



Photo: Jeff Buck CC-BY-SA 2.0.



Arley Hall is a Grade II* listed country house in extensive grounds. The house and gardens are open daily from March to October (less often at other times of year). The house was built between 1832 and 1845 in a style carefully imitating genuine Elizabethan buildings. A 16th-century "cruck" barn on site is Grade I listed.



Pick Mere is a subsidence mere but – unlike others in the area formed by salt mine collapses in the last 100 years – is of some antiquity. It is quieter now than in its early 20th-century heyday, when attractions included a permanent funfair and boat trips on the lake.



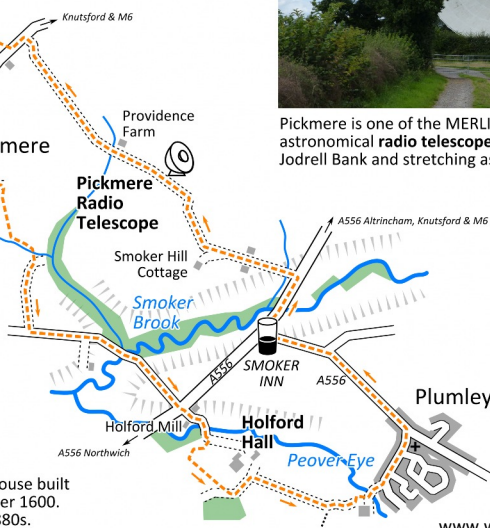
Pickmere is one of the MERLIN array of seven astronomical **radio telescopes** co-ordinated from Jodrell Bank and stretching as far away as Cambridge.



Great Budworth is a pretty village centred on its Grade I listed church, described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as "one of the best pieces of villagescape in the county."



Holford Hall is a fragment of a larger house built by the Cholmondeley family shortly after 1600. Sadly, a wing was demolished in the 1880s.



www.walksfromthedor.co.uk

Three circular walks from the Red Lion

Pickmere, Cheshire



Pick Mere 2.5 miles: Easy

An easy, scenic stroll around a popular lake.

Holford Hall & Plumley 5 miles: Fairly easy

A level stroll featuring points of interest old and new.

Arley Hall & Great Budworth 8.7 miles: Moderate

A lengthy walk to a country house and delightful village.

THE RED LION

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OPEN: Mon to Sat 12 noon–11pm

Sun 12 noon–10.30pm

FOOD SERVED: Sun to Thu 12 noon–9pm

Fri to Sat 12 noon–9.30pm

Pick Mere (2.5 miles: Easy)

Allow 2 hours. One short slope to and from the lake; paths around the top end may be a little muddy or overgrown at times.

1 From the car park of the Red Lion, turn left and walk along Park Lane through Pickmere village, passing the entrances to several cul-de-sacs on the left. **2** At Clover Drive, turn left then right into a small park which provides a shortcut to Mere Lane. **3** Turn left past Beaver Close, then right into Jacobs Way. **4** Go through the gates ahead of you and down the slope to reach an interpretation panel by the side of the Mere. **5** Turn left along the lakeside footpath to a kissing gate into open fields. **6** Pass a jetty and go through a couple more gates into woodland, ignoring a path off to the left. **7** A boardwalk leads through reeds to a kissing gate into a field; ignore another footpath to the left here and continue along the lakeside past another jetty. **8** Another kissing gate leads to a further field, as the lake begins to narrow. **9** Just before the top end of the field, turn right onto a signposted permissive path over a footbridge. **10** This path bears right through reedy scrub before running below a field to a wooden kissing gate. **11** Continue in similar vein, with a fence on your left and the wooded lakeside to your right. At one point the path bends away from the lake then turns back towards it. **12** Eventually, turn right through another wooden kissing gate into the trees and follow the path back to the waterside. **13** Cross a grassy area to the interpretation board and turn left, back up the slope to Jacobs Way. **14** Now retrace your steps back to the Red Lion: turn left along Mere Lane then right again through the park to the junction of Clover Drive and Park Road, which you follow back to the pub.

Holford Hall & Plumley 5 miles: Fairly easy

Allow 2½–3 hours. Generally level; some road walking and two crossings of a busy main road. Muddy in places after rain.

1 From the car park of the Red Lion, turn right and walk out to the B5391. **2** Turn right, then cross into Spinks Lane. **3** Follow the lane to its end then follow a grassy track beyond the last entrance. **4** Turn right at a footpath sign to a metal kissing gate into fields. **5** Follow the left-hand side of the field then turn left before a footbridge, ignoring a track leading straight ahead. **6** Follow a stream and hedge to a plank footbridge, where you turn right over the stream and through a metal gate. **7** Cross to a similar gate in the hedge opposite leading into a green lane. **8** Turn right and follow the track out to a road. **9** Turn left and follow the sometimes vergeless road (Linnards Lane) over the Smoker Brook and then up to the A556. **10** Cross the busy road with extreme care. **11** Turn left for a few steps then right down a no-through road by a brick farmhouse. **12** Pass Holford Mill and cross the millstream. **13** Turn right onto a public footpath before the Holford Estate gates. **14** Follow the fenced path as it winds through woodland

to emerge into a green lane. **15** Follow this track, with distant views left to Holford Hall, to a T-junction with a track after a kissing gate. **16** Turn left and follow the track to another junction. **17** For a somewhat obstructed view of Holford Hall, go straight on for a short distance to a “viewing platform” with an interpretation panel, before returning to the junction. **18** Take the Plumley turn and follow the track out of the trees and across a field. **19** When a footpath leads off to the right, bear left along the track. **20** At a set of gates, take the path over a stile on the left, then turn left over the stream. **21** Follow the metalled lane out to the road. **22** Turn left past Brookside Cottage and pass the junction with Moorcroft to the half-timbered Maltkin Farm, opposite Yewtree Road. **23** Continue to a mini-roundabout by Plumley Methodist Church. **24** Turn left along the left-hand pavement past the village shop and follow it to Henshaw Green Farm. **25** Cross over and continue along the pavement on the right, beyond the junction with Whitehouse Lane. **26** After a short section with no footway (care), you meet the A556 at the Smoker. **27** Cross the main road at the lights in front of the pub then turn right, over another arm of the junction. **28** Follow the main road for quarter of a mile, crossing Smoker Brook partway along. **29** Turn left up the driveway for Smoker Hill Cottage. **30** Follow the track over a stream and between some farm buildings, then take the right-hand track when it divides below the cottage. **31** Follow this track as it curves right, towards the radio telescope. **32** Cross a stile by a gate and follow the track as it winds past the telescope to Providence Farm. **33** Continue along the track for half a mile to a road. **34** Turn left then right over a stile onto a field path (signposted “Frog Lane 1/2 mile”). **35** Follow the right-hand edge of two fields, then bear left and right within a fence round a pond surrounded by trees. **36** Cross a field to a stile then follow the hedge on your left to a track out to Frog Lane. **37** Turn left and follow the lane to a triangular junction by a pond. **38** Turn left here (signposted Lostock Gralam) and follow Park Lane, which is vergeless as far as the junction with Mere Lane. **39** Unless detouring to the Mere, carry on along Park Lane back to the Red Lion.

Arley Hall & Great Budworth 8.7 miles: Moderate

Allow 4–5 hours. A long but relatively undemanding walk. May be muddy after rain or overgrown in places in summer.

1 From the car park of the pub, turn left along Park Lane and walk through Pickmere village to Mere Lane and beyond (the latter section without pavements or verges). **2** At the triangular junction with Frog Lane, keep left. **3** After 150 yards, turn right over a stile (signposted “Budworth Road 1 mile”); cross a field to a stile and footbridge at the corner of a wood. **4** Walk up the grassy ride to the left of the trees, then turn right at the end of the wood. **5** Turn left by the Millennium Wood plaque onto a farm track. **6** Bear right then left before some corrugated iron barns. **7** Follow the fenced path past the farm buildings then join the drive beyond. **8** Ignore a turning to the right and

walk out along the metalled farm drive for ½ mile. **9** Pass George’s Lane Farm and cross the road into a no-through road signposted “Arley Hall & Gardens”. **10** Follow the road for ½ mile, passing Arley Moss Farm on the right. **11** When the road bends left at a lodge-gate, turn right onto a footpath. **12** After 100 yards, turn left at a footpath sign to a kissing gate into a field. **13** Cross the field between two ponds and continue over a series of stiles between fields. **14** In the last field, follow a line of trees to a stile, then follow a narrow fenced path to another stile into a track. **15** Follow the track past a brick-built house and continue ahead (ignoring a right-turn) over a stream below some ponds and up through the houses of Arley Green. **16** Continue along the lane to the right of a cricket field with distant views of Arley Hall. **17** The track curves smoothly to the left, passing a turning to a farm on the right. **18** After another track on the right, and the entrance to the Home Farm on the left, you reach a crossroads. **19** Carry straight on past car parks to left and right. **20** When the estate drive bends to the left, take a footpath on the right. **21** Follow a track past a wood then, beyond some houses on the left, along a path along a field edge to a gate. **22** After a tree-lined section, cross a footbridge and turn left past the old bridge. **23** Cross a second, concrete-slab bridge, then continue along a field edge. **24** Join a concrete farm track and follow it past a cottage and out to a road. **25** Follow a path through a hand gate opposite and follow a fence to a stile and kissing gate at the end of the field. **26** Cross a muddy farm track and go through an unusual chain-and-hinged-post stile to the right of a field gate with an NCW (North Cheshire Way) waymark. **27** Walk along the top of a narrow field towards a pylon then turn right at a footpath sign along a fence to a kissing gate. **28** Cross a stile in the left-hand corner into a lane and turn left to a road junction on the edge of Great Budworth. **29** Turn right and follow the road when it bends left at the junction with Smithy Lane. **30** Turn left along the churchyard wall and pass the old schoolhouse on your right and the modern primary school on your left. **31** Go straight ahead through a gate onto a tree-lined footpath. **32** Go through a pair of kissing gates at the bottom of a drive and continue ahead. **33** At a stile, turn right and walk downhill across a field. **34** At a footpath sign and stile, turn left above a hedge and follow it below a farm to a stile and steps down to Hield Lane. **35** Turn right and walk to the bottom of the valley. **36** Just before the road starts to climb, go through a kissing gate on your left. **37** Walk down the valley (climbing as necessary to avoid wet ground near the stream). **38** At the end of the field, go through a metal kissing gate and follow the path ahead (ignoring a permissive path to the left) with views over the Mere. **39** Follow the lakeside path for the next ½ mile, through gates and along boardwalks, to the bottom end of the mere, where there is a panel showing the birds of the area. **40** Turn right here and leave the lake along a metalled path that climbs to a car park. **41** Go through the iron gates and continue ahead to Mere Lane. **42** Turn left to reach Park Lane. **43** Turn right through a small park, to the junction of Clover Drive and Park Lane. **44** Turn left and right and follow Park Lane for a third of a mile back to the Red Lion.