

'Capability' Brown's vision...2 miles Berrington Park, Herefordshire

Berrington Park was one of 'Capability' Brown's final landscapes. His vision was to create the perfect setting for the house, which provides visitors with stunning views to Wales and the Black Mountains. PLEASE NOTE: THIS WALK IS OPEN FROM MARCH TO DECEMBER ONLY.

Start: Triumphal Arch at Berrington Hall - OS map: 149 - grid ref: SO 509636

Getting there:

Train: Leominster  4 miles. From here take 492 bus, alight at Balance Inn, Luston.

Buses: 492 Ludlow to Hereford service, regular service, alight at Luston. Footpath from Luston all the way to Berrington Park www.herefordbus.info





Cycling: Nearest cycle route is NCR 81, 30 miles away. Otherwise follow the B4361 to Luston and then quiet roads to Berrington Park. See www.sustrans.org.uk

Road: 3 miles N of Leominster, 7 miles S of Ludlow on W side of A49

Map & grid ref: 137 SO510637

Facilities: WC and shop at the property. Servant's Hall tea-room signposted from the courtyard

Points of interest:

-  **The Park:** 'Capability' Brown, the great British landscape gardener, designed the parkland at Berrington to give an illusion of limitless pasture, punctuated by carefully placed trees and belts of woodland. Berrington was one of Brown's last projects before his death in 1783.
-  **Berrington Pool:** The 14 acre lake and its island are home to a variety of rare species and have been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It was created by Brown as an important part of his landscape. Originally, the pool would have created a mirror effect and would not have been edged by clumps of reeds as it is today.
-  **Herony:** Berrington Pool is one of the few large areas of open water in the county and is home to an important heronry. Herons are beautiful, shy birds that need peace and quiet. For this reason, the walk alongside the pool is only open six months of the year.
-  **Beyond Berrington:** Best viewed from the steps of Berrington Hall, there are stunning views throughout the parkland walk. To the southwest are the Welsh Hills, with Eye Church prominent in the foreground. Northwest, the slopes of Croft Ambrey hillfort are visible, surrounded by ancient woodland.



Berrington Pool attracts many types of wildfowl, including tufted duck, pochard, little grebe, coot, moorhen, Canada geese, kingfishers and a bonded pair of mute swans.

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Peacocks – as well as wildfowl these distinguished birds, with their colourful tails, can be seen strutting around the gardens.

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The cast-iron balustrades of the Triumphal Arch are said to be made from Spanish cannons captured during the American War of Independence!

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Walk distance, terrain and accessibility:

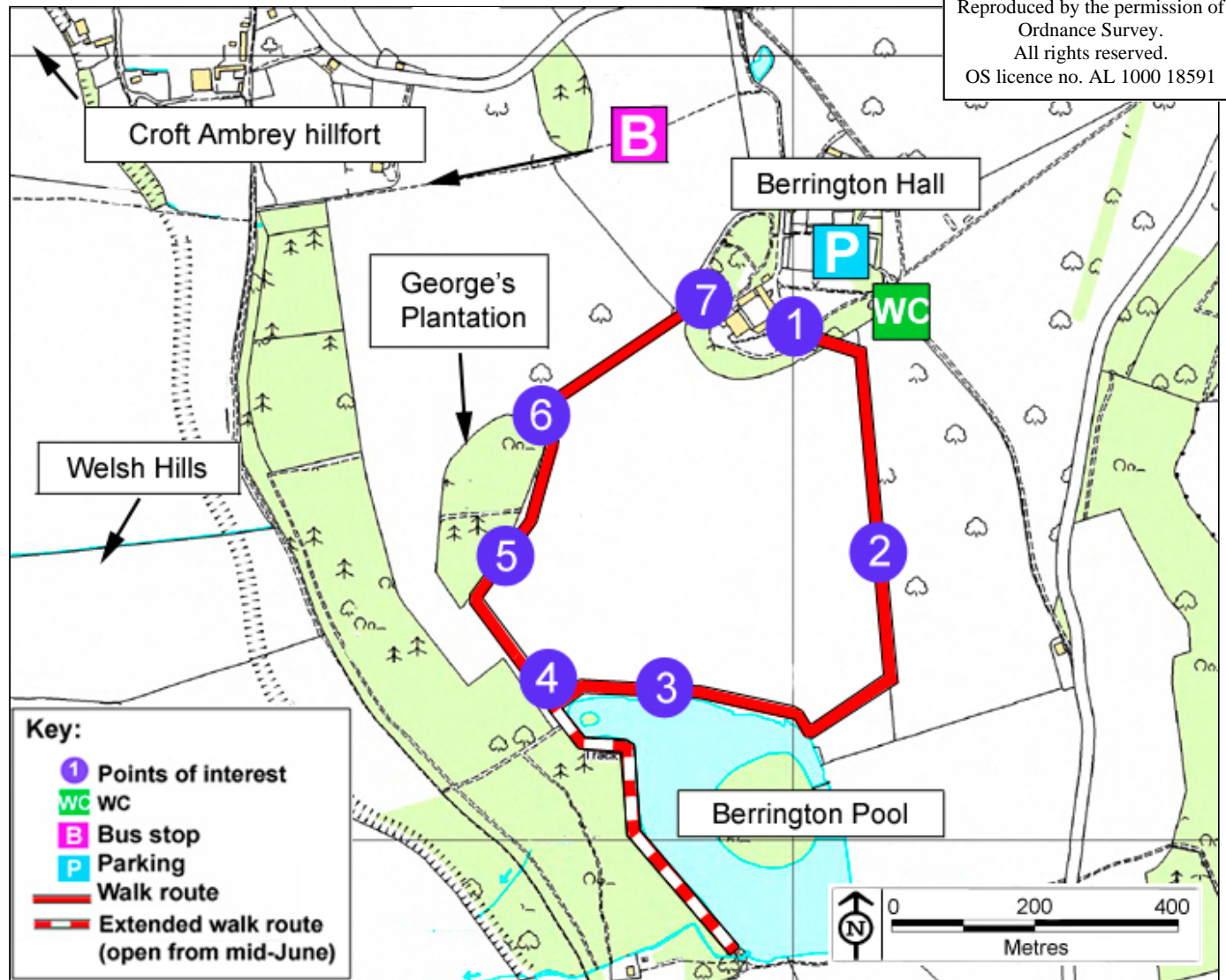
Total distance is 2 miles (3 ¼ km). Flat grass and gravel paths with some moderate slopes.

Route and directions:

1. Starting at the Triumphal Arch (where admissions is located) follow the left path. After roughly 100 yards there is a break in the trees to the left containing a gate. Go through into the fields beyond.
2. Follow the fence down-slope to the lake's leftmost corner (marked by a post).
3. At the post turn right and continue alongside the pool until you reach the tree-line.

The gate here offers an extended walk through the woods and along the lake's shores. **This is open from mid-June only** to prevent disturbance to nesting herons. Please ask at the property for further details.

4. To continue the shorter walk, turn right and walk up-slope until you reach a resting seat at the edge of the plantation.
5. Keeping the trees to your left follow the path uphill, passing the small barn as you go, until you reach a stile.
6. Ignore the stile and instead follow the path to the right, heading towards the black gate at the left-most edge of the walled ditch (known as a 'ha-ha').
7. Walk through the gate, go up to the front of the house and enjoy the fantastic view!



National Trust properties nearby:

Attingham Park, Croft Castle, Brockhampton Estate, Weir Garden

Contact us: Berrington Hall - 01568 615721, berrington@nationaltrust.org.uk

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