



Market Drayton - Taste of the Town Tern Valley Walks

Maer The source of the River Tern is considered to be the ornamental lake in the grounds of Maer Hall, Staffordshire. This circular walk furnishes pleasant views of Maer village, the Hall and across the upper reaches of the Tern Valley (approx. 2 miles - 3¼ km.)

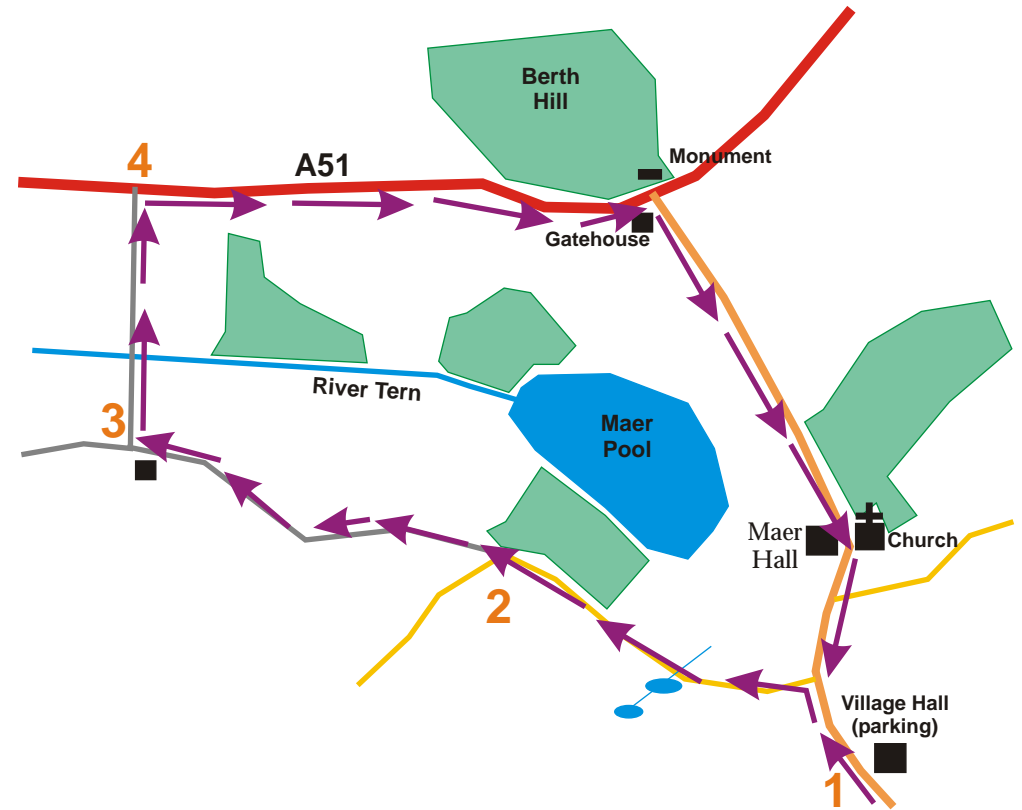
Please Note: to complete the circuit will involve walking along roads, in particular a ½ mile stretch of the A51 which has no footpath and can be very busy.

1. Maer village can be found at grid reference SJ 792 382 just south of the A51 between Blackbrook and Hill Chorlton. It is largely an estate village, dominated by Maer Hall, the one-time home of the pottery manufacturer, Josiah Wedgwood II. Josiah was also uncle to Charles Darwin who was a frequent visitor to Maer and eventually married his cousin, Emma.



When driving into Maer having left the A51, pass the Hall and Church, then on past the road junction (on the left) and park at the roadside beyond. If you wish to park more securely then drive on further until you find the Village Hall on the left. You are welcome to park here so long as it is not in use for any other function. However a donation (suggest 50p in an envelope with a short note, including car registration number) towards the upkeep of the Village Hall would be appreciated. This can be posted through the letter box of either of the two adjacent houses.

From the Village Hall walk back towards the village centre and take the first lane on the left (westward) which climbs up the side of the valley away from the village. Part way along this lane you will come to a wooded spot with pools on the left. After heavy rain these can flood across the road and you can see stone sluices to take the water down into the valley towards the Hall. Continue on and you will find views of the Hall, Church and lake in the valley to the right.



2. After passing woodland on the right the lane bears left. At this point a wide gateway and a stile on the right lead into a field and the view opens up across the Tern Valley to the wooded hills beyond. Enter the field and follow the track to the next field and stile, then continue downwards to pass the side of the buildings ahead to meet an unmetalled lane at a right-angled bend.

3. Turn right and follow the lane down towards the river. There is a small bridge where the lane crosses the Tern, which is little more than a drainage ditch at this point, and then the way rises to pass through a gate onto the A51 main road. **Please take care.**

4. Turn right. Follow the A51 for about ½ mile until you reach the lane back to Maer village on the right. (A war memorial is opposite the lane and there are views over the Maer Hall grounds on the right). Follow the lane back to Maer.

The village itself is quite picturesque. The church is interesting, being built partly into the hillside and so there are several steps which lead up from the nave to the chancel which is on a higher level.