

Walks in Redditch

Tardebigge Walk (L2) Tardebigge - Church and Canal

Distance: approx 3 miles (5 km)
Terrain: Footpaths (some grass) and roads 'Level' terrain except final path back to Tardebigge Church.
Parking: Car Park at Tardebigge Church.
 (follow B4184 to Bromsgrove and take left hand turning to Tardebigge First School)



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This walk is described and photographed by David Spyer. Design, additional graphics and text, Anthony Green.

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Exit from the car-park via the gate to the Churchyard. The existing church of St Bartholomew was built in 1776/7, when the tower of the medieval church fell in 1775. Follow path to church - notice the ancient yews along path - to the right is a gravestone to George Smallwood. Until 1855 Redditch was in the parish of Tardebigge and this was the town's parish church (although the townspeople tended to use St Stephens Chapel in the town).



Walk along the side of the Church. This attractive church, only open for services and special events, contains the tombs of a number of the Windsor family from Hewell Grange and the interior is in the Baroque style. Turn right go along the grass path to see the grave of the Earl of Plymouth (in a poor state). There are fine views across the Worcestershire landscape.



Follow the signpost for left turn to exit Churchyard by side of school and follow the path along the side of the school. Exit by the gate onto the road, turn right and follow lane to 'cross roads'. Ignore right turn along London Lane, and continue over and pass through the gate. About 1/2 mile down this track exit to the right (not signposted). Descend down this path and exit at the bottom right hand corner at the gate.



Continue underneath embankment for Tardebigge reservoir and at the canal (Bridge 54) turn right to follow canal towpath. Tardebigge Lake is a large feeder reservoir, about 25 acres (100,000 m²) in size, built to supply water for the famous flight of locks running from Tardebigge towards Worcester, on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal.



The Act of Parliament to allow the building of the Worcester & Birmingham canal was passed in 1791, although progress was slow and Worcester wasn't reached until 1815.

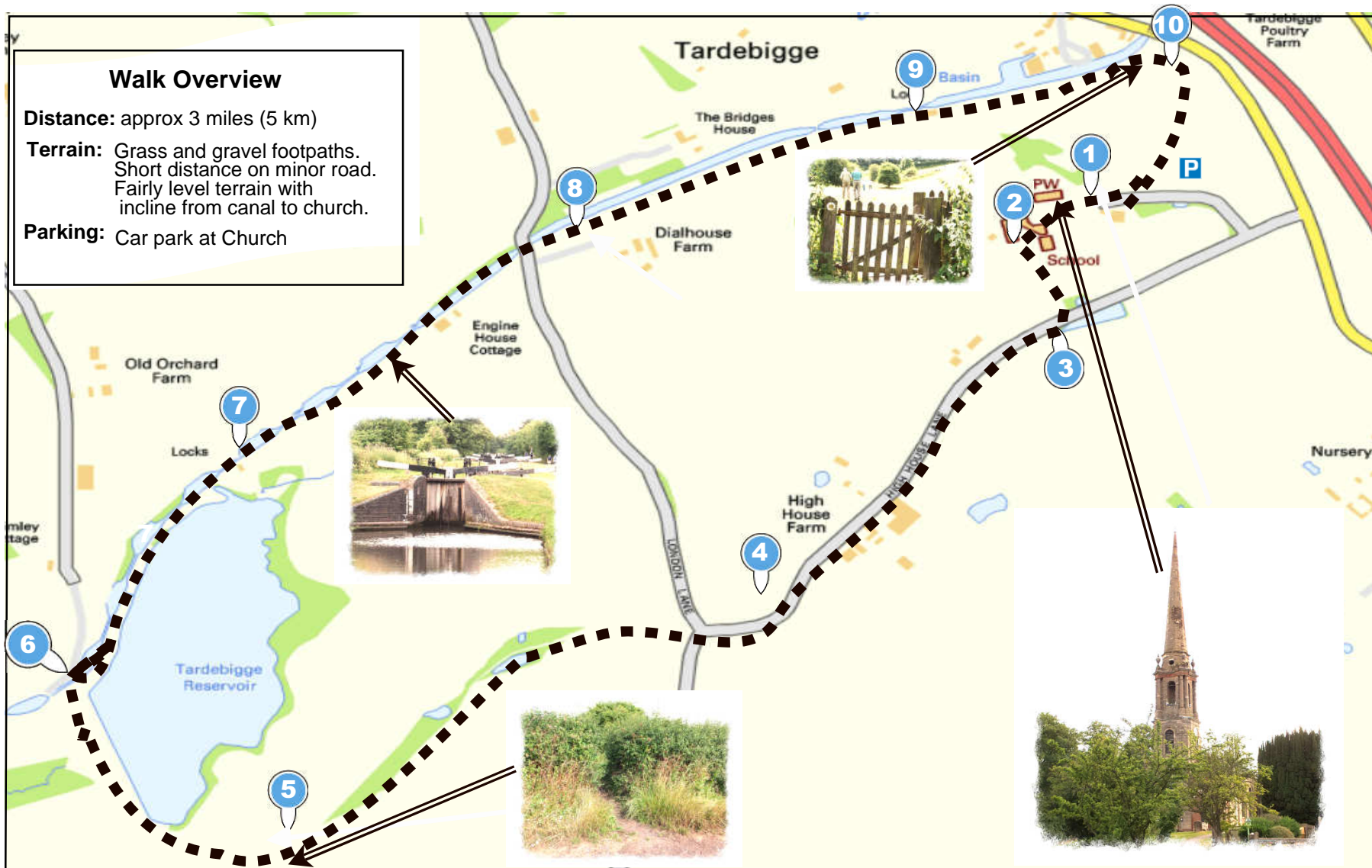
Tardebigge Locks is the longest flight of locks in the UK, comprising 30 narrow locks on a two and a quarter mile stretch of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. Follow the towpath to Tardebigge Wharf observing the locks, bridges, barges and old canal buildings en route. The old pumping house has been the home of various night clubs and is now converted into apartments



Resist the path to the right and continue along the main path Just beyond Tardebigge Wharf is the 580yd Tardebigge Tunnel. It was thought to be haunted at one time with a secret underwater archway leading to a cavern. The tunnel is brick lined both ends but most of the rest relies on the natural sandstone rock for its construction.

To the right of the path is a gate, pass through this gate and follow the path to return back to the Church.

Tardebigge Church and Canal Walk (L2) - A Circular Walk from St Bartholomew's Church



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