

Cannock Chase AONB Visitor Information

Please contact centres for advice on opening times, accessibility, event details, etc, prior to your visit.

Birches Valley Forest Centre

Birches Valley, Rugeley,
Staffordshire WS15 2UQ

Tel: 01889 586593

Website: www.forestry.gov.uk/cannockforest

Cannock Chase Visitor Centre

Marquis Drive, Hednesford, Cannock,
Staffordshire WS12 4PW

Tel: 01543 876741

Website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/e-land/Countryside

Museum of Cannock Chase

Valley Road, Hednesford, Cannock,
Staffordshire WS12 1TD

Tel: 01543 877666

Website: www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/museum

Shugborough

Milford, Nr Stafford, ST17 0XB

Tel: 01889 881388

Website: www.shugborough.org.uk

The Wolseley Centre

Wolseley Bridge,
Staffordshire ST17 0WT

Tel: 01889 880100

Website: www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk

How You Can Help

- Act as the eyes and ears of the AONB
- Consider ways of conserving and enhancing the AONB
- Act in environmentally friendly and socially responsible ways when visiting the countryside

If you want advice or feel you can help, please contact:

Cannock Chase AONB Unit,
Shugborough Park Farm,
Milford,
Stafford, ST17 0XB.

Tel: 01889 882613. Fax: 01889 883912.

Website: www.cannockchaseaonb.org.uk

Email: cannockchase@staffordshire.gov.uk

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Cannock Chase AONB

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Blog: <http://aonb-blog.co.uk/>

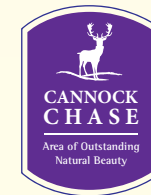
Should you or someone you know require it, this leaflet can also be produced, on request, in large print. Please telephone 01889 882613 or fax 01889 883912.

Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is supported by: Defra, Staffordshire County Council, Cannock Chase Council, Stafford Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire Council, AONB Parish and Town Councils, British Horse Society, Cemex UK Operations Ltd, Country Land and Business Association, Forestry Commission, Friends of Cannock Chase, Hanson Aggregates, National Farmers Union, Natural England, Ramblers, CASS Young Carers, Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Swinnerton Cycles Forest Centre Ltd, Walton Chasers, West Midland Bird Club.



**Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty**

Landscape



Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

In England and Wales, there is a huge variety of scenery and landscapes, those considered most valuable are protected as National Parks or AONBs. Cannock Chase AONB (26 square miles) was designated in 1958 because of its beautiful landscape, its wildlife and its history. Today the area consists of heathland, pine and birch woodland, historic parkland, farmland, attractive villages and remnants of ancient oak woodland.

The landscape character of Cannock Chase AONB, along with its associated animal and plant communities, results from a unique combination of geological, historical, ecological and human influences. These in turn define the AONB's special qualities and sense of place.

There is considerable economic and recreational pressure on the beautiful landscape of Cannock Chase.

Achieving the right balance between conserving and enhancing the AONB whilst maintaining it as a living, working environment is now more crucial than ever.



Sherbrook Valley - the 'heart' of the AONB

Cannock Chase AONB Landscapes

Cannock Chase AONB consists of contrasting landscapes from the spacious, wilderness of heathland to the intimate scale and enclosure of the forestry land. These landscapes are favourite places.

People find peace and quiet in Sherbrook Valley, perhaps even catching sight of deer and skylarks, or take in the spectacular views from Castle Ring Iron Age hill-fort. They consider man working alongside nature in the surrounding agricultural landscapes or congregate to play games on Milford Common. They make time for reflection at the German, Commonwealth and Katyn War Memorials or marvel at the various historic parklands.

The variety of landscapes, scenic qualities and strong sense of place that Cannock Chase AONB evokes creates a lasting impression for many of its residents and visitors.

It is a much loved and cherished area and acts as an oasis so close to the heavily populated towns of the Midlands.



Open Hills and Heaths



Settled Farmlands




Historic Parklands



Farmed Sandstone Hills and Heaths

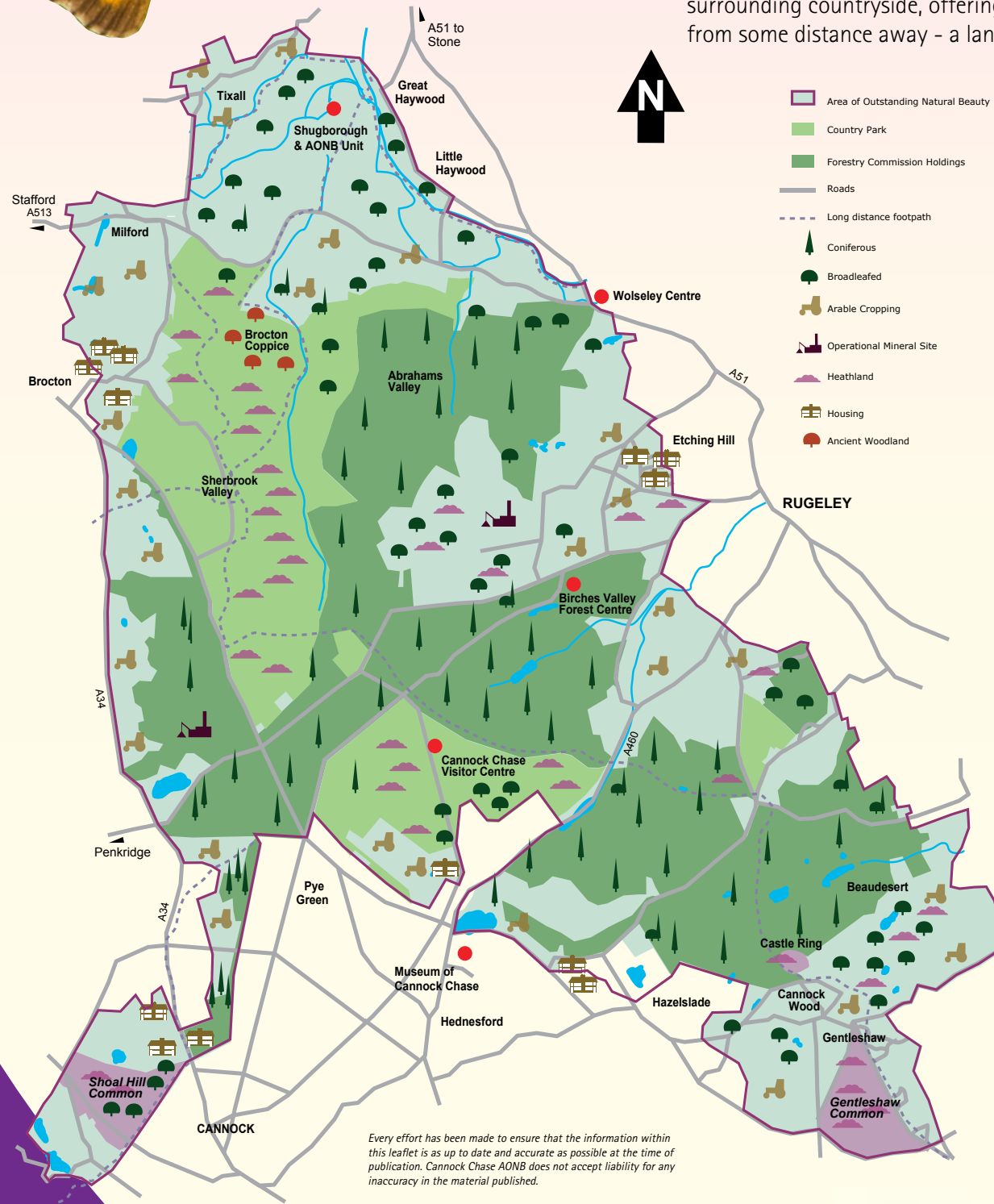


Trent Valley Floodplain



Cannock Chase AONB - a landscape of inspiration

Views within, out of and into the AONB are very important. Cannock Chase is higher than the surrounding countryside, offering fine views across Staffordshire and Shropshire as well as being seen from some distance away - a landmark for many people.



The wonderful mix of heathland and woodland gives a real feeling of wilderness, especially where there are no roads or buildings to be seen.

Many people value the AONB for its peace and tranquillity, offering a chance to 'get away' and find time to unwind and relax.



The heathlands are of international importance, home to an unusual mix of species and are designated as a Special Area of Conservation.



Historic landscapes and features, such as Castle Ring Iron Age hill-fort, show Cannock Chase's importance as a landscape that has been used and modified by human influence over thousands of years.



Valley wetlands add to the variety of the landscape and are an important nature conservation consideration.

Forest and woodlands make up around 40% of the AONB ranging from the significant Forestry Commission holdings to Brocton Coppice ancient oak woodland.

