

Countryside Code
Respect – Protect – Enjoy

Respect other people:

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs



Local Amenities (Tel. 01788)

White Lion Inn 834650

The Raven 438393

The Bulls Head 832355

Pumpkins Deli 833094

Brinklow Fish Bar 832766

Brinklow Post Office & Village Stores 832490

Brinklow House (Chinese Takeaway) 833257

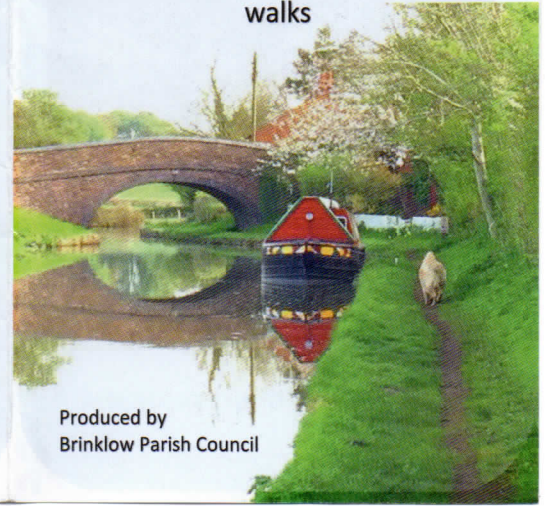
Revel Pharmacy, Barr Lane 834848

Defibrillator located outside Community Hall,
Broad Street



Brinklow Visitors' Guide

A guide to sites of interest and short
walks



Produced by
Brinklow Parish Council



Brinklow Castle "The Tump"

Brinklow's most imposing feature is the big grassy mound behind the church, known locally as "The Tump". Offering a commanding view of the surrounding countryside the hill and its earthworks represent one of the best preserved Norman motte and bailey castles in the country. However, Brinklow is thought to be a much older settlement with history long before the Norman conquest.

The name is thought to originate from two Old English elements: the personal name *Brynca*, and the word *hlaw* (meaning hill) in the sense of a burial mound. The ancient derivation suggests there was a man made "tump" here long before the site was exploited to build a castle.

Located north of the village centre with access from the Crescent and Ell Lane. Please note the use of metal detectors on the site is prohibited.

The Church of St. John The Baptist

Believed to have originally been built around 1252 the parish Church of St. John the Baptist is thought to stand on the site of a previous chapel. It was partly rebuilt towards the end of the 15th century and the interior was extensively altered in the 19th century.



The church was built following the contours of the natural slope. Consequently the slope of the floor is almost 12 feet from west to east. This is a very curious and unusual feature and there are only two other churches like it.

There are a number of interesting features within the church including windows from the 14th century with pieces of ancient glass – a peacock, a little arcading, flowers in the north window and in the east window two small birds.



The Oxford Canal

The Oxford Canal was one of the earliest in southern England. It was constructed by James Brindley and Samuel Simcock between 1769 and 1790, linking Coventry, Rugby, Banbury and Oxford.

By the late 1820's the Oxford Canal was under threat from bigger new canals and as a consequence underwent a programme of modernisation that took almost 14 miles off the distance between Coventry and Braunston. Many of the loops and branches were removed and the redundant arms were crossed by new towpath bridges inscribed Horsley Ironworks 1828. Two examples are in evidence in Brinklow between Rose Narrowboats and the Brinklow Marina.

The canal's route through Brinklow was one part that was shortened but the path of the old canal is still visible in the landscape and the place names in the village.

Short walk around Brinklow

Distance 1.5 miles

1. Start at Brinklow Car Park, Barr Lane
2. Walk to T-junction with Broad Street, turn right. Go past the Post Office, then cross over the road opposite Pumpkins Deli to join a public footpath.
3. Pass through the kissing gate, going straight ahead with the paddock on your left. Go through another two kissing gates, then turn left to go through two metal gates (signposted the Coventry Way). To your right is an old arm of the original Oxford Canal.
4. Keep straight heading for the top left corner of the field. Notice the ridge and furrow meadows, created by a system of ploughing used during the Middle Ages.
5. Pass through kissing gate then turn right to follow the path along the old moat, then around the site of Brinklow Castle, known locally as The Tump. It is well worth a climb to the top of the grassy mound to enjoy impressive views of the Fosse Way looking towards the next village of Bretford,
6. Follow the path around the Tump, the path leads across the double bailey and you should head to the left of the church, down a slope into a sloped meadow. You will see views across to Coombe Woods and further on to Coventry.
7. Head to the metal gate at the bottom of the field leading onto Broad Street. The Church of St John the Baptist is well worth a visit if time allows.
8. Cross the road to The Crescent. There are a number of interesting houses along here with unusual names which reflect Brinklow's history.
9. Turn left to lead back to Barr Lane.



Artist's impression of how the Castle may have looked

Pedlars Bridge, Oxford Canal & Brinklow Arches

Distance 3.5 miles

1. Start at Brinklow Car Park, Barr Lane
2. Head to the right hand side of the playground to pass through a kissing gate. Follow the path across the middle of the field to go through another gate.
3. Turn right to follow the small brook on your right hand side. Pass through two more gates.
4. Keep the same direction to the corner of the field. Pass through another gate, then keep right to reach the medieval stone bridge known as Pedlar's Bridge crossing Smite Brook.
5. Follow the path for a few more metres to reach Smeaton Lane. Turn left, then after approximately 30 metres, turn right into Colehurst Lane.
6. Follow the Lane past Colehurst Cottage towards the canal bridge.
7. Take the left hand turn to go down the wooden steps to join the Oxford Canal Walk. Turn right to go under Bridge Number 26, so the canal is on your left.
8. Follow the towpath to reach Stretton Wharf, home of Rose Narrowboats. On the far side, notice the disused arm of the original canal .
9. Continue along the towpath under Bridge 30, passing a few moored canal boats, one with a hen coop and flagpole. After approximately 120 metres, take a path (unsigned) leading to steep wooden steps.
10. Go down the steps to reach Smite Brook. Notice the Brinklow Arches on the left.
11. Turn right to follow the brook on your left hand side, to go over a footbridge. Turn right and follow the path to the Lutterworth Road.
12. Turn left to follow the road back in to Brinklow. You will pass the cemetery, Carlton House, The Crescent, before arriving back at Barr Lane.



As the Oxford Canal passes Brinklow it had to cross a valley, so James Brindley designed an aqueduct to achieve this. There were twelve arches, each with a 22ft span. It is only possible to see one complete arch now, the one over the Smite Brook. Next to it is the top of a second arch.

Figure of 8 walk along Heath Lane and Bridleways

Distance 3.5 miles

1. Start at Brinklow Car Park, Barr Lane
2. Cross the football pitches aiming for a spinney on the far side (to the left of the skatepark). Follow the footpath through the spinney to reach Coventry Road.
3. Turn left, then cross at the zebra crossing. Turn left then immediately right into Heath Lane.
4. Walk along Heath Lane. At the triangular green, take the left fork, following the lane downhill. When you reach a bend in the road, you will see a public bridleway on your left hand side. This is the ancient Tutbury Lane which runs more or less parallel with the Fosse Way.
5. Take the bridleway for approximately half a mile until you reach a crossroads of the paths.
6. Take the right hand path/bridleway (a yellow arrow on a white background points the way).
7. Follow the path past a communications mast for approximately 0.4 miles until you reach another meeting of paths. Take the right hand path to follow the edge of the field.
8. Keep on this path, turning right again at the corner (ignore the new footbridge on your left). This path leads downhill to a farmer's track, then past a green metal gate, to join the tarmac road, which is Heath Lane again.
9. Follow the road, until you reach the public bridleway you took earlier. A few metres past the bridleway you will see a signed path alongside a field. Take the path up to the corner of the field with the trees on your left.
10. Turn right alongside the top of the field. Follow the path which runs behind the houses, past a pond, and this leads out onto the Coventry Road.
11. Cross the road, then turn right, then immediately left into Broad Street. The War Memorial is on your right.
12. Follow Broad Street up the hill until you reach Barr Lane.