

# 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)

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 7

OVERALL LENGTH  
= 9.25MILES APPROX



Circular walk from Flaxley Green Car Park, Stile Cop Road

30p





## Walk Outline

A walk from Stile Cop Road around the southern edge of Chetwynd's Coppice and over Startley Lane to Horsepastures Pools. From there the route is back Via the Heart of England Way (HOEW) past Birches Valley Forestry Centre and through Slitting Mill back to the Hednesford Road.

## Walk Description

1. From the car park (Flaxley Green), in Stile Cop Road near the cemetery, 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 and follow this until a bridleway marker on the left is encountered. Take the path to the right here as indicated by the bridleway marker and begin a steady descent following a rough path and bridleway marker until encountering a fence. Follow the path as it winds down to the right of this and descend past a paddock to reach a path running left to right. At a damaged oak tree the path turns into a garden, but the route required leads downwards with the garden edge on the left which is the footpath down towards the road.

2. Upon reaching the road turn right and look out for a public bridleway sign (almost immediately) on the opposite side where a track climbs the hill through the trees. On reaching the summit the ground opens up and the track becomes indistinct. Walk to the right of the tree covered hill in front, and pass along a vague track running between the hill and the birch coppice on the right. Follow this to the right around the end of the coppice and continue to the next corner keeping the

coppice on the right. Turn left here and look out for a narrow, muddy path to the right which passes into the forest. This path swings right then left until it opens up to a wider bridleway. Follow this ignoring a turn to the left and climb a muddy slope to emerge at a barrier gate. (Startley Lane).

3. Cross directly over Startley Lane and follow the path ahead down a grass track, until it emerges from the wood at another wider track running right to left. Turn left here and continue downhill along this path until it passes alongside a railing fence and reaches another junction at Trout Lodge, Horsepastures Pools. Continue to follow the forest road as it swings right 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, with a red and white gas pipeline post alongside it. This path should be marked the Heart of England Way (HOEW) and here a sharp right turn is required to follow this major footpath. (Option – turning left on the HOEW leads to Castle Ring which can be visited on this walk. Adds about 2/3 mile to walk distance).

4. Continue on this path (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. 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. 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. Here the A460 needs to be crossed 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.

6. Just after the path begins to level out look out for a broad track heading directly right (marker post with blue signs on left) and follow this path as it descends until the trees to the right disappear and the route continues along with the forest edge on the left. Follow the path ignoring any others joining from the left and right until a junction is reached at the very bottom of the hill where a bridleway marker is seen on the right.

7. Turn left here along the wide track and cross the stepping stones of the ford, before going along the track ahead over the hill and continuing until the road is reached. (Birches Valley Road). Turn right to follow the road along the pavement and after passing the Forestry Centre on the right continue on to Penkridge Bank Road. Turn right here, using the path that runs through the woods and parallel to the road until the junction with Post Office Lane is reached.

8. 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 two further gates and then cross the stream via a metal bridge. 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.

9. 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 Hednesford Road. Cross this carefully and turn right then left to enter Stile Cop Road. Walk along Stile Cop Road (taking care of traffic), and past the cemetery look out for the car park on the left where the walk concludes.