

A FIVE MILE WALK TO THE EAST OF CHEADLE

Leave the Car Park by the exit near the bottle banks, cross over the main road to the street a little to your left ahead of you (Queen Street) and walk along it for about 250 yards to the one-way street first on the left near house number 79. Turn into this street (Churchill Road) and after about 200 yards pass King Edward Street on your right then, opposite house number 33, turn right on to a signed footpath. Follow this path to a road (Ness Grove), turn left then right into Lomond Grove and in a short distance turn left again into Tay Close. After a few yards cross the footbridge on the right and, keeping to the hedge on your right, cross three fields to a road (Cherry Lane). Turn left and follow the road, passing a fish pond to your right and Woodhead Hall to your left. Continue until you reach another road (Lockwood Road) and cross over to a stile.

Descend the field to a gap in the tall hedge and stay on the green track as it bends first to the right and then to the left after crossing a small stream. Keep straight ahead to the far left hand corner of the field, cross the stile, turn left and descend the field keeping the boundary of Gibridding Wood on your left. As you descend the field you pass a small memorial stone to the memory of a Major-General W. Reid Martin who died here suddenly. Beyond the edge of the wood keep straight ahead to the silver birch trees, passing a pool to your left before reaching another path, the Staffordshire Way, at the farm boundary wall (East Wall Farm) go over the stile, turn left and walk past the pool to another stile. Cross the field bearing slightly to your right to a gateway between an old "tramway" embankment and the river. Continue straight ahead to the National Trust sign and a stile, then walk to the prominent solitary stone gatepost ahead of you.

The path bears a little to the left here as it rises slightly and passes to the left of some trees to the remains of a short track which descends to a stile and a footbridge. Continue along the path near the river until you reach the next stile (by a holly bush). After crossing this the route leaves the riverside and rises slightly to your left to another stile and footbridge near a Staffordshire Way signpost. Cross these and continue your ascending line, passing beneath some power lines, until you reach another Staffordshire Way sign at the top of the field. Bear left here, walk up the track to a road (Lockwood Road) and turn left along it for a little under half a mile to Thornbury Hall.

Just before reaching the hall, cross the stile on the right and descend the field to another stile near the left hand corner. Cross this stile, turn right and, keeping to the hedge on your right, cross the fields through the metal gates. After crossing a small stream, keep straight ahead along the track to a stile to the left of the farm buildings (Broad Haye Farm). Walk along the farm drive to a road (Hammersley Hayes Road) which joins the Cheadle-Froghall road (A521) at the Miners Rest public house. Turn left, walk down the road then, after crossing the bridge and passing Ness Grove, turn left along Churchill Road. At the far end turn right into Queen Street once more and retrace your way back to the Car Park.

From Thornbury Hall an alternative end to the walk can be made by continuing for another half mile along Lockwood Road past Woodhouse Farm to Cherry Lane. From here retrace your outward route back to Cheadle.

