

Maiden Castle Bickerton Hills



National Trust

Enjoy this challenging but rewarding walk up and across heathland of heather, bracken and bilberries to the remains of an Iron Age fort. You'll be greeted by wide views across the countryside to the Welsh hills, the distant Dee estuary and Wirral. You may also see hardy Galloway cattle grazing the area. This route is the most accessible route to the crest of the Peckforton-Bickerton ridge. The route intersects with the Sandstone Trail and other paths so you can rendezvous with friends or family who are walking those routes.



Suggested Route

DISTANCE: 1km (2/3mile) each way.

TIME: Allow 1 1/4 hours.

SURFACE: The paths are sandy earth tracks about 1.8m (2yds) wide, and uneven with roots, drainage channels and bedrock exposed in places, and therefore is probably not suitable for manual wheelchairs.

GRADIENTS: Prolonged slopes of gradient greater than 17% (1:6) from the start for the first 480m (525yds), with varying cross slopes. The route then levels out up to the viewpoint.

GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS: There is a hand gate at the start of the route with a minimum width of 145cm (57"), opening one way with no latch. There are 2 seats near the viewpoint, without backrests as they are made of big logs, at about 50cm (20") off the ground.

DESCRIPTION:

1. From the car park, go through the gate and follow the track leading steadily upwards.
2. At a junction of paths, bear left, following the circular walk waymark.
3. At the next junction of paths, again bear left, following the yellow arrow waymark, to climb up an incised track.
4. At the top of the rise, again bear left at a junction of paths, to follow the National Trust waymark.
5. Bear right at the next junction of paths.
6. You'll come to a more obvious track where you turn right to follow the yellow arrow to the top.
7. Here you'll see the view you've been waiting for and a panel explaining the history of Maiden Castle. When you've rested and admired the view, follow your steps back to the car park.

VISITOR INFORMATION

LOCATION: The walk is in the Bickerton Hills between Wrexham and Nantwich.

PARKING: Free parking, open 24 hours, is available off Goldford Lane in Bickerton, at the National Trust's Pool Lane car park. Approximate postcode: SY14 8LN.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: No public transport is available to the site.

TOILETS AND REFRESHMENTS: No facilities are available on site.

FURTHER INFORMATION: The National Trust owns and manage the site: www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

