

# Walkies... 2 miles Clent Hills, Worcestershire

With cool pools, muddy puddles, woods and open grassland, the Clent Hills offer a doggy paradise! No need for leads if your dog behaves itself around other dogs, horses and people. Please remove dog mess and dispose of it responsibly. Bins and water bowls available at Nimmings Wood Car Park.

**Start:** NT Clent Hills car park – grid ref: SO938807 – OS Explorer 219  
**Bus:** Regular buses (Kidderminster-Birmingham) take you within 10mins walk of the Clent Hills.  
**Train:** Hagley station 2.5 miles  
**Car:** M5 junction 4, then A491  
**Facilities:** Car park, accessible WC cafe, picnic spot and information point.  
**Contact us:** 01562 712822      clenthills@nationaltrust.org.uk

## Look out for...

### Dark Pool and Deep Wood

The area to the left of Deep Wood and Dark Pool (pictured right) has been set aside as an arboretum where more exotic trees such as a monkey puzzle can be found. During springtime, Deep Wood is awash with bluebells. Over the last few years the warden and a wealth of volunteers have been working hard to clear scrub and thin out trees so that more dormant bluebell seeds have a chance to grow.

### The open grassland

The Trust is committed to restoring dry acid grassland, now a rare habitat throughout the UK. It was once prevalent on Clent when animals grazed the land, keeping down any new plant growth by eating seeds and shoots before they could establish themselves. When the animals were removed, scrub, bracken and trees started to take over and the grassland and wildlife it supported was lost. Through careful management, plants such as bilberry, sheep sorrel and heath bedstraw are returning, encouraging birds like linnets, butterflies such as small copper and also solitary bees.



The Four Stones on the summit of Clent Hill may look old and mysterious but they were actually created in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Lord Lyttleton as part of his landscaping project. This folly acted as an eye catcher to impress his guests.

© NTPL/David Noton



This photo shows an Edwardian fairground in the Clent Hills; Adams hill was once a tourist 'honey pot' with crowds of people arriving by train. Tourists in the early 1900s enjoyed swing boats, donkey rides and shooting galleries and grass tobogganing.

© Clent History Society

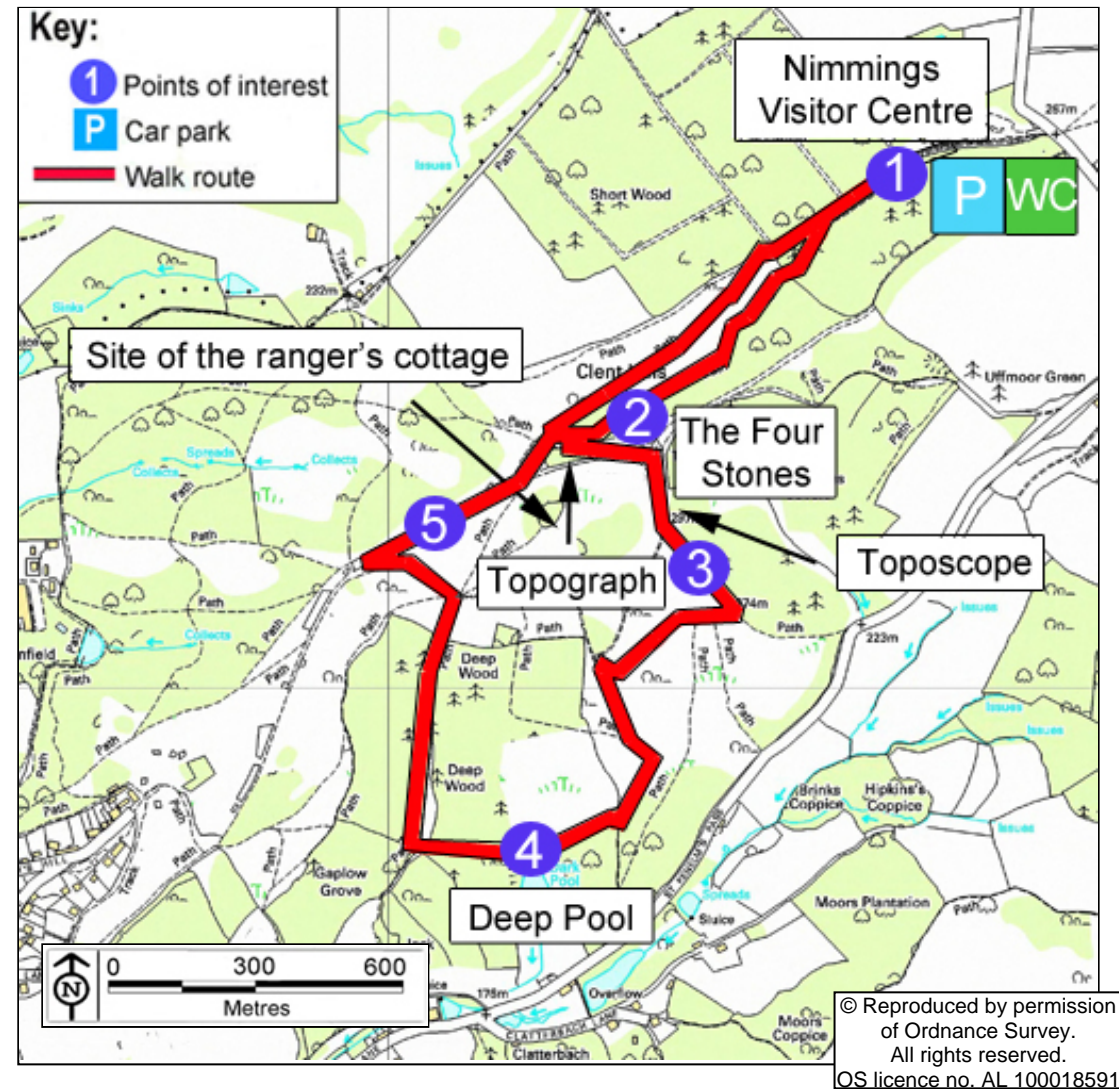


In autumn Dark Pool is transformed into a leafy wonderland of bright copper and huey reds. Your dog will love paddling around in here and, in spring, if you continue to the left of the pool you will be treated to a carpeted display of bright bluebells.

© Bill Philips

## Directions...

1. Climb up a gentle zig-zag slope into the woodland from Nimmings café. Turn right and follow an easy access path through the trees, with some fine views and resting points.
2. Emerging from the path you reach a topograph and can view the sweeping panorama looking west towards Wenlock Edge and the Malvern Hills. Turn left and walk up towards The Four Stones, which offer fantastic views; to the west is the Severn Valley and the Welsh border, while to the north is Birmingham and the Black Country.
3. With your back to The Four Stones, continue on past the toposcope and down the widest, most clearly defined path to your left. At the bottom there is a gate; take the right hand path here. To your left you can see beautiful views of Walton Hill. Continue along the path until you see an area of open grassland to your right with a large fallen tree in the distance. This is the site of the old ranger's cottage. Take the path to the left, leading into Deep Wood. This area is a brilliant carpet of bluebells in the Spring. Stick to this path all the way down to Dark Pool and a wooden bridge.
4. Cross over the bridge at Dark Pool and walk up the slope of the wood, take care not to trip on exposed tree roots. Look up through the woodland canopy to catch sight of a buzzard circling above. At the top of this climb, turn right back up the path and continue along this woodland path until you get to the gate.
5. Walking through the gate you will often see wood piles which the warden and his volunteers have collected from the hills. Continue on the path directly in front of you back to the topograph area. Take the lower path below the topograph. The bilberry bushes with their deep purple berries show that our attempts to restore dry acid grassland to Clent are working well. Plants that thrive on this habitat provide a great environment for insects, which in turn attract birdlife. You may also hear Willow Warblers in the scrubby trees to your left and spot small heath and small copper butterflies as you head back to the car park.



### Distance, terrain and accessibility

A gentle 2 mile walk, with sometimes uneven paths that run through woodland and fields. There are tree roots and other obstacles in places and a small bridge to cross.

As a charity, independent of government, the National Trust relies on the generosity of its supporters to continue caring for our countryside and wildlife, so that everyone can enjoy the beauty of the outdoors for generations to come.

Find out more at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)