

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS WALKS

Brown Edge Green Vale

Explore the village of Brown Edge
and the surrounding countryside



STAFFORDSHIRE
moorlands
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ACHIEVING • EXCELLENCE

1. From Leek Road walk along Sandy Lane in the direction of Biddulph Moor. Fork right up Hough Hill after 120 yards and continue up the steep hill for a further 400 yards until as the road levels off you can turn left up Fiddlers Bank.

Continue with fine views over St. Anne's Vale below. The parallel ridges which enclose this sheltered vale are formed from outcrops of the Rough Rock and the Chatsworth Grit. Being more resistant to erosion than the surrounding shales they now form quite striking features which can be traced over several miles of countryside between Bagnall and Biddulph Moor.

2. Some 50 yards after a chapel, fork right, then turn right up a field path towards an Ordnance Survey pillar. Enter a ginnel, over the ridge and down to a lane. Turn left and follow it to emerge at a road.

Cross and enter onto Marshes Hill Common. Beyond the parking area, follow the surfaced path up to the viewpoint on top of Marshes Hill at a height of about 280m/920 feet. Marshes Hill is a remnant area of heathland with gorse heather and bilberry, an indication of what the wider landscape on the ridge tops may have looked like prior to agricultural improvements.

Continue for a short way along the ridge before turning left to follow a path towards the second of two road junctions.

4. Take the steps down the face of the dam. Cross between the pools and take a path down to the right into a field. Continue through two or three fields keeping the stream on your left to a bridge. Cross and follow the canal feeder channel through four more fields to Tongue Lane. Look out for the attractive Guelder rose bushes amongst the profusion of stream side Alder trees.

5. Cross the lane and continue by the feeder. These meadows sport the blue flowered Devil's Bit Scabious and Harebells in the summer.

Continue through several fields, eventually crossing the feeder and walking up the right hand side of a field to Woodhouse Lane.

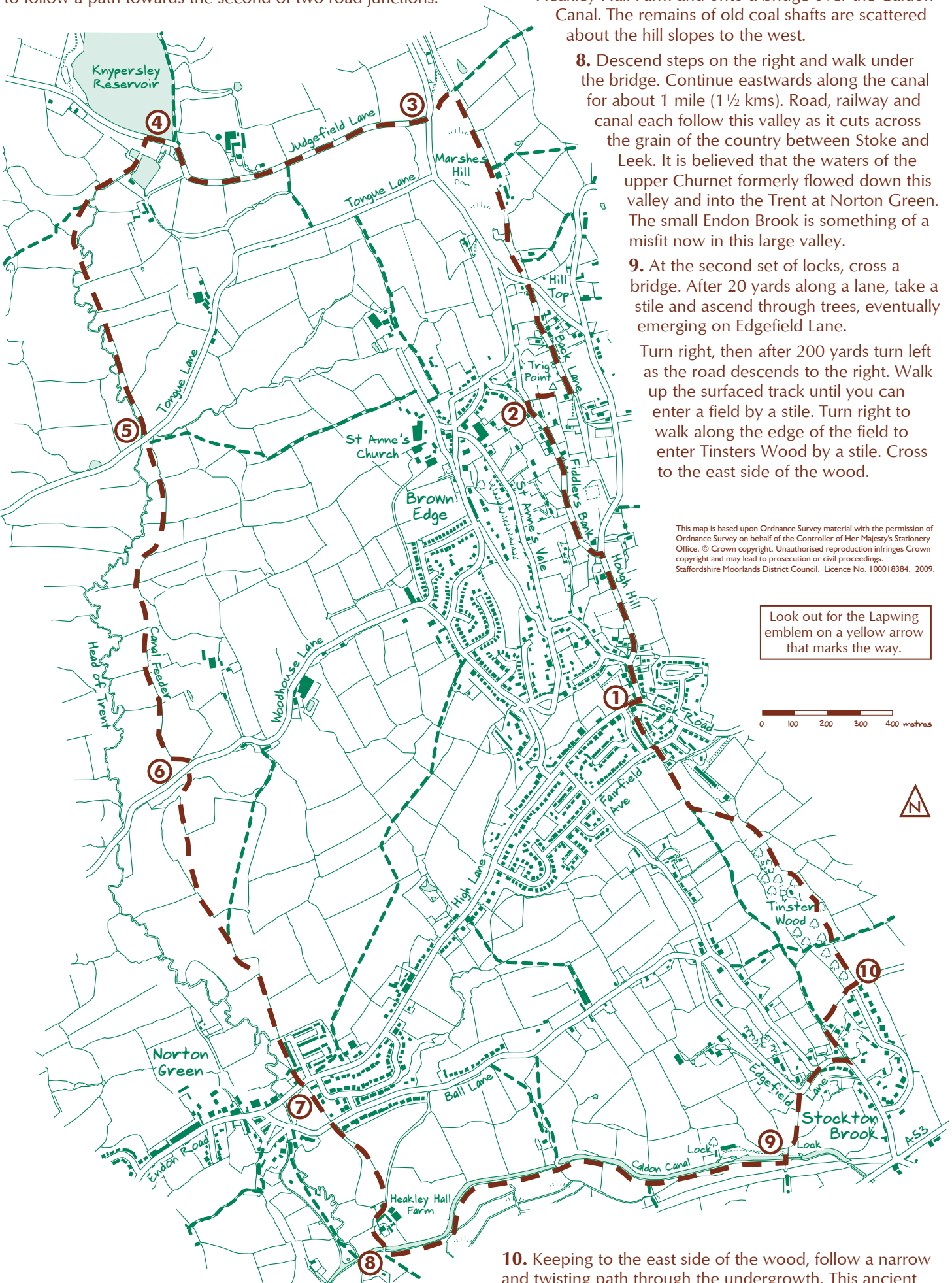
6. Turn right, then after 25 yards climb stone steps. Continue to a stile and, keeping a fence on your right, walk to a further stile. Continue in the same line across a field to a stone squeezer. Passing through, keep to the left following the path to a further stile. Continue with the feeder on your left until you can cross into a housing estate. Follow the concrete path to the road at Norton Green.

7. Cross Endon Road and continue for 150 yards to Ball Lane. Cross and follow a track as it bends through Heakley Hall Farm and onto a bridge over the Caldron Canal. The remains of old coal shafts are scattered about the hill slopes to the west.

8. Descend steps on the right and walk under the bridge. Continue eastwards along the canal for about 1 mile (1½ kms). Road, railway and canal each follow this valley as it cuts across the grain of the country between Stoke and Leek. It is believed that the waters of the upper Churnet formerly flowed down this valley and into the Trent at Norton Green. The small Endon Brook is something of a misfit now in this large valley.

9. At the second set of locks, cross a bridge. After 20 yards along a lane, take a stile and ascend through trees, eventually emerging on Edgefield Lane.

Turn right, then after 200 yards turn left as the road descends to the right. Walk up the surfaced track until you can enter a field by a stile. Turn right to walk along the edge of the field to enter Tinsters Wood by a stile. Cross to the east side of the wood.



This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. Licence No. 100018384. 2009.

Look out for the Lapwing emblem on a yellow arrow that marks the way.

0 100 200 300 400 metres



3. Turn down Judgefield Lane, taking special care to avoid the traffic on this narrow road as it winds down the hill to the dam. Knipersley Reservoir forms the core of Greenway Bank Country Park. The lower reservoir was constructed in 1827 to provide water for the Caldron Canal System.

10. Keeping to the east side of the wood, follow a narrow and twisting path through the undergrowth. This ancient woodland comprises fine Birch, Rowan, Oak and Holly trees - a relic of the original wildwood which covered the district. Emerge onto a track and follow it to the village. Cross Fairfield Avenue and continue over two stiles to arrive back at High Lane.

How to get there

Follow the B5051 for 1 mile from its junction with the A53 Stoke to Leek road at Endon. The walk starts up Sandy Lane from the junction of Leek Road with High Lane at the heart of the village. Limited roadside parking is available - please park considerately. For details of bus services to access the walk telephone the public transport Traveline on 0871 200 2233.

Old routes, new routes

On this walk you will encounter various routes used by man over the centuries.

In prehistoric times much of this landscape would have been wooded. Early travellers chose to use tracks following ridges of high land such as that running north-south through Brown Edge. Only in recent times has the flat land of the valley floors been drained. These were areas to be avoided, consisting as they did of marsh and alder carr. Travellers from the north could have forded the Endon Brook before continuing southwards by way of Baddeley Edge and Wetley Moor.

Early industrialists made use of the valley when they had the Caldon Canal routed through the Stockton Brook gap on its way east to the Churnet Valley and Froghall. Completed in 1777 it allowed the transport of limestone from the quarries at Caudon Low and brought much-needed water from the Moorlands to into the main Trent and Mersey Canal system.

Unlike the canal, the old road from Newcastle to Leek (now the B5051) avoided the valley, running instead through Norton Green and Brown Edge. One hundred and fifty years ago it had fallen into such a state of disrepair that the Uttoxeter and Blythe Marsh Trust had a turnpike road constructed between Cobridge and Endon.

Opened in 1846, this new road (now the A53) ran straight along the valley bottom.

The last element of the modern scene to appear was the railway. It pushed through the valley from Stoke-on-Trent to Leekbrook in 1867. Although the tracks remain, this branch line has not been in regular use since 1988.

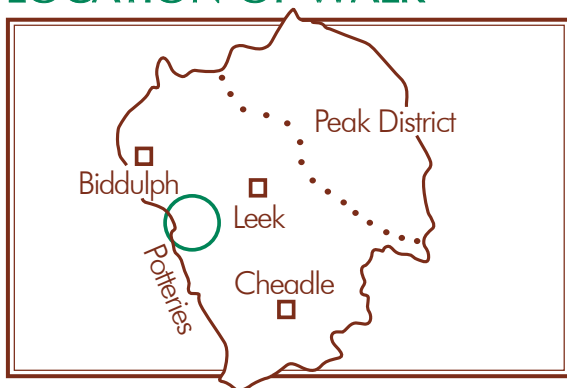
Enjoy the walk

The route is approximately 6 miles (9km) long following the high ground which runs north through Brown Edge. The walk continues down the green vale of the Head of Trent to Norton Green and returns along the Caldon Canal to Stockton Brook and then back to Brown Edge. A short section of the route lies within the City of Stoke-on-Trent. Allow some three hours to complete the walk. The area is covered by 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map No. 258 Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The Parks and Countryside Service

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's Parks and Countryside Service are responsible for the Moorlands Walks. It carries out way-marking, repairs and improvements such as surfacing, stiles, gates and bridges. While the information in this leaflet is believed to be correct at the time of publishing, details along the route may change and problems may sometimes occur. If after completing a route you have any information or comments to offer, the Parks and Countryside Service will be delighted to hear from you.

LOCATION OF WALK



Remember, these paths cross private land.
Please follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Operational Services,
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council,
Moorlands House,
Stockwell Street,
Leek,
Staffordshire Moorlands,
ST13 6HQ.

Tel: 0345 605 3010

E-mail: countryside@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk
Web: www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/sm/parks