

# The Highway Robber Trail

The full walk is approximately 1.5 miles (2.4km) and takes about 30 mins (3000 steps).

**1** Start at **Warwick Arts Centre**, which was built in 1974. It was the creation of the University's first and longest serving vice-chancellor 'Jack' Butterworth (in office 1964-1985) and was developed with the support of local philanthropists, Helen Martin and Phil Mead. The University of Warwick was founded in 1965 and was built on a 417-acre site, formed by roughly equal gifts of land from Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council.

**2** Leave Warwick Arts Centre. On the grassed area straight in front of you, you will see three sculptures made from black basalt boulders by the artist Atsuo Okamoto: **Forest Planet** (2009 and 2011). Okamoto believes that stones hold memories. The quarry marks on these boulders are a reminder of their recent past whilst the forms excavated from within seem to allude to the more ancient history of this volcanic rock.

**3** Go left at the road and, when you reach the Oculus building on your right-hand side, cross over. Look out for an oversized stile on the grassed area beside the Oculus building. This is a sculpture by the artist, Lucy Tomlins, called **Concrete Country in Red** (2018). From a distance this stile looks wooden but it is actually made of Corten steel. The work serves as both a barrier and a gateway and is a reminder that the central campus covers a landscape that was farmland for at least the last millennium.

**4** As the road veers left, follow the path that drops down, signposted 'Tozil'. You are now close to the site of **Tozil House Farm**: one of several working farms whose land was lost to the University. No trace now remains of this farm, which in its heyday had a reputation for breeding shire horses. The site appears on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map for the area.

When the road levels, continue walking round the building on your left-hand side towards a car park. Take the path on your right signposted 'Cycle Route, Walk 52'. Continue on this path as it curves to the right, goes over a stream and passes a running route leading off to the right. When you see two black fences on your right-hand side, turn right and go through the vehicle barrier. Do not follow the footpath to the right. Instead, walk between the halls of residence ahead of you.

**5** At the spiral fire escape, when the road veers to the right, take the path to the left. This will bring you out onto a field with exercise and play equipment; feel free to have a go. Beside the path, you will find what looks to be an abandoned lunch bag. Made by Tom Waugh, **Big Takeaway** (2018) has been carved in incredible detail from limestone, capturing not only the possible objects inside the bag but the folds and creases of its manufacture and the crumpling of its use.

**6** Continue on the path. At the next clearing, to the right of the path, you will see a work by Laura Ellen Bacon. This is called **Don't Let Go** (2019) and has been made using the ancient art of willow weaving. The oldest known woven baskets have been carbon dated to between 10,000 and 12,000 years old. This contemporary work resembles a colony of life forms either clinging to and multiplying on the tree, or pouring from it.

**7** When you reach a set of parallel bars and the path forks, take the left fork which crosses a stream. You will then be able to see the greenhouse of the allotments ahead of you. Continue on the path, which leads past a lake on your left-hand side. This lake runs alongside the **Canley Brook**, which was dammed in 1981 to create a network of pools that now offer a mature habitat for wildfowl and water plants.

**8** When the path forks, stay left, keeping close to the lake. When you reach the next junction, you can turn right to go straight to (12) or turn left. Turning left brings you over a bridge and to **Tozil Wood**, an ancient oak woodland now best known for bluebells in the spring. The swamp and wet meadow landscape that runs through it has existed for centuries. Earthworks in the wood are between 3000 and 4000 years old. There is also evidence of a ridge and furrow from medieval farming. The wood's wetlands were created by the clay extraction activities of medieval potters (as well as possibly Roman tile manufacturers). Several ponds would originally have been puddling pits, used for preparing the clay; and the watercourses running through the wood are artificial leats, set to direct water between the pits. The medieval name of Tozil Wood was Potter's Field Coppice. The wood is today managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

**9** When you reach a Warwickshire Wildlife Trust panel, enter the wood to your right and look for **Our shadows alone touched you trying to find where here is** (2018) by John Newling. This artwork is situated in a tree. John Newling has made many works that question what we value. In a series of letters to Nature, he suggests that we should try to find 'here', to understand what we have now in the natural world and how we might safeguard it.

**10** At this point, you are very close to Gibbet Hill campus. Now home to the School of Life Sciences and the Medical School, this was once **Gibbet Hill Farm**. The farmhouse and its complex of buildings provided the University's first home, before the central campus began to take shape from 1965 onwards. The arrangement of barns to create a courtyard is called a 'grange'.

**11** During the 18th Century Kenilworth Road was a haunt of **highway robbers and footpads** (highway robbers on foot rather than horseback). In 1765, Thomas Edwards, a local farmer, and two friends were returning home after midnight from Coventry market when they were attacked by Edward Drury and Robert Leslie, both private soldiers from Lord Pembroke's Regiment of Dragoons; and Moses Baker, a ribbon weaver. The robbers, disguised and armed with pistols, stole three guineas and eleven shillings in silver. Edwards received severe head wounds; his two friends were left insensible on the ground. Edwards died three days later. On a wet April morning, at a lonely spot two miles south of Coventry, close to the old Kenilworth Road, the three robbers were hanged; their bodies, coated in tar and enclosed in chains, were then left to hang from the gibbet for more than forty years as a warning to others. Gibbet Hill Road so acquired its name.

**12** From John Newling's artwork, retrace your steps to the crossroads at (8) and continue going forward. When you see a building with a white fire escape, take a left. This will take you between two buildings; the one on your right is the student laundry. Continue walking and you will see the red sculpture, **3B Series I** (1968) by Bernard Schottlander. This is one of the earliest works bought for the University Art Collection. It now has grade II listed status. A German Jewish refugee, Schottlander came to the UK in 1939 and originally worked as a welder before becoming a full-time designer and sculptor. You can also see an example of his design in the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry city centre; Schottlander created their chandeliers. Either walk around the square (to avoid steps) or take the diagonal path ahead and to your left. Follow the pavement between two buildings. You should now see Warwick Arts Centre: the end of this trail.



Walking Through Time provides details of two walking routes leading across the University of Warwick campus: 'The Dinosaur Trail' and 'The Highway Robber Trail'. These trails incorporate several permanent sculptures from the University of Warwick Art Collection as well as two giant sculptures of dinosaurs, 'The Good' and 'The Bad', by the artists, Jake and Dinos Chapman, which are on loan to the University of Warwick for one year only (Oct 2019–Sept 2020).

The walking routes provide information about the artworks as well as about the history of the site. The maps illustrate what is visible today along the routes as well as imagining what used to be there. Toler, bus interchange, cafe and car parks are marked.

Field Journals are available for the two routes. These Journals provides lots of children's activities relating to the trails as well as room to draw. You may also be interested in borrowing an Explorer backpack, which contains picnic blanket, drawing materials and much, much, more.

For details of the full Art Collection, including locations, go to [www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/art](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/art)

For more information about the trail, associated resources and events, go to [mead-gallery](http://mead-gallery)

Illustrations by Helen Cann  
helenam.co.uk  
History trail created by Peter Walters,  
author of 'The Little History of Coventry',  
The History Press, 2019.  
Loan of Jake and Dinos Chapman  
'The Good' and 'The Bad' (2007) courtesy  
the artists and Blain Southern.  
Details are correct at the time of going to print. Please  
check the website for any updates before your visit.



## The Dinosaur Trail

The short walk is approximately 0.85 miles (1.4km) and takes about 20 mins (1700 steps). Including 'Habitat', the walk is approximately 2.25 miles (3.6km) and takes about 45 mins (4500 steps).

- 1 Come out of Warwick Arts Centre.
- 2 Cross over the road towards the Student Union building and veer right towards Richard Deacon's **Let's Not be Stupid** (1991). This was Richard Deacon's first commission for a large-scale, outdoor, permanent work. The sculpture works as a huge drawing in space. Walking around it, different shapes appear to contract and expand, changing from single black lines to rippling and smooth vessel shapes. The two forms appear to be in balance; it is ambiguous whether the larger form is pushing or pulling the smaller caged form and this adds to the sense of movement in the sculpture as does the twisting ladder form that connects them.
- 3 Go left on Gibbet Hill Road (the main road out of campus). As you approach a roundabout, cross onto the other side of the road and follow the path leading onto Leighfield Road (the third exit off the roundabout). Cross over Leighfield Road and go through a gate on the opposite side of the road. You will find yourself on the edge of a cricket pitch. Go right along the path, staying parallel with the road. Look for **Black Cube** (2013) by Lotte Thuenker to the left of this path. Made from a grey-blue limestone mined in Belgium, this cube is faintly rounded in form, like a stuffed cushion or footstool. Hand-carved lines run across the form, giving the appearance of fabric, so increasing the illusion of softness.

- 4 Continue along the path until you arrive at Cryfield Sports Pavilion. Turn left onto the cycle path running along the side of the playing fields. On the right-hand side of this path you can find Régis Chaperon's **Hare** (2018). This sculpture appears as if it has been made using Origami rather than carved out of North African limestone.
- 5 The legendary, now almost mythical, **Forest of Arden**, which is said to have inspired Shakespeare's 'As You Like It', once lay to the north and west of the University. The forest had largely disappeared by Saxon times but there are reminders everywhere in the number of oak trees found in the local landscape. At the back of the Sports Pavilion you will find one of the oldest and biggest oaks on the campus. This one was probably planted at the end of the 18th Century or start of the 19th Century.

The name Cryfield is a corruption of 'croiles felde' meaning 'open land by the fork' in old English. In Saxon times, the area was a royal estate and hunting park. King Ethelred (968–1016) spent considerable time in the area and it is said that, during this time, a foreign earl living near Cryfield Grange turned to banditry along the Kenilworth Road. Royal troops forcibly evicted the earl to restore order.

The Grange remained in royal hands until after the Norman conquest of 1066. In 1154–55 a group of Cistercian monks from Staffordshire relocated to the area and controlled the farm and its lands for almost 400 years. During this time, Kenilworth Castle was attacked by Simon de Montford, the fifth Earl of Leicester, in what remains the longest castle siege in English history (1264–67). Royalist troops loyal to Henry III were quartered at the Grange during the siege and one local story speaks of a tunnel that connected the Grange to the Castle.

During the siege, Henry III's troops accidentally burnt the Grange down. It took until about 1280 before the farmhouse and its outbuildings were fully habitable again and the oldest elements of the current Grange buildings date from this time.

After the dissolution of the monasteries, the farmhouse and its estate first went to Charles Brandon, Henry VIII's brother-in-law. By the 1560s, however, it was in the hands of Sir Thomas Leigh. In the 1930s, the Leigh family began to sell land to the north of the Grange to the city of Coventry. Today, it forms part of the University of Warwick.

- 9 Walking up Leighfield Road, you will pass **Cryfield Old Farmhouse** on the right. Prior to the monks' arrival in 1154–55, there was a hamlet near this site called Cryfield but by the 15th Century, the village had gone and large sandstone walls buried in the farmhouse's garden suggest that some monastery buildings may have been situated here. After the dissolution of the monasteries, the land was sold off and over time was bought by the Leigh family to form part of Cryfield Grange Farm. It was made a separate tenant farm at the end of the 17th Century with 200 acres of land and what had been a small farmhouse was rebuilt as a more substantial dwelling in the 1820s. The farm became well known for producing Warwickshire cheese, which was sold at annual cheese markets in Coventry and Rugby. The Leigh estate sold the farm and its land in 1928 and it was bought before the Second World War by Warwickshire County Council. The last tenants, Clarence and Margaret Forsyth, farmed the land until 1973, when it was sold to the University.
- 10 Continue walking up Leighfield Road. On your right you will see a signpost for Windmill Hill and a gate. Walk through, or around, the gate. Go straight ahead. On the field to your left, you will see two dinosaurs: **The Good and The Bad** (2007), by brothers Jake and Dinos Chapman. Jake and Dinos Chapman weave a vast range of associations into their work, using material from all areas of the cultural landscape including consumer culture. 'The Good' and 'The Bad' are Corten steel dinosaurs based on children's flat-pack models. Each towers up to seven metres high. The dinosaurs are situated next to a pond, which is a popular habitat for Great Crested Newts, the biggest newt species in the UK, which has been around for around 40 million years. It is a living dinosaur, and a European protected species.

- 11 To the right of the path is **Windmill Hill**, the highest point on the university campus. Looking east from here, a raised earthen mound suggests a Bronze Age barrow. 16th Century documents record this area as Mill Hill Field suggesting that the existing mound was exploited to become the site of a medieval windmill. Fragments of Roman mosaic have been found in the field to the south of the pond and aerial photographs reveal an 80m long rectangular structure which may either be associated with the Roman artefacts, or with the development of a medieval monastery. Sandstone walling forming the structure's boundary is buried here as well as in the garden of the nearby farmhouse.
- 12 Further along the path on your left, by a clump of trees, you will find **Song Version V** (2017) by Jon Isherwood. This work is made of granite but has the sense of a soft bag, its fluid contents pushing out the base while the neck is pulled upwards and tied. The artist has used digital cutting technology to create two different effects in the stone: polished black and unpolished pale grey.

- 13 Follow the path on to your right. This will bring you to Gibbet Hill Road. Turn right here and head towards the bus interchange next to Warwick Arts Centre. There, next to the taxi rank, you will see the sculpture of an anxiously pacing cat. This is **Days of Judgement, Cat 1** (2012) by Laura Ford. Originally one of a series of seven, the poses of the cats were inspired by the figures of Adam and Eve in a fresco by the Renaissance artist Masaccio called 'The Expulsion from the Garden of Eden' (1427). Here, the trail ends.

