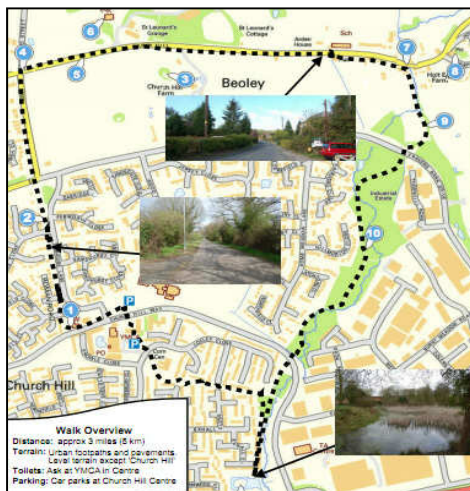


Walks in Redditch

Church Hill Walk (S2) Church Hill to Beoley - Three Ancient Routes

Distance: approx 2.5 miles (4 km)
Terrain: Urban Footpaths and pavements
 Level terrain plus Beoley Hill
Toilets: ask at YMCA
Parking: Car Parks at Church Hill centre



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Anthony Green.

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Walk S2 - revised January 2017

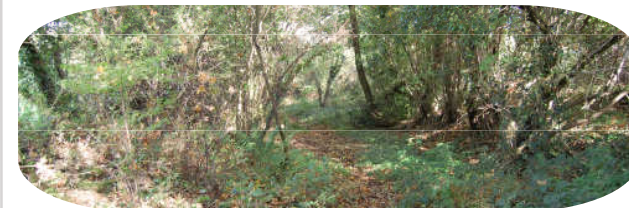
Starting at the car park by the shopping centre, follow the Bus Route for a few metres to just past the St Andrew's Church Centre and turn right along the path. This follows the route of Ikniel Street, a Roman Road, which begins at Bourton on the Water, in the Cotswolds and continues north beyond Birmingham. Follow this path, pass under the underpass, and continue along the roadside footpath. Looking across the fields to the right is a nice view of 'Beoley Castle' (the wooded area on the hill)



After a short walk you arrive at a crossroads. This is a crossing of two ancient routes, Ikniel Street and a 'salt way'. This was one of many salt ways beginning in Droitwich for transporting salt throughout the country. In Droitwich rock salt and brine was extracted by the Romans and this continued through the Middle Ages. Turn right up the hill (Church Hill) to the top.



At the top of the hill, to your left, is the 12th century St Leonard's Church. In the churchyard you will find the grave of PC Davies, a local policeman who was murdered along Ikniel Street in 1885. Continue on down the hill into the village of Holt End, which has many attractive dwelling, some dating back to the 17th century. This is a busy road, so cross at the crossing between the village hall and the school and continue down where a small stream passes under the road.



If you wish to have a break at this point, continue on along the road to the 'Village Inn' a 19th century inn, which has been serving teas for 160 years.

At the point where stream goes under the road, cross the road, looking out for traffic, and follow the 'Public Footpath' sign leading to a path by the side of the stream. The stream actually follows the path of an ancient hollow way which runs down to Mappleborough Green. In places this is 8-9 metres wide and probably dates from Anglo-Saxon times.



Our path only follows the hollow way for about 300 metres before our path bears right to an underpass passing under Ravens Bank Drive. Passing through the underpass you arrive in an area of modern woodland. This separates the Moons Moat Industrial area from the residential areas. Continue along this pleasant path avoiding left turns into the industrial area and right turns into the residential areas.



Cross the Bus Route and continue on the path and you will arrive at Moons Moat. This was originally a hunting lodge with a moat, dating back to the sixteenth century. Return along the route you came and turn left, before the bus road turns left, passing along a path between Loxley Close and Exhall Close. If you keep to this path you will then return to Church Hill Centre and the Car Park.

Church Hill Walk (S2)

Church Hill to St Leonard's Church - Three Ancient Routes (Map)



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