

## CASTLE BROMWICH RAMBLERS – WALK DETAILS

Walk date	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
Walk title/location	Leasowes Valley Trails
Grid reference/postcode	B62 8DL
Grade (see bottom of page)	Moderate (in places), otherwise Leisurely
Distance (miles)	5-6 miles
Meeting place and time (for car sharing)	Castle Bromwich 9am
Start time (at start of walk)	9.40am

Walk leader name	Linda & Dean Cockayne
Walk leader mobile number	07932 031268

Additional information	This is a Dog Friendly walk
------------------------	-----------------------------

Directions (from Castle Bromwich to start of walk)	
<p>From Birmingham City Centre take the A456 Hagley Road.</p> <p>Follow the Hagley Road to Quinton where you will see the Toby Carvery on your left. There is a bit of a weird roundabout here where you have right of way, just keep going on the Hagley Road passing the BP garage.</p> <p>Then as you go up the hill keep in the <b>left hand lane</b> and take slip road following the signs for A458 Halesowen. <b>DO NOT GO TOWARDS THE UNDERPASS.</b></p> <p>At the top of the hill you will come to a roundabout, take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit (A458 Halesowen).</p> <p>Pass through two roundabouts then take the first left into Leasowes Lane (s.p. The Leasowes) and park in the car park.</p> <p>Free parking</p>	

Walk description	
<p>My first walk of the year will take place in an area known as Halesowen Borderlands. The walk will be approx 6 miles and is centred in and around the enchanting 57 hectare Leasowes Park (pronounced Lezzuz). This delightful historic landscape and ancient woodland was designed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by poet William Shenstone, and is classed as Grade 1 on the English Heritage Register of parks of special historic interest. The park is considered to be one of the first natural landscape gardens in England, and for a few years in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century was one of the most visited gardens in the country. Look out for Virgil's Grove, named by Shenstone after the Roman Poet.</p> <p>The walk will encompass the old village of Lapal parish. Stepping back in time, here in the stables at Boat Cottages the canal boat horses would have been accommodated whilst their owners 'legged' the 2.2 mile Lapal Tunnel (4<sup>th</sup> longest in Britain), taking up to 4 hours! Sadly this canal (constructed in 1798) is no more since it was filled in during the construction of the A456 in the 1960's, but we shall be able to imagine what life was like for the locals and passing traders of the day.</p> <p>Also en-route, set in a sheltered fertile valley favoured by 13<sup>th</sup> century monks, stands St Mary's Abbey. Not open to the public, but we will get good views from the footpath. Plus views of Halesowen Church with its grand spire, as we look across the valley from Coombeswood.</p> <p>There's just a handful of stiles, and a couple of short moderate inclines, but on the whole the walk is quite leisurely through pretty woodland trails, open countryside, and urban stretches.</p>	

**Please bring a packed lunch and drink with you on Sunday walks.**

**If you are travelling directly to the start of a walk and not meeting at Castle Bromwich, please let the walk leader know.**

***WALK GRADING ADVICE***

***Leisurely*** – Walks for reasonably fit people with at least a little country walking experience. Walking boots and warm waterproof clothing recommended.

***Moderate*** – Walks for people with country walking experience. May include some steep paths and be at a brisk pace. Walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are essential.