

Habitat care

Cannock Chase, which forms part of the Cannock Chase AONB, includes the largest surviving area of lowland heathland in the English Midlands. The bulk of Cannock Chase was first notified in 1951 and later designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1987 because of its rare heathland and associated woodland habitats.

Over time the extent of the heathland habitat has reduced in size, in common with all other lowland heathland habitats in the UK, but Cannock Chase supports such a unique and scarce range of wildlife that it was given enhanced recognition as a Special Area of Conservation in 2005 under European legislation because of its high nature conservation importance.

Plants such as common heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*), western gorse (*Ulex gallii*) and wavy hair grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) support a wealth of butterflies, beetles, birds and mammals, including the European nightjar and five different species of bat found in the associated woodlands.

The Chase has an extensive network of bridleways which enable riders to experience some of the most picturesque off-road riding in England and riders are warmly welcomed.

Please help us to protect this very special place by:-

- Using only bridleways and designated concessionary routes for horses so as to avoid damaging valuable habitats and disturbing wildlife
- Avoiding riding on private land
- Planning alternative routes when ground conditions are especially wet to avoid churning up the paths
- Always show consideration when meeting other visitors especially children and older people.
- Phytophthora disease is found in heathland on Cannock Chase. This can be spread to other sites or your own land. If your horse inadvertently steps off the tracks please wash and brush hooves to remove mud and diseased spores.

Following these guidelines will preserve the very special nature of Cannock Chase, whilst ensuring a pleasurable experience for all visitors.

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
Stafford Borough Council
Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford. ST16 3AQ
01785619186 / 07583868784
cannockchase@staffordshire.gov.uk



cannockchase.aonb



CannockAONB

About The British Horse Society

As the largest equestrian charity in the UK, The British Horse Society works day in, day out, tackling issues such as equine welfare, protecting equestrian access rights in the countryside, safety for horse and rider, and delivering the very best in education.

The Society's thriving and active community of staff and volunteers is committed to improving the lives of horses everywhere.

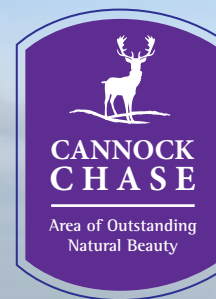
If you would like to report path problems, please contact: rightsofway@staffordshire.gov.uk

Should you or someone you know require it, this leaflet can also be produced, on request, in large print. Please telephone 0300 111 8000.

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.



Printed on recycled paper



Two riding routes starting
at Seven Springs car park



Seven Springs BLUE ROUTE

1. Leave the Car Park at the entrance and cross the A513 over Weetman's Bridge to Little Haywood.
2. Go Straight Ahead past the Lamb and Flag Pub (on Right) onto Coley lane, crossing the A51.
3. Turn Left onto Little Tixall lane, crossing back over the A51 into Great Haywood.
4. At the T-junction turn left, then straight over the mini roundabout.
5. At the Clifford Arms pub bear right down the small lane (Trent Lane) to Shugborough (under the arch) then crossing Essex Bridge (dismount).
6. Bear left onto the Staffordshire Way through Shugborough Park.
7. At the exit, turn right and follow the A513 for approximately half a mile, then turn left into the Punch Bowl Car park. Continue to the barrier ahead.
8. At the crossroads bear right towards the old military rail route, climb onto the embankment and turn left (opposite the Cutting). Pass Mere Pool keeping right, along the old railway embankment.
9. Go through the barrier across Coppice Hill Car Park, past a second barrier then continue straight ahead.

10. At the sign post for The Sabrina Way, turn left down into Sherbrook Valley.
11. At the bottom, turn right for a few yards then left through the stream. Continue up the steep hill and at the top go straight over, heading back downhill and passing two tracks on the left.
12. Take the third track on the left along Abraham's Valley, heading north back towards Severn Springs car park.

Seven Springs PURPLE ROUTE

1. In Seven Springs car park, facing away from the A513, go through the barrier to the right and take the first track on your right.
2. At the stepping stones, cross the stream. Follow the bridle path (BP) straight up through Brocton Coppice.
3. Go through the barrier and turn left at the next barrier (on your left). Continue along this track on the top of Sherbrook Valley, passing the Glacial Boulder on your right. As the path bears left, take the left fork at the BP sign.
4. Follow this path until you meet the Heart of England Way (HoEW). At the HoEW, bear left, then right running parallel to stock fencing on your left.
5. Turn left at the end of the fence down to Penkridge Bank Road. The BP continues 20metres to the right (TAKE CARE!) Continue along the BP to Brindley Road. The BP continues approx. 50 metres along the road to the right on the bend through Brindley Village car park. Take the track through the barrier and go through the next barrier to Duffield's car park.

6. At Brindley Heath Road, cross carefully bearing right then next left into Fives car park. At the hardstanding, take the left hand turn and continue past the event arenas. Take the second left, heading towards Marquis Drive road.
7. Turn left onto Marquis Drive (marked as a BP) to the barrier, then turn right. Go downhill at the pools and straight ahead uphill towards a cottage. Ride between the cottage and the barn.
8. Cross Birches Valley road and continue up an undulating track. When you meet the next Road (Penkridge Bank), turn left. The BP continues 150 metres on your right. Go straight down the track to the 'T' junction.
9. At Kingsley Wood Road, turn right then left at the next junction (Stafford Brook Road).
10. At the entrance to the quarry, turn left down the BP. Continue alongside the quarry drive.
11. At the junction continue straight on to join Abraham's Valley, turn right heading north back to Seven Springs car park.

