



THE LANDSCAPE OF MIGRATION

PLACES TO VISIT

The Darby Houses, Ironbridge
Home of the Darby dynasty, Coalbrookdale Quaker ironmasters




Wroxeter, Shrewsbury
Site of a major Roman city and reconstructed town house




Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire
Unique Georgian canal town in the Severn Valley



Croft Castle, Leominster
Castellated manor house and nearby iron-age fort



Redditch, Worcestershire
A contrasting duo: Bordesley Abbey and the Forge Mill Needle Museum




Derby Museum and Art Gallery
Houses artefacts from the Viking occupation of Derbyshire




Birmingham History Galleries
The story of Birmingham and its people from medieval origins to date



Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
Home to stunning items from the Staffordshire Hoard



St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Pugin's striking Roman Catholic Cathedral



Henley-in-Arden and Beaudesert
Historic Warwickshire town and site of Norman fort



PLACES TO VISIT

WROXETER ROMAN CITY



© English Heritage

Wroxeter (or 'Viroconium') is situated about five miles south-east of Shrewsbury a visible reminder of the impact of the Romans. It began life as a legionary fortress and later developed into the fourth largest city in Roman Britain. The site's main features are the second-century municipal baths and the remains of the huge wall dividing the baths from the exercise hall in the heart of the city. There is also a reconstructed 'villa urbana' – a high-status Roman town house – and a small museum. Less than a mile away is St Andrew's Church, which allows visitors to see how pieces of Roman masonry have been incorporated into the church. Wroxeter Roman City, near Shrewsbury SY5 6PH Phone: + 44 (0) 1743 761330 Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk/wroxeter

STOURPORT



© Stourport Forward Ltd.

Writing in 1799, the Worcestershire antiquarian T R Nash explained how, in 'about 1766, where the river Stour empties itself into the Severn below Mitton, stood a little ale-house called Stourmouth: near this place Brindley has caused a town to be erected, made a port and dockyards, built a new and elegant bridge, established markets, and made it the wonder not only of this county, but of the nation at large'. Many of the features of this new town for migrants that Nash described over two hundred years ago can be seen in modern Stourport – just right for an architectural treasure hunt on a summer's day! Website: www.stourporttown.co.uk

CROFT AMBREY IRON AGE HILL FORT AND CROFT CASTLE



© National Trust/Derek Wilbraham

Two for the price of one! Croft Ambrey is one of the oldest of some 30 hill forts in Herefordshire, and was occupied from about 1050 BC to 48 AD. Triangular in shape and surrounded by ramparts and ditches, the fort

covers thirty-two acres. It lies about 1.5 kilometres north-west of Croft Castle, a castellated manor house and home to the Croft family for nearly 1,000 years. Now owned by the National Trust, the house and grounds offer visitors an interesting day out, as well as acting as a base for the easy walk to the fort.

Croft Castle, Yarpole, near Leominster, HR6 9PW Phone: + 44 (0) 1568 782120 Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croft-castle

DERBY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY



© Derby Museums

Of all the counties of the West Midlands, only Derbyshire succumbed to the Viking conquest, the presence of the Danes being revealed at two burial sites. The one found at Repton held the graves of some 249 warriors, whilst the 59 barrows at Ingleby are thought to comprise a war cemetery of the Viking Great Army of AD 873-878. Artefacts from these burial sites, and other remains of the Vikings' presence in Derbyshire, can be seen at the Derby Museum and Art Gallery.

Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby DE1 1BS Phone: + 44 (0) 1332 641901 Websites: www.derbymuseums.org and www.reptonchurch.org.uk/Vikings.htm

HENLEY-IN-ARDEN AND BEAUDESERT



© Henley News

Henley-in-Arden is divided into two parishes, Henley-in-Arden and Beaudesert, which for practical purposes form one town. Beaudesert, the older of the two, is linked with the history of the powerful French De Montfort family who settled there after the Norman Conquest.

It is also the site of one of the earliest Norman 'motte and bailey' castles. In addition to Beaudesert, there is much to see in the medieval town of Henley where, of the 277 dwellings in the High Street, 174 are listed buildings. And don't miss the sixteenth-century building that houses the Ice Cream Parlour, where ice cream has been served since the 1930s!

Websites: www.henley-in-arden.org/castle – and, to whet the appetite, see the short video at www.henley-in-arden-pc.gov.uk

THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD



© Birmingham Museums Trust

The Staffordshire Hoard was unearthed in 2009, and is the largest collection of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork ever found, anywhere in the world. The hoard consists mostly of martial items – war materials, especially sword fittings – the craftsmanship of which is exquisite. Selected items from the hoard are on permanent display at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and other museums host temporary displays. See www.staffordshirehoard.org.uk.

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH Phone: + 44 (0) 121 303 1966 Website: www.bmag.org.uk

BIRMINGHAM HISTORY GALLERIES



© Birmingham Museums Trust

Not to be missed are the recently-opened Birmingham History Galleries. Situated on the third floor of the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, they contain a host of imaginative displays, models and hands-on activities aimed at recounting the history of Birmingham, including migration to the city, in a stimulating way to visitors of all ages.

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH Phone: + 44 (0) 121 303 1966 Website: www.bmag.org.uk

BORDESLEY ABBEY AND THE FORGE MILL NEEDLE MUSEUM



© Forge Mill Needle Museum

Co-located on the northern outskirts of Redditch lie Bordesley Abbey and the Forge Mill Needle Museum. Built by a group of Cistercian monks from Leicestershire in about 1140, Bordesley Abbey survived until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538, when

it was demolished and its estates sold. A Visitor Centre tells the story of the Abbey. Within easy walking distance of the Abbey lies the Forge Mill Needle Museum, and it's here that visitors can discover the fascinating and sometimes gruesome story of needlemaking. Needlemaking was brought to Redditch and Studley in the early seventeenth century by Flemish Huguenots escaping Catholic persecution in France.

Forge Mill Needle Museum & Bordesley Abbey Visitor Centre, Redditch B98 8HY Phone: + 44 (0) 1527 464000 Websites: www.forgemill.org.uk and www.reading.ac.uk/bordesley

THE PUGIN TRAIL



© Judith Al-Selfar

The son of a French émigré, Augustus Welby Pugin was a nineteenth-century British architect and designer. Although not a native of Birmingham, Pugin designed or contributed to a number of sites in the city that served its rapidly-expanding Catholic and substantially Irish population. These include St Chad's Cathedral and St Mary's Catholic Convent. The Birmingham Pugin Trail, launched in 2012 for the bicentenary of Pugin's birth, includes six buildings still in use today. Although hard copies of the Trail are no longer readily available, there is a link on the website below, enabling you to download it.

Website: www.birminghamheritage.org.uk/pugin

THE DARBY HOUSES, IRONBRIDGE



© Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

Although born near Dudley, Abraham Darby I (1678-1717) moved to Bristol at the age of twenty. By 1706, he was back in the West Midlands developing his ironworking interests at Coalbrookdale. The houses where the Darby family lived – Rosehill House and Dale House – now form one of the ten Ironbridge Gorge museums, their rooms packed with original family furniture, china, mementoes, costumes and family papers. These locations provide evidence of the importance of internal migration for industrial development in the region.

Darby Houses, Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Ironbridge TF8 7DQ Phone: + 44 (0) 1952 433424 Website: www.ironbridge.org.uk