

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 5

OVERALL LENGTH
= 6.5 MILES APPROX



Circular walk from Milford Common Car Park

30p





Walk Outline

This walk leaves Milford Common car park, passes through the Shugborough Estate to follow the canal and road to Seven Springs. The route is then via a path which links to the Staffordshire Way, before returning via Mere Pool to the Milford car park.

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 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. Upon reaching the second bridge along the canal (No. 72) pass beneath it and double back up the ramp to leave the canal and carefully cross the road. Once across the road turn left (away from the bridge) along the footpath and then follow this to cross the River Trent to emerge at the main road.

5. Cross this road with care and walk straight on up the lane opposite with signs for Seven Springs. Follow this lane into and through the car park area, leaving on the extreme right-hand track, which should be followed until a junction with the Sabina Way appears. The Sabina Way goes directly ahead, but the required track bears away to the right and slightly uphill and this should be taken.

6. Continue along this quite wide track ignoring any tracks joining it from the left or right and eventually come to a stream with stepping stones to cross it. Once over the stream take the broad path on the right which is the Staffordshire Way and proceed along this to the junction of paths ahead (signpost points to Milford directly ahead). Turn left at the signpost and follow the path towards Mere Pool, ignoring any paths to the left and right.

7. 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 where the walk concludes.