

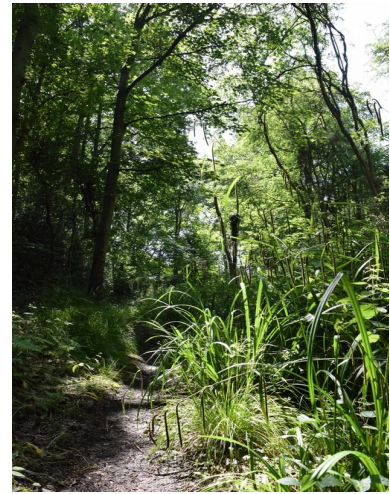
## Fish House Wood : Walk M01

*A medium length walk to discover the hidden Red Church before returning through a picturesque wood.*

**Distance** : 2.5 miles / 4 km

**Grade** : Medium walk, on paths, tracks and pavement, with an uphill 282 ft vertical gain. Boggy section beside a stream and not suitable for push chairs.

Fish House Wood



### Heritage.



The early part of the walk passes by the remains of 'Red Church', some authorities attribute its building in 1759 to Francis Blithe Turner in memory of a female relative. Others say it was paid for by Mrs Mary Browne, and set a later date of 1766; there is a popular legend that the deceased lady did not want the church built on the conventional East-West alignment, and each night rose from her grave to push down the work completed during the day, hence the church was built North to South! The church was commonly known as The Red Church because of the colour of the local brick used in its construction. Close by is the site of the Cholera Ground (1832) for the victims of that disease all buried in one mass grave; it is claimed that a single tombstone engraved "T Crump" marks the spot.

The return path takes walkers through Fish House Wood which contains old spoil heaps from the mining legacy of the area and a stream known as 'Birch Batch'. There were 18th and 19th century tramways from the mines down through the woods to the ironworks and the Severn. The wood is mainly deciduous with associated flora and fauna; this stretch of woodland is a delightful end to the walk. The path beyond Fish House Farm passes two ponds, before returning to the Birchmeadow by way of Cockshutt Mound.

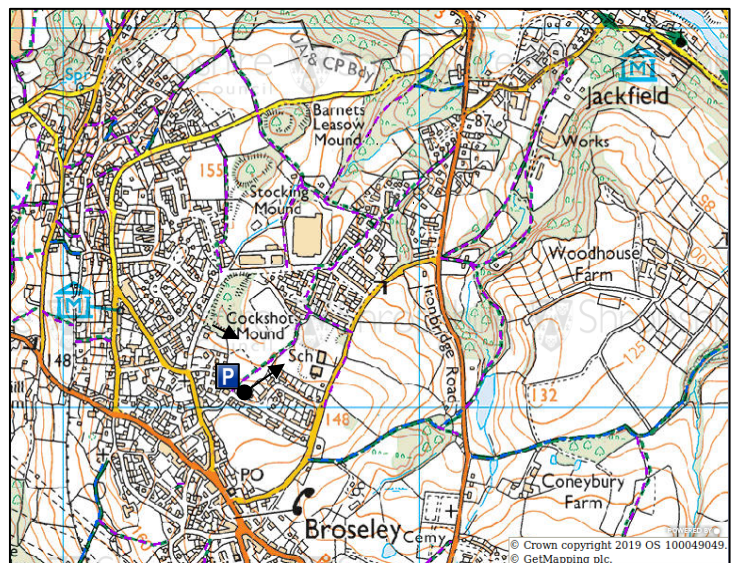
### Start.

The closest car park is at the Birchmeadow and from there it is a pleasant stroll down to Cockshutt Lane and the start of this walk.

Take the right hand path across the Birchmeadow, then right and left to go through Bramblewood and over the road to Brandywell road. Now follow the footpaths indicated on the map.

After Red Church (on your left), cross the Ironbridge road and walk down past the traffic lights. After about 20 m cross again to enter Fish House Wood just before a bungalow.

Once back on Cockshutt lane turn right and walk up and over Cockshutt Mound (an old Pennystone spoil heap); at the far end turn right (counter intuitively) to meet a path at the base of the mound ) that takes you back to the Birchmeadow. Alternatively simply walk back up the Birchmeadow to the car park.



**Important Information.** This leaflet shows a route using public rights of way. Please follow the countryside code. In particular keep to paths, leave gates as found, take litter home and keep dogs under control and on lead when required. ([www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)) If you are new to exercise or have any existing medical concerns check with your GP before undertaking any new physical activity. Check that the route is suitable for your level of fitness and that you have adequate resources for your planned activity. Wear clothing and footwear appropriate to the conditions and time of year.