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From castle to county town

A self guided walk around Warwick



Explore how Warwick has developed over the last thousand years

Visit the town's historic landmarks and hidden treasures

Find out how the streets and buildings have evolved

Discover how town planning shapes the future and preserves the past

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the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks





This booklet is to be used alongside the audio commentary for this walk

Contents

Introduction	4
Route overview	5
Practical information	6
Directions	8
Credits	13
Further information	14

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From castle to county town

The fascinating story of Warwick's development

In any town or city, your attention is usually taken by historic monuments, beautiful architecture or spectacular buildings. But how often do you take notice of the basic urban fabric of roads, bridges, paths, walls, houses and gardens?

This walk in Warwick, led by a local town planner, explores the things you would usually miss.

It tells a story of how this settlement has developed over the last thousand years from being the chosen site for a castle to a busy county town.



Warwick Castle
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

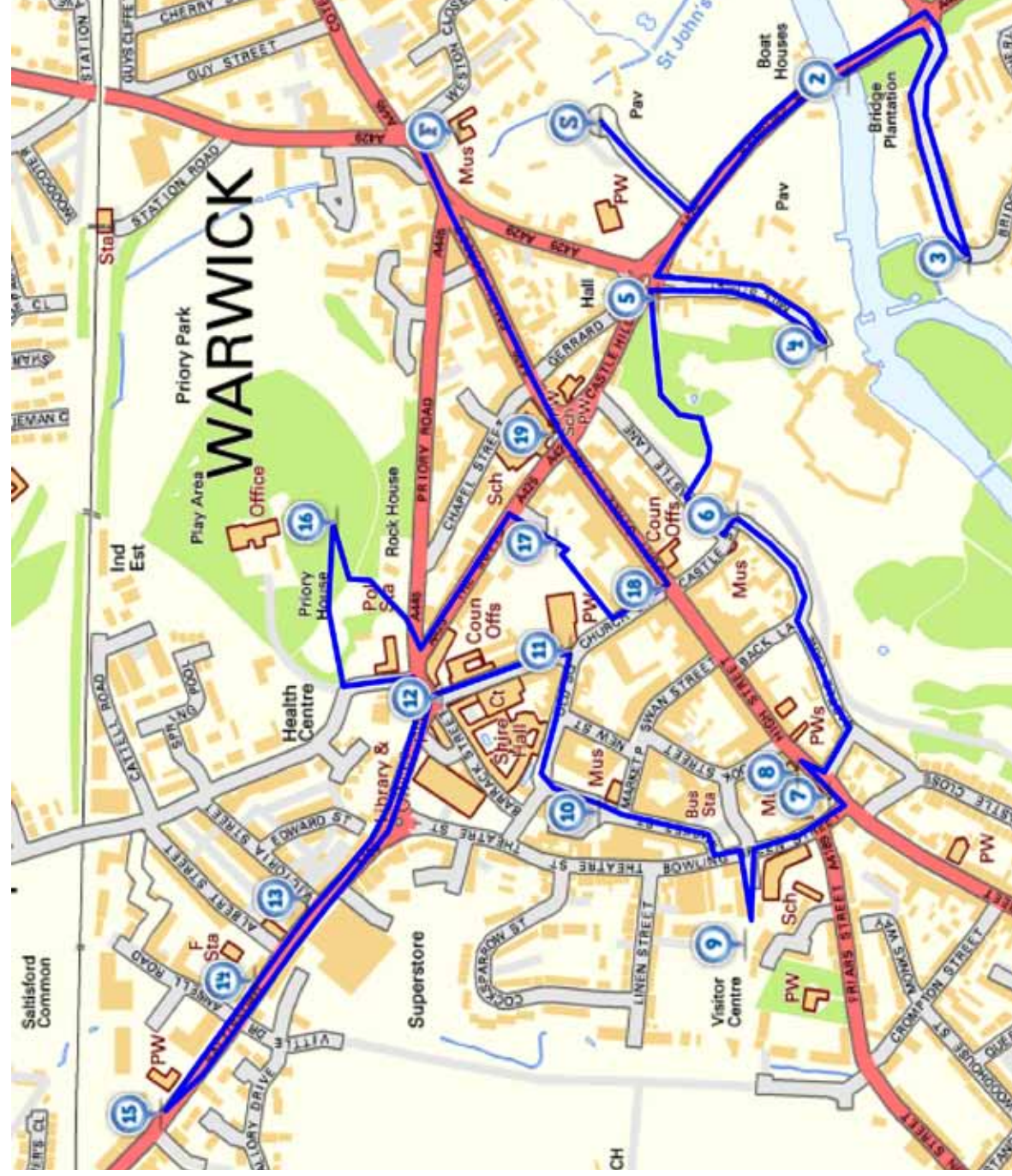


Thomas Oken's House
Martin Haslett © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

See changes in housing styles and construction materials through the centuries and learn how a dramatic fire led to new building regulations. Observe how the busy town centre continues to operate within a medieval street layout. Find out how the ownership of land and building use have changed over time. Visit the town's civic treasures as well as lesser-known corners.

This walk tells a fascinating story of urban development and gives new insights into a stroll around this picturesque town.

Route overview



Stopping points

1. St Nicholas Park
2. Bridge over River Avon
3. Bridge End
4. Mill Street
5. Gateway to Warwick Castle
6. Castle Lane
7. Westgate
8. Lord Leycester Hospital
9. Hill Close Gardens
10. Market Place
11. St Mary's Church
12. Northgate House
13. Victoria Street
14. Former gasworks, Saltisford
15. Former Leper Hospital, Saltisford
16. Priory Park
17. Tink-a-Tank
18. High Street / Jury Street / Church Street crossroads
19. Eastgate
20. St John's House

Practical information

Location	Warwick, West Midlands
Getting there	<p>Train - the nearest station is Warwick but Warwick Parkway is also nearby. Both stations are served by trains running between London Marylebone and Birmingham Snow Hill.</p> <p>Car - Warwick is close to Junctions 13 to 15 of the M40 between London and Birmingham. Also easily accessed from the A46 near Coventry.</p> <p>There are 14 town car parks (charges apply). On Sundays parking is free of charge at Priory Road, Barrack Street, West Rock and St Marys.</p> <p>Bus - local bus operators connect with Leamington Spa, Coventry, Stratford-upon-Avon and Rugby. Warwick bus station is in the town centre.</p>
Start point	St Nicholas Park, CV34 4QY
Directions from railway station to start	From Warwick station turn left and follow Station Road downhill then turn right onto Coventry Road. At the end turn right and use the traffic lights to pass St John's House. Bear left into St Nicholas Church Street. At the roundabout keep left and follow the church wall into St Nicholas Park. With the car park on your left continue to the pavilion on the right.
Finish point	St John's House, CV34 4NF
Onward journey	The route is almost circular, finishing on the opposite side of St Nicholas Park. To return to Warwick station, use the traffic lights to cross the road and turn left into Coventry Road. Then take Station Road on the left.

Distance	3 ½ miles
Level	Gentle – a town centre route with some hills
Conditions	As an historic town centre, Warwick can get busy at weekends and in the tourist season. Take care for traffic, especially at the busy junctions of Westgate (Stop 7) and Eastgate (Stop 19). There are some slopes on the walk and some pavements are very narrow
Suitable for	<p>Families – family friendly route but some busy roads</p> <p>Wheelchairs – there are steps at Warwick Castle (Stop 6); alternative route available</p>
Refreshments	<p>There are many cafes, pubs and restaurants in the town centre, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thomas Oken Tea Rooms (at Stop 6) - Lord Leycester Hospital café (Stop 8) - the Market Place (Stop 10)
Facilities	Public toilets in St Nicholas Park (Stop 1) and the town centre
Places to visit	Warwick Castle is open daily from 10am. Closing time varies throughout the year, usually 5 or 6pm. Adult tickets £30.60, children £25.80, concs £27. Advance booking reductions. (Tel: 01926 495 421 Mon-Fri only) www.warwick-castle.com
Tourist information	Warwick Tourist Information Centre, The Court House, Jury Street, CV34 4EW (Tel: 01926 492 212)

Directions

These directions are for use with the Warwick walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Warwick **St Nicholas Park**

Directions 1

From St Nicholas Park, make your way to the gates at Banbury Road. Cross over using the pelican crossing and turn left. When you reach the bridge over the river, look at the view of the Castle and listen to Track 2.

2. The finest view in England! **Bridge over River Avon**

Directions 2

Continue over the bridge. At the roundabout, turn tight and go down Bridge End. Follow the road to for about 250 metres. Where it bends to the left, stop and listen to Track 3.

3. Bridge End – a road with no bridge! **Bridge End**

Directions 3

When you are ready, retrace your steps back over the bridge. Continue up Banbury Road to the roundabout. Ahead of you is the Castle gateway. Turn left down Mill Street. Walk down to the end of Mill Street under the castle walls and listen to Track 4.

4. A fine medieval street **Mill Street**

Directions 4

Retrace your steps back up Mill Street. Stop in front of the castle gateway and listen to Track 5.

5. The ruins restored

Gateway to Warwick Castle

Directions 5

Go through the Castle gateway and follow the driveway. At the gates you can stop to see inside the castle. Go up the steps to the right of the gates. Continue along here with the castle entrance on the left and a car part on the right. When you reach Castle Lane, turn left. Stop at the end where it meets Castle Street and listen to Track 6.

Step-free directions - Facing the Castle gateway take the road to the right, which is Castle Hill, keeping the castle walls on the left. Then take the first turning left into Castle Lane. Go to the end where it meets Castle Street and listen to Track 6.

6. A civic bargain

Castle Lane

Directions 6

Turn left and follow Castle Road around, keeping the castle walls on your left. At King's Lodge, turn right into Leicester Place. At the end, turn right up the hill. Cross over the traffic island. Take care as this can be a busy road. Make your way back down the hill towards the Westgate tower. When you are beneath the tower, listen to Track 7.

7. Medieval gates

Westgate

Directions 7

Go up through Westgate. Take your time to look at the stonework. At the top of the slope, turn back on yourself into the cobbled area outside the Lord Leicester Hospital. Go through the stone arch and listen to Track 8.

8. A grand home for retired servicemen

Lord Leicester Hospital

Directions 8

Retrace your steps back down through Westgate then turn right into Bowling Green Street. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing opposite the school. Turn left into Hill Close Gardens at the side of the school. A sign says private property but this is actually a public right of way. Walk past the garages and stop at the railings at the far end overlooking Hill Close Gardens where you can listen to Track 9. Feel free to visit the garden afterwards by going down the steps on the left and following the path.

9. Green fingers

Hill Close Gardens

Directions 9

When you are ready, retrace your steps through the car park and back onto Bowling Green Street. Turn left and cross over at the pedestrian crossing and then follow the road that sweeps to the left to Market Place. Once in the Market Square, stop outside the Market Hall and listen to Track 10.

10. Fire!

Market Place

Directions 10

Walk up Market Place with The Tilted Wig pub on the right. At the top, turn right. Stop outside the church and listen to Track 11.

11. Relief and rebuilding

St Mary's Church

Directions 11

From the church, walk along Northgate Street. At the end of the street, stop before the small roundabout and listen to Track 12.

12. A new set of rules

Northgate House

Directions 12

Cross over safely to Northgate House and turn left down Saltford. At the next roundabout, keep right on the main road. When you reach the Black Horse Inn, turn right into Victoria Street and listen to Track 13.

13. You could be in Birmingham!

Victoria Street and Albert Street

Directions 13

Go back to the Black Horse Inn and turn right along Saltisford. Don't forget to look up Albert Street, which is the next road on the right. Continue a short way further until you reach a large building opposite The Antelope pub and listen to Track 14.

14. Illumination

Gasworks

Directions 14

Continue along the road. Shortly after a junction with traffic lights, you will reach a small stone building. Stop here and listen to Track 15.

15. A home for outcasts

The Leper Hospital

Directions 15

Retrace your steps back into town, past the gas works and up the hill to Northgate House. Turn down Cape Road at the side of Northgate House. Cross over and enter Priory Park by the signboard. Walk fairly straight into the park through the trees and stop on the flat grassy area, where you can listen to Track 16.

16. A little piece of Warwick in the USA

Priory Park

Directions 16

Retrace your steps out of the park the way that you came in. At the top of Cape Road, cross over and turn left. Take the road down the right hand side of the Punch Bowl pub. After the car park on the right hand side, find an alley running between high stone walls. Stop in the alley and listen to Track 17.

17. The path with a strange name

Tink-a-Tank

Directions 17

Continue along the alley and the back of St Mary's Church until you reach Church Street. Turn left into Church Street and go down to the crossroads with Jury Street, where you can listen to Track 18.

18. An exception to the rule

High Street/Jury Street/Church Street crossroads

Directions 18

Turn left down Jury Street and continue to the end. Cross over to the Eastgate in front of you. Stop by the pillar box and listen to Track 19.

19. A private house with battlements

East Gate and Smith Street

Directions 19

Go through the Eastgate and continue down Smith Street. At the bottom, cross to the right hand side using the two pedestrian crossings. Continue along the right hand side of St John's with a stone wall on your right. Stop when you reach the gates of St John's House – go in if they are open – and listen to Track 20.

20. A fine appearance

St John's House

Directions 20

To return to St Nicholas Park where the walk started you can go round the left side of St John's House (if the grounds of are open) and through the gardens. If the House is closed retrace your steps along St John's, bear left along St Nicholas Church Street, go left at the roundabout and the park entrance is on your left.

To return to the town centre retrace your steps along St John's and up Smith Street.

To get to the railway station, cross over St John's, bear left up Coventry Road and after about 200 metres bear left into Station Road.

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

- **Martin Haslett** for creating the walk and providing photographs
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- **Jonathan Webb** for his aerial photograph of Warwick Castle

Further information

Find out more about the walk story and places of interest along the route

The Brethrens Kitchen

www.brethrenskitchen.co.uk

Enjoy Warwick

www.enjoywarwick.co.uk

Enjoy Warwickshire

www.enjoywarwickshire.com

Hill Close Gardens

www.hillclosegardens.com

The Lord Leycester Hospital

lordleycester.com

Thomas Oken Tea Rooms

www.thomasokentearooms.com

Warwick Castle

www.warwick-castle.co.uk

Warwickshire Farmers' Market

www.warwickshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk



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