

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

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.

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.

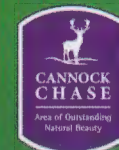


WALKING ON CANNOCK CHASE Cannock Chase AONB - Ramblers Walks - **Walk 1**

OVERALL LENGTH
= 5.25 MILES APPROX



30p





Walk Outline

This walk leaves Castle Ring car park and follows the Heart of England Way (HOEW) and Marquis Drive descending sharply towards Moors Gorse. It then returns via forest paths to the Beaudesert Golf Club and the western side of Beaudesert Old Park to the Castle Ring car park. (Some paths can be muddy)

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, until eventually reaching the Rugeley Road.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Before reaching the main road itself a pumping station building appears on the left. Turn sharp left at a forestry barrier to pass behind the building on a forestry track which climbs steadily upwards.

6. Where the path divides into three take the right hand path and follow this until the next junction of four paths near a red-brick house (on right) where it is necessary to take the second path from the left and climb into the woods. (See map). Keep on this path, ignoring a right turn, cross the bike track, and where the trees begin to thin out look for a steel fence, left, marking the edge of the golf club.

7. Keep this fence to the left and eventually walk past the clubhouse on the left turning sharp left (heading towards a wooden shelter) and then right to leave the golf club via the main driveway.

8. Upon emerging at the road cross it carefully and pass around a green barrier to turn right and follow the forestry path. Stay on this path, ignoring others joining from the right and left, in the general direction of some electricity poles. Keep on the path when the poles turn away to the right and upon reaching a wider path veer right on to this as it skirts the trees on the left hand side.

9. Follow this path and where it curves left continue straight on to pass close to a large pool on the right before climbing gently alongside the woods.

10. Upon reaching a fork in the track take the left path and climb through the trees, then after crossing another wider track continue as the path swings to the right.

11. Upon reaching a green marker post on the left turn right and follow the path through the trees to retrace the route back to the Castle Ring Car Park where the walk concludes.