More Walks for All in Cheshire East

10 more walks for all abilities, including those with pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters
The routes generally have a hard, compacted surface although you might find some paths with a loose surface which may be muddy in wet weather. The walks are either circular, taking you back to where you started, or linear so you can retrace your steps or arrange for a friend to collect you at the end. The walks are described and shown on a map so that you can make your own decision as to where you go and how far you walk.

Don’t forget to wear clothing and footwear appropriate to the time of year and weather conditions. RADAR keys are not available on sites, so if you need access to a disabled toilet, it’s best to obtain a key before you go, either from RADAR or from your local Disability Information Bureau.

No car? No problem!
The following routes in this leaflet can be reached without a car, though please check with transport providers before you travel:
- Quaker’s Coppice, Crewe
- Joey the Swan, Wistaston, Crewe
- Trent & Mersey Canal, Middlewich
- Shropshire Union Canal, Nantwich
- Quarry Bank, Styal
- The Carrs, Wilmslow
- Lindow Common, Wilmslow

For further details of accessible bus services and times, phone Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 (open 7 days a week 8am to 8pm - calls cost 12p per minute plus your phone company’s access charge) or go to www.cheshireeast.gov.uk.

Cheshire East Local Access Forum
The Cheshire East Local Access Forum (CELAF) is a statutory group made up of volunteers who provide advice on access to the countryside and are working to make it more accessible and enjoyable for open air recreation, in ways which address social, economic and environmental interests.
This walk follows the River Bollin for just under a mile from Wilmslow town centre to Twinnies Bridge. The river meanders through picturesque parkland with footpath links into Styal Country Park and the Dean Valley. At both ends of the walk there is a route map sign detailing the walk and making suggestions of things to look out for such as grey herons, kingfishers, pipistrelle bats and brown trout.

**DISTANCE:** Just under 3km (2miles) there and back - just follow the river; it knows the way!

**TIME:** About 30 minutes to walk from one end to the other.

**SURFACE:** A 2.5m (8') wide surfaced path throughout.

**GRADIENTS:** Essentially flat, with a 5m (5 1/2yds) long incline of 8.3% (1:12) on approach to the bridge near the Parish Hall end of the route.

**GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS:** There is 1 hand gate to enter the Carrs at the Parish Hall, offering a width of 1m (3'3”), with no latch. There are staggered barriers at the bridge near the Parish Hall end of the walk, offering a width of over 130cm (4'3”). The slats on the bridge have gaps between them of 3cm (1”). Bollards at the Twinnies Bridge end of the route offer a width of 128cm (4'2”). There are numerous benches along the route, with and without backrests and armrests, and offering seating at heights ranging between 40cm-55cm (15’-22”). Some are set on the grass away from the path. Picnic tables can be found at both ends of the route, including wheelchair accessible spaces.

**DESCRIPTION:**
1. From the Parish Hall end of the route, leave the car park via the ornate Diamond Jubilee gate to pick up the path along the river.
2. After the bridge over the River Bollin, bear right down the slope to continue by the river until the stone bridge, or as far as you want to go.
3. From the Twinnies Bridge end of the route, leave the car park via the stone bridge and bear left along the river.
4. You’ll reach a slope up to a t-junction of paths with a bridge on your left. Cross the bridge to reach the Parish Hall and play area.
Alderley Edge is a dramatic sandstone ridge with impressive views over the Cheshire plain towards Manchester and to the hills of Cheshire’s Peak District. The broad ridge top is well wooded with Scots pine and beech trees. There is historic interest too as the area has been mined for copper as far back as the Bronze Age, by the Romans, and through Medieval times.

**DISTANCE:** 1.6km (1 mile) circular route.

**TIME:** 45 minutes to 1 hour.

**SURFACE:** Generally compacted stone and sand, with stretches of uneven ground and slight cobbled on the carriageway stretch. Paths are mostly 1-2m (3½’–6½’) wide.

**GRADIENTS:** Varying, with prolonged slopes of about 10% (1:10) and a 10m (11½ yards) stretch with a gradient of 14% (1:7). In places there are cross slopes of 11¾% (1:9).

**GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS:** A bollard at the start offers a width of 1.1m (3’7”). A one-way hand gate with a width of 1.1m (3’7”) and latch at 90cm (35”) off the ground leads into the woods. A one-way hand gate with no latch, offering a width of 1.2m (3’11”) leads out of the woods. There is one bench on the route at a height of 40cm (16”), with no backrest. The picnic area is reached by a one-way, sprung hand gate of 84cm (33”) width.

**DESCRIPTION:**
1. Leave the car park by the information boards and at the t-junction, look left to see a hand gate on the other side of the track. Follow this path into the woods.
2. As you follow this path up through the woods, you’ll pass a deep dip on the right which was an area of Bronze Age mining known as Engine Vein.
3. At a crossing of paths, continue straight ahead.
4. You’ll arrive at the Armada Beacon where signalling fires could have been lit in the late 16th century to warn of invasion. The route curves around to your right.
5. This will lead you to an exposed sandstone bluff, the site of another copper mine, known as the Devil’s Grave, with steep drops and views.
6. Continue around to the right over a low brow, to follow a wide, straight track, which descends gently.
7. You’ll reach a hand gate at the edge of the woods. Go through the gate and turn right to return to the car park.
This attractive area of open countryside and parkland is rich in wildlife, including ancient trees and a wildflower garden planted by the volunteers of Wistaston Conservation Group. The path generally follows the line of Wistaston Brook.

VISITOR INFORMATION

LOCATION: On the western edge of Crewe, off Wistaston Green Road. Approximate postcode: CW2 8SS.

PARKING: Free car parking, open 24 hours, with a barrier at a height of 2m (6’6”).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Bus routes: **D&G Bus No. 9 Willaston / Wistaston - South Cheshire College - Crewe - Elm Drive.**

Bus stops: Broughton Lane • Wistaston Green Road/ Laurel Drive.

Distance to start of walk: 230m (250yds) (note to access the walk you will have to cross Valley Road where there are no dropped kerbs) • 360m (395yds).

TOILETS AND REFRESHMENTS: No facilities are available on site.

FURTHER INFORMATION: The park is managed jointly by Cheshire East Council and Wistaston Parish Council.

Suggested Route

**DISTANCE:** 1.8km (1mile).

**TIME:** Approximately 45 minutes.

**SURFACE:** Tarmac paths of 1.8m (6’) width.

**GRADIENTS:** Mostly level bar two sections involving gradients of about 13% (1:8) over 10m (11yds) and 16% (1:6) over 15m (16yds). Some cross slopes of about 10% (1:10).

**GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS:** There are no gates or steps. At each end of the path, the gap between fencing is about 1.1m (3’6”), one involving a 90 degree turn. There are 11 benches along the route at various heights around 45cm (18”) from the ground, all with backrests. There is 1 picnic table by the play park.

**DESCRIPTION:**

1. The walk starts from the car park at Golden Jubilee Bridge in Wistaston Green Road. Leave the car park between upright posts at the side of a gate and follow the path as it winds its way through an area of trees and wildflowers.

2. When you reach a crossroads of paths by a bench, carry straight on.

3. In about 500m (550yds), after crossing the wide bridge over the brook, the vista opens up with views of the brook to one side and grassy slopes with ancient trees to the other.

4. This delightful part of the path brings you to the Joey the Swan children’s play park on your left and the species-rich wildflower garden on your right. Time now to turn around and retrace your steps to the car park.
Lindow Common is a small area of heathland on the outskirts of Wilmslow. It might be small, but it is special in a number of ways: it is a Local Nature Reserve, has national recognition as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is a leftover of a previously much more widespread landscape - ancient lowland heath. On the site, many information boards, at a good height for wheelchair users, detail the special flora and fauna of the reserve.

DISTANCE: About 1.2km (¾ mile), mostly circular, around the small central Black Lake.

TIME: About 30-45 minutes

SURFACE: Level, 150cm (5') wide with a good surface of compacted stone and gravel.

GRADIENTS: The route is largely level.

GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS: Gates open from car parks at both ends of the reserve. The gates are 139cm (51") wide and are not sprung. The latch height is 100cm (39") off the ground. There are many seats around the lake.

DESCRIPTION: Paths run from both of the car parks and lead on to the circular path around the lake. The fenced lake is only partly visible for wheelchair users, especially in summer due to growth of vegetation. Narrower paths branch off the main circuit but have less access suitability.

VISITOR INFORMATION

LOCATION: Both car parks are accessed off Racecourse Road, which leads off the A538, Altrincham Road, between Wilmslow and Manchester Airport.

PARKING: There are free car parks at both ends of the common, open and accessible at all times. Approximate postcode: SK9 5NQ.


Bus stop: Altrincham Road, Gorsey Road.

Distance to start of walk: 295m (320yds) (note, you may need to cross Altrincham Road).

TOILETS AND REFRESHMENTS: Public toilets in Wilmslow town centre. Refreshments at the Boddington Arms opposite the most northerly car park, and in Wilmslow town centre.

Maiden Castle Bickerton Hills

Enjoy this challenging but rewarding walk up and across heathland of heather, bracken and bilberries to the remains of an Iron Age fort. You’ll be greeted by wide views across the countryside to the Welsh hills, the distant Dee estuary and Wirral. You may also see hardy Galloway cattle grazing the area. This route is the most accessible route to the crest of the Peckforton-Bickerton ridge. The route intersects with the Sandstone Trail and other paths so you can rendezvous with friends or family who are walking those routes.

Suggested Route

**DISTANCE:** 1km (1/3 mile) each way.

**TIME:** Allow 1 ¼ hours.

**SURFACE:** The paths are sandy earth tracks about 1.8m (2yds) wide, and uneven with roots, drainage channels and bedrock exposed in places, and therefore is probably not suitable for manual wheelchairs.

**GRADIENTS:** Prolonged slopes of gradient greater than 17% (1:6) from the start for the first 480m (525yds), with varying cross slopes. The route then levels out up to the viewpoint.

**GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS:** There is a hand gate at the start of the route with a minimum width of 145cm (57”), opening one way with no latch. There are 2 seats near the viewpoint, without backrests as they are made of big logs, at about 50cm (20”) off the ground.

**DESCRIPTION:**

1. From the car park, go through the gate and follow the track leading steadily upwards.
2. At a junction of paths, bear left, following the circular walk waymark.
3. At the next junction of paths, again bear left, following the yellow arrow waymark, to climb up an incised track.
4. At the top of the rise, again bear left at a junction of paths, to follow the National Trust waymark.
5. Bear right at the next junction of paths.
6. You’ll come to a more obvious track where you turn right to follow the yellow arrow to the top.
7. Here you’ll see the view you’ve been waiting for and a panel explaining the history of Maiden Castle. When you’ve rested and admired the view, follow your steps back to the car park.

VISITOR INFORMATION

**LOCATION:** The walk is in the Bickerton Hills between Wrexham and Nantwich.

**PARKING:** Free parking, open 24 hours, is available off Goldford Lane in Bickerton, at the National Trust’s Pool Lane car park. Approximate postcode: SY14 8LN.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** No public transport is available to the site.

**TOILETS AND REFRESHMENTS:** No facilities are available on site.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** The National Trust owns and manage the site: www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

**DISTANCE:** 1km (1/3 mile) each way.

**TIME:** Allow 1 ¼ hours.

**SURFACE:** The paths are sandy earth tracks about 1.8m (2yds) wide, and uneven with roots, drainage channels and bedrock exposed in places, and therefore is probably not suitable for manual wheelchairs.

**GRADIENTS:** Prolonged slopes of gradient greater than 17% (1:6) from the start for the first 480m (525yds), with varying cross slopes. The route then levels out up to the viewpoint.

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6. You’ll come to a more obvious track where you turn right to follow the yellow arrow to the top.
7. Here you’ll see the view you’ve been waiting for and a panel explaining the history of Maiden Castle. When you’ve rested and admired the view, follow your steps back to the car park.
Quaker’s Coppice Crewe

Right on the edge of Crewe, enjoy this short and generally level, winding walk through a haven of deciduous woodland. You’ll meander through a mix of oak, silver birch, holly and twisted hornbeam trees, get glances of ponds and be able to listen to the variety of birds that inhabit this wood.

**DISTANCE:** A circular route 1km (½ mile).
**TIME:** 45 minutes.
**SURFACE:** Natural woodland floor.
Path generally 1.75-2.0m (5¾’- 6¼’ wide in the woodland, narrowing to 1m (3¼’) on tarmac, near the road.
**GRADIENTS:** Generally level.
**GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS:** 1 hand gate which opens in both directions and has no latch. No steps or other barriers on the route other than a 2cm (¾”) dropped kerb and similar steps onto some bridges. The 1 bench is at a height of 39cm (15”) with a backrest.
You can also take a rest by leaning on the handrails of the 12 bridges which have a minimum width of 119cm (47”).

**Suggested Route**

**DESCRIPTION:**
1. Join the tarmac footpath at the electricity substation on Mallard Way, at the side of the Fujitsu office building, Infinity House. Follow the footpath to the left for about 200m (220yds), alongside a brook, to a gate on the right which leads into the wood. Enter here to begin the walk.
2. From here you can see a pond with a viewing platform immediately on your left. After this, take the left fork in the path and head for two bridges and a seat visible ahead beyond a slight rise in the path.
3. The path forks again about 20m (22yds) beyond the seat. Continue on the edged path as it snakes through the woodland.
4. At the point where a narrow gate leads to a bridge and footpath to Weston Road, bear right.
5. Rejoin your outward route just before the pond. At the gate, turn left to go back along the footpath to Mallard Way.

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

**LOCATION:** On the eastern edge of Crewe, accessed off the A534 Crewe Road. Turn at the roundabout into Electra Way (signposted Business Park), then turn right into Mallard Way. Approximate postcode: CW1 6HA.

**PARKING:** Limited roadside parking in Mallard Way where you would be lucky to find a space during office hours. Outside of these times, you should find a spot.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:**
Bus route: D&G Bus No. 1 Crewe Business Park – Train Station – Bus Station – Leighton Hospital.
Distance to start of walk: 255m (245yds).

**TOILETS AND REFRESHMENTS:** There are no facilities on site. There are two pubs on University Way, nearby.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** The site is owned and managed by Cheshire East Council.
Contact: 01270 686029
Email: prow@cheshireeast.gov.uk.
**Quarry Bank Styal**

Situated in the grounds of Quarry Bank on the National Trust’s Styal Estate this walk follows the river from the mill to the point at which the rivers Dean and Bollin combine at Twinnies Bridge. The route passes the millpond, crosses Heron’s Pool Bridge and continues on through a carr, an area of wet woodland. The river floodplain provides good conditions for many rare plants, insects and invertebrates including ancient species of snails. In spring the woodland is carpeted with bluebells and other rare wild flowers.

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

**LOCATION:** Quarry Bank, off the Styial Road B5166, near Wilmslow, 2 miles from M56, exit S. Brown signs lead to Quarry Bank from the A34 and M56. Approximate postcode: SK9 4LA. An alternative start is the Twinnies Bridge car park on Styial Road, Wilmslow.

**PARKING:** At Quarry Bank, National Trust members can park for free. There is a charge for non-members, which helps the National Trust continue to conserve Quarry Bank. Disabled bays in the main car park and buggy transfer is available most days to the mill and start of the route. Free parking is available at the Twinnies Bridge end of the route, with a 2.1m (6’10”) height barrier.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:**

Train: Styial.
Distance to start of walk: 975m (1066yds) via Station Road and Holt’s Lane.

Bus routes: GHA Coaches No. 200 Manchester Airport - Styial - Wilmslow • GHA Coaches No. 200 Manchester Airport - Styial - Wilmslow.

Bus stops: Hollin Lane, Altrincham Road, Styial • Styial Road, Grange Park Avenue (near Twinnies Bridge).

Distance to start of walk: 300m (330yds) via Hollin Lane and Holt’s Lane • You’re at the Twinnies Bridge end of the route!

**TOILETS AND REFRESHMENTS:** Accessible toilets are available at Quarry Bank and refreshments can be purchased from the café or the pantry (open select days). Alternatively, toilets and refreshments can be found in Wilmslow town centre and Styial village.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** The National Trust publish an Explore Quarry Bank leaflet. You can get a copy of the leaflet from the Quarry Bank Visitor Information Centre. Tel: 01625 527468. Email: quarrybankmill@nationaltrust.org.uk.

**Suggested Route**

**DISTANCE:** Approximately 2.6km (1 2/3 miles) there and back.

**TIME:** Approximately 1 hour.

**SURFACE:** The surface varies from cobblestones to metalled to earth with exposed tree roots, which becomes muddy and slippery in wet weather. The path is about 1m (1yd) in width. Heron’s Pool Bridge is made of decking with gaps of up to 3cm (1”) between slats.

**GRADIENTS:** The route is undulating and steep in places: there is a 25m (27yds) section of 15% (1:6), one of 50m (55yds) unsurfaced section of 14.7% (1:6) gradient, and the same length of surfaced path at 12.5% (1:8). Heron’s Bridge is set with a slope of 9.7% (1:10) over decking. In places there is a cross-slope to the path of 16.7% (1:6).

**GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS:** There is 1 hand gate, with no latch, into the courtyard at Quarry Bank of width 1.03m (40”) into a 90 degree turn where the path runs between a wall and fence with a gap of 1.10m (43”). At the Twinnies Bridge end of the route there is a latch-free kissing gate of width 1.10m (43”) and length 1.44m (56”). 6 benches along the route, with and without armrests and backrests, offer seating heights of between 47cm-59cm (18½”-23”).

**DESCRIPTION:**

1. From Quarry Bank, follow signs to the Southern Woods through the gate and onto the path towards the weir and millpond.
2. You can go either way around the millpond and then continue along the path, climbing up to the site of an old quarry.
3. Continue on to Heron’s Pool Bridge over an incised stream and glance right to the pool itself where you may catch sight of the bird from which the name is derived.
4. Further on, amongst the carr, bear right at a boulder where the path forks and onwards to the kissing gate.
5. Turn right at Twinnies Bridge from where you can retrace your steps.
Shropshire Union Canal Nantwich

This level canal towpath offers an elevated position for views over Nantwich town and the surrounding Cheshire plain countryside. You’ll pass over the impressive aqueduct across the Chester Road and be able to ‘gongoozle’ at the narrowboats both moored and cruising - the active marina at Basin End is a great place for this! You’ll also be able to watch the wildlife on the canal.

Suggested Route

DISTANCE: Approx 2km (1mile) each way, or 4km (2miles) there and back.

TIME: Approximately 45 minutes each way.

SURFACE: Good, level and sealed surface throughout, of 1.5m (1½ yds) width. Over the aqueduct, just before point 2, the path is narrower at 87cm (34”) wide and the surface is brick, with 5cm (2”) ridges. This section can be bypassed by the use of two ramps.

GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS: No gates or steps. 7 benches with backrests at about 54cm (21”) height. 4 picnic tables with BBQ stands, one with wheelchair space.

DESCRIPTION:

1. The route starts at Marsh Lane, about 100m (100yds) north of Queen’s Drive, via a short path from the road. Turn right (northwards) onto the towpath, and follow this throughout.

2. There is an alternative access point, via a ramp, half way along the route at the aqueduct. Continue north to Basin End bridge, marked as bridge number 92 and also known as Nantwich Junction bridge.

3. From here you can turn over the humpback bridge and walk the 200m (220yds) to the marina. If you’ve stayed on the towpath, the route goes either under the bridge (note the low headroom and ridged surface!) or over the ramps to continue along the towpath.

4. Continue on to bridge number 93 from where you can retrace your steps.

VISITOR INFORMATION

LOCATION: On western edge of Nantwich, following the Shropshire Union Canal to Acton bridge.

PARKING: There is limited roadside parking at the start, approximate postcode: CW5 5TH. Please park with consideration for residents here. At the midway access point 2 by the aqueduct, there is an informal off-road parking area off Welshman’s Lane, close to where it meets Water Lode, opposite Malbank School, approximate postcode CW5 6AB / CW5 5HD.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:
Bus route: GHA bus No. 53 Nantwich bus station to Millfields • GHA bus No. 72 Nantwich-Whitchurch • Arriva Bus No. 84 Crewe to Chester.

Bus stop: Marsh Lane/Queens Drive • Millfields, Queens Drive • Malbank School, Welsh Row, Nantwich; or, Basin End, Chester Road.

Distance to start of walk: You’re practically at point 1 • 170m (186yds) to point 1 • 120m (130yds) to point 2 or 120m (130yds) to marina.

TOILETS AND REFRESHMENTS: There are none on the route, but facilities (which may not be accessible) are available for customers of the marina cafe, and in the town centre, where an accessible toilet is available for RADAR key holders, opposite the swimming pool.

FURTHER INFORMATION: The towpath is managed by the Canal & River Trust.

Web: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk Tel. 0303 040 4040. Nantwich Marina operate the cafe and dayboats for hire, with provision for wheelchairs if notified in advance. Tel: 01270 625122.

GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS: No gates or steps. 7 benches with backrests at about 54cm (21”) height. 4 picnic tables with BBQ stands, one with wheelchair space.

DESCRIPTION:

1. The route starts at Marsh Lane, about 100m (100yds) north of Queen’s Drive, via a short path from the road. Turn right (northwards) onto the towpath, and follow this throughout.

2. There is an alternative access point, via a ramp, half way along the route at the aqueduct. Continue north to Basin End bridge, marked as bridge number 92 and also known as Nantwich Junction bridge.

3. From here you can turn over the humpback bridge and walk the 200m (220yds) to the marina. If you’ve stayed on the towpath, the route goes either under the bridge (note the low headroom and ridged surface!) or over the ramps to continue along the towpath.

4. Continue on to bridge number 93 from where you can retrace your steps.

DISTANCE: Approx 2km (1mile) each way, or 4km (2miles) there and back.

TIME: Approximately 45 minutes each way.

SURFACE: Good, level and sealed surface throughout, of 1.5m (1½ yds) width. Over the aqueduct, just before point 2, the path is narrower at 96cm (38”) between the railings and the surface is brick, with 5cm (2”) ridges. This section can be bypassed by starting at point 2. Under Basin End Bridge at point 3, the path is narrower at 87cm (34”) wide and the surface is brick, with 5cm (2”) ridges. This section can be bypassed by the use of two ramps.

GRADIENTS: The towpath itself is level, with maximum cross slopes of 6% (1:15).

Access to the canal towpath at point 1 is via a short path with a 13% (1:8) gradient over 8m (9yds). Access at point 2 by the aqueduct is by a 1.6m (1¾yds) wide 100m (100yds) long ramp of gradient 6% (1:18). The ramps at Basin End Bridge have a maximum gradient of 17% (1:6) over 10m (11yds), and can be bypassed by going under the bridge.
**Tatton Park, Knutsford**

Tatton Park, winner of Visit England’s Large Visitor Attraction of the Year 2014, is steeped in history and memories of world wars. Herds of red and fallow deer roam freely in 400 hectares (1,000 acres) of parkland whilst the meres, woodlands and rough grassland provide a perfect habitat for wildlife. The parkland is a stunning setting for a leisurely stroll, as are the 20 hectares (50 acres) of beautiful gardens reflecting over 250 years of garden design. This route follows ‘Billie the Beetle’ on a signed trail through one of the quiet woodlands on the estate.

**Suggested Route**

**DISTANCE:** ¾ mile (1.2km).

**TIME:** About ½ hour.

**SURFACE:** Grass paths and woodland floor so you may find mud or tree roots on your way. There is a low 30m (33yds) long boardwalk just before the wood, offering a minimum width of 1.2m (4’).

**GRADIENTS:** Generally level, though the path can be uneven.

**GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS:** No gates or barriers on the route. There is a step of about 2cm (¼”) onto the boardwalk and gaps between the boards of 1.5cm (⅝”) between the boards of 1.5cm (⅝”). There are 3 benches, without backrests and armrests, offering seating at about 47cm (18 ⅛”) off the ground, one half way and the others just as you enter or leave the wood. Picnic benches can be found in the Stableyard, picnic area (near main car park) and play area.

**DESCRIPTION:**

1. From the main car park near the Mansion, you will see signs to the Mansion and Stableyard. Instead of following these, turn in the opposite direction to the roadway from which you entered the car park. Turn left away from the entrance to the park and away from the Mansion.
2. In a very short while, you’ll see on your right a path leading off the roadway, under the banner ‘Dairy Wood Way’.
3. Follow this path to the boardwalk by the pond and onwards into the wood.
4. The path forms a loop in the wood so follow the waymarks in either direction, coming back to where you started.
5. Follow the boardwalk back to the path to the roadway and back to the car park.

There are numerous options for more walks in Tatton Park: pick up a leaflet and explore the gardens by the Mansion (charge applies) and the extensive parkland from any of the car parks around the park.

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

**LOCATION:** Tatton Park lies just to the north of Knutsford, signposted from Junction 7 of the M56 and Junction 19 of the M6, approximate postcode: WA16 6SG.

**PARKING:** The parkland is open in high season every day from 10am to 7pm (last entry 6pm) and in low season from 10am to 5pm (last entry 4pm). Car entry charges apply, with a reduced rate for blue badge holders. Designated disabled bays are available.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:**

Knutsford railway station, is about 4km (2½ miles) from the walk starting point.

Bus services in and around Knutsford include GHA No. 27 Macclesfield – Knutsford; GHA No. 289 Northwich – Altrincham; GHA No. 88 Knutsford – Wilmslow – Altrincham and D&G/Tomlinson No. 300 Knutsford Circular.

**TOILETS AND REFRESHMENTS:**

Toilets can be found in the Stableyard, where there is an accessible toilet. There are a range of refreshment outlets on site.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** Cheshire East Council manages the property which is owned by the National Trust. For more information and park entry prices, see www.tattonpark.org.uk or phone 01625 374400.
Trent & Mersey Canal

This level canal-side towpath walk offers a great insight into the waterway’s corridor as it flows through the town of Middlewich. In contrast to the busy roads, slow down to the pace of life of the canals.

**Suggested Route**

**DISTANCE:** Both routes are approximately 1.6km (1mile) return.

**TIME:** About 45 minutes one way or 1½ hours there and back.

**SURFACE:** Good, level surface of compacted gravel throughout, of at least 1.2m (4’) width. May be muddy after rain and watch out for mooring rings at the side of the canal. The short lane to the canal has an uneven, broken surface.

**GRADIENTS:** Access to the canal towpath at point 2 is via a short path with a 8.3% (1:12) gradient. The Big Lock route is level. The King’s Lock route involves slopes by the locks, of up to 15% (1:6) over 25m (27yds).

**GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS:** No gates or steps on the route, bar a 5cm (2”) difference in levels between the pavement on Lewin Street and the lane to the canal. The route passes between vertical posts, offering gaps of 1.5m (5ft) at point 2, and 98cm (38”) at point 4.

**TOILETS AND REFRESHMENTS:** Facilities are available for patrons of the refreshment stops along the way. There are public toilets off Southway in the town centre, open 8am-5pm in summer and 8am-4pm between November and March. Here an accessible toilet is available for RADAR key holders, though the approach involves steps or a ramp.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** The towpath is managed by the Canal & River Trust. Web: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk Tel. 0303 040 4040.

**LOCATION:** Right in the heart of Middlewich town.

**PARKING:** Free car park off Sea Bank, approximate postcode: CW10 0JF, with 1 disabled bay, and a 2.1m (6½’) height barrier.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:**

Bus routes:
- Bus stop: Lewin Street / Kinderton Street.

Distance to start of walk: You’re at point 2!

**DESCRIPTION:**

King’s Lock route:
1. The route starts at Sea Bank carpark from where you can walk over the canal along the pavement of Town Bridge, and bear left down Lewin Street.
2. Immediately on your left is a lane. Turn down this lane, then continue through a gap in the black railings to cross the gravel to the canal.
3. Once on the towpath, follow the canal to your right. You’ll pass 3 locks as the canal climbs up.
4. After the canopy of Middlewich Narrowboats, you’ll pass under an arched bridge (watch your head!) before seeing the King’s Lock pub ahead. Here, the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal joins the Trent and Mersey. It’s here that you’ll probably want to turn around and retrace your steps.

Big Lock route:
1. Reach the canal by following the above steps to point 3. Once on the towpath, follow the canal to your left, passing under Town Bridge. Continue along the towpath as the canal heads northwards. You’ll reach Big Lock where there’s a pub and a ‘Welcome to Middlewich’ sign, greeting narrowboaters to the town. Rest a while and watch the boat traffic, and then turn to retrace your steps.
More Walks for All was brought to you by the Public Rights of Way team at Cheshire East Council in partnership with the Cheshire East Local Access Forum. The Forum provides advice on how to make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open air recreation.

Please contact us if you would like to receive this leaflet in an alternative format such as large print.

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Further suggestions and information on exploring the Cheshire East countryside can be found on the Discover Cheshire website at www.discovercheshire.co.uk

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