

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 2

OVERALL LENGTH
= 4.75 MILES APPROX



Circular walk from from Cannock Chase Visitor Centre

30p



Walk Outline

This walk leaves Cannock Chase Visitor Centre and proceeds using the Heart of England Way (HOEW) initially, before passing via Fair Oak Lodge and the associated pools to rejoin Marquis Drive near the rear of the Visitor Centre.

Walk Description

1. Leave the Visitor Centre car park and turn right immediately after passing the gates (do not continue to Brindley Heath Road). Follow this road as it runs adjacent to the Visitor Centre until it intersects with Marquis Drive and cross this before turning left along the path alongside Marquis Drive.

2. Continue along Marquis Drive beyond the junction with Brindley Heath Road, following signs for the HOEW, until the junction with Birches Valley Road is reached (Flints Corner).

3. 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.

4. At this point the route is right (away from the HOEW) and along the broad track until it intersects with the road (Rifle Range Corner). Cross the road and proceed along a narrow path running parallel to the road towards Slitting Mill, passing the entrance to the caravan site and continuing until wrought iron gates are seen on the left. Here a brideway sign pointing to the right is found.

5. The path here is well established, but quite long and leads down to Fair Oak Lodge, after re-crossing Birches Valley Road. Several paths come together here, but the route is through the Lodge passing between the house and the garage to reach a metal barrier gate just beyond. The main path runs down to a cottage, but the path required is immediately left behind the barrier gate to follow a steep narrow track leading down. This track finishes at a broader track and a left hand turn is made here (signposted Rugeley).

6. Now pass by two small lakes (Fair Oak Pools), on the right and continue following the stream on the right until a further final pool (in the trees) is reached. Continue past this pool ignoring the wooden bridge on the right and turn right off the path when a series of stepping stones are encountered on the right.

7. After crossing the stepping stones follow the broad track past the fishing permits car park sign and on until a bridle path marker appears on the left. Turn right here and begin to ascend through the trees following a path that is clearly visible as it passes through the plantation. Remain on this path and continue climbing, for some distance, ignoring any paths joining from the left or right, until a junction with another wide path with a marker post (blue signs) is reached.

8. At the junction turn right and follow this track (Marquis Drive) for some distance, until a left turn gives access to the rear of the Visitor Centre and the Car Park where the walk concludes.