

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
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 2

OVERALL LENGTH
= 11 MILES APPROX



Linear walk from Milford Common to Castle Ring
(or circular walk if continued through Part 1).

30p





Walk Outline

From Milford Common up to and through the Shugborough Estate, before following the Trent and Mersey canal back to Wolseley Island on the A51. From there the route is over the Wolseley Estate, along Shooting Butts Road and on through Slitting Mill to Stile Cop Road. The final stage is from the car park in Stile Cop Road around Chetwynd's Coppice and back via Upper Longdon and Horsepastures Pools.

Walk Description

1. From the car park at Milford Common walk down to the main road (A513), and after carefully crossing it, proceed (Rugeley/Lichfield direction) towards the entrance to the Shugborough Estate, (two identical off-white buildings). Ignoring the road to Tixall on the left walk on past the estate entrance and continue alongside the A513.

2. Look out for a white milestone marker on the opposite side of the road (which maybe be obstructed by undergrowth), and turn left onto a footpath that runs briefly next to an old wall. Follow this up the hill until a steel fence appears on the left. Walk alongside this and adjacent to the first pair of steel gates look out for an unmarked path descending between the trees on the right. Ignoring paths to either side follow this path as it widens and descends to briefly join another track which leads via a log barrier to the main road.

3. At the main road turn left then follow the verge to pass the next entrance to the Shugborough Estate, and carry on past the bus stop until a smaller gateway is found signed 'Public Bridleway to Great Hayward' opposite a house. Turn left into the trees and emerge on the roadway leading towards the estate ticket office and car park. Cross the railway bridge and pass the ticket office on the right to proceed straight ahead along the tarmac drive. This continues through the estate and is fenced at each side. There are good views of Shugborough Hall to the left, but ignore the entrance driveway to the estate grounds on the left. Continue along until reaching the medieval Essex Bridge over the River Trent, and after crossing this turn right to follow the Staffordshire Way signs along the canal.

4. The next section of the walk is relatively easy since it is a matter of following the canal until it reaches the A51 (Bridge No. 70) where it is necessary to climb from the canal to the road and turn right along it, over the river bridge and on to the junction alongside the pub. From here cross the A513 (Milford Road), and bear left past the buildings museum and Antiques Shop to turn right immediately afterwards on a tarmac track that leads through iron gates on to the Wolseley Park Estate.

5. Continue along this track past a large urn in a field on the right, ignoring the continuation of the tarmac road to the farm, and proceed straight on through the gate onto a track. Pass around a couple of bends and climb a stile on the left where a gate closes off the main track. Follow the track beyond the stile to cross a further stile before crossing a green metal bridge. Continue along the path, bearing to the right, until the road ahead is sighted. On reaching this cross it carefully and take the road marked Etching Hill Road.

6. There now follows a section of road walking and great care should be taken since this is a fairly narrow highway. Proceed along Etching Hill Road and cross over a road junction to continue along Shooting Butts Road until the junction with Penkridge Bank Road is reached. (Alternatively – turn from Shooting Butts Road left on to Stonehouse Road and take a right turn between the houses to follow a footpath that leads across fields to meet the Penkridge Bank Road further along).

7. Cross the Penkridge Bank Road and turn left to walk parallel with the road to the junction with Post Office Lane. Follow Post Office Lane down to the junction with Slitting Mill Road and here cross the road to take a footpath passing to the left of the Horns Inn. This path passes the fishing pool on the right and goes through the right-hand side of two kissing gates, before it passes a wooden footbridge. Do not cross this bridge, but stay on the path, go through a further gate and then cross the stream via a metal bridge.

8. After crossing the bridge turn left to follow the stream towards the railway line and after passing beneath it take the narrow path that runs uphill on the left-hand side of the fence. At the top of the hill pass through a gate and over a stile before proceeding through the grounds of a caravan park and out on to the Hedgesford Road. Cross this carefully and turn right then left to enter Stile Cop Road.

9. Walk along Stile Cop Road (taking care of traffic), and pass the cemetery to look out for a car park on the left, (Flaxley Green), that gives access to a bridle way. Follow the track indicated by the bridleway sign in the rear right-hand corner of the car park. Follow this, (ignoring any cross-over paths) to a post

alongside the track and bear left until merging with a wider track running right to left. Turn left here and upon reaching the next bridleway sign continue to bear to the left through the trees until a green whereabouts board marked Chetwynd's Coppice is encountered. Three paths leave from here and the one required is on the extreme right when facing the board.

10. Follow this path as it descends down through the trees until it swings right around a natural bowl in the rocks and then heads down to the road. After carefully crossing this road walk towards the entrance of the cottage on the left and just before this pick up a footpath over a metal stile on the right.

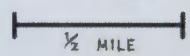
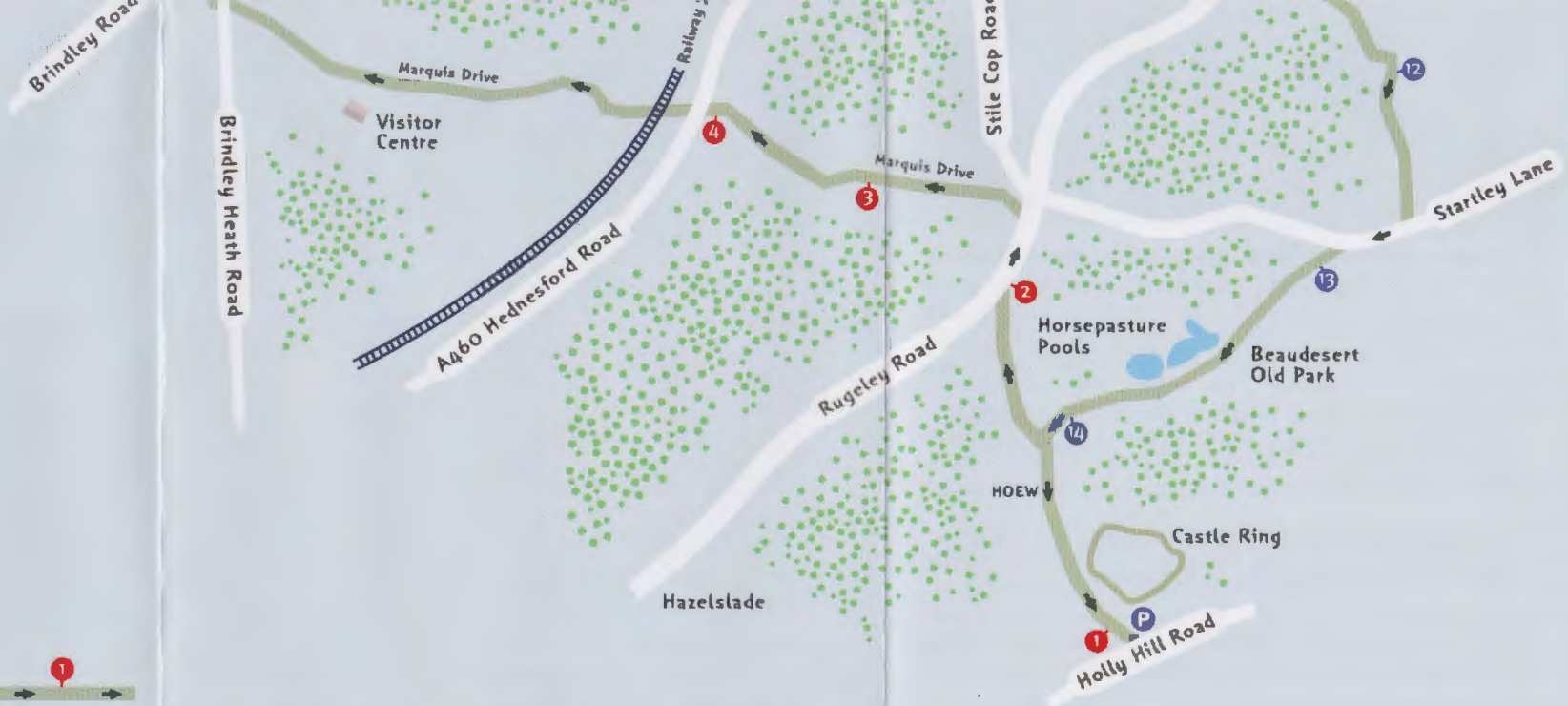
11. Follow this path downhill passing behind the cottage on the left and upon reaching a wide track turn sharp left along this. Proceed along this track keeping a look out for a turning on the right which descends over a stile and along a field boundary towards a hill. Climb a further two stiles and proceed up the hill crossing a gate in the field fence until a gate in the corner of the field is reached. From here there are good views of Rugeley Power Station.

12. Pass through the gate, cross two further stiles and then follow a path crossing a field which passes to the right of a large tree. This path continues downwards and after two more stiles joins a small lane where it is necessary to turn left. Follow this to the junction with another lane and turn right here, to climb a sunken track up to the village of Upper Longdon. On reaching the main road through the village turn right and continue through the village itself to the beginning of Startley Lane from where it is possible to see a Cannock Chase sign post on the left.

13. Pass in front of this and follow the forest road as it swings right and proceeds downhill. Continue along this roadway until the junction of other paths is reached by the gates at Trout Lodge, Horsepastures Pools. Continue to follow the forest road as it swings left behind Trout Lodge and progress keeping the lakes to the right through the trees. Follow the road past a junction on the left and keep going until a further path junction is reached, this time with a red and white post alongside it.

14. This path should be marked the Heart of England Way (HOEW) and it is necessary to turn left here and follow this path up the steep hill. Towards the top of the hill the trees thin out and the path turns slightly left which will lead on around Castle Ring. Follow this path to the car park at Castle Ring where the walk ends.



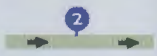


Cannock Chase - Main Walk 1



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. 115,00 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/>