

## walking

Cannock Chase can be explored by walkers of all abilities, all year round. However, this is open countryside and for longer walks you will need stout shoes or boots and waterproof clothing.

- People with restricted mobility and families with smaller children can enjoy shorter walks from most of the visitor hubs/centres, including the TOC-H trail and RAF Hednesford trail at Cannock Chase Visitor Centre.
- A number of self-guided trails are available from visitor hubs/centres or can be downloaded from the Cannock Chase AONB website. These include trails at Milford Common, Brindley Heath and RAF Hednesford, as well as military history and Tolkien trails.
- For the more energetic, a number of long-distance trails pass through the AONB (for details visit [www.cannock-chase.co.uk](http://www.cannock-chase.co.uk)) including: Heart of England Way, Staffordshire Way, Way for the Millennium, Two Saints Way, Beacon Way, Sabrina Way, Forest of Mercia Way and the Chase Heritage Trail.

## cycling

Undulating scenery and a network of bridleways and designated cycle trails make for varied and interesting family cycling across the Chase.

- Staffordshire County Council has produced a cycling map and information guide for Cannock Chase – available to download at [www.cannock-chase.co.uk](http://www.cannock-chase.co.uk)
- From children taking their first trip out on their bike, through to cross-country mountain bikers wanting to test their skills, Cannock Chase Forest offers great opportunities for cycling on purpose-built trails.
- Local cycling shops can offer bikes for hire or sale.

## other activities

There are year-round activities and attractions on the Chase for all tastes, including play areas, picnic areas, the Gruffalo trail, Go Ape treetop adventure, Segway courses, orienteering and dog activity trails. Check out the visitor hubs/centres overleaf for more details.

a landscape for everyone



## horse riding

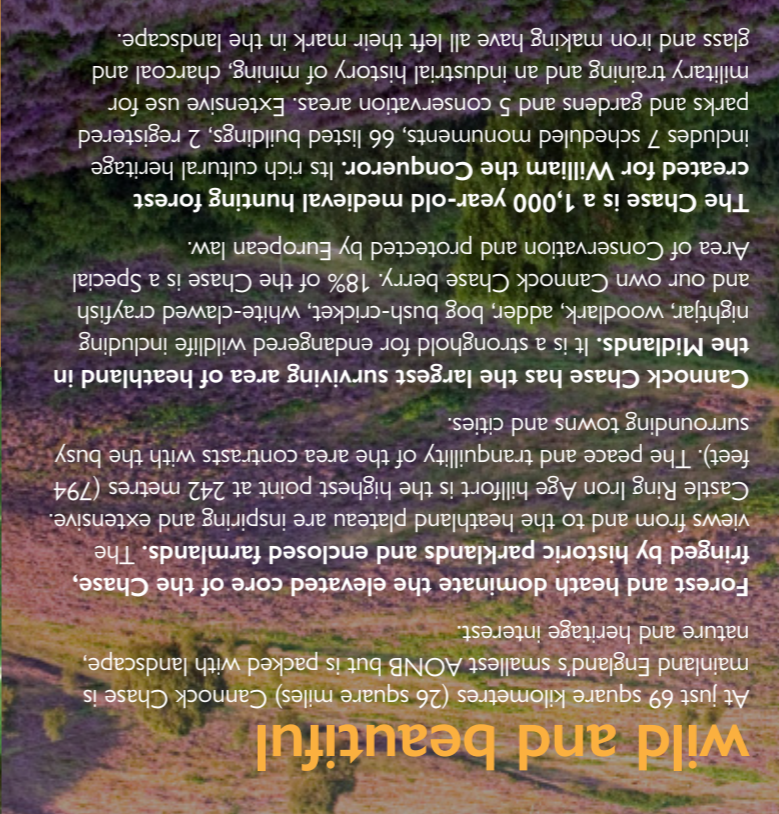
One of the best ways to see many parts of the Chase is on horseback. The network of bridleways provides some of the most extensive and picturesque off-road riding in England.

- Two horse-riding routes starting at Milford Common and Seven Springs have been produced by the AONB Partnership and are available to download at [www.cannock-chase.co.uk](http://www.cannock-chase.co.uk)
- Cannock Chase Forest welcomes horse riders to come and explore mature pine forests, birch woodlands and open heathland along its network of bridleways, forest roads and tracks.
- Local trekking centres can offer tuition and guided rides in a safe environment.

## help to protect cannock chase

The Cannock Chase AONB Partnership of local authorities, statutory advisors and representatives of local communities and user groups, together with the Cannock SAC Partnership, emergency services and landowners, work together to look after this nationally important landscape. We are all responsible for keeping it special and everyone can make a difference.

- Follow the Cannock Chase Code to keep Cannock Chase special See code overleaf: protect • respect • enjoy
- Support the AONB partners and other organisations that look after the AONB
- Use local produce and support local businesses



**Wild and beautiful**

At just 69 square kilometres (26 square miles) Cannock Chase is mainland England's smallest AONB but is packed with landscape, nature and heritage interest.

Forest and heath dominate the elevated core of the Chase, fringed by historic parklands and enclosed farmlands. The views from and to the heathland plateau are inspiring and extensive. Castle Ring Iron Age hillfort is the highest point at 242 metres (794 feet). The peace and tranquillity of the area contrasts with the busy surrounding towns and cities.

Cannock Chase has the largest surviving area of heathland in the Midlands. It is a stronghold for endangered wildlife including nightjar, woodlark, adder, bog bush-creeper, white-clawed crayfish and our own Cannock Chase berry. 18% of the Chase is a Special Area of Conservation and protected by European law.

The Chase is a 1,000 year-old medieval hunting forest created for William the Conqueror. Its rich cultural heritage includes 7 scheduled monuments, 66 listed buildings, 2 registered parks and gardens and 5 conservation areas. Extensive use for millinery and an industrial history of mining, charcoal and glass and iron making have all left their mark in the landscape.



**a national landscape**

Cannock Chase is one of England's finest landscapes, designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) since 1958. It is part of a Worldwide Protected Landscape Family that includes our own National Parks and those of North America and elsewhere.

## find out more

- **Cannock Chase Visitor Centre**, Staffordshire County Council, Marquis Drive, Hednesford WS12 4PW  
Tel: 01543 876741 [www.staffordshire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk)
- **The Museum of Cannock Chase**, Cannock Chase Council, Valley Road, Hednesford WS12 1TD  
Tel: 01543 877666 [www.museumofcannockchase.org](http://www.museumofcannockchase.org)
- **Shugborough Estate**, National Trust, Milford ST17 0XB  
Tel: 01889 880166 [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shugborough-estate](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shugborough-estate)
- **The Wolseley Centre**, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Wolseley Bridge ST17 0WT  
Tel: 01889 880100 [www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk](http://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk)
- **Cannock Chase Forest**, Forestry England, Birches Valley, Rugeley WS15 2UQ  
[www.forestryengland.uk/cannock-chase-forest](http://www.forestryengland.uk/cannock-chase-forest)
- **Cannock Chase War Cemetery and German Military Cemetery** [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)
- **Cannock Chase SAC Partnership** [www.cannockchase.org.uk](http://www.cannockchase.org.uk)
- **Enjoy Staffordshire** [www.enjoystaffordshire.com](http://www.enjoystaffordshire.com)
- **Bus and train timetables** [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

Cannock Chase AONB Partnership  
[www.cannock-chase.co.uk](http://www.cannock-chase.co.uk)

Photographs by Sam Carpenter, Robert Cartwright, Paul Dykes, Ron Evans, Ian Jones, Steve Welch, Staffordshire County Council and RSPB Images

© Cannock Chase AONB Partnership 2022



welcome



# CANNOCK CHASE

A NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

protect · respect · enjoy



Be a Chase Champion – Follow the Cannock Chase Code

