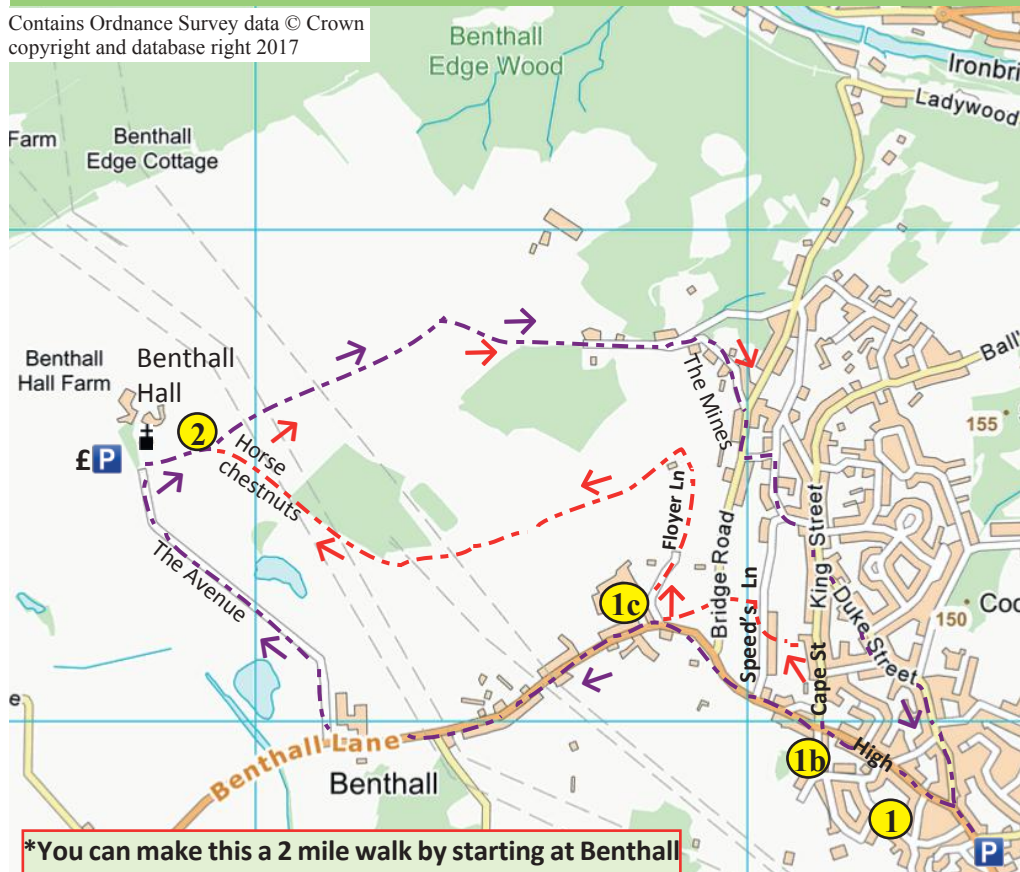


MAP Around Benthall Hall 3, 2* and 1.5** mile circular walks

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017



*You can make this a 2 mile walk by starting at Benthall Hall car park, using Bridge Rd to return from The Mines.
**Combine the Avenue and Floyer Lane approaches to make a short 1.5m/ 3km 'no climbs' circular walk.



Path between the Hall and Spout Lane bridleway



Horse chestnut tree path



Circular Walks to Benthall Hall

3 Mile / 4.8 km walks: mostly lanes, tracks some grassy paths, no stiles, there are some uphill sections, vertical gain 312ft / 95m. The circular walks can be shortened to easy 2 or 1.5 mile walks if starting from the Benthall Hall car park, see map.

Everyone in Broseley has a favourite walk to this stunning historic National Trust property. You can ring the changes with different circular routes. Here are a couple of the more popular ones to get you started. There are often livestock in NT fields, some are wildflower meadows with ground nesting birds, please keep to the paths, dogs must be on leads to protect both livestock and wild birds.

① High St To Benthall Hall via The Avenue 1.5 miles / 2.4 km

If you want a walk with no steps or stiles, on mostly firm surfaces, you could walk via Benthall. A few slopes may make you puff a bit but there also are benches where you can sit to rest on the way. Walk up the High St, straight on down Barratt's Hill then up a long hill, Benthall Lane, then left down The Avenue (signed Benthall Hall). When you reach the Hall car park you turn right in front of the church and the hall and go through a gate to follow a bridleway straight on past the front of the hall to point 2. Sometimes when the NT property is closed you can still enter the churchyard through a latched gate, there's a good view of the house from the top corner.

①b High St to Benthall Hall via Penns Meadow and Floyer lane 1.5 miles / 2.4 km

Walk up Broseley High Street, straight on past Barber St, Fox Lane and Jackson Ave and turn right into Cape St (1b). After 200m, just past Court Cottage, turn left into a small car park with a green signpost at the far wall to Botswell Lane, and walk steeply down the jitty path to Speed's Lane and turn right. In about 50m go left through a small wooden gate into 'Penn's Meadow' and walk straight across the field. Cross Bridge Road to take the footpath almost opposite, just before Hilltop House, the fingerpost points your way uphill to the top corner of the field.

1c Floyer Lane to Hall

At the metal kissing gate in the top corner of the field turn right into Floyer Lane at the Barrow Parish notice board. The lane soon becomes a grassy track. After about 350m it bends left near a disused farm and goes straight on beside meadows. Bear slight right at the second gate, you pass a pond and soon arrive on to a wide path lined by chestnut trees. This will bring you out in front of Benthall Hall where you turn right to follow the way along the bridleway described from point 2.



Above: Broseley and Broseley Wood from Floyer Lane. Below: Looking across 'fields of gold' towards the Severn Valley on the way to Benthall Hall. The views in every direction on this walk are magnificent.



2 Benthall Hall to High St via The Mines 1.5 miles 2.4 km

Once on the bridleway go through the gate just past the chestnut trees and continue on the track along field edges, the views in every direction are magnificent. At the gate at the field's end turn right on a track, in 400m you join a lane. Go right in 300m at The Mines and then right along Bridge Road. Walk up Bridge Road take first lane left and then turn right (Simpson's Lane). The lane reaches a point where it curves uphill to the left (yes, this is your route, take a deep breath) climb Legge's Hill passing an old school, now a house on your right, the 'cottage' on the left used to be the old Nelson Pub. At the top turn right, go straight on and take the left fork into Duke St past the front of the Pipe Museum, from here it is straightforward. Go straight on down Duke St and Barber St back to the High St.

To see the Hall go left at point 2 at the end of the chestnut trees and retrace your steps later



Lion beehive above old church door



Benthall Hall and St Bartholomew's Church

Benthall Hall is a National Trust property. Members of the Benthall family have lived here since the C11th, their name comes from the the location. The village of Benthall and the site of the hall itself probably pre date the Norman conquest, it is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The large stone house you can see today was built in 1535 on the site of an older medieval manor. Benthall Hall was the site of skirmishes in the Civil War as opposing forces wanted to control the important Broseley coalfield and the strategic River Severn. There is a NT tea shop: other highlights include an Elizabethan priest hole, Jacobean oak carved staircases and panelling. The beautiful gardens were laid out by a previous tenant George Maw (the founder of the tile business who lived here for a short while, was also a noted botanist.) There are wonderful spring and autumn crocus displays, old kitchen gardens and a restored plantsman's garden. Unless you are a National Trust member, you must pay to enter. You can pay a small fee just to use the car park, if you want to start your walks from here. However, there is a lot to admire for free from outside the grounds, including the impressive haha, (a structure which does not obstruct the view to and from the house. From the house it seems you are looking at an uninterrupted lawn and grass parkland beyond, but where the sloping lawn ends, a steep walled drop forms a barrier to animals). The carved stone windows and elaborate brick chimneys of this beautiful Tudor country house can be seen from the path There is an lovely avenue of chestnut trees along a former carriage entrance drive and landscaped parklands.

The adjoining original **Church of St Bartholomew** was destroyed in the Civil War in 1645 and rebuilt in 1667 after the Restoration, in a simple local style, later enlarged and embellished by the Victorians. It has a great west gallery used for musicians and singers. The church is now 'redundant' and the building is managed by the NT, but you can glimpse interesting features from outside. Particularly unusual is the locked up south doorway, it contains a beehive, the entrance to which is a lion's face. Above are written the words "Out of the strong commeth forth sweetness". There are some interesting gravestones, including war graves, and a tombstone covered with nautical symbols, not a sea captain, his boat was a Severn trow! The burial ground is now on the other side of road, the views from this tranquil spot are glorious.