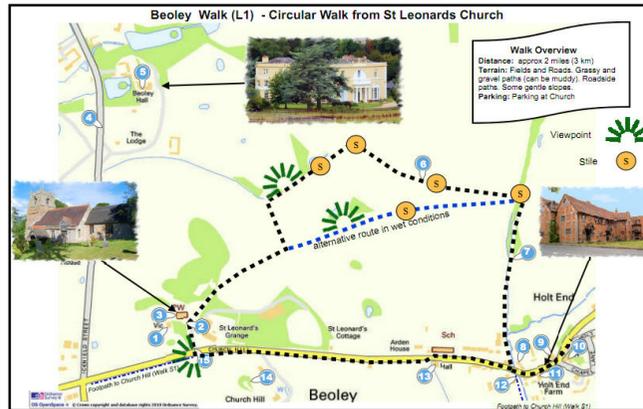


Walks in Redditch

Beoley Walk (L1)

Circular walk from St Leonard's Church

- Distance:** approx 2 miles (3 km)
- Terrain:** Fields and Roads. Grassy and gravel paths (can be muddy). Roadside paths. Some slopes. Stiles
- Toilets:** At Village Inn (for customers)
- Parking:** Parking at Church



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Parking at the church is intended for the congregation, so please avoid parking when there are services. St Leonard's Church was built in about 1140. Sections of the original Norman church are still evident and the area is well worth exploring. The ancient stone cross at the entrance has steps and base of the 14th - 15th century and the Vicarage dates from the 19th Century and incorporates 16th - 18th Century remains. Leave the parking following the Public Footpath in the top right corner with the sign to Beoley and Icknield Street.



Continue along the path and, at the gate, continue following the hedge to the right until the the first crossing hedge is reached. Turn left, heading down the slope towards the stile in the hedge opposite. To the left can be seen Beoley Hall. *(If conditions are very wet then follow instead the alternative route on the map)* The present building dates from 1650, with parts rebuilt in 1791, and replaced the home of the Sheldon's which was burnt down during the Civil War. The trees beyond follows the line of Icknield Street, a Roman road.



Continue over the field, cross the stile and follow hedgerow to the corner of the field. Turn right and follow the hedgerow, cross stile, and continue following the hedgerow on left, finally arriving at a stile leading to a bridge crossing the small stream. The hedgerows follow the ancient field boundaries which have existed since medieval times. At the stream turn right and follow the path down to the village. The stream continues along the 'Hollow Way'. Arriving at Holt End, on the left is the old Post Office, which was closed well before modern closures. Turn left and follow the road.



Follow the roadside footpath passing some tastefully restored buildings. After a short distance there is an attractive timber framed cottage which was originally built as one building but is now two, Brailles and Quinton. This is of the late 1600's with 20th century modernisation. Opposite is the Village Inn which was built in 1850 and was originally a village shop and tearooms. It became an inn in 1872. However, it still serves tea after 160 years!



Return along the footpath and opposite is Holt End Grange followed by Holt End farm. Holt End Grange consists of two timber framed adjoining houses which date from the 16th/17th Century and altered in the 18th/19th Century. The following timber framed Holt End Farm is late 17th Century much altered in the 20th Century. To the right of the farm is a Public Footpath leading to the 'Hollow Way'; this is an ancient route which runs all the way to the Roman Road at Mappleborough Green.



Continue to follow the road up Church Hill. At the foot of the hill, on the left, is the Village Hall. This was opened as a reading room in 1905 with money from the Carnegie Trust. The school opposite is of a similar date. Walking up the hill, it is possible to see, to the left in the field, an ancient mound. This is known as Beoley Castle. The exact date it not known but it is thought to be at least 1000 years old. The memorial cross at the top of the hill was unveiled by Lord Plymouth in July 1921 and is dedicated to those who lost their lives in the 1st and 2nd World Wars.

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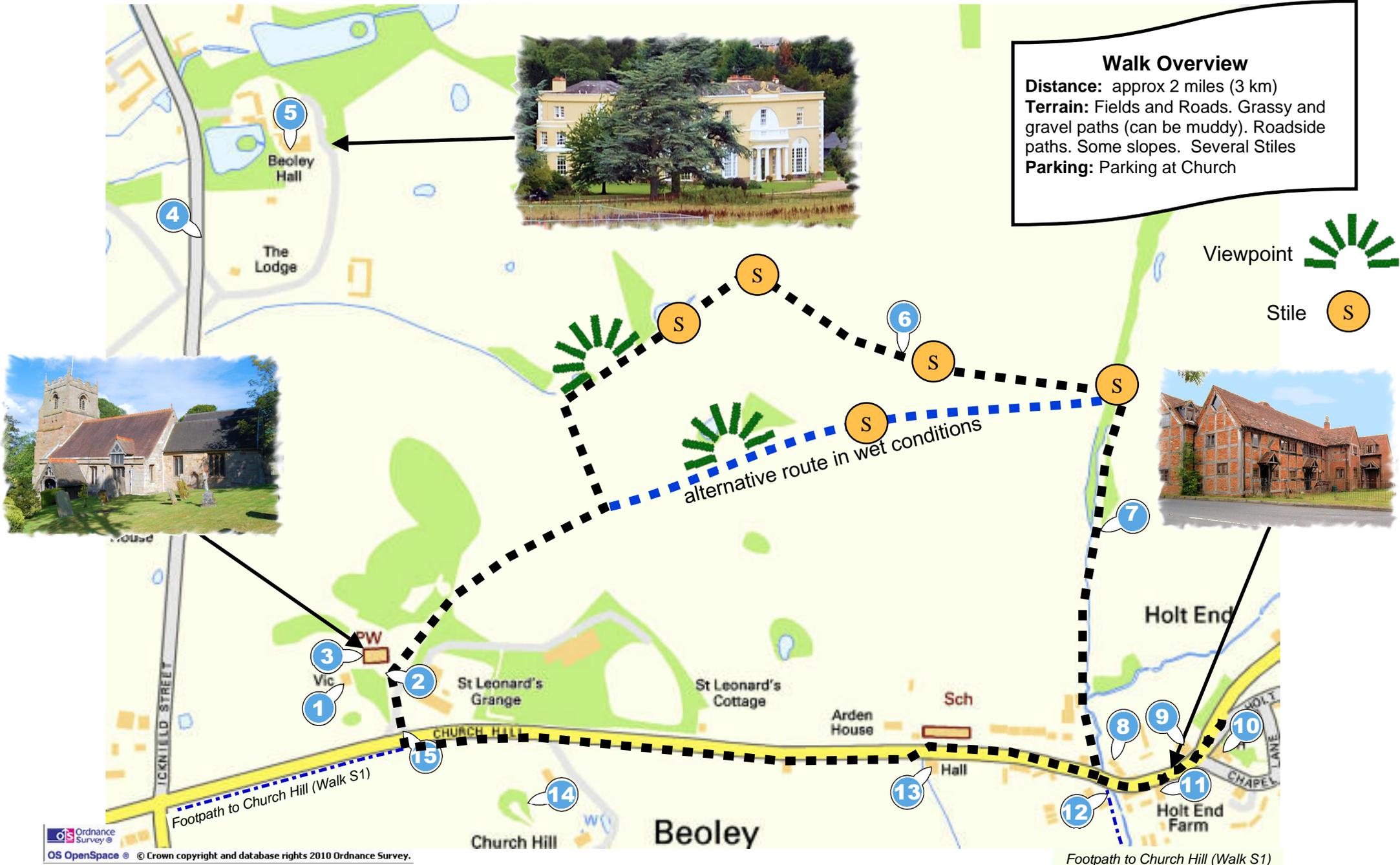
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Beoley Walk (L1) - Circular Walk from St Leonards Church



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We welcome any feedback about this walk, please e-mail contact@redditchwalks.org.uk

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