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SITE LOCATIONS AND ACCESS

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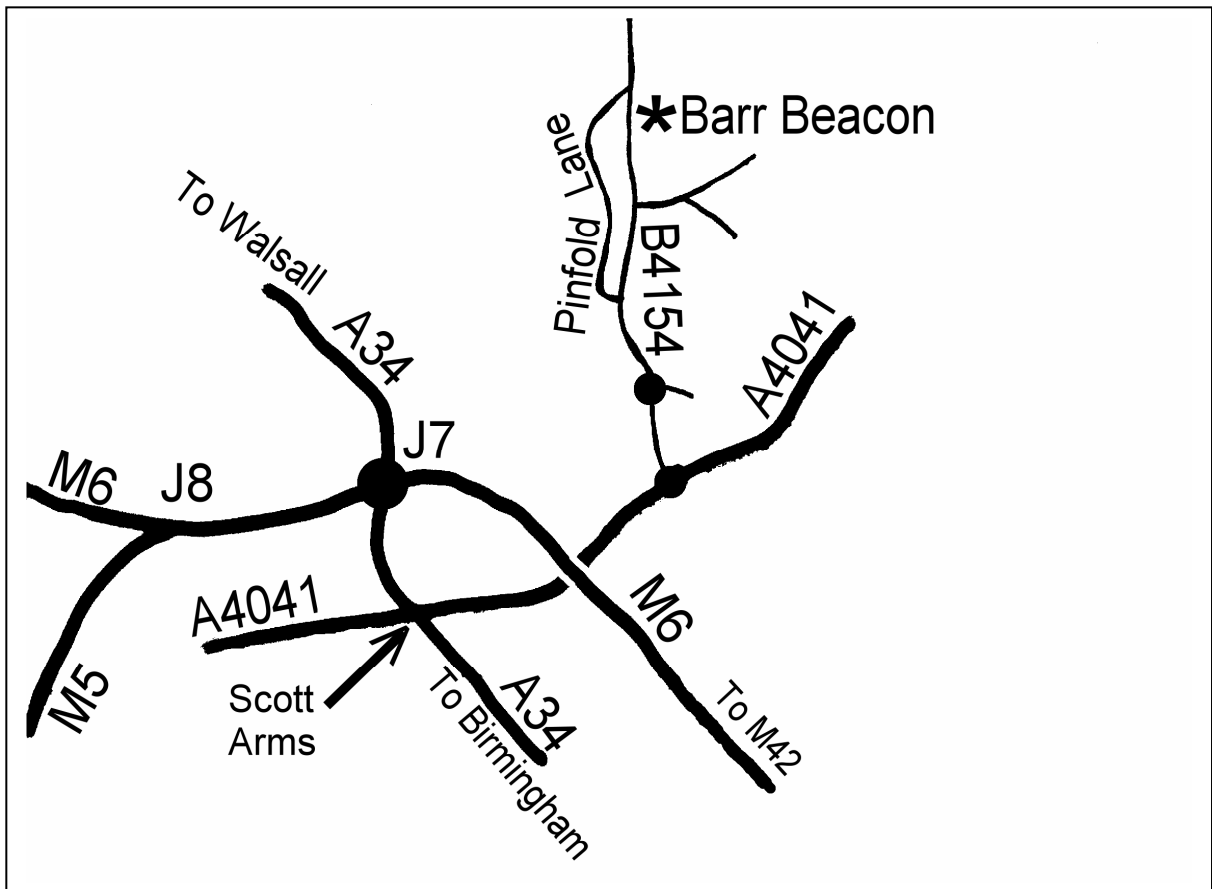


Figure 1. Location map for Barr Beacon and Pinfold Quarry

SITE NAME: Barr Beacon and Pinfold Lane Quarry

STATUS: Barr Beacon: Local Nature Reserve and proposed SINC*
Pinfold Lane Quarry: Local Nature Reserve and SINC*
*Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

OS MAPS: 1:50,000 Landranger Series, Sheet 139 Birmingham and Wolverhampton

BGS MAPS: 1:50,000 Geological sheet number 154 Lichfield
1:50,000 Geological sheet number 168 Birmingham
1:10,000 Geological sheet SP09NE (Streetly)

DIRECTIONS:

From north, south, east and west: Take the M6 and head for Junction 7. At Junction 7 take the A34 south, signposted Birmingham. After 1km, at Scott Arms, turn left onto the A4041 and continue eastwards, under the M6, for 2km. At the first roundabout take the first exit onto the B4154, signposted Barr Beacon. Continue northwards for 2km, crossing straight over the roundabout on the way. At the top of the hill, at the junction with Bridle Lane, turn right into the drive to the car park of Barr Beacon LNR. NOTE: The overhead barrier is set at 2.7 metres. Continue along the narrow access track, over the many speed bumps and park at the north end of the car park, close to the woodland, and within sight of the war memorial.



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PLANNING THE VISIT:

Although Barr Beacon Nature Reserve is an open site it is locked overnight. When planning the visit, group leaders should make a personal reconnaissance of the sites, especially the Pinfold Quarry sites, where access is more informal. Sites which are inappropriate for particular groups should be omitted.

For further support, and to allow monitoring of the site, Group Leaders should contact, well in advance of a visit: Senior Countryside Ranger, Walsall Countryside Services, Top Hangar, The Airport, Bosty Lane, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0QQ.

Tel: 01922 459813.

Email: countrysideservices@walsall.gov.uk

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: Wheel chair access is possible over the short grass of the park, but is much more difficult for any of the sites in Pinfold Quarry.

INITIAL RISK ASSESSMENT:

All group leaders should meet with their parties prior to the *On-Site* visit and impress upon participants the educational nature of the event, and the need for extra consideration for the safety of themselves and others.

Each group should have a member of staff proficient in First Aid, and carry a mobile telephone for emergencies.

There is no substitute for group leaders viewing the site before the field visit and making their own risk assessment, according to the requirements of their own Local Authority. The following assessment is only a guide.

RISK	ACTION
Weather.	Wear suitable warm and waterproof clothing. Get weather reports for the day of the visit.
Rock faces over 3m in height.	Wear hard hats. Do not climb the cliff faces.
Steep footpaths and slopes, at some times of the year encroached upon by brambles and other vegetation.	Caution all party members to be aware of their own safety and that of others. Insist on suitable footwear and sensible behaviour.
Narrow roads and restricted parking.	Drive carefully and with consideration. Use only the parking sites suggested in the On-Site guides.
The B4154 road crossing is close to Bridle Lane which is busy with fast moving traffic.	Split large parties into smaller groups and carefully supervise the crossing. Pay attention to traffic turning into, and out of, Bridle Lane.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Barr Beacon is on top of a cuesta underlain by the Triassic pebble beds (Kidderminster Conglomerate). The lower ground to the west is underlain by poorly exposed Upper Carboniferous rocks. These were folded and faulted during the Variscan orogeny, and unconformably buried below the Triassic Hopwas Breccias (a thick sandy bed with some sub angular pebbles), overlain by the Kidderminster Conglomerate. These represent different parts of an arid terrestrial environment that existed in the area during the Triassic. Later earth stresses caused the east-west faulting which has displaced the beds about 1200 metres westwards on the southern, downthrown side of the Barr Beacon fault.

The area was affected by glaciation during the Quaternary, but these drift and fluvio-glacial sediments are poorly exposed.