

walking
**Cannock
Chase**



www.cannock-chase.co.uk



**Cannock
Chase**
National
Landscape

welcome to **Cannock Chase**



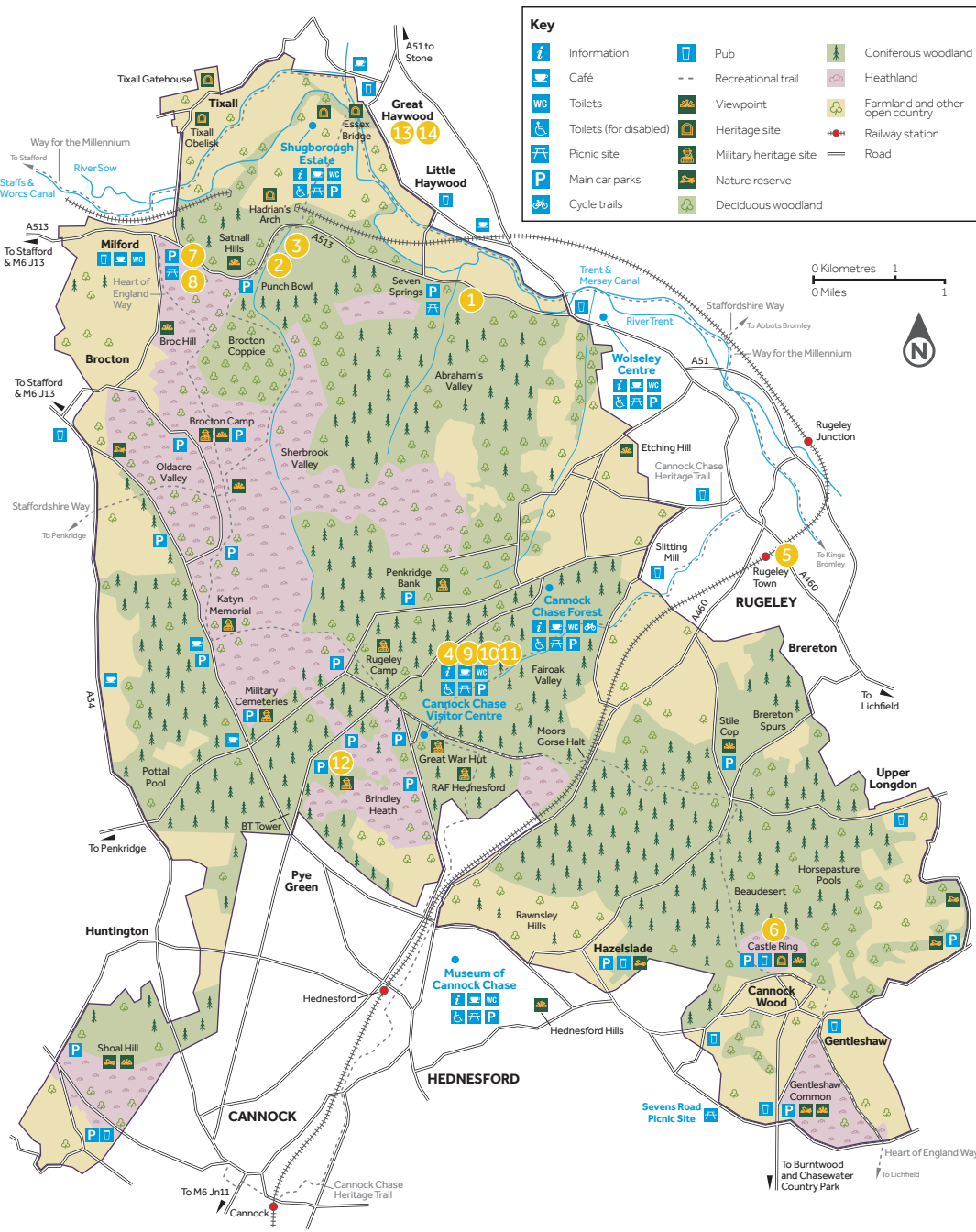
Cannock Chase National Landscape is a beautiful wilderness in Staffordshire in the heart of the West Midlands. The Chase holds the largest area of heathland in the Midlands, cherished and protected as a conservation landscape with rare wildlife.

There are old oak woodlands, pine forests, historic parklands, viewpoints, rivers and canals. Scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas and registered parks and gardens are waiting to be discovered and enjoyed. Some of which you will find on the walks in the following pages.

The Chase has been protected since 1958 as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) for the beauty of its heaths, forests and historic parklands, its abundant wildlife and rich cultural heritage. At just 26 square miles (69 square kilometres) it is mainland England's smallest AONB. In 2023, AONB's were renamed National Landscapes.

There are over 157 km of public rights of way with a mix of open access land, bridleways, public footpaths and towpaths. It is a shared space easily accessible and popular with walkers, cyclists, horse riders, runners and orienteers, to mention a few.

We hope you enjoy exploring and discovering Cannock Chase.



walks at a glance

Map	Page	Walk	Starts	Distance	Time (approx.)	Difficulty	Toilet
1	8	Wolseley and the Trent Valley	Seven Springs car park	6.5 miles	2.5 hours	Easy	
2	11	Sow Valley	Punch Bowl car park	8.25 miles	3 hours	Easy	
3	14	Tixall & Shugborough	Punch Bowl car park	5.5 miles Option 7.5 miles	2 or 2.75 hours	Easy	
4	17	Around Rugeley Camp & Fairoak Valley	Cannock Chase Visitor Centre	4.75 miles	2 hours	Easy	WC
5	20	Rugeley & Cannock Chase Forest	Rugeley Town train station	9.25 miles	3.5 hours	Moderate	
6	23	Around Castle Ring & Beaudesert Old Park	Castle Ring car park	5.25 miles	2 hours	Moderate with short steep sections	
7	26	Milford Common Red Trail	Milford	2 miles	1 hour	Easy	WC
8	28	Milford Common Green Trail	Milford	2 miles	1 hour	Easy	WC
9	29	RAF Hednesford Trail	Cannock Chase Visitor Centre	2 miles	1 hour	Easy	WC
10	32	Brindley Heath Blue Trail	Cannock Chase Visitor Centre	2.25 miles	2 hours	Easy	WC
11	35	Brindley Heath Red Trail	Cannock Chase Visitor Centre	1.25 miles	1 hour	Easy	WC
12	37	Brindley Heath Green Trail	Brindley Village car park	2 miles	2 hours	Easy	
13	38	Tolkien Walk Once around the block	Great Haywood Memorial Club	1 mile	1 hour	Easy	
14	40	Tolkien Walk The Sunday Afternoon stroll	Great Haywood Memorial Club	2 miles	1 hour	Easy	

Please note that all distance and times are approximate and depend upon each individual's walking speed. All walks start where parking is available. WC denotes toilets either at the parking or close by.

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the walks

Each of the walks contained in this booklet is self guided and has been chosen to provide a variety of scenery, showcasing the best of Cannock Chase with different terrain to be experienced at different lengths and difficulty.

The Staffordshire Ramblers have helped us to identify and check some of the routes to introduce you to less well known and quieter parts of the Chase. The walks mainly follow public rights of way and permissive trails. They are not individually waymarked, walkers will need to follow the maps and descriptions found in the following pages.



long distance trails

A number of long distance trails pass through the National Landscape including Heart of England Way, Staffordshire Way, Way for the Millennium, Two Saints Way, Beacon Way, Sabrina Way, Forest of Mercia Way and the Chase Heritage Trail. Further details of each can be found on the website.

heritage trail

The Cannock Chase Heritage Trail is a 10-mile route linking the towns of Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley. It passes through, or close to sites of historic or environmental interest, with interpretation panels along the way that tell the story of each location.

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk



accessible Chase

To try and help you to decide whether the trails are suitable for you, we have an Access Guide available that can be downloaded from our website. This contains details on 21 locations across the Chase including trails, nature reserves, car parks and visitor facilities at attractions and hubs. The National Landscape has also produced 6 videos covering the smaller trails of RAF Hednesford, Milford Common and Brindley Heath, which can be viewed on our website and on our Youtube channel. These videos are to help you to see the type of terrain and what you may expect to see on the trail.



important advice

The walks described in this book are undertaken at the reader's own risk.

- The Chase is a working landscape and walkers need to be aware of forestry, agricultural and other operations that may be taking place.
- Plan ahead and be prepared. Wear suitable footwear and clothing, carry food and drink.
- Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of route directions, neither the Ramblers nor National Landscape can accept responsibility for errors or omissions, or for changes in the details given.
- Use the OS map and/or app alongside each of the walks

We suggest using Ordnance survey (OS) map 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater – Stafford, Rugeley & Cannock which covers all the walks. You can also use the OS app for free but additional features are available to subscribers.

- Website where individual walks can be downloaded
www.cannock-chase.co.uk

protect, respect and enjoy

We want everyone to be proud to protect the Chase. It is a unique and nationally important landscape. However it is also fragile and some behaviours can cause accidental but significant harm. The Cannock Chase Code has been developed to help everyone's visit to be safe and enjoyable.



Don't approach or feed deer



Don't approach or feed farm animals



Take litter and dog waste home



No naked flames, fires or barbecues



Park only in car parks



Use sustainable transport



Only use permitted cycle tracks



Use bridleways when horse-riding



Protect wildlife by keeping to paths



Keep your dog under control



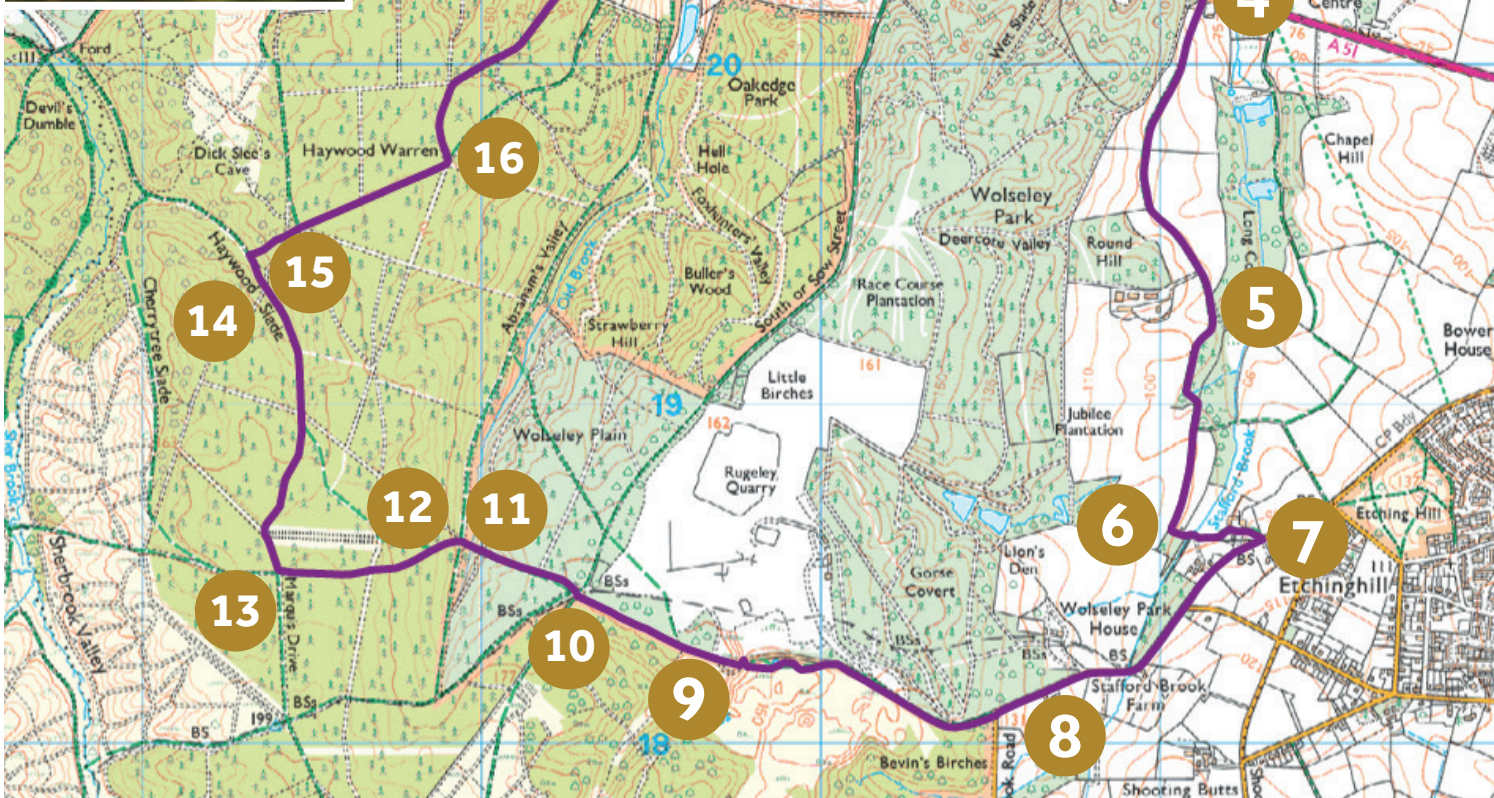
Beware - people and animals on roads



Think! Stay safe. Keep out.

1. Wolsley and the Trent Valley

a walk through contrasting landscapes



Start Here

1. Leave the car park along the entrance track and walk back towards the main (A513) road. Cross this carefully and continue over Weetman's bridge.

Continue on the left-hand side of the road and pass under the first railway bridge. Before reaching the second railway bridge, head towards the canal down an access ramp on the opposite side of the road.
2. Proceed along the canal towpath in the same direction as the ramp following the canal until it reaches the A51 (Wolsley Bridge – N° 70).

The Trent and Mersey Canal is an example of an early narrow canal engineered by James Brindley. The canal is designated a Conservation Area.

3. Climb from the canal to the road and turn right, over the River Trent bridge and on to the junction alongside the Wolsley Arms pub. Cross the A513 and bear left past the buildings and antiques shop.
4. Turn right immediately afterwards on a metalled track that leads through iron gates. Continue along this track, ignoring the road going right to the farm, and head straight on through the metal gate.

Wolsley Park dates from the mid-15th century, it was still functioning as a deer park up until the 1860s.

Start/finish: Seven Springs Car Park

Distance: 6.5 miles

Approx time: 2.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Route Terrain: Towpaths, Tracks and Lanes

Grid ref: SK 004 205

Postcode for Sat Nav: ST18 0TT

OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

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1. Wolseley and the Trent Valley (cont).

- Keep on this track, passing a large urn in a field on the right, round two bends and a pond, and through a gate over a stile and continuing along the farm track.
- Before reaching a further metal gate take the footpath on the left, at the wood's edge, which leads through a pedestrian gate. Cross the Stafford Brook, and bear left through a further gate into a field. Head along the field edge towards the buildings passing through a larger gate before crossing a yard. Go through a further gate adjacent to the barn and look for a pedestrian gate leading to the road.
- Upon reaching the road turn right and continue carefully along the road, past the junction with Chaseley Road and on around the corner. Ahead is the entrance to Rugeley Quarry with red & white poles, where the road swings sharply left.

The Chase has large reserves of sand and gravel that continue to be extracted. Worked-out quarries can become valuable refuges for heathland-loving wildlife.
- Leave the road at the quarry entrance taking the fenced footpath/bridleway on the left-hand side. Follow the bridleway and continue between fences before descending and then climbing as the bridleway skirts the quarry. Remain on this path as it swings right, ignoring paths joining from right and left. Keep the quarry fence on the right to reach a path marker.
- Go forwards here ignoring options to the left and right, and walk along with the trees on the right and more open heath on the left until a wide forest road with information board is reached.
- Cross the road and proceed along a bridleway through the trees. Continue in this direction and then downhill to the intersection with another track.
- Go straight on through a break in a steep bank to descend and then climb again to another forest road.
- Cross this forest road and climb the wide but quite rough track directly ahead, ignoring the steep path up to the right and at the end of this where a further forest road is encountered continue straight on again, until reaching another crossroad of paths.
- Turn right into Haywood Slade, bearing left round an impressive rampart used as a rifle range during the Great War. Follow this track down for 1,000 metres.
- At the next junction of paths, turn right and head uphill.
- As the path levels, take a right-hand fork to a clearing with five routes leading from it. Head forwards taking the path passing between open ground on the right and older trees on the left. Follow this path until it meets another forest road.
- Turn left here and immediately left again ignoring the fork to the right. Stay on this road as it descends gently, ignoring any joining paths to emerge at the car park at Seven Springs where the walk concludes.

2. Sow Valley

Start Here

- Starting from the Punch Bowl car park take the wide bridleway in the rear corner of the car park (past barrier). Follow it downhill and where this crosses / joins another bridleway go right until reaching a path
- Go down this path, then at a junction of paths turn slightly right to follow a good track that initially climbs then descends past a pool before entering woods that lead down into the car park at Milford Common. (Alternate start/finish for the walk).

Milford Common is a popular spot for local people and has traditionally been the site for travelling fairs. With the development of the railways it became a destination for visitors from the towns and cities, especially the Potteries.

- Cross over the car park and the grass play area, then (carefully) the main road (A513). Turn right on to the service road. Turn left at the road junction, (signposted Tixall & Great Haywood), and continue along this road to cross the railway and river bridges before arriving at the canal (taking care as there are no pavements). Descend to the canal towpath and turn left keeping the canal to the right.

The high plateau which forms the core of Cannock Chase falls off steeply along its northern edge into the Trent Valley and its tributary the Sow. The low-lying alluvial floodplains form a distinctive meadowland landscape.

- Follow the path along the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal passing over the aqueduct above the River Sow and at the next bridge (Milford Bridge, N^o. 105) the towpath switches to the opposite bank. The canal now follows a route between the River Sow on the right and the railway on the left. Continue along the towpath until reaching St Thomas Bridge No. 101. Leave the canal here to arrive at Baswich Lane.

The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal is an early narrow canal engineered by James Brindley, completed in 1772. The canal is designated a Conservation Area.

- Turn right to follow the lane along the verge (taking care as there is no pavement), to cross the River Sow again and after a further (narrow) bridge eventually meet St. Thomas Lane, joining from the left. Turn right and follow the wide track towards the remains of St. Thomas Priory.
- At the Priory, pick up the footpath that heads out past a field gate and over a stile into a wood. Pass through this to briefly join a service road leading to the gates of the waterworks, before turning left at the gates to continue between two metal fences. Follow the fence line, and where it veers right climb the stile on to the open river floodplain.

St. Thomas Priory was founded in 1174 by Gerard fitz Brian, a local landowner and burgess, and settled by canons from Darley Abbey in Derbyshire.

2. Sow Valley (cont).

explore canal and ecclesiastical heritage in the north of the national landscape



Following England's break with the Church of Rome in 1534, the Priory was surrendered to the Crown and passed to the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. The Priory survives well, with standing masonry and earthworks and buried remains and is a Scheduled Monument.

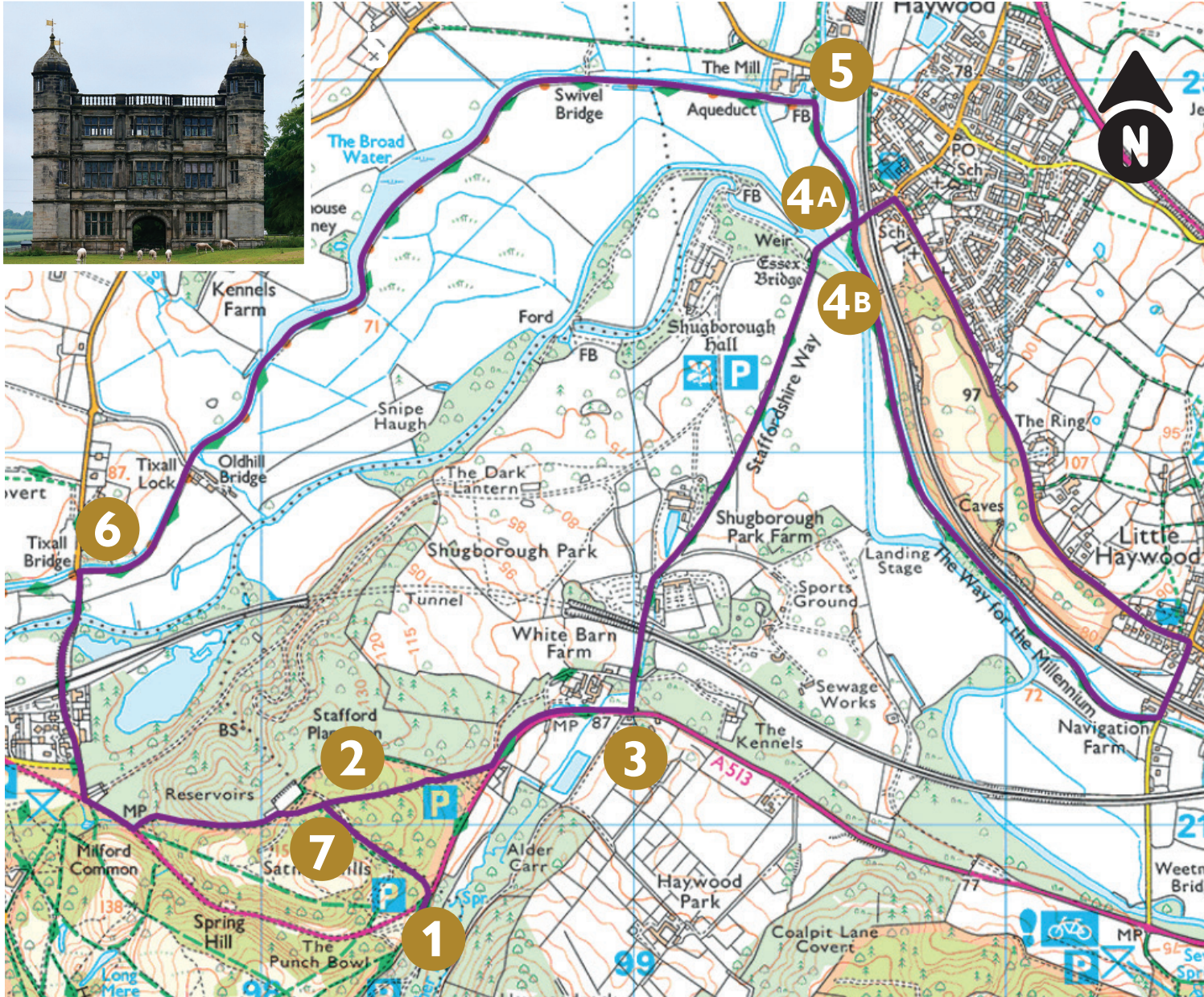
7. Proceed along the lower ground to a fenced pool and trees and here turn left towards a gate to follow a route with trees on the right and a wire fence on the left, heading towards a dense tree line in the distance. Enter the woods (Black Covert), and veer slightly right to leave via a double-stile bridge before following the track to Holdiford Road.
8. Turn right and follow the road to re-cross the river and railway. Turn right into the service road used earlier. Cross the main road to Milford Common car park. If you started from the Punch Bowl then at the rear of the car park climb the three steps adjacent to the information board to take the path up through the trees, past the pool (on the left) and immediately follow the narrower track to climb again into trees. Continue around the bend to a junction of paths and take the second on the left up the cutting. Climb to the top, turn left down a wide path, then first left to pick up the path back to the Punch Bowl car park.

Start/finish: The Punch Bowl Car Park
Distance: 8¼ miles
Approx time: 3 hours
Difficulty: Easy
Route Terrain: Towpaths, Tracks and Lanes
Grid ref: SJ 983 207
Postcode for Sat Nav: ST17 0UP
OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

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3. Tixall and Shugborough

explore the heritage of the north of the national landscape



Start Here

1. Walk back towards the main entrance to the Punch Bowl car park where it leaves the A513. Across the road and slightly right is a footpath, (permissive), that leads up into the woods. Cross the A513 with care and follow the path to its intersection with a wider path and here turn right to climb into the birch tree forest.
2. On meeting a further cross path, turn right to descend towards a gate in a fence and then go past this to pass through a vehicle barrier and on to the main road. Turn left here and continue to follow the verge of the main road again to pass the exit to the Shugborough Estate car park and continue on past a bus stop towards a half-white house on the opposite side of the road behind trees.

The Shugborough Estate is the family seat of the Earls of Lichfield. In the care of the National Trust, the park and garden is registered Grade I by Historic England.

3. Opposite the house turn left through a pedestrian gate to enter the Shugborough Estate and join the Staffordshire Way. Continue along this path as it crosses the railway and then through metal gates to pass the Shugborough Estate visitor entrance, before veering slightly right (bridleway only sign), in the same general direction along the metalled roadway. At the next gate keep right

Start/finish: The Punch Bowl Car Park
Distance: 5½ miles or 7½ miles
Approx time: 2 hours or 2¾ hours
Difficulty: Easy
Route Terrain: Towpaths, Tracks and Lanes
Grid ref: SJ 983 207
Postcode for Sat Nav: ST17 0UP
OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

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3. Tixall and Shugborough (cont).

- and pass between grey railings on the left and wire fence on right. This path gives good views of Shugborough Hall on the left and eventually finishes at the medieval Essex Bridge, which crosses the confluence of the Rivers Trent and Sow.

The Essex Bridge is both a Scheduled Monument and Grade I Listed Building. The parapets were built low to avoid packhorse loads rubbing the stonework. The bays allowed pedestrians to stand to one side when a horse was passing. In the 18th century the bridge had 40 arches, today only 14 remain.

- 4A** Option: After crossing the bridge continue forward to reach the Trent and Mersey Canal and here turn left to follow the towpath.
- 4B** Option: Turn right to follow the canal towpath, pass under the footbridge to leave at the next bridge (N° 72), and climb up to the road. On facing the road turn right and after passing under the railway bridge proceed to the next road junction and turn left up Main Road towards Great Haywood. Continue along the road eventually encountering and following a substantial estate wall on the left. This ends at St. Stephen's Church, but continue to follow the road to the junction at the Clifton Arms Public House and here turn left to pass under the railway. Pass over the canal bridge, turn left then left again back under the bridge to follow the towpath.

- Follow the canal towpath to the junction of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and here turn left, under Haywood Bridge N° 109. (Large fingerpost here pointing towards Wolverhampton). Follow the canal to pass over the aqueduct and on until reaching the 'Broad Water/Tixall Wide' where there are views of Tixall Gatehouse to the north-west.

The imposing Tixall Gatehouse is all that remains of the Hall built in 1575. Tixall was used as a prison for Mary, Queen of Scots for two weeks in 1586. The Hall was demolished in 1927.

- Continue past Old Hill Bridge No 107 and Tixall Lock to reach the road at Tixall Bridge No 106. Join the road here and walk initially downhill towards the road and railway bridges in the distance. Continue to follow the road until reaching the A513 once again. Turn left to follow the footpath beside a low wall and where the wall ends turn sharp left and climb the path veering right towards the underground reservoirs at the top of the hill.
- On reaching these turn right opposite small gates in an iron fence, cross a track and begin a gradual descent along a widish path and upon reaching a wider track turn right downhill. Where several paths meet turn left then immediately right looking for a permissive path marker. On reaching this turn right and follow the path to the main road and the entrance to the Punch Bowl car park opposite. Re-cross the main A513 road into the car park.

4. Around Rugeley Camp and Fairoak Valley

Start Here

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

The Rugeley Camp was one of two huge training camps constructed on the Chase during the Great War. Over 1,100 buildings together with roads, drainage and communication infrastructure stretched between Whitehouse, Marquis Drive and Penkridge Bank. Each camp could hold 20,000 men, along with thousands of horses.

- Carefully cross Birches Valley Road and proceed slightly right 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. After crossing the Penkridge Bank Road it is a straight walk to the junction of a wider track in the next valley.
- 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 turn left along a narrow parallel path, passing the entrance to the Tackaroo caravan site and continuing until wrought iron

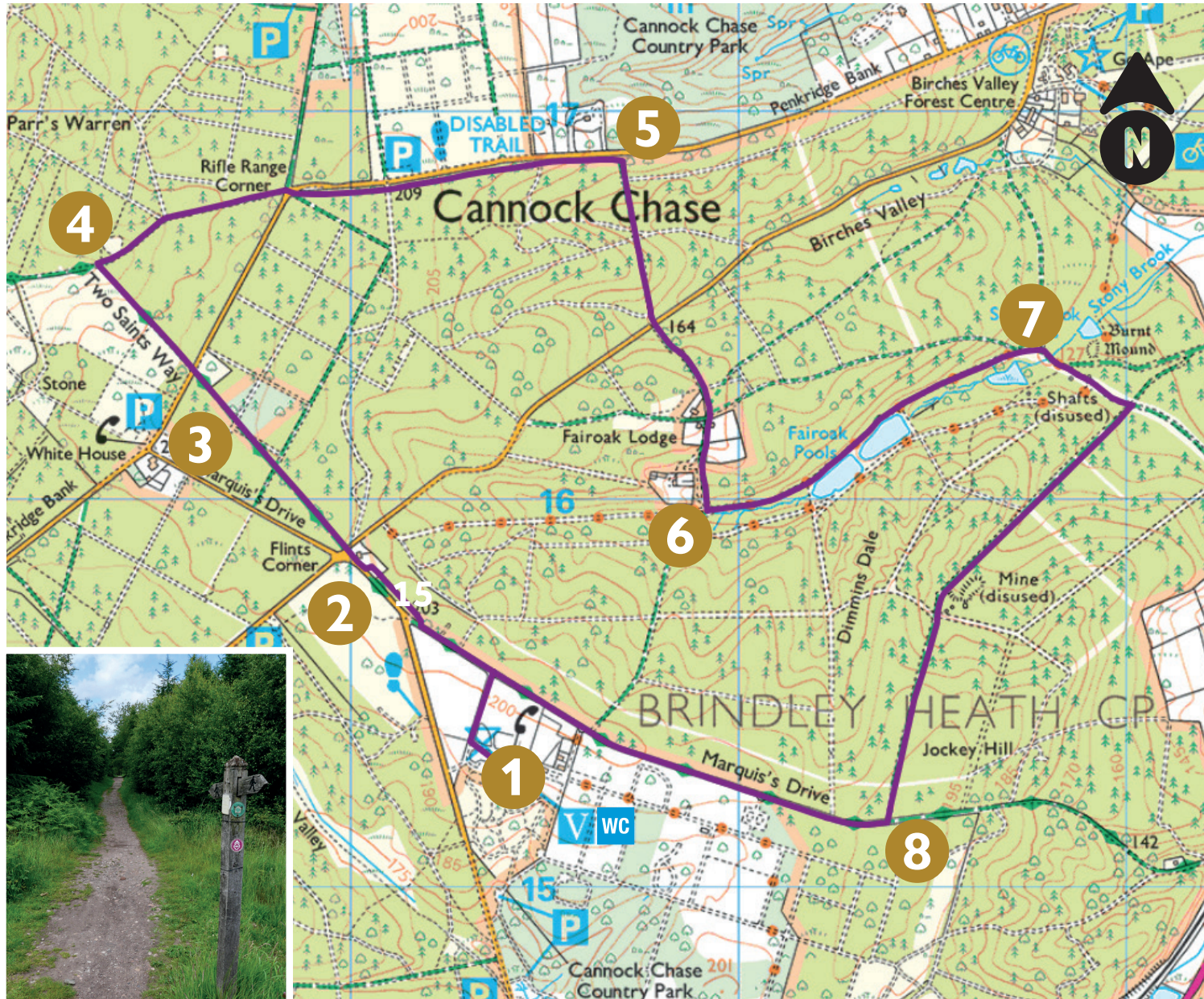
gates followed by an open driveway are seen on the opposite side of the road. Here a bridleway sign pointing to the right is found beneath trees.

One hundred years on since the Chase was used for military training, heath and birch has reclaimed much of the landscape, or it is now hidden beneath conifers planted between the wars to meet the nation's demand for timber. Practice trenches were discovered here some years ago. They are only a few feet deep, the aim being to instruct troops how to lay out trenches so that they could withstand bombardment.

- The path leads down to Fairoak Lodge, after re-crossing Birches Valley Road. Look out for bikes crossing at various points. Several paths come together here, but the route is forward to the right of the Lodge buildings to a metal barrier gate. 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. This track finishes at a broader track and a left-hand turn is made here. (Option: Proceeding straight on along the wider track will return you early to Marquis Drive).
- Continue along this track and pass by Fairoak Pools. Follow the stream on the right until a further final pool 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 across the stream is encountered.

4. Around Rugeley Camp and Fairoak Valley (cont).

exploring military and mining history



The Fairoak Valley has an interesting coal mining history. In 1880 it was producing 2,000 tons of coal a week and employing 400 people.

- After crossing the stepping stones follow the track uphill until a brideway marker on the left. Turn right and ascend through the trees following a path that is clearly visible as it passes through the plantation. Remain on this path and continue climbing, ignoring any paths joining from the left or right, until a T-junction with another wide path with a marker post is reached.
- Turn right and follow this track until a left turn, after a metal cross-barrier, gives access to the Visitor Centre and the car park where the walk concludes.

When the Great War ended, the camps became ghost towns. The huts were gradually sold off and transported to their new locations by horse and cart. One of the last surviving barrack huts can be seen next to the Visitor Centre. It spent 85 years of its life as a parish hall in a nearby village before being moved to its new location and fitted out as it would have looked to the raw recruits in 1916. The hut is usually open at weekends and bank holidays, and volunteers are on hand to tell its story and the history of Cannock Chase during the Great War.

Start/finish: Cannock Chase Visitor Centre

WC Toilets adjacent to Visitor Centre

Distance: 4¾ miles

Approx time: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Route Terrain: Tracks and Lanes

Grid ref: SK 003 153

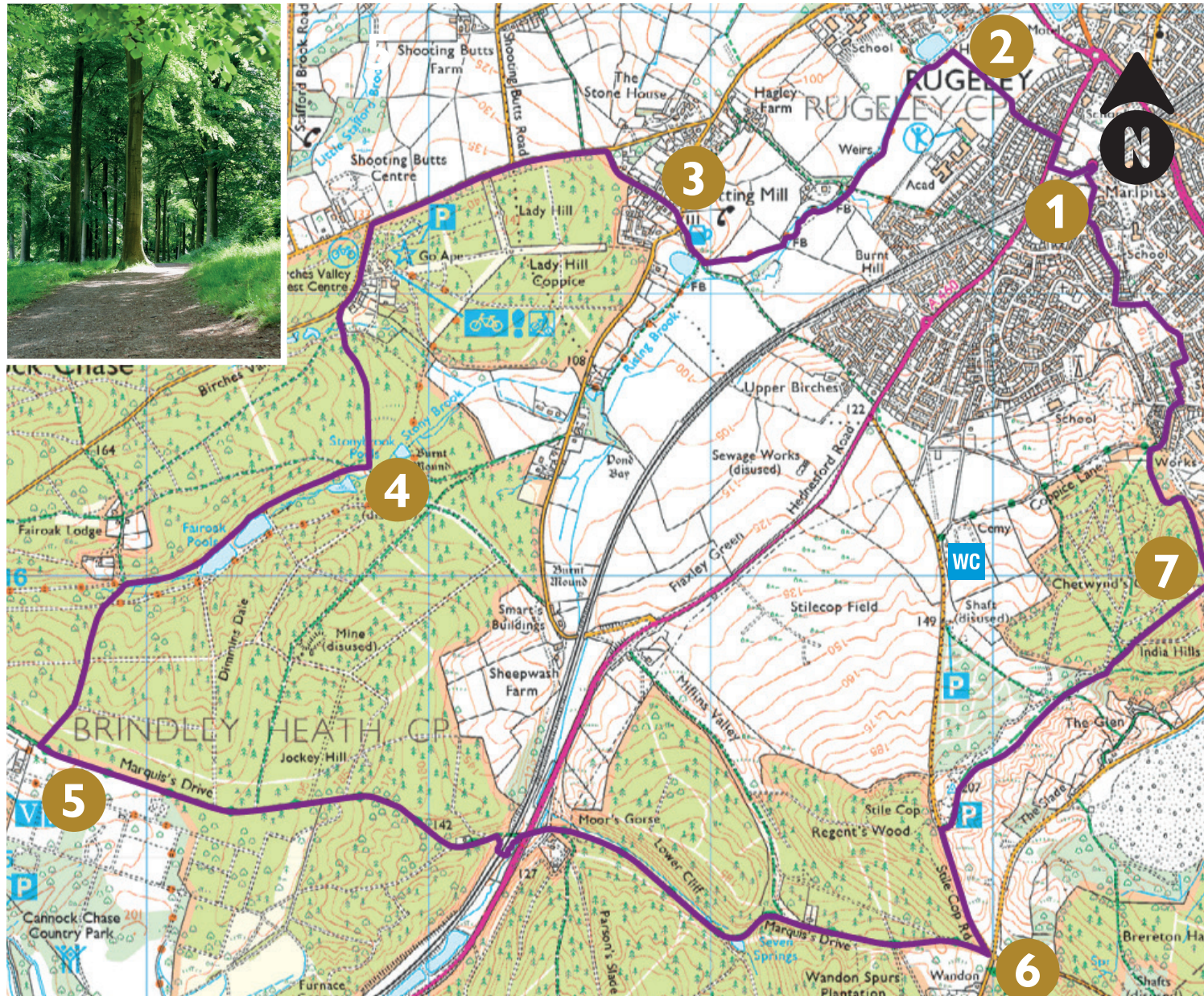
Postcode for Sat Nav: WS12 4PW

OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

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5. Rugeley and Cannock Chase Forest

explore Cannock Chase Forest from Rugeley



Start Here

1. Leave Rugeley Town Station by the exit on the opposite side of the railway tracks from the car park and head to Sandy Lane. Turn right and walk to the junction with Hill Street. Turn left on to Hill Street and follow the road to the Sports Centre. Proceed down the drive and before you reach the car park, turn right to follow the footpath through a hedge then left along the edge of the playing field.
2. Turn left and follow the surfaced path (Cannock Chase Heritage Trail) with Rising Brook on the right ignoring all footbridges over the stream and any paths joining from left and right. After 900 metres cross the brook and follow the field edge until a large fishing pond is reached. With the pond on your left, climb through the woodland to The Horns Inn Public House. Cross Slitting Mill Road, to enter Post Office Lane.
3. Follow this road to the junction with Penkridge Road, and turn left on to a parallel track running through woodland. Approaching the junction with Birches Valley Road, bear left to briefly join the metalled Forest Centre road and leave by the

The hamlet of Slitting Mill once played a significant role in the local iron industry during the 17th and 18th centuries. Its name derives from the rolling and slitting of iron bars into thin slivers for the nail-making trade.

Start/finish: Rugeley Town Train Station

Distance: 9¼ miles

Approx time: 3½ hours

Difficulty: Moderate throughout

Route Terrain: Tracks and Pavements

Grid ref: SK 043 174

Postcode for Sat Nav: WS15 2LF

OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

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5. Rugeley and Cannock Chase Forest (cont).

main gate. Turn left along Birches Valley Road and look out for a forest track on the left beyond the houses, accessible through a metal barrier. Continue along this wide path to climb and then descend to Stony Brook Pools.

The Fairoak valley includes Stony Brook and Fairoak Pools, linked together by a stream system which emerges from underground springs at the valley's head. The wetland habitats support amphibians and waterfowl.

4. Upon seeing the stepping stones ahead, do not cross these, but turn right. Continue keeping the pools on the left and after 1,000 metres at a junction of paths bear left to climb steeply out of the valley along a twisting path that turns initially right and then winds its way to the intersection with Marquis Drive.
(You are now near the Visitor Centre – straight ahead. This is an alternative point at which to start this walk).
5. From the path climbing out of the valley turn left along Marquis Drive and follow the route as it descends to the railway line and pedestrian bridge at Moor's Gorse. After crossing the railway, take great care when crossing the A460. Continue along Marquis Drive ahead, climbing past a pool (Seven Springs) on the right and eventually passing around a barrier by a house to arrive at Stile Cop Road.

To the south of Marquis Drive lies the site of the former RAF Hednesford Camp. Built between 1938 and 1939 this training camp covered over 100 hectares, consisting

of row upon row of wooden huts, large hangers and training sheds for aircraft.

6. Turn sharp left and follow Stile Cop Road to Stile Cop Car Park. Take the path that passes through the rear of the Car Park past a white Trig Point, (ignoring paths joining from the right and left), keeping the steep downward slope on the right. At a 3-way bridleway marker go forwards to continue following the more obvious path. Keeping the steep slope to the right descend towards houses, where the path meets a cross-track at the edge of Chetwynd Coppice. Turn left here towards a transmission mast, passing by factory units on the right before emerging on to a track and turning into Coppice Lane.
7. Follow the road downhill to join Cherry Tree Road and continue past Gorse Lane, before turning left onto Harley Close. Bear right before turning left by a row of garages along an alleyway to join Madden Close. Turn right and then turn left onto Setterfield Way. Go past Sutton Close and at the junction of Setterfield Way and Coulthwaite Way turn left and shortly afterwards left again along a footpath onto Queensway. Take the first right onto Hardie Avenue (may not be marked), and walk downhill past the Peartree Club and turn right on to a footpath immediately afterwards. Continue along this before taking a left turn (opposite the primary school) to pass behind houses, with a new development on the right. This path leads directly back to the station car park and platforms.

6. Around Castle Ring and Beaudesert Old Park

Start Here

1. Leave Castle Ring via the left-hand path at the rear of the car park and with the monument on the right. Continue along the well-used path until it divides. Here take the left-hand (narrower) path going downhill past a green Heart of England Way (HOEW) marker. At the junction with a wider cross-path turn right and continue to descend.

Castle Ring is Staffordshire's largest Iron Age hillfort (over 2,000 years old) and the highest point on Cannock Chase at 242 metres (794 feet).

2. Follow this path ahead past a junction of paths and proceed, keeping the (red/white) gas pipeline marker on the right, to a second gas marker further along the track. Bear left here past another HOEW footpath marker on a slightly narrower path and continue to follow this route using gas markers as a guide, but ignoring turnings to left and right, to pass a pool on the left.
3. The route continues along the same general direction towards Rugeley Road, where the path bears to the right. Continue to follow the wider path, (can be muddy here), ignoring turn-off to left but keeping generally parallel to the road. Ahead a large white house is visible, (foliage permitting), and upon reaching a wider cross track turn sharp left and head for the road.

Most of this walk takes you through Cannock Chase Forest, an extensive area of mainly conifers planted between the wars to meet the nation's need for timber. For the preceding 350 years this land had been in the hands of the Paget family, Marquesses of Anglesey.

Beaudesert Old Park formed the largest part of their estate and included a great palace set within magnificent gardens as well as a deer park.

4. Carefully cross this road and turn initially right along the road before turning left at the crossroads, (into Stile Cop Road). Almost immediately take another left turn down a wide track, and continue until meeting a gate across the route near a large house. Pass around this and continue forward gradually descending with a small stream running alongside the track on the right.
5. After passing a pool on the left and continuing further downhill, look out for a sharp left turn past a metal forestry barrier, just before a large pumping station building. Join the track and start climbing into the forest until a junction appears. Take the right-hand route with the buildings on your right. Continue until reaching a further junction of paths in a small glade near a red brick building.

The present Moors Gorse Pumping Station was built in the 1960s to replace a Victorian steam operated beam pump.

6. Take the second path on the left (straight on). Continue to climb on the path, which widens once joined from a track on the right.
7. Stay on the main track and keep climbing steadily, (past a cross-over bike track), until it levels off and a steel fence on the left marks the start of the Beaudesert Golf Club. Follow the fence and where the path opens out pass carefully, (possibility of golf balls from the right), in front of the club house. Head for a

6. Castle Ring and Beaudesert Old Park (cont).

a woodland walk on forest tracks



wooden shelter and take the path that swings off to the left and follow the route towards the car park. Bear right and follow the main driveway down to the Rugeley Road.

8. Cross this road with care. Directly in front is a forestry barrier, which you pass around and turn right along the path ahead. After passing a small pool on the left, proceed along the track ignoring a turning to the left immediately afterwards, and eventually the forest on the left opens up to give wider views.
9. When a small junction of paths occurs, continue forward through trees, to a small lake. Skirt around the left-hand side and continue in the same direction ignoring paths to right and left. Be ready for a straight turn to the left between the trees. Take this route through the trees and arrive at a wide cross-track with a green marker just ahead (the same marker encountered in 1.)

There are now two options to finish the walk:

Option A. Pass by marker and turn right to re-trace steps back to Castle Ring car park.

Option B. Pass the marker and continue forward to follow the path around the outside of Castle Ring. This route brings you onto the hillfort ramparts, where you turn left and follow the ramparts until finding steps and a handrail on the left. Descend these to reach the Castle Ring car park, where the walk concludes.

Start/finish: Castle Ring Car Park

Distance: 5¼ miles

Approx time: 2 hours

Difficulty: Moderate with some short steep sections

Route Terrain: Forest tracks

Grid ref: SK 044 126

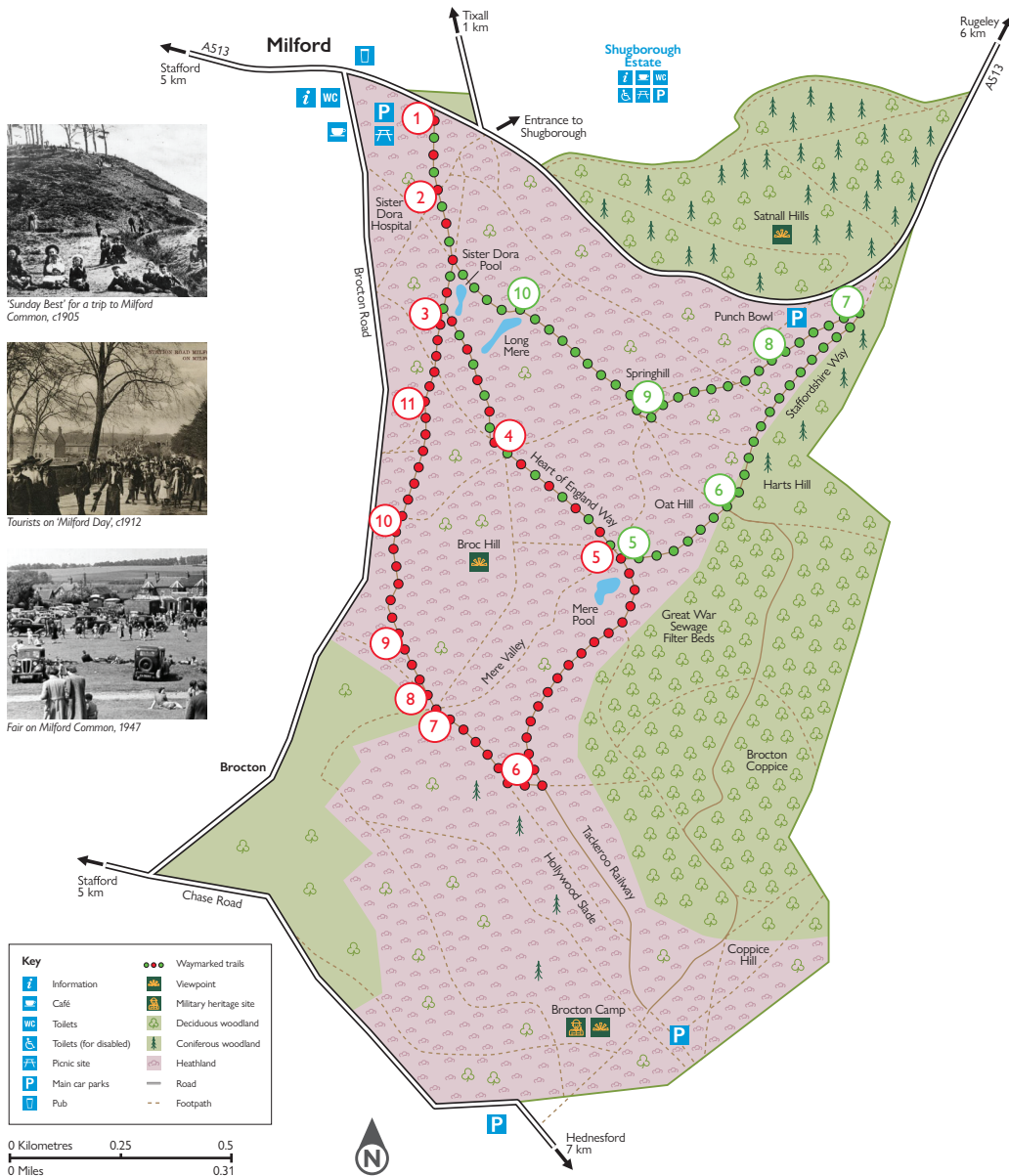
Postcode for Sat Nav: WS15 4QZ

OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

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7 & 8. Milford Common Trails

two circular walks on country paths



'Sunday Best' for a trip to Milford Common, c1905



Tourists on Milford Day, c1912



Fair on Milford Common, 1947

Milford Common lies in the north-east of Cannock Chase National Landscape. The common has been a popular recreation spot for local people for many years, and has traditionally been the site for travelling fairs.

A video of each of the following trails can be found on the website and Youtube which provides more information.

7. Red Trail

A short walk following the Heart of England Way, returning via the western slopes of Broc Hill. Follow the red waymarkers around the route.

1. The trail begins at the start/end of the Heart of England Way, a long-distance footpath.
2. At the top of the hill are two large Scots Pine trees.
3. Skirting the Sister Dora Pool on your left, look out for palmate newts in the spring and agile dragonflies during the summer. Bearing left, walk over the rise.
4. You now enter the 'Cutting'. During the Great War the Tackeroo railway ran through this valley, serving the two huge

military training camps based on the Chase.

A detour south to the top of Broc Hill takes you to the Berkswich Millennium sundial installed in 2000.

Either retrace your steps to rejoin the trail at point 4, or head down Broc Hill due east to join at point 5.

5. Exiting the cutting continue along the route of the old railway and you will see to your right Mere Pool.
6. Having walked along the side of Mere valley, stop and admire the distant views of the Wrekin Hill in Shropshire to the left, and Stafford and its Castle to the right. Now turn right to descend towards the barrier in Brook Lane, Brocton.
7. Taking the right-hand fork, follow the lane keeping the houses on your left until you reach 'Heathervale'.
8. Here you turn right up the narrow path through the bracken until you reach a clearing. Bearing left, look across to the right and see the Anson Pines standing proudly on top of the hill.



Black darter - Britain's smallest dragonfly, often found on heathland

Start/finish: Milford Common Car Park

WC Toilets across the road

Distance: 2 miles

Approx time: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Route Terrain: Well surfaced tracks and paths

Grid ref: SJ97335 21134

Postcode for Sat Nav: ST17 0UH

OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

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7 & 8. Milford Common Trails (cont).

9. Continuing northwards, note the variety of foliage surrounding you. With the perpetual yellow flowering gorse on your left and the holly and splendid oak tree to your right.
10. Pass the barrier and carry straight on along the vehicle track keeping the houses on your right.
11. Continue on down the grassy slope and up the bank opposite. You have now rejoined the route at Sister Dora's Pool from where you can stroll back to Milford Common.



Cowberry - one of several heathland shrubs



© Sam Carpenter

8. Green Trail

A short walk over the Springhill heathlands to the Punch Bowl. The route follows two long-distance trails for part of the way – Staffordshire Way and Heart of England Way. Follow the green waymarkers around the route.

5. Having followed the same route as the Red Trail from Milford to this point at Mere Pool, take the left-hand track signposted Punch Bowl 1/2 mile.
6. At the junction continue straight on towards the Punch Bowl. You are now walking on part of the Staffordshire Way, which is a 92-mile path linking Mow Cop in the north with Kinver Edge in the south of the County.
 7. Just before reaching the Punch Bowl car park turn sharp left up the grassy hillside and work your way up amongst the birch wood, until you reach open heathland.
 8. Take the right-hand fork at the fine example of a coppiced birch, which has resulted in its three trunks.
 9. At the junction of the five tracks, turn right up to the brow of Springhill. Keeping right, descend the stony track and enjoy the views across to the River Sow, the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and the county town of Stafford beyond.
 10. Bear left in the valley bottom and once over the crest of the hill, you will see the familiar sight of Sister Dora Pool. Bear right to rejoin the Red Trail back to Milford Common.

9. RAF Hednesford Trail



In the 1930s many people believed that the outbreak of war was inevitable before the actual start of hostilities in 1939. RAF Hednesford was one of several training centres built during 1938-1939 to help counter the threat of the superior German air power.

A video of the trail can be found on the website and Youtube.



Start Here

Start the route at Cannock Chase Visitor Centre. Follow the RAF roundel waymarkers around the route. There are five interpretation panels on the trail to help you discover more about the story of RAF Hednesford.

- A. Take the path to the side of the Visitor Centre, with the toilet block on your right. Just behind the Visitor Centre is the Great War Hut, a reconstructed barrack hut from the Great War training camps. Go left to follow the path to Marquis Drive with the children's play area on your left.

When you get to the road (Marquis Drive), turn right and follow through the metal barrier, noticing the camp perimeter fence posts on your right. After about 200m pause at the first interpretation panel and imagine that you're a young RAF recruit at the start of the Second World War in 1939.

- B. After a while (300 yds) you will come across the camp entrance. The track ahead of you leads down to the Rugeley to Hednesford railway line, and the former station at Moors Gorse Halt. New recruits arriving by train would have to

walk up this incline, infamously known as 'Kitbag Hill'. On your left is the turning circle for buses and other vehicles dropping off at the camp entrance, these recruits being fortunate in not having to endure the uphill struggle.

Turn right now, entering the camp, where over the years, aeroplanes, including a Spitfire and a Meteor, stood either side as sentries. Also, on the right was the sentry box itself. Make your way now to the interpretation board and commemoration stone ahead. Behind the stone would have stood the Station H.Q. where the day-to-day running of this busy camp was undertaken. The post office, guardhouse, armoury and fire tender house were on the opposite side of the road.

- C. Continue on to the T-junction, where the educational huts stood in a row, on the grass opposite. Amongst these buildings were the camp's own synagogue and Jewish club, and all Jewish RAF recruits were posted to Hednesford for this reason. Turn left here, and follow this road for about 400m all the way to the T-junction at the end and the next interpretation board.
- D. Row upon row of billet huts once stood at either side of the road up to here. The road to your left snakes around to the site of the camp's very own cinema, the 'Astra', where recruits were shown training and educational films, as well as a full programme of the best films of that era. Turn right here and follow to the end, bear right, then take your first left, following the marker posts. At the end turn left, and follow to the next track.

9. RAF Hednesford Trail (cont).

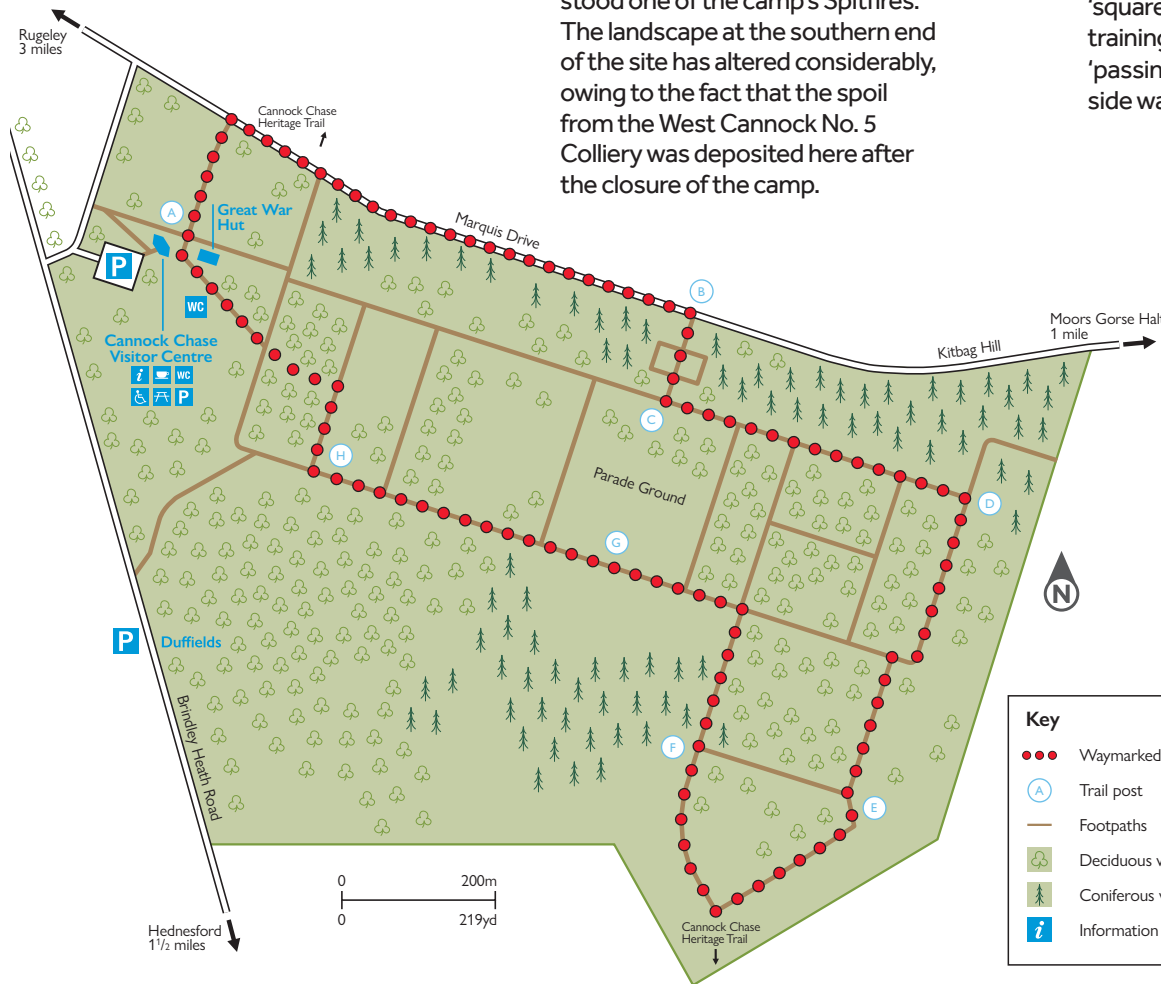
E. This point gives you a chance to take in the lovely panoramic view across the valley. On the opposite side of the track, and to your left, beyond the tree line, is the area known as Moors Gorse. Take the path to your right, up to the crossroads, and turn right.

F. Follow the track to the post (F) and the next interpretation board. The area to the left contained the Bellman and Hinaidi training sheds and hangars, where the ground crews learnt their trade. Also, on the left, in front of these buildings, stood one of the camp's Spitfires. The landscape at the southern end of the site has altered considerably, owing to the fact that the spoil from the West Cannock No. 5 Colliery was deposited here after the closure of the camp.

G. Continue along this road to the junction, turn left, and follow to post (G) and the next interpretation board, near to the bench on your left. The large, flat, grassed area in front of you was the parade ground where recruits undertook their drill, affectionately known as 'square bashing'. At the end of their training they would take part in the 'passing out' parade. On the right-hand side was the flag staff and saluting base.

H. As you continue on this road, you pass through 'Goon Valley', named after the show of the time and where, on your left, the camp assault course stood. At the top of the hill, take the second track on your right. At this crossroads, down the track to the left, is the site of the camp hospital and sick quarters. This, and the billets opposite, were later used to house a total of 1200 Hungarian refugees fleeing from the uprising in 1956. The stone seen here commemorates the work done by Hungarian youngsters in 1987, on the track around the hospital site. The firing ranges for the camp, one indoor, one outdoor, were situated at the end of the road ahead. Take the track to the right, and take the first path on the left. Follow this track, past the compound gates, back to the Visitor Centre.

On the opposite, south side of the road were dozens of technical huts. Again, this area, including the parade ground, was built up with mining waste. The parade ground itself suffered over the years from mining subsidence, and many a story is told of recruits sliding away to one side, during icy weather!



Key			
●●●	Waymarked trail	☕	Café
Ⓐ	Trail post	WC	Toilets
—	Footpaths	♿	Toilets (for disabled)
🌳	Deciduous woodland	🍷	Picnic site
🌲	Coniferous woodland	P	Main car parks
ℹ️	Information	==	Road

Start/finish: Cannock Chase Visitor Centre

WC Toilets adjacent to Visitor Centre

Distance: 2 miles

Approx time: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Route Terrain: Well surfaced tracks and paths

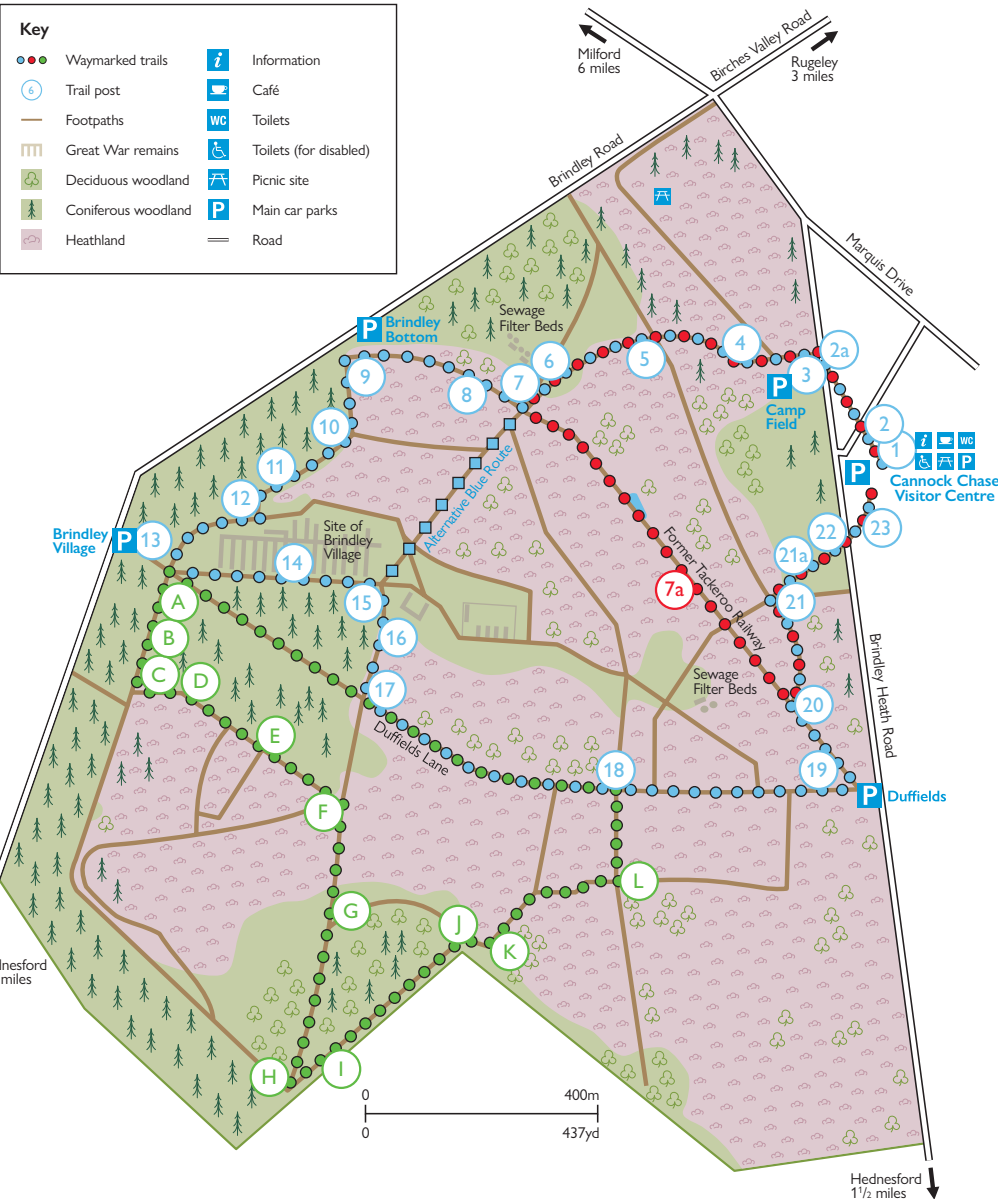
Grid ref: SK 003 153

Postcode for Sat Nav: WS12 4PW

OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

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10, 11 & 12. Brindley Heath Trails



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three circular walks on country paths

Brindley Heath is one of several military heritage sites at Cannock Chase. The Chase is a nationally important landscape, and a special place to discover some of our most important historic heritage. During the Great War, Cannock Chase was a wide, open heath landscape, home to thousands of British and Commonwealth soldiers enroute to the Western Front. The extensive military development extended across the west side of the Chase. Soldiers were barracked in wooden huts at two large training camps at Rugeley and Brocton. There is a reconstructed Great War Hut at Cannock Chase Visitor Centre.

In 1916, a military hospital was built at Brindley Heath. Hospital staff cared for casualties returning from the trenches as well as troops stationed at the training camps. The hospital closed in 1923 and the buildings were converted to bungalow style accommodation for miners and families working at West Cannock Colliery.

A video of each of the trails can be found on the website and Youtube which provides more information.

10. Blue Trail

Start/finish: Cannock Chase Visitor Centre

WC Toilets adjacent to Visitor Centre

Distance: 2¼ miles

Approx time: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Route Terrain: Well surfaced tracks and paths

Grid ref: SK 003 153

Postcode for Sat Nav: WS12 4PW

OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

Start the route at Cannock Chase Visitor Centre. Follow the red/blue waymarkers around the trail. The walk passes the site of Brindley Village, built as a military hospital during the Great War and later used to house miners and their families.

1. Leaving the Visitor Centre at post (1), walk over the grassed area to the left of the Visitor Centre to (2).
2. Taking care, cross the road and make your way to the corner of the former RAF camp playing field to post (2a).
- 2a. Carefully cross the road to post (3).
3. Walk through the car park, and with the BT tower on the horizon straight ahead, follow the track to post (4).
4. Take the right fork. Walk towards post (5).
5. Continue straight ahead, downhill, to post (6).
6. In the valley north-west of post (6), you can see the nearest of the four concrete filter beds remaining from the Great War sewage works. Scattered concrete blocks make an ideal basking place for lizards and adders on a warm summer's day.
7. From post (6), bear left and walk down the track which now crosses the original effluent ditch to post (7). The embankment of the former Tackeroo Railway runs through the trees on the left.
8. Turn right and notice the purple moor-grass and soft rush, indicative of the former marsh in this area (8).

10, 11 & 12. Brindley Heath Trails (cont).

9. With a bank of heather and scattered birch on your left, walk on to the car park. Head past the barrier to post (9), where you head up the slope through trees.
10. Emerging from the trees (10), cross a patch of open heath, once the playing field of the former military hospital and later, Brindley Village and school. Look out for puffballs in the autumn, a white spherical fungi, by the track.
11. Cross the tarmac of the former school playground (11), noticing the concrete bases of the earlier hospital buildings (12).
12. At the post turn right along the curving track, past the mains water manhole cover. Thousands of manhole covers like this one were cast at Black Country iron foundries.
13. At (13) take the first left. An interpretation board is at the meeting point of the five paths. You are now at the entrance to Brindley Village, a military hospital from the Great War. The footings of the former Officers' Quarters may be seen in the undergrowth on the left. Walk along the main drive. The military hospital was built in 1916 to care for casualties returning from the trenches on the Western Front. The hospital closed in 1923 and the buildings were converted to bungalow-style accommodation for miners and their families working at West Cannock Colliery. The last residents left Brindley Village in 1955 and the school closed in 1959.
14. Post (14) marks the entrance to the military hospital reception block; the concrete flagpole base on the left was in front of the main administrative building. The interpretation board tells the story of the hospital and Brindley Village.
15. Continue down the main drive to (15). If you are flagging, turn left and take the alternative route following posts (7) to (1) back to the Visitor Centre.
16. To continue on the main Blue Trail, turn right to (16); concrete remains on the left show the site of the hospital Sisters' Quarters.
17. Continue downhill to (17), then left along the valley bottom track (Duffields Lane) for half-a-mile to Duffields car park.
18. Banks of heather line the track on either side. At (18), heather was cut for packing ceramics in the Potteries up to the 1940s.
19. Continue along the valley to post (19) and at the car park turn left onto the Tackeroo railway embankment.
20. At post (20) turn right and walk uphill to (21). Bear right and head to Brindley Heath Road, going straight past post (21a). Carefully cross the road at (22) and follow the track to (23). The Visitor Centre and car park are ahead.



Entrance to Brindley Village, c1928

11. Red Trail

Start/finish: Cannock Chase Visitor Centre

WC Toilets adjacent to Visitor Centre

Distance: 2¼ miles

Approx time: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Route Terrain: Well surfaced tracks and paths

Grid ref: SK 003 153

Postcode for Sat Nav: WS12 4PW

OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater



Along the line of the Tackeroo Express

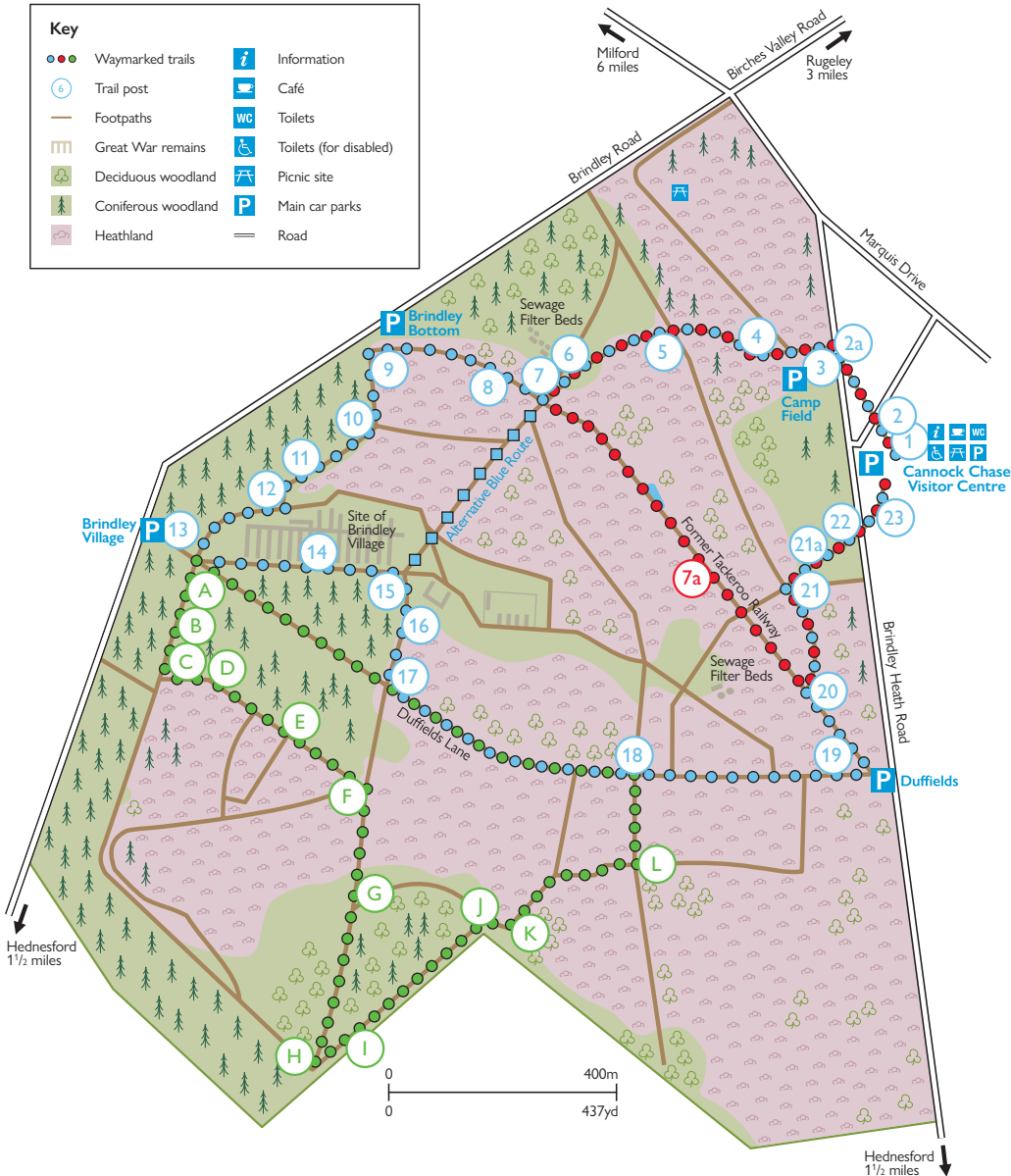
A short walk from Cannock Chase Visitor Centre. Follow the red waymarkers around the route.

7. Follow the Blue Trail as far as post (7), then turn left at the crossroads of the Tackeroo railway embankment. You will pass, on the left, the pool and bridge which are part of the Toc-H trail for people with disabilities.
- 7a. You will see ahead at post (7a) the alternating strips of grass where rail sleepers were removed after the war, and in between, traces of ash and ballast. You're now following the line of the Tackeroo Express. In 1915 the Tackeroo Express was cajoled into making its five mile journey from No. 5 Pit sidings past the White House and Anson Bank to the Army Service Corps Stores at the head of Oldacre Valley and then on to Milford. An earlier railway took the line of the present road up Marquis Drive, but it proved too steep for the light colliery locomotives, and the route across Brindley Heath provided a gentler gradient.
20. Continue down the track to post (20) and follow the blue waymarkers back to the Visitor Centre.



10, 11 & 12. Brindley Heath Trails (cont).

Key			
	Waymarked trails		Information
	Trail post		Café
	Footpaths		Toilets
	Great War remains		Toilets (for disabled)
	Deciduous woodland		Picnic site
	Coniferous woodland		Main car parks
	Heathland		Road



12. Green Trail

Start/finish: Brindley Heath Village Car Park

Distance: 2 miles

Approx time: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Route Terrain: Well surfaced tracks and paths

Grid ref: SJ 99211 15074

Postcode for Sat Nav: WS15 1QP

OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

Start the route at Brindley Village car park. Follow the green waymarkers around the route.

- A. From the car park, walk a few metres to the interpretation board, turning right immediately to trail post (A).
- B. Walk towards post (B), noticing on your left, a variety of planted tree species including Scots pine, Japanese larch and sweet chestnut.
- C. At post (C), turn left.
- D. A little further on the right at (D) is an area of open heathland with heather and scrub, managed to keep the scrub at the right levels to support wildlife.

The heathland today represents a key wildlife habitat, designated as part of the Cannock Chase Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). More recently, these important heathland communities became a Special Area of Conservation or SAC. This puts the Chase heaths firmly on the map as an area of international significance.

- E. Further down the track at (E), birch and pine invasion has been controlled, but it quickly re-invades without further management.
- F. Ahead at the track junction at (F) is a stand of Corsican pines, planted as a timber crop; notice the grey bark and longer, twisted needles when compared to Scots pines. Turn right here and continue down and then up the slope to (G).
- G. Walk ahead through the woodland. As the gradient levels out, you emerge from the trees; follow the track past a small field and continue to post (H).
- H. Turn sharp left and walk along the path beside a hawthorn hedgerow on your right hand side.
- I. Head past post (I). On the left the woodland in this area is a mixture of self-sown oak, pine, silver birch and rowan.
- J. Continue to post (J) and turn right at the tracks' crossing point.
- K. Take the left fork to post (K), where you bear right.
- L. At post (L), turn left; walking downhill, you pass an area where heather was cut for packing ceramics in the Potteries up to the 1940s. Turn left onto the main track (Duffields Lane) at post (18) between banks of heather, bilberry and cowberry. Follow the track for half-a-mile to return to Brindley Village car park.

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13 & 14. Tolkien Walks

Did you know that the famous author JRR Tolkien, who wrote the classic books *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, lived on Cannock Chase and later in Great Haywood during The Great War? He would have seen the same locations as there are today, although some have changed by the construction of military camps. He almost certainly drew some inspiration from the geography, landscape features and buildings that appeared in his early poetry and writings such as *The Book of Lost Tales*, and later works *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.



These short walks are ones that JRR Tolkien probably undertook whilst he was in the area and which walkers and Middle-earth lovers will enjoy.

13. Walk One

Hundreds of Chimneys / or Once around the Block

Start/finish: Memorial Hall Great Haywood (Beware of the narrow entrance and please if possible park at the far end of the car park)

Distance: 1 mile

Approx time: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Route Terrain: Well surfaced tracks, paths & canal towpaths

Grid ref: SJ 99786 22569

Postcode for Sat Nav: ST18 0SU

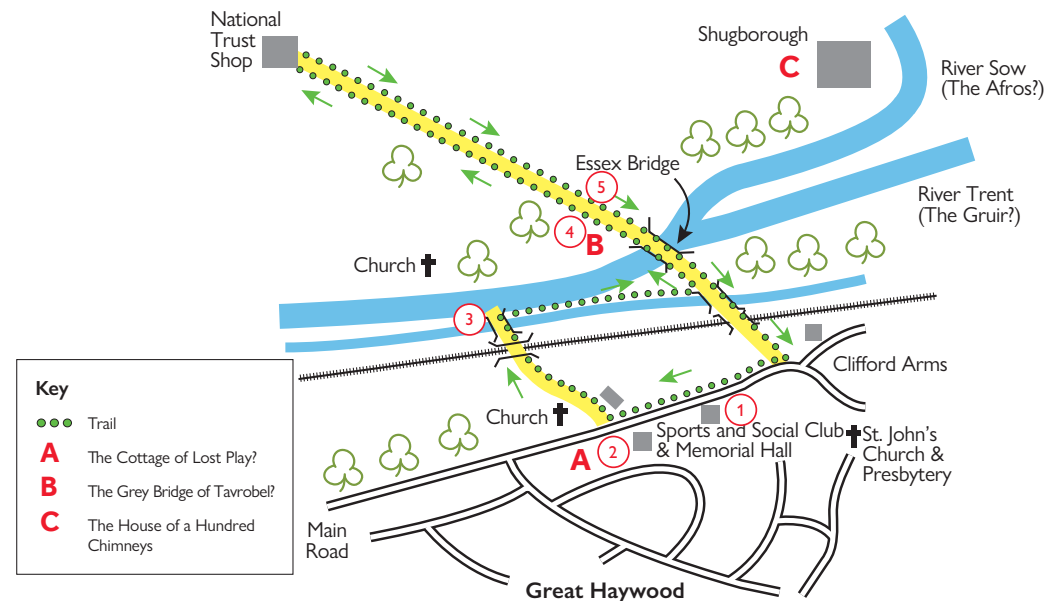
OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

During The Great War JRR Tolkien was in the army and stayed in the officers' quarters at the camp at Brocton. He had recently married and his wife was lodging in Great Haywood at Hazel Dene. It seems likely that on visits to see her they would have taken a walk nearby so they could be together.

1. This walk starts from the Memorial Hall in Great Haywood. This is next to the Reading Room and Library (now Great Haywood Sports and Social Club) where Tolkien would have spent time catching up on war developments in the newspapers or maybe researching material for his later books.

13 & 14. Tolkien Walks (cont).

2. It is possible to see Rock Cottage (A – The Cottage of Lost Play), on the left, where Tolkien possibly stayed with his wife on his return from the front. On the opposite side of the road to the Reading Room there is a driveway running between the church and the school, (marked Great Haywood Cliffs). Take this Right of Way (ROW) to pass by the school football pitch on the right and then down and underneath the railway line via the tunnel. Carry on across the metal bridge spanning the canal.
3. On reaching the towpath and whilst facing the canal, turn left and walk along the towpath towards the next bridge, (canal on your right).
4. After crossing the bridge, walk on along the tarmac path and admire the views of Shugborough Hall on your right. (C- now accepted as the inspiration for Tolkien's House of a Hundred Chimneys). Continue walking along the path either until you reach the car park and shop (where you can take a break) or turn around sooner and head back to the Essex Bridge.
5. After re-crossing the bridge continue on to cross the canal bridge immediately in front and then pass under the railway bridge to return to Great Haywood and the Memorial Hall.



14. Walk Two

The Sunday Afternoon Stroll

Start/finish: Memorial Hall Great Haywood (Beware of the narrow entrance and please if possible park at the far end of the car park)
Distance: 2 miles or 2¼ miles (alternative)
Approx time: 2 hours
Difficulty: Easy
Route Terrain: Well surfaced tracks, paths & canal tow paths
Grid ref: SJ 99786 22569
Postcode for Sat Nav: ST18 0SU
OS map: OS Explorer 244 Cannock Chase & Chasewater

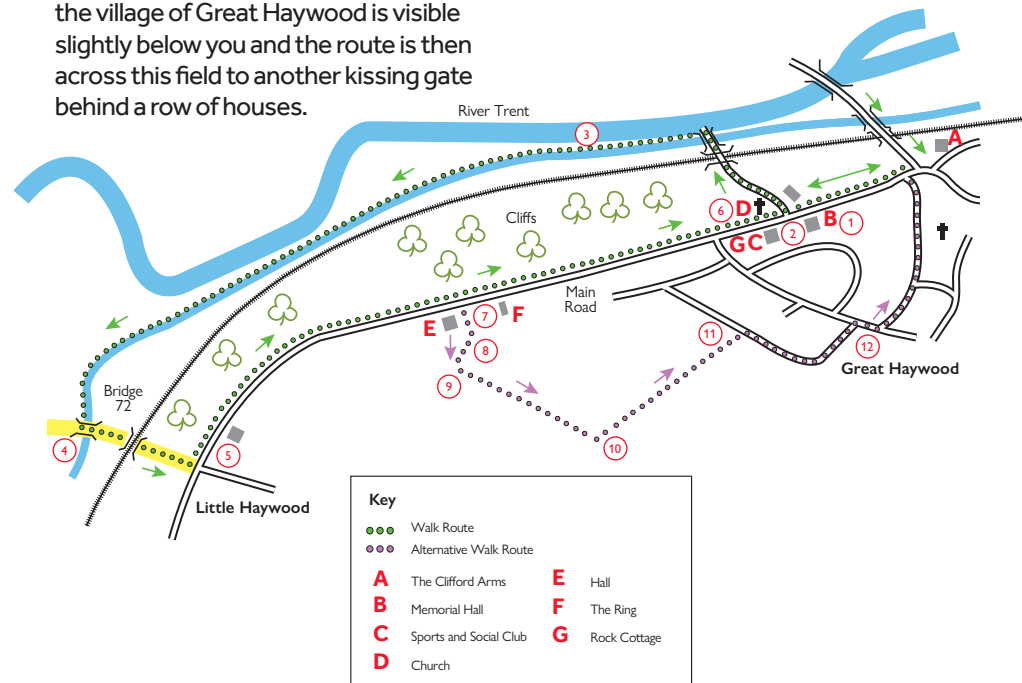
Imagine you are JRR Tolkien and his wife Edith and it's a Sunday afternoon. They would most likely have decided to take a stroll after lunch - providing the weather was reasonable and, if so, may well have taken this route.

1. This walk starts from the Memorial Hall in Great Haywood.
2. On the opposite side of the road there is a driveway running between the church and the school, (marked Great Haywood Cliffs). Take this Right of Way (ROW) to pass by the school football pitch on the right and then down and underneath the railway line via the tunnel. Carry on across the metal bridge spanning the canal.
3. Follow the path off the bridge and down to the canal towpath, then turn right here and proceed along the towpath with the canal to your left and the river (Trent) to your right. Follow this path along the canal until you arrive at Bridge 72.

4. Leave the canal at Bridge 72 by passing under the bridge and then walking back up the ramp on the far side to come out on the road. (Meadow Lane). Turn sharp right here to cross over the canal bridge and then under the railway bridge further on. (Take care here as the road is narrow with no pavements).
5. You are now in Little Haywood and at the end of the road is a junction with Main Road and where you should turn left to follow this road in the direction of the Red Lion PH. Passing by the public house it is now possible to walk back to Great Haywood simply by following main road back to the Memorial Hall, keeping the large estate wall on your left. This wall may have inspired Tolkien's description of the arrival of Eriol, the wanderer, in Tavrobel in The Cottage of Lost Play. [Look out for a circle of 12 bungalows on the right called The Ring], and further on for Rock Cottage (possible inspiration for The Cottage of Lost Play).
6. You have now covered approximately two miles in the footsteps of JRR Tolkien and can have a rest in the village. However if you want to add a little more to your walk, then reach the Village Hall on the right with its Millennium Gates, turn right through the gates, walk past the hall and toilets and then follow the alternative route back (Steps 7 - 12) as shown below. Alternative route back to the Memorial Hall. (possibly muddy in parts so only try this if you have good walking boot/shoes).
7. So if you fancy a slightly more energetic return journey, then walk on along Main Road until you reach the Playing Fields with Millennium Gates. Turn in here and walk past the toilets and the play area and into the field beyond.

13 & 14. Tolkien Walks (cont).

8. Walk to the end of the field, keeping the field boundary on your right to a metal kissing-gate in the corner. Pass through this and go over a farm track to another gate which you also pass through into a further field.
9. Upon entering this field turn sharp left and follow the field edge with the boundary on your left. Upon reaching a stile climb over it and proceed to cross a field to a gate with a stile on the left. Cross over this stile and turn sharp left to follow the field edge with the boundary hedge on your left.
10. Ahead is a wooden gate which you should pass through and then cross the field beyond to a further metal kissing gate in the hedge. Once through this the village of Great Haywood is visible slightly below you and the route is then across this field to another kissing gate behind a row of houses.
11. Pass through this gate, turning sharp right along the ROW behind the gardens to the road. This is Cliff Road. Turn right and walk along this road and around the corner to where Cliff Road joins Rock House Drive. Turn right here and pass through a narrow Right of Way into the Uplands.
12. Turn sharp left here and follow the Uplands to the next junction where the road turns to the left. Follow this down to the school railings and pass by with the school playground on the right. Once past the bars at the end of the path walk across open ground to the shops on the right. Continue past the shops, Trent Close to Main Road and then turn left to return to the Memorial Hall.



Protect, respect and enjoy

We want everyone to be proud to protect the Chase. It is a unique and nationally important landscape. However it is also fragile and some behaviours can cause accidental but significant harm. The Cannock Chase code has been developed to help everyone's visit to be safe and enjoyable.



Cannock Chase can be explored by walkers of all ability.

RAF Hednesford is one of the most accessible trails, with fairly level terrain and most of it is surfaced. The video of the trail on our website provides more information.

Cannock Chase is a shared space and the undulating scenery and network of bridleways and designated cycle trails make for varied family cycling across the Chase.

Mountain bikers can test their skills whilst younger riders can enjoy easier rides. Cannock Chase Forest is a great place for cyclists of all ages and abilities.

Another great way to see many parts of the Chase is on horseback. The network of bridleways provides some of the most extensive and picturesque off road riding in England.

See the website cannock-chase.co.uk for more details



find out more

- **Cannock Chase Visitor Centre**, Staffordshire County Council, Marquis Drive, Hednesford WS12 4PW. W3W disco.launched.animals
Tel: 01543 876741 www.staffordshire.gov.uk
- **The Museum of Cannock Chase**, Cannock Chase Council, Valley Road, Hednesford WS12 1TD
Tel: 01543 877666 www.museumofcannockchase.org
- **Shugborough Estate**, National Trust, Milford ST17 OXB
Tel: 01889 880166 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shugborough-estate
- **The Wolseley Centre**, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Wolseley Bridge ST17 OWT
Tel: 01889 880100 www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk
- **Cannock Chase Forest**, Forestry England, Birches Valley, Rugeley WS15 2UQ
www.forestryengland.uk/cannock-chase-forest Duty Ranger 07771 812608
- **Chasewater Innovation Centre**, Chasewater Country Park, Staffordshire County Council, Pool Road, Burntwood, Brownhills WS8 7NL
Tel: 01543 370737 www.staffordshire.gov.uk
- **Cannock Chase War Cemetery and German Military Cemetery**
www.cwgc.org
- **Cannock Chase SAC Partnership** www.cannockchase.org.uk
- **Enjoy Staffordshire** www.enjoystaffordshire.com
- **Staffordshire Ramblers** www.staffordshireramblers.org
- **Staffordshire cycling journey planner** <https://cyclemap.staffordshire.gov.uk>
- **Bus and train timetables** www.traveline.info

To find out more and keep up to date with the work of the Cannock Chase National Landscape Partnership visit www.cannock-chase.co.uk and sign up to receive our e-newsletter.



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14 circular walks in and around Cannock Chase National Landscape.

Cannock Chase in Staffordshire is a beautiful wilderness in the heart of the busy West Midlands. It holds the largest area of heathland in this area, cherished and protected as a conservation landscape with rare wildlife. There are old oak woodlands, pine forests, historic parklands, viewpoints, rivers and canals to enjoy.

Walking Cannock Chase describes 14 circular walks spread throughout the area. They range from short 1 mile walks in Great Haywood in the footsteps of Tolkien to longer day hikes such as the the 9 miles Rugeley and Cannock Chase Forest route. Distances and terrain vary to suit a range of abilities and varied terrain.

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www.cannock-chase.co.uk



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