

Beacon Bank

Distance 2¾ miles

Time 1¼ hours

12 stiles

Directions

Map: OS Explorer 258

Turn left out of the Village Hall car park (1) and follow the road round to the left for 200m until you see a footpath sign and a stile on the right-hand side of the road just past Ivy House with its thatched roof.

Climb this stile and walk straight ahead, passing Ivy House on your right, to another stile. Cross this and go straight on with the field boundary now on your left to another stile.

Crossing this stile the field boundary is now on your right. Go straight ahead over the next stile then up the hill to the stile in the far field boundary. Cross this stile and turn half-right down the hill to a stile in the opposite field boundary.

Go over this stile and walk straight on along the right-hand side of the field. On the opposite side of the stream as it bends to right is the site where an ancient burnt mound has been discovered (2).

Keep going to the far corner of the field where there is a stile and steps down the bank leading into the front yard of Coton Mill. Climb over this stile then go on past an open barn to cross a second stile leading into Mill Lane (3).

Turn right and follow Mill Lane over a small bridge and up the hill towards Beacon Bank. Where the track turns right to Beacon Bank Farm keep straight on along a short grass track to find a stile beside the gate across the track.

Go over the stile and straight on, with the fence to your left, to the stile at the top of the hill (4). Climb over this stile and turn right along the brow of the hill with the fence to your right.

At this point the footpath follows the route of the old road over Beacon Bank and Cromer Hill back into Sandon Lane although all traces of the road are now gone.

Go straight ahead over two stiles passing Oxclose Wood on your right-hand side. 50m further on you reach a farm gate next to a horse jump. Go through the gate and walk straight ahead with the field boundary on your right to arrive at the trig point.

Carry on towards the mobile phone mast at the far end of the field. After some 50m there are far views to the west and on a clear day you can see the Wrekin over 25 miles away (5).

At the far end of the field there is a gate leading to a short track into Sandon Lane. Follow this track then turn right down the road leading back to Milwich.

Looking to your right at the steepest part of the hill you see the sunken path of the old road from Sandon to Milwich (6). At the bottom of the hill you arrive back at the Village Hall.



The burnt mound (2)

This mound is one of many in the West Midlands, 3 of which have been carbon dated to between 2000 and 1000 b.c. The burnt layer contains heat-cracked stone in blackened clay together with wood. It is believed that the stones were used as 'pot boilers'. Since 2004, when this photograph was taken, the stream has been diverted to avoid erosion and the mound is now grassed over.

