

'In The Sticks' Walking Guide Brindley Village, Cannock Chase

Distance: 1 mile

Time: 30-45 mins at slow pace



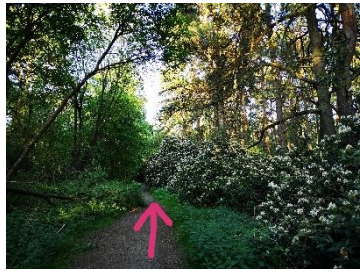

Amenities: No






Dog Friendly: Yes

Terrain: Flat, mostly wide paths. Possible mud in bad weather.

Start: Brindley Village Car Park, Brindley Road, WS12 4LL. Co-ordinates: 52.7329/-2.0146

Parking: Free

	Directions	Information
 	<p>Take the main path from the car park a few yards until you reach a five-way junction. Take the second path from the left, past trail marker '13'.</p>	<p>This was the entrance to the hospital and village. Look under the bushes to the left at the start of the path to see the remains of a building.</p>
	<p>Continue straight along the path.</p>	<p>The hospital wards (subsequently the village bungalows) ran along the left hand side of this path. On the right, you'll see abundant rhododendron bushes. These, along with many of the trees, would have been in gardens and communal areas. Wood sorrel carpets the woodland floor on the left.</p>
	<p>When you see trail marker '14', look to the left to see the entrance stone to the hospital.</p>	<p>When the hospital and village were in place, this stone held a flagpole. Nowadays people lay flowers and other memorials to people who lived in the village.</p>

	<p>You will shortly reach a crossroad. Continue straight on.</p>	
	<p>You'll start to see laurel forming a tunnel ahead of you. Carry on through.</p>	<p>Laurel is another garden plant which has become overgrown in the nearly 70 years since the village closed. You'll also notice some trees have been coppiced over the years.</p>
	<p>Presently, the woodland on the right starts to open up and you can see the heath beyond. On the right, there's a cluster of pine at the woodland edge.</p>	<p>You'll see lots of memorial flowers and plaques in amongst the trees. You may even hear a cuckoo calling from the heath on the right.</p>
	<p>Turn left past the bench, around the outside of the woodland.</p>	<p>Where the heath meets the woodland, you can find wild flowers such as willow herb, vetch and toadflax.</p>
	<p>When you reach a fork, take the path on the left. You'll have the woods on your left and heath on your right.</p>	<p>On your right, you'll see the lime green bushes of the Cannock Chase berry – a hybrid bilberry which only grows on Cannock Chase. Residents of the village used these berries in pies and other delicious treats. Look for a bush low to the ground with dark green leaves and flowers like white bells – this is the cowberry.</p>

	<p>At the triangular fork, take either route to end up on a bigger path, then continue straight over.</p> 	<p>You're now skirting the back of the hospital. Presently, you'll see a sign attached to a tree to remember the hospital when it was taken over by the Ministry of Pensions.</p>
	<p>Continue straight along the path until you come back into the woods.</p>	
	<p>Your path will be joined by another path from the right. Continue straight on.</p>	<p>You'll see concrete posts where the junior school and its play areas stood, where the paths join, by trail marker 12. There are bricks, concrete and other remnants of the village in the path.</p>
	<p>You will shortly arrive back at the five-way crossroads at the entrance to the village. Turn right to return to the car park.</p>	