

(A) **Baddesley Pit:** Closed in 1989, the Pit was the main employer in the area. Mrs Harriet Dugdale cut the first sod when the shaft was sunk in 1852.

(B) **Merevale Hall:** This castle - like Victorian house was built in 1840, and is the home to the diaries and books of Sir William Dugdale, the great Warwickshire antiquarian.

POINTS OF INTEREST

LENGTH OF THE WALK

This walk is suitable for all the family. It is clearly indicated with the waymark signs identified below and offers a cop-out should you wish to shorten your excursion due to changing circumstances..

Total Walk 7 miles (approx. 3 hours)
 Cop-out 6 miles (approx. 2½ hours)



STARTING POINT

The walk starts at the Rose Inn Public House, Baxterley. Parking is available in the Public House car park

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on other circular walks in North Warwickshire, Countryside Events & Activities, and Cycleways, please contact North Warwickshire Borough Council, Community Development Division, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone, CV9 1BG, telephone (01827) 719207.

More information about activities and events in Northern Warwickshire can be obtained by visiting the Northern Warwickshire Information Centre, Kingsbury Water Park, Bodymoor Heath Lane, Sutton Coldfield, Telephone (01827) 872660.

If you find any problems on public footpaths, please contact Warwickshire County Council's Countryside Access Team on (01926) 410410.

For **HAPPY** walking follow the country code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work

Keep all dogs under control

Keep to public paths across farmland

Fasten all gates

Guard against the risk of fire

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone

Help to keep all water clean

Take your litter home

Protect wildlife, plants and trees

Make no unnecessary noise

Take special care on country roads

Follow the waymarkers which indicate the route of the walk

Wear strong water-proof footwear



Baddesley Walk



With its pleasant mix of rural countryside and industrial heritage, this walk circles the villages of Baddesley, Baxterley and Grendon, and in so doing offers panoramic views over the Leicestershire countryside.



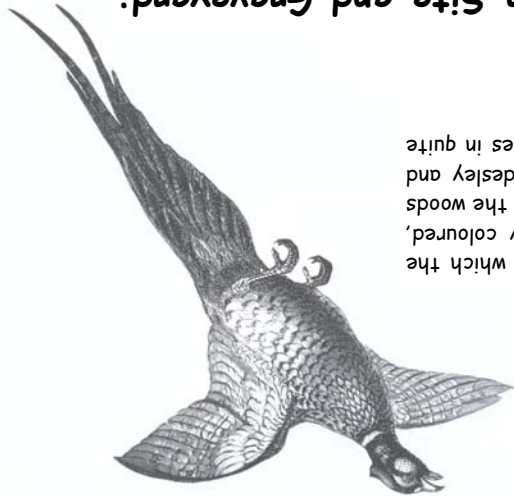
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY LEISURE

Merevale Hall, the home of the famous antiquarian, Sir William Dugdale. Along with many other publications, Sir William financed and wrote "The History of Warwickshire", a triumph in its time. Sir William Dugdale, and his succeeding heirs have placed this small part of Warwickshire onto a map of history which will never be forgotten.

(F) **Sugar Brook:** Given its name during World War One when a local woman hid a stolen bag of sugar in the brook.

(E) **Baddesley Church Site and Graveyard:** The original location of Baddesley village before the mine drew people to the present site.



The pheasants, of which the males are brightly coloured, can be seen around the woods and fields of Baddesley and Merevale, sometimes in quite large numbers.

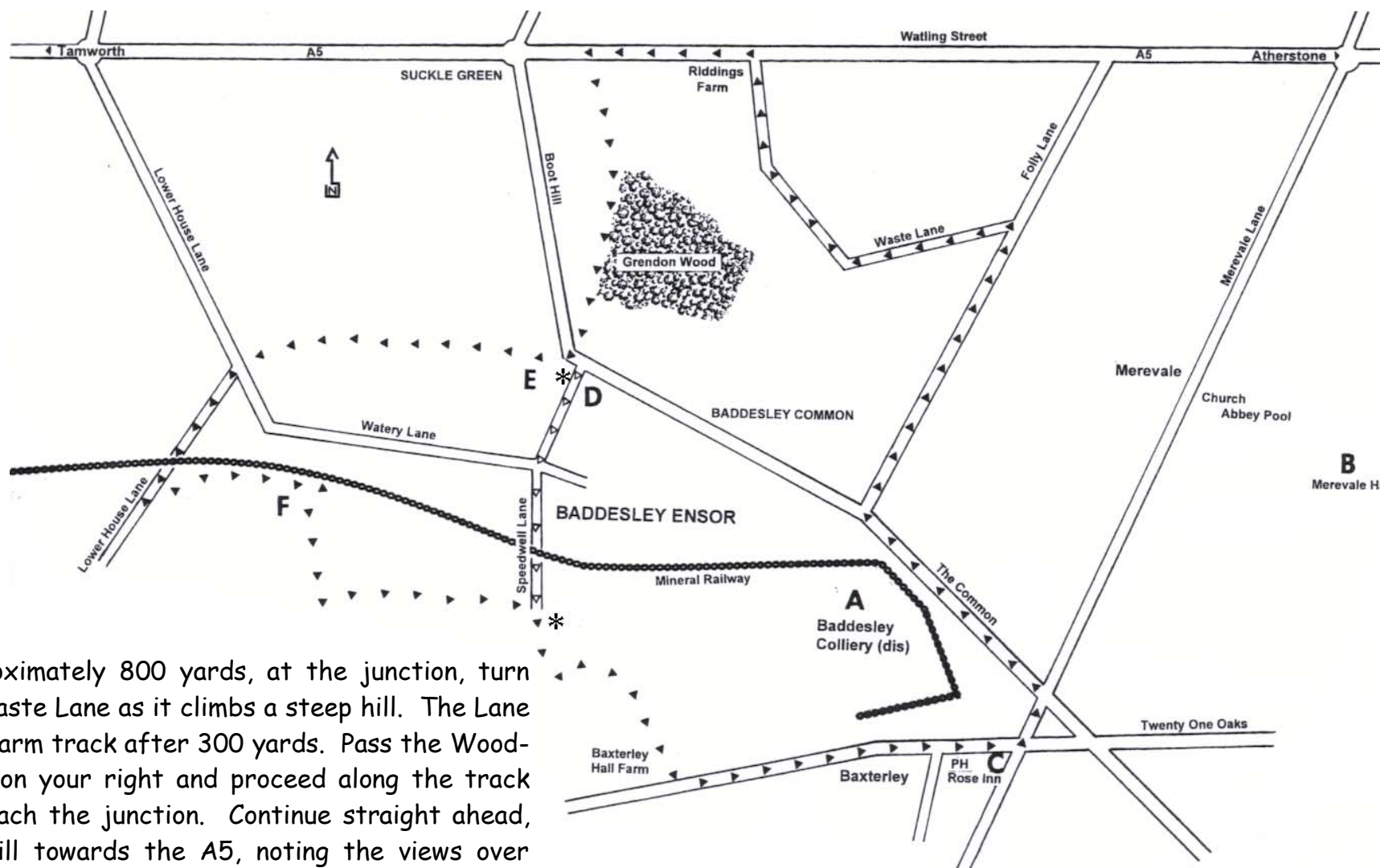
(C & D) **Baddesley Pit Wheel:** Half of the wheel is located in each of the villages of Baddesley and Baxterley as a memorial to the past dependency of local people on the mining industry.

Baddesley Walk

Main Route ▲

From the Rose Inn Public House, Baxterley, turn right onto Main Road, walk for 200 yards, past the disused Baddesley Colliery Office on your left, until you reach the road junction. Turn left, walk for 50 yards, and turn left again taking the pavement alongside the road. After about 400 yards turn right into Folly Lane. After walking past Grendon Wood on your left, the Lane falls sharply downhill. Stop and take in the excellent view of Merevale Hall and Estate to your right.

hand side. To the right are views of the old Birch Coppice Colliery. Proceed along the road, crossing the bridge over the old mineral railway line, until you reach a farm on your right, opposite which, on the left hand side, is a break in the hedge and a stile. Cross over the stile, turn left and follow the headland of the field over a further stile and ditch. Proceed diagonally across the field for approximately 400 yards. A waymark post directs you to the right.



After approximately 800 yards, at the junction, turn left onto Waste Lane as it climbs a steep hill. The Lane becomes a farm track after 300 yards. Pass the Woodlands Farm on your right and proceed along the track until you reach the junction. Continue straight ahead, down the hill towards the A5, noting the views over Leicestershire. At the busy A5, turn left and walk for 400 yards until you reach the second gateway on the left.

Follow the edge of field, with the old mineral line on your left. Proceed along the path to the left hand corner of the field. Turn right at the waymark post and proceed for 20 yards, then turn right again and follow the path alongside the field with Sugar Brook Wood on your left. Turn left at the metal bridge and walk up the steep bank. Proceed straight ahead over the field for 300 yards and approach the farm. Cross over the stile and proceed through the farmyard and on to a metalled road. After 150 yards turn right over the stile (*).

Turn left, cross over the stile and continue along the path for 30 yards. Cross the next stile and follow the path alongside the field. After 400 yards cross the stile in the right hand corner of the field, and continue along a well worn track over what is part of Grendon Common. Proceed straight ahead over the next stile and along the narrow path which runs between the hedge and field. Grendon Wood can be seen on your left.

A path runs alongside the hedge on your left. Proceed for 300 yards to the left hand corner of the field. Turn left and follow what is now a good path across the field. Turn right, up the hill, heading towards Baxterley Hall Farm. Go through the gap next to the gate, and continue past the farm on your left. At the junction turn left then right. 50 yards further on is the main road, turn left and follow the road into Baxterley.

Continue uphill along the path until you reach a waymark post, turn left and continue for 20 yards bearing right into The Riddings, which leads onto Boot Hill (*). The Maypole Public House is on your left. Turn right, walk for 20 yards, cross over and take the road on your left called Hill Top. Proceed along Hill Top until you reach the end of the road. Take the right hand path through a gap in the field. Follow the path for 200 yards across the field and then for a further 100 yards through a second field. The path falls sharply downhill.

* COP-OUT

When you reach Boot Hill, marked (*) in the direction of the complete route, cross the road and proceed along New Street. Continue to the bottom of the hill and then take the rough track on the right. At the bottom of the track, turn left and then right at the junction, into Speedwell Lane.

Proceed along the lane, passing the Recreation Ground on your right. Continue under the old mineral railway bridge and walk for approximately 150 yards until the road turns to the right. At this point rejoin the complete route, marked (*), and cross the stile.

When reaching the set of steep steps, proceed through a small copse and come out on to a minor road, turn left, walk for 20 yards and then take the right hand fork up the hill. The lane comes out on to Lower House Lane. Turn left and continue along the road, taking care to walk on the right