

"The Whitehouse Way" was devised by Roy Pearson, then Parish Footpath Warden, as a retirement gift, for Mr John Whitehouse, Secretary of Wythall Countryside Carers for a number of years and long time walk leader.

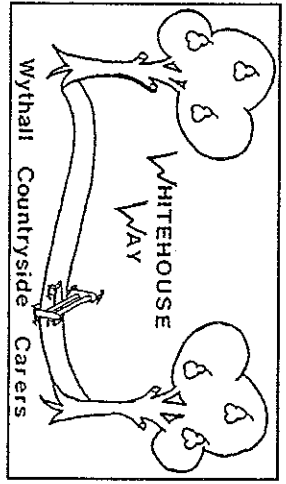
WYTHALL

CIRCULAR COUNTRYSIDE WALK : NO1

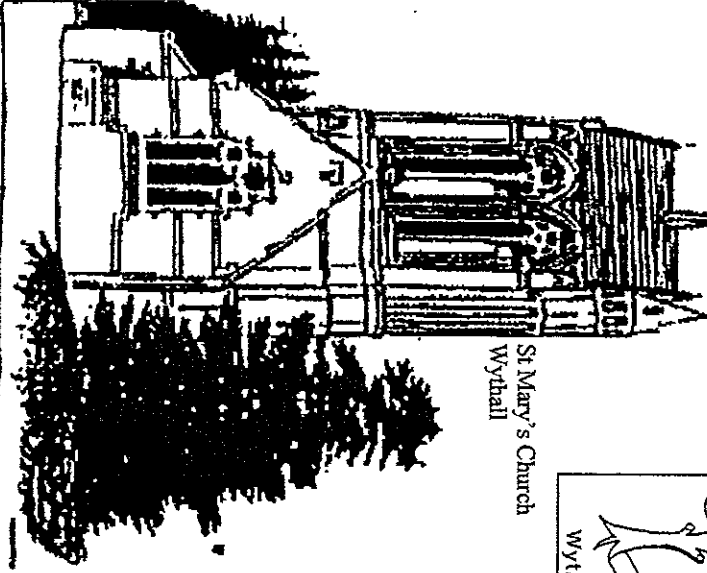
The Whitehouse Way takes in parts of the villages of Wythall, Hollywood, Bateman's Green, Drake's Cross and Shawbrook

Route : 5.11 miles

The Permissive paths used are by the kind permission of the Land Owners and are not subject to the Laws of Public Rights of Way

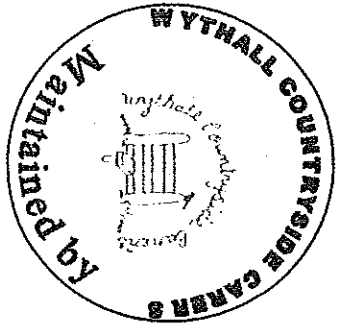


St Mary's Church
Wythall



No.1 In a Series of Five Walks

The Route is described, for guidance only, It reads in a clockwise direction. Being a circular route, it can be started at any point to suit your requirements. Remember the Country Code when crossing fields and the usual Road Safety practices when crossing any public roads, especially the A 435 / Hollywood By-pass.



Starting at St Mary's Church Chapel Lane.

Taking the path to the rear of the Church (West), Footpath 586 leads off Chapel Lane along side the Old Church School. The path bears to the right and follows the perimeter of the caravan site and on towards Blackgraves farm, via the eastern edge of the Golf Course.

Blackgraves Farm - Moated Site

On leaving the Golf Course and crossing the stile, turn right before the moat. Through a small copse to footpath 553 On towards Malthouse Farm and out to Clewshaw Lane. Turn right to crossroads and over to Silver Street (said to be the old salt route from Droitwich)

Holly Farm, Silver Street

Approximately 100 yards along Silver Street take footpath 543 on the left, opposite Holly Farm. Continue towards the Hollywood Bypass, **taking extra care when crossing the busy By-pass.**

Over the bypass join footpath 542 and go forward towards Batemans Lane. Turn left into Batemans Lane and at the second footpath on the right, turn right onto footpath 546 towards Gorsey Lotts. Turn left (North), keeping the pool (a disused pit) on your right, onto footpath 544 and Packhorse Lane.

Packhorse Cottages

Four old cottages once belonging to The Packhorse Inn, said to be the Original Inn. Cross Packhorse Lane to footpath 519. To the left can be seen Kingswood Chapel (Meeting House) Unitarian Chapel. circ 1792.

Continue on footpath 519 to the next footpath 520 on the right, leading to Alcester Road.

You are now approximately Half Way

Cross over the Alcester Road and turning right continue along the eastern side, toward footpath 521 on your left and on towards May Lane.

*******DIVERSION*******
Footpath 521 is actively blocked and currently impassable. Please continue along Alcester Road and turn left down May Lane toward the Library, on the right at the bottom of the hill.

Walk down the side of a brook on the left of the Library into Beaudesert Nature Park. Keeping to the path and coming out by the New Surgery and Parish Council Offices in Beaudesert Road.

Permissive Paths start from Beaudesert Nature Park.

*Beaudesert Nature Park
Originally a Tip, but first cleaned and laid out by the Parish Council, Manpower Services and Woodrush School, the Site previously held many awards for conservation. Re-styled in 2007, it is currently maintained by the Parish Council and local residents.*

Cross over Beaudesert Road and enter another permissive path, leading in a straight line to Oakwood Road.

Turn left into Oakwood Road and at the 'T' junction, cross over into the green lane leading to Shawhurst Lane and the end of the permissive paths.

Crossing over Shawhurst Lane to Mynors Crescent (named after the Mynors Family of Weatheroak, Benefactors of Wythall) Turn right 3/4 of the way along Mynors Crescent onto footpath 551 and continue on towards Houndsfield Lane.

Turn left in Houndsfield Lane.

In approximately 100 yards along Houndsfield Lane, cross the road to a gate and field stile. Cross the stile onto footpath 568, on the diagonal right hand side of Harmony Wood. You are now following the North Worcestershire Path.

Behind you at this point, back over Houndsfield Lane, is the site of Buckhouse (Flax) Barn and Houndsfield Farm on its left. Both mentioned in the Domesday Book and part of the land of the Monks of Boardesley Abbey.

Harmony Wood - along the green lane and footpath is a new Woodland planted to celebrate 40 years of Peace and apply planted on rubble from the Birmingham Blitz.

Continue on footpath 568, part of the North Worcestershire Path, to Alcester Road at Shawbrook. Cross the Alcester Road to Brick Kiln Lane. Still on the NW path and passing Shawbrook Spinney, a reclaimed Ancient Wood and Spring. Reclaimed and maintained by Wythall Countryside Carers in 1996.

Continue on Brick Kiln lane and turn left into Wilmore Lane, crossing back over the Hollywood Bypass on a Road Bridge. In 1/4 miles turn left onto footpath 566 and walk towards Middle Lane, passing Wythwood Farm, a moated Farmhouse mentioned in the Domesday Book.

Turn right in Middle Lane and cross over to Church Lane. To the right hand side is Wythall Cemetery. To the right and just behind the Cemetery is the old site of RAF Wythall, a Barrage Balloon Centre for the defence of Birmingham during the Second World War, now a Business Park and Offices for Britannic Insurance.

Continue down Church Lane and back to the start at St Mary's Church and the Old School Room.

St Mary's Church, Chapel Lane

Grade 2 listed building.

Built by Fredrick Preedy in 1862.

The Tower was added by W.H.Bidlake in 1908, paid for by the Mynors of Weatheroak.

It is unique and can be seen from almost any part of the Parochial Parish.

The Stained Glass Windows are described as good and are by Preedy and Powell.

Blackgraves Farm Site

Grade 2 listed building and site.

Dates to 13th Century. Moated with perhaps a, now dry, outer moat.

Farmhouse dates to 1827, with the rear of the building much older.

Holly Farm, Silver Street

Grade 2 listed building.

Early 17th Century with 19th century alterations. Timber frame with brick infill, rendered all over.

Interior Inglenook fire places have

17th Century moulded Mantle Shelves.

Kingswood Chapel, Packhorse Lane.

Built in 1792 to replace an earlier Chapel of 1708 in Dark Lane, it was situated at "Cap Field" and which, in 1715, suffered in the Sacheverall Riots, when a man named 'Dollax' was involved.

He was hanged at Worcester, after which the Chapel became known as St Dollax. During the Priestly Riots of 1791, the Chapel and Parsonage were burnt down.

Shawbrook Cottages

Grade 2 listed buildings

Two Houses and a School. Now one House, early 19th Century.

Two Storeys on a cellar. Schoolroom now has a 20th Century Porch to the Cottage.

St Mary's Schoolroom

Grade 2 listed building

Later used for Sunday Services.

Built in 1840, Remodelling and Repairs in later 19th Century.