

Great Haywood Wellbeing Walk

Great Haywood Circular

walk time 2¼-2½ hours
distance 7.5km / 4½ miles

WALKING TIPS

- Walking times are approx, measured on an average pace of two miles an hour.
- Follow the water and enjoy walking at your own pace... but allow time to simply sit and stare along the way.
- This is a circular walk which can be walked in either direction for a different viewpoint.



The Walk - Step by Step

Great Haywood is the T-junction where the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal meets the Trent & Mersey Canal, and this Staffordshire walk is as intriguing as it is scenic, with stories of wildlife, nature, and aristocratic history at every turn. Great Haywood, Tixall and Shugborough are all designated Conservation Areas so the whole route is a haven for wildlife. Great Haywood is a popular spot for geese, so you may be lucky enough to witness the hullabaloo of mass landing or take off and an arrow-shaped flight of geese flapping and honking in the sky.



 Great Haywood Junction is where the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal meets the Trent & Mersey Canal.

1 Follow the towpath under the bridge along the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal opposite Anglo Welsh's hireboat base. As you cross the small aqueduct over the River Trent, look out for heron fishing on its banks or even the blue flash of a kingfisher.

2 Residential boats are moored on the opposite side of the canal and from here to Swivel Bridge is also a popular mooring for visiting boats.

3 As you arrive at Tixall Wide, the canal takes on the appearance of a reed-lined lake. In the 18th century Clifford Thomas occupied Tixall Hall, and he insisted that the canal builders widened the water like a small lake. The meadow alongside the water is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and home to a variety of nesting birds.

4 The canal narrows again as it heads towards picturesque Tixall Lock, with its lock cottage.

5 After a few hundred yards, walk under Tixall Bridge 106 then turn immediately left up steps to the road. Be wary of traffic here.

6 Follow the road over the railway until you reach

Milford Common. The main entrance gate to the Grade I-listed Shugborough Estate is on your left. The estate, dating back to 1693 and now a National Trust property, was once the ancestral home of the Earls of Lichfield.

7 Walk along the footpath on the A513 until you see a sign-posted trail to your left. Follow the trail uphill to a clearing in the trees, keeping your eyes peeled for deer, then downhill following a wide grassy path with the covered reservoir to your left. The track crosses through the trees to 'Cold Man's Slade' parking area.

8 Re-join the path along the A513 for about 300 metres before entering the gate into Shugborough Estate.

9 Follow the driveway over the railway bridge and continue straight on (this is part of the Staffordshire Way). You will walk past Shugborough Hall on your left. Just beyond is Essex Bridge, a famed packhorse bridge (now a Scheduled Ancient Monument) which crosses the River Trent leading back towards the canal.

10 Cross the bridge and follow the road a few yards before turning right through a gateway towards the canal. Turn left on the towpath, walking under the bridge up to Haywood Lock.

 Follow the towpath past the busy moorings before reaching the junction again.

CANAL: Staffordshire & Worcestershire and Trent & Mersey

START: & FINISH: Great Haywood Junction
OS Grid ref: SJ995229 Postcode: ST18 0RJ

DISTANCE: 7.5km / 4½ miles

APPROX TIME: 2¼-2½ hours

PUB/CAFÉ: Clifford Arms near Haywood Lock, Mansion Tearoom & Park Farm Café in Shugborough Estate, Canalside Farm, Shop & Café near Mill Lane Bridge 74

PARKING: Nearest car parks – Cold Man's Slade (postcode: ST17 0XA), Milford Common (postcode: ST17 0UH) & Shugborough Estate (NT members only) (postcode: ST17 0UP)

TRAIN: Nearest train station - Stafford
National Rail Enquiries
Tel: 03457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

BUS: Traveline
Tel: 0871 2002233 www.traveline.info

