep parallel to the boundary of wood on right. **Fwd** leaving the boundary of the wood to aim for the opposite hedge line towards the far corner. As short hedge comes in on left look for & go thro' k/g left of metal gate in this hedgeline. **T/R**, hg-right, continue as path becomes fenced track, to end of field. Thro' p/g in large gate, **V/R** to far corner, then via narrow gap to a permissive path off to the right that enters Church Lane. **T/L** & follow road around to the right, (joining ACW), pass Vicarage Mews on left to just before road turns sharp right.
4. Enter field on left by gap at side of metal gate (WMP) to join ACW. **H/L** towards hedge on left. Keep hg-left, to cross s/b just off field corner. Continue with hg-left to k/g in corner, **H/L** thro' next field to x-stile by gate, then with hg-left uphill to go thro' k/g next to metal gate. **H/L** uphill across field to go thro' k/g. **V/L** thro' paddock & thro' k/g into access track & **fwd** down gravel track to road.

5. **Fwd** over road & k/g, with hg-left follow farm track & after 150m go thro' hedge gap. **Fwd** with hg-right & at the end of this field, **fwd** thro' hedge gap, pass larger gap on right to continue **fwd** with hg-right to cross s/b & k/g in field corner. **V/L**, pool right, cross-field to far side **T/L** keeping fc/hg-right go thro' k/g just past the next corner. Hg-right, past pond to corner, thro' k/g. **T/R** down drive to road.
6. **T/R** & in a short distance **T/L** & go down Benton Green Lane, continue past lane on right (leaving ACW) to next corner. Just under "OPL" **T/L**, thro' k/g, along hedged/fenced track over concrete s/b, then in 20m **T/L** & to & thro' k/g, **fwd** stream & hedge left. Thro' gap, **H/R** cross-field to far corner. Thro' k/g, hg-right until a k/g is reached (on your right!), cross to other side of hedge. **T/L**, hg-left to reach & go thro' k/g into fenced path, continue & go thro' garden left of cottage to road.
7. **T/R** along road for 220m, **T/L** thro' k/g by f/g and in a short distance go thro' k/g & over s/b on right. Hg-left to k/g, **fwd** on to concrete drive passing farm on right to road.
8. X-stile opposite & follow track, continue hg-left to s/b & x-stile. **V/R** cross-field to outward hedge corner, right of school. Hg-right to go thro' k/g into enclosed path. **Fwd** to reach road, **H/L** into Church Lane. **T/R** to Finish.

Route A At the end of Note 2. **H/L**, cross-field to corner with copse on right. Go thro' k/g & s/b, **T/R** for 15m **T/L** up grass track to opposite hedge line. Pick up farm track, hg-left, stay on this track to road. **T/R** for 375m, **T/L** thro' k/g, hg-left over two fields. In the next field leave hedge after approx. 50m, **V/R** & aim for k/g in fence between farm enclosure & barns. Thro' k/g, cross paddock, thro' k/g, **V/L** cross-yard to join farm drive. **Fwd** down drive to road. Continue with Note 6.

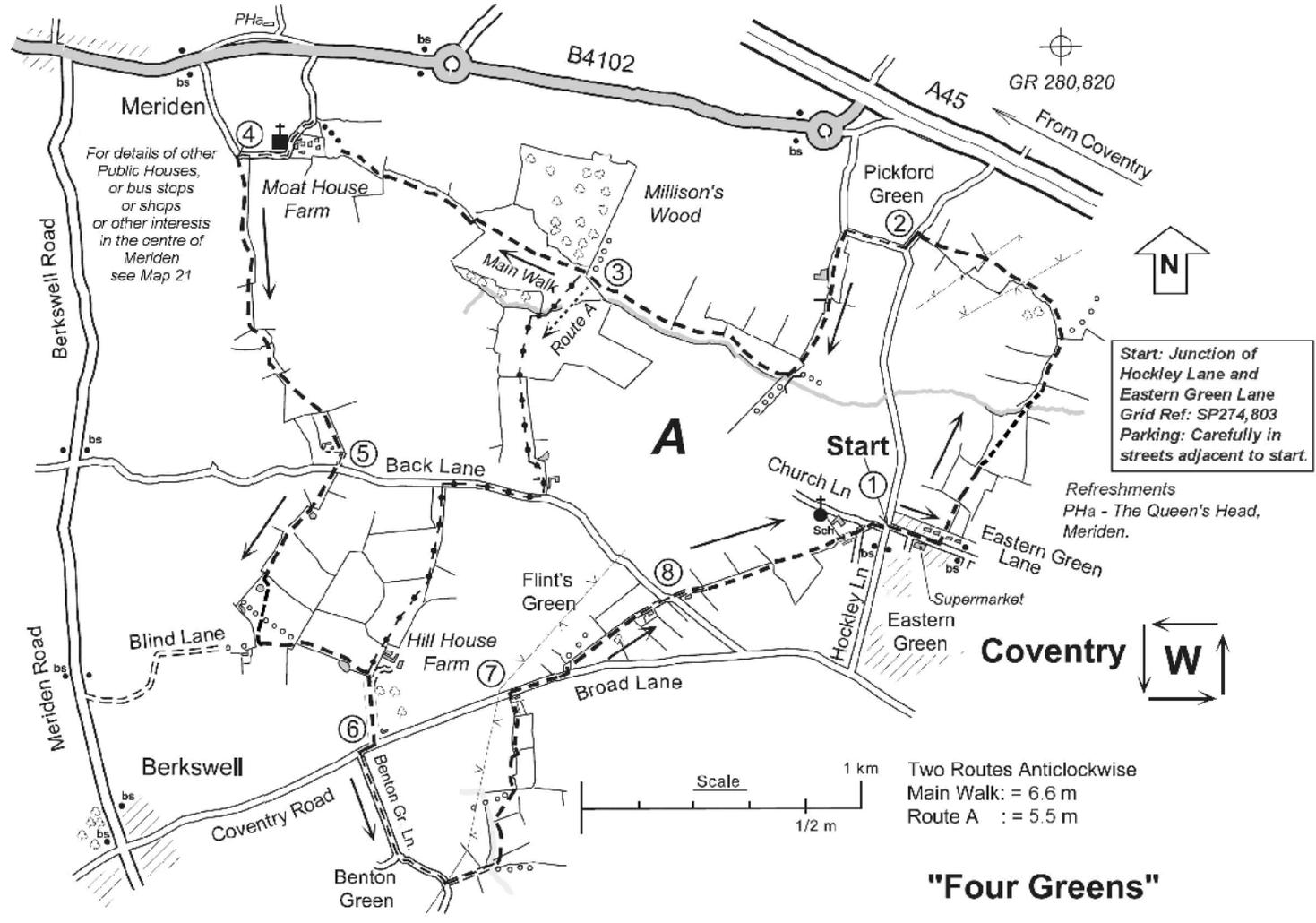
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A Coventry Way 21 Walks

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Two Routes Anticlockwise
Main Walk: = 6.6 m
Route A : = 5.5 m

"Four Greens"

WALK 1 "FOUR GREENS"

Start: Junction of Hockley Lane and Eastern Green Lane
Grid Ref: SP 274,803
Direction: Anticlockwise
Main Walk: 7.0 miles
Route A: 5.5 miles
OS Maps: (p = part)
Landranger 140
Pathfinder 935p
Pathfinder 955p
Explorer 221p

Parking: Carefully in streets adjacent to start.

Brief Information and Outline of the Route

These greens were once areas of common land which mainly disappeared under the Enclosures Act. The walk crosses over Pickford Brook & then later joins one of its tributaries out to Meriden. It then follows A Coventry Way (South) until Benton Green, returning through Flint's Green back to the start.

Eastern Green: The local church is St Andrew; it had a Victorian vicarage where the Coventry artist James E Kessell had his studio. The present vicarage is a modern house close by.

Pickford Green: The route passes Pickford Grange Farm down to the brook and west to skirt Millison's Wood.

Meriden: Then on to the old Saxon village of "Alspath", now part of Meriden. The village was once owned by Lady Godiva. Past Moat House Farm, part of the moat can still be traced south of its garden but this is in a private residence and not on the Right of Way. The church of St Lawrence, probably founded in Saxon times, still has an old horse mounting block by its main entrance. Turn south along the "lost route to Berkswell" and past St Lawrence's Well, now dry.

Berkswell: Eventually, on the outskirts of Berkswell, pass Blind Hall, a timber framed building dating back to Tudor times. The tree lined track towards Hill House is the continuation of Blind Lane, once the coach road to Coventry cutting out the steep hill at Berkswell. Ahead is Hill House, a Grade II listed building, that was built in the 19th century on the site of an older dwelling. Reaching **Benton Green** a small hamlet and then onto **Flint's Green** possibly named after a family called Flint who lived in Berkswell and owned land in this area. From Coventry Road across Back Lane to Eastern Green is now a footpath, but was once an old coaching road called Flint's Lane. This could be a continuation of the Blind Lane coach road.

Wildlife

This part of the Ancient Arden landscape is indicative of the west of Coventry, with some large areas of woodland, numerous ponds, irregular shaped fields and some fine examples of species-rich grasslands.

The walk passes between three woodland blocks between sections 2 and 3. Millison's Wood, which is shown on the map, is the largest of the three woods and is managed as a woodland coppice. The wood is largely birch, but boasts an impressive array of woodland plants including bluebell, wood sorrel and enchanter's nightshade, but summer visitors will be most impressed by the show of foxglove, which attracts a large number of nectar seeking bees. The area is managed by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and has been designated as a Local Nature Reserve. The other two woodlands are Crow Wood and Spring Wood, both are dominated by birch, although Crow Wood contains some large mature oak trees.

The ponds in the area are as varied as they are numerous. Some are managed almost like garden ponds with lilies and are generally fish stocked. Others are more typical of farm ponds and have shallow banks with emergent vegetation and waterweed. With a move from pastoral farming to arable production and the need for high fertilizer applications because of the poor soil quality some ponds have become heavily eutrophic. These ponds often have very little vegetation and become choked with algae each summer.

Look out for amphibians from March through to May. Although species-rich grasslands are something of a rarity, grassland species can be seen along road side verges and hedge banks. The churchyard near Moat House Farm offers the weary traveller some insight into what it's all about. By July the delicate blue of harebell can be seen waving in the breeze with the stunning purples of lesser knapweed and deep orange yellows of cat's ear.