



Raw Head offers stunning views over the Cheshire Plain to the Shropshire Hills and Clwydian Mountains.

All Saints Church in Harthill was built in 1609 but is now redundant. It is Grade II\* listed. The mausoleum in the churchyard commemorates the Barbour family of Bolesworth Castle. Also in the churchyard are a Norman cross and two war graves dating from World War I.

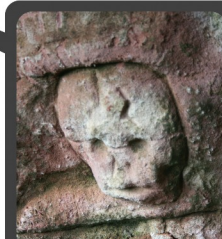
**WALKS**  
from the  
**DOOR**  
walksfromthedoor.co.uk



From Raw Head you can see three cathedrals – Chester plus the two in Liverpool – and the Dee and Mersey estuaries.

Holy Trinity Church in Bickerton was built in 1839 and is Grade II listed.

Maiden Castle is an Iron-Age hillfort, one of several along the mid-Cheshire ridge.



This spooky carving is in a cave below the Sandstone Trail on Bickerton Hill. An adjacent cave, Mad Allen's Hole, is said to have been the home of an 18th-century hermit. See text for directions.



Broxton Old Hall is a 16th-century house that was restored and extended by the Victorian architect John Douglas and more recently by owner Malcolm Walker, founder of the Iceland supermarket chain.

# Three walks from The Egerton Arms Broxton, Cheshire



## Broxton Old Hall

**2½ miles: Easy**

Fantastic views over the Cheshire Plain and a sneaky peek at a grand Tudor mansion.

## Maiden Castle

**5½ miles: Moderate**

A steady climb through heath and woodland to the Sandstone Trail and Maiden Castle, an Iron Age hillfort.

## Bickerton Hill and Raw Head

**8¼ miles: Moderately strenuous**

An extended walk along the Sandstone Trail, giving fine views and including highlights of the mid-Cheshire ridge.

**THE EGERTON ARMS**  
Whitchurch Road, Broxton, Cheshire CH3 9JW  
Tel: 01829 782241  
Fax: 01829 782530  
Website: [www.egerton-arms.com](http://www.egerton-arms.com)

The Egerton Arms, blending premium elements of food, wine and beer and with excellent service, offers you a little gem in the heart of the rolling Cheshire countryside.

Food ranges from Toad in the Hole or Steak & Kidney Pie to our succulent Lobster Thermidor. All our meals are freshly prepared on site by our brigade of creative chefs.

There is something to suit all tastes at The Egerton Arms.

# Broxton Old Hall

## 2½ miles: Easy

*This lollipop-shaped route includes two short stretches along a main road, several stiles, two short climbs and an awkward descent down a steep bank. Some paths may be muddy at times. Allow 1½ hours.*

**1** From the front door, cross the A41 road and turn left to the junction with the A534. **2** Turn right (signposted Nantwich) and walk along the nearside verge until you reach a footpath opposite Withy Lane. **3** Turn right through the gate and follow the footpath beyond, as it descends to the valley bottom (*bypass any boggy patches to the left*). **4** Walk uphill with a hedge on your right, swinging left at the top of the field. **5** Cross a stile on your right and follow the right-hand edge of the field beyond. **6** At the end of the field, cross a further stile on your right and turn left along a farm track. **7** Cross a stile beside a farm gate then follow the track to the right in front of a low sandstone outcrop. **8** Keep right of a belt of woodland, then turn right over a stile and then left over a second. **9** Continue below the woodland edge. **10** At a corner, turn left over a stile, still with the woodland edge on your left. **11** At the end of the field, turn left over a stile into the wood. **12** The path leads along just inside the woodland fence; ignore a stile into the field on your right. **13** Shortly afterwards, at a waymarked post, turn left into the woodland, up a small valley. **14** Go up some stone steps and over a stile. **15** Follow the buttressed wall ahead (with glimpses of Broxton Old Hall beyond it) to a field gate and then to the road. **16** Turn left along the road with woodland on your left. **17** As the road starts to descend, turn left over a stile beside a footpath sign. **18** Before you reach the second field gate, turn right up the bank and go over a stile into the field. **19** Follow the left-hand edge of the field to a stile at the top of a steep bank. **20** At the foot of the bank, turn right, rejoining the track you walked before; swing left before the farm buildings. **21** Cross the stile on your right again, and turn left. **22** At the next stile, turn left and keep left down the field back to the main road. **23** Turn left and retrace your steps to the Egerton Arms.

## Maiden Castle

### 5½ miles: Moderate

*One reasonable climb up to the Sandstone Trail; field paths may be muddy. The last third of the walk is on tarmac, mostly quiet country lanes but with short stretches along a main road. Allow 3 hours.*

Follow steps **1** to **15** from the **Broxton Old Hall** walk, above.

**16** When you reach the road, turn right and then immediately left into Hall Lane. **17** After half a mile, turn right at a T-junction. **18** Ignore the first turning on the right (Sandy Lane), but take the second (Lower Sandy Lane). **19** At the end of the lane, go through the gate ahead of you into a paddock. **20** Follow the footpath straight ahead to a stile, some wooden steps and a metal kissing gate. **21** Keep on in the same direction over a further stile to a second kissing gate. **22** A narrow

path leads through bracken woodland beyond; bear right until you reach a crossing path at the foot of a sloping ride. **23** Follow the telegraph poles uphill along the ride, until you reach a National Trust waymark; turn left. **24** This path leads to a minor summit, where you keep left past another NT waymark and head briefly downhill. **25** Go straight over a crossing path and up the hill beyond (signposted Maiden Castle). **26** Towards the top of the slope, stone steps lead up past rocky outcrops. **27** When you reach the top, turn left along the Sandstone Trail and up some further steps to Maiden Castle. **28** Keep left, following the Sandstone Trail along the edge of the escarpment. **29** The path descends slightly; before it starts to climb again and as a footpath joins from the right, turn left off the Sandstone Trail and into woodland. **30** Bear right and follow a descending path through the trees. **31** At the bottom of the wood, follow the fence, looking out for a kissing gate and field gate on your left. **32** Leave the wood and follow the field edge beyond to a road, then turn right past a cottage on the left. **33** Beyond a second cottage, on the right, leave the road via a stile into a field on your left. **34** Cross to a stile through a hedge and then turn left. **35** After another stile, skirt round a tennis court to a further stile, then turn left across the next paddock. **36** In the far left-hand corner, concealed behind an outbuilding, is a stile which leads via a narrow path to a stile into a driveway, down which you turn right. **37** On reaching the road, turn left through the village, and then right into Broomhill Lane. **38** At the end of Broomhill Lane, turn right. **39** After 250m, turn left into Ivy Farm Lane, and at the end of the road turn right. **40** When you reach the main road, cross and turn left along the pavement. **41** At the next road junction, turn right into Old Coach Road. (*If time is desperately short you can follow the main road all the way back to the start, but the route described here diverts onto quieter roads for part of the way, at the expense of extra distance.*) **42** After 400m, turn left into Withy Lane and follow it back to the main road. **43** Turn right and walk back along the main road to reach the A41 roundabout and the Egerton Arms.

## Bickerton Hill and Raw Head

### 8¼ miles: Moderately strenuous

*Several ascents; the Sandstone Trail passes above some steep drops. The last two miles are on tarmac, mostly quiet country lanes but with short stretches along a main road. Allow at least 4 hours.*

Follow steps **1** to **7** from the **Broxton Old Hall** walk, above.

**8** Before you reach the wood, and just beyond the rock outcrops, climb up the bank on your left to a stile. **9** Keep along the right-hand edge of the field beyond, to a stile that leads you briefly into woodland and then out to the road. **10** Turn right and walk along the road to the entrance to Broxton Old Hall, then left into Hall Lane. **11** After half a mile, turn right at a T-junction. **12** Ignore the first turning on the right (Sandy Lane), but take the second (Lower Sandy Lane). **13** At the end of the lane, go through the gate ahead of you into a paddock. **14** Follow the footpath straight ahead to a stile, some wooden steps

and a metal kissing gate. **15** Keep on in the same direction over a further stile to a second kissing gate. **16** A narrow path leads through bracken woodland beyond; bear right until you reach a crossing path at the foot of a sloping ride. **17** Follow the telegraph poles uphill along the ride, until you reach a National Trust waymark; turn left. **18** This path leads attractively to a minor summit, where you keep left past another NT waymark and head briefly downhill. **19** Go straight over a crossing path and up the hill beyond (signposted Maiden Castle). **20** Towards the top of the slope, stone steps lead up past rocky outcrops. **21** When you reach the top, turn left along the Sandstone Trail to Maiden Castle. **22** Continue along the escarpment, turning left by an information board headed “Bickerton Hill: Lowland heath” and passing Kitty’s Stone. (*To find Mad Allen’s Hole, look out for a natural sandstone alcove on the right of the Trail shortly after Kitty’s Stone and follow a vague path obliquely left down the slope opposite. Take care: this unofficial path is steep, slippery and overgrown and the cave is quite deep. Return by the same route.*) **23** Beyond Bickerton Hill the Trail descends to a wooden kissing gate and then alongside open fields, before passing through a second kissing gate to the road. **24** Turn left past Bickerton church, then go straight on at the cross-roads beyond. Follow this road for ½ mile, passing the end of Clay Lane on your right. **25** At the main road turn left then immediately right, up a no-through road. **26** This road becomes the farm drive of Chiflik Farm, beyond which pass through a kissing gate onto a footpath. **27** This path eventually returns to the edge of the escarpment and follows it past the sandstone cliffs of Musket Hole to the trig point at Raw Head. **28** 300m beyond the trig, look out for a signposted path on the left, which heads down a few steps then swings right, down through the trees (*another cave, the impressive Queen’s Parlour, is visible up through the trees as you approach the road*). **29** Cross the road and follow the footpath down steps opposite. **30** At a driveway turn right then immediately left, over a stile. **31** Keep to the top of the field then cross a stile into woodland. **32** The path leads to a stile at the top of a field used for mountain biking. Turn left and follow the path down the left-hand side of the field, ignoring a footpath off to the left partway down. **33** When you reach the road in Harthill, turn right. **34** At the church, turn left and follow a farm track. **35** Follow the path to the end of the belt of woodland, then drop downhill along a fenceline. **36** At the bottom of the hill, cross a succession of stiles and then a footbridge. **37** Beyond the stream follow the field edge to the road. **38** Cross and follow the pavement to the left; take the first right (Smithy Lane). **39** At the junction with Sherrington Lane, bear right. **40** Turn right into Broomhill Lane.

Now follow steps **38** to **43** from the **Maiden Castle** walk to guide you back to the Egerton Arms.



Text, design, mapping and photography  
© David Dunford 2014. All rights reserved.

[www.walksfromthedor.co.uk](http://www.walksfromthedor.co.uk)