

# ABOUT THESE WALKS

*These walks have been designed to allow those wishing to explore Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to do so without the need for extensive equipment or vast walking experience. The walks are all self-navigational – which means it should be possible to accomplish them by simply following the instructions alone.*

*However the following points should be noted before commencing any of the walks.*

- The walks often follow the routes of existing major footpaths to save on additional signage.
- Walks proceed along well-used routes; hence it should not be necessary to cross into areas that are densely overgrown.
- You'll need stout shoes or boots and a waterproof coat in case the weather turns.
- Follow any warning signs you see as ignoring them could endanger you and your party.
- Respect the wildlife on the Chase and in particular do not approach any snakes you may possibly come across.
- Follow the countryside code in general.

## The Countryside Code Respect • Protect • Enjoy

### Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available.

### Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under effective control.

### Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Follow advice and local signs.

*(In partnership with the Cannock Chase AONB and the Ramblers).*

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
WALK PARTNERS CAN BE FOUND AT  
[www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)  
[www.cannockchaseaonb.org.uk](http://www.cannockchaseaonb.org.uk)

*Cannock Chase was designated as an AONB in 1958 because of its beautiful landscape, its wildlife and its history. AONBs are some of our finest countryside and, as part of a family of 46 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland the Chase is important both locally and nationally. At 6800ha, it is the smallest mainland AONB and is much cherished and visited by local people.*



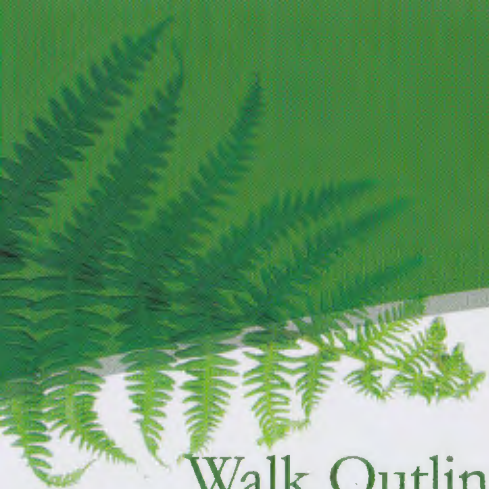
## WALKING ON CANNOCK CHASE Cannock Chase AONB - Ramblers Walks - **Part 1**

OVERALL LENGTH  
= 10 MILES APPROX



Linear walk from Castle Ring to Milford Common  
(or circular walk if continued through Part 2)





## Walk Outline

A steep descent from Castle Ring along the Heart of England Way (HOEW) to Moors Gorse, followed by a climb to the rear of the Visitor Centre. The route continues along the HOEW via the Katyn Memorial and Anson's Bank to the Car Park on Milford Common.

## Walk Description

1. Leave Castle Ring CP towards the monument following signs for Heart of England Way, (HOEW) and follow this looking out for a green HOEW marker post on the left where the path narrows briefly to pass downhill into the trees. This then joins a wider track progressing steadily downhill.
2. Continue on this path, then swing left slightly onto another track at a gas pipeline marker and follow this, (ignoring any paths crossing it and, passing red/white gas pipe markers), as it falls and rises again to pass a small pond on the left, eventually until reaching the Rugeley Road. Keep following the HOEW signs to turn right and walk parallel to the road towards the white house where the path turns left and crosses the road.

3. After carefully crossing the road proceed to Stile Cop Road and turn immediately left on to a wider track (still the HOEW), which is Marquis Drive (but not marked as such). Follow this for some distance passing between the banks on either side. A small pool appears on the left and the track descends towards the valley bottom. Follow this between the banks on either side, past a pumping station on the left and eventually reach the A460.

4. Cross this carefully and then with equal care the railway line immediately afterwards. The route now continues along this path (Marquis Drive), gradually climbing, in the direction of the Visitor Centre, following the electricity poles on the right hand side. Continue along Marquis Drive, passing the traffic barrier and the junction on the left with Brindley Heath Road, until the junction with Birches Valley Road (Flint's Corner) is reached.

5. Carefully cross over the Birches Valley Road and proceed directly ahead following the HOEW signs into the trees. Here the route needs close attention as it swings first right then left once, followed by right then left again, but after then crossing the Penkridge Bank Road, this is a straight walk to the junction of a wider track in the next valley where the HOEW swings to the left

6. Swing left along this track, and keep following it (ignoring tracks joining from either side) and climb gradually up into the trees. Proceed along the track through the forest and pass the Katyn Memorial on the right before reaching the road. Turn right here and then leave the road after a short way to re-enter the trees and follow the main track (HOEW) as it bears slightly left at a confluence of several other tracks used significantly by cyclists.

7. Here the route follows Anson's Bank and after skirting a car park to the left proceeds to the car park at Chase Road Corner, where it is necessary to turn right into the car park itself and then look out for a HOEW signpost on the left hand side pointing uphill. Take this path and keep an eye open for the Glacial Boulder to the left hand side, before reaching a signpost indicating the Staffordshire Way that points down into the Sherbrook Valley.

9. Descend down into the valley following the wide path which eventually swings right towards a small waterfall and then left again to continue on the Staffordshire Way until arriving at another path crossing from left to right that leads down to a ford/stepping stones. Cross directly over this path, still on the Staffs Way, and proceed along the wide path to the junction of paths ahead, (signpost points to Milford directly ahead).

10. Turn left at the signpost and follow the path towards Mere Pool, ignoring any paths to the left and right. On reaching the pool turn right into the cutting (back on HOEW) and follow this to a sign post. Continue on HOEW up the hill until reaching a further post then turn right at this to pass some pools on the right. Once past the pools continue past the entrance to the Sister Dora Nursing Home on the left and then begin descending to reach the car park at Milford Common.



Brindley Road

Brindley Heath Road

Marquis Drive

Visitor Centre

A460 Hednesford Road

Hazelstade

Rugeley Road

Marquis Drive

Stile Cop Road

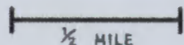
Horsepasture Pools

Beaudesert Old Park

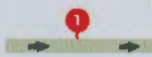
Castle Ring

Holly Hill Road

Startley Lane

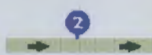


### Cannock Chase - Main Walk 1



Castle Ring - Moor Gorse - Cannock Chase Visitor Centre - Katyn Memorial - Sherbrook Valley - Milford Common.

### Cannock Chase - Main Walk 2



Milford Common - Shugborough Estate - Wolseley Bridge - Slitting Mill - Horsepasture Pools - Castle Ring.



Why not discover Decathlon in Wednesbury just 5 mins from junction 9 of the M6, near Ikea. We have equipment for over 70 different sports with an aim to make the pleasure and benefits of sport accessible to all. Our team of passionate sports enthusiasts will be more than happy to help you discover the biggest range of sporting goods in the West Midlands! Proudly supporting Cannock Chase AONB.



## THE RAMBLERS.

The Ramblers, (formerly known as the Ramblers Association), began life on 1st January, 1935, as a national association of rambling and footpath preservation groups, some of which had been in existence since the 1820's. Further interest was galvanised following the 1932 mass trespass on Kinder Scout in which several ramblers were arrested and subsequently imprisoned, and membership continued to grow throughout the following years.

Besides offering walking opportunities to its members, the Ramblers have always been a campaigning organisation. After a vigorous campaign by the Ramblers, the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act became law in December 1949, and Ramblers also had a big influence on the creation of the Pennine Way which opened

in 1965. More recently, 2000 saw one of the biggest milestones in Ramblers' Association history with the passing of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 granting freedom to roam in open countryside in England and Wales

Today the Ramblers are actively involved in plans for the Coastal Path around Britain, whilst continuing to work towards keeping Rights of Way throughout the country open and accessible to all.

The Ramblers has approx. 115,000 members nationally, of which around 17,000 volunteer regularly to carry out practical work on local footpaths or help with other aspects of the organisations' charitable aims.

Membership of the Ramblers means having the opportunity to walk with any of the 500+ groups around the country, (there are 15 in Staffordshire), delivery of a quarterly magazine, plus access to a range of discounts and other benefits.

For more information visit <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/>