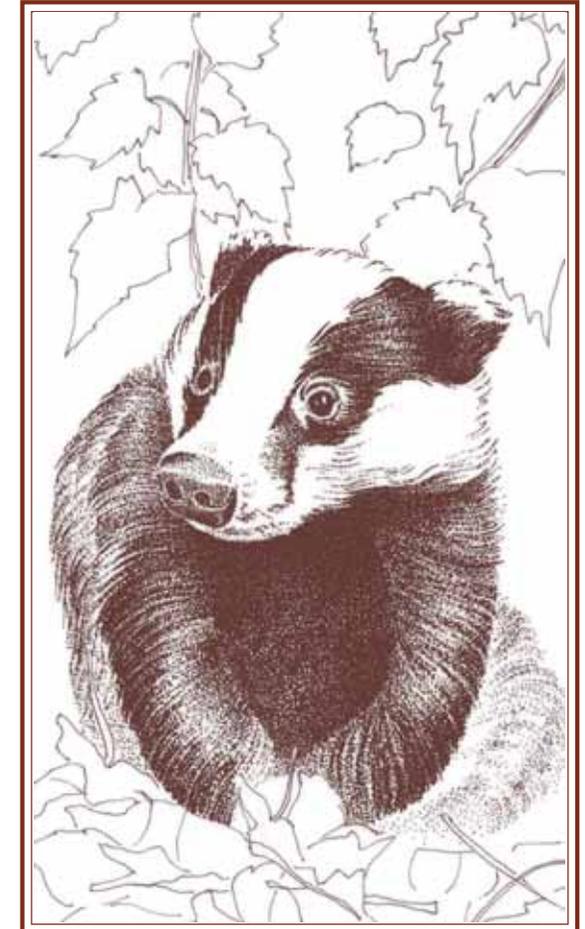
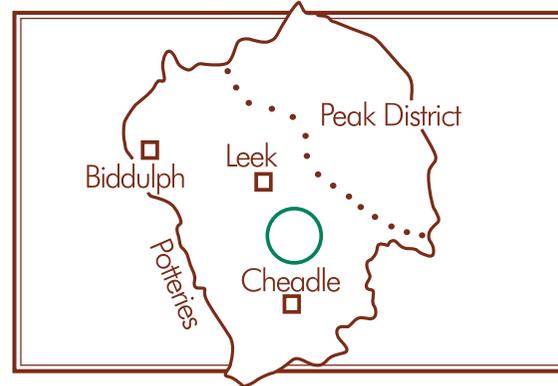


Churnet Country

FROM KINGSLEY TO CONSALL



LOCATION OF WALK



How to get there

Kingsley is on the A52, Stoke-on-Trent to Ashbourne road. On entering the village from Stoke, turn left at the right hand bend onto Hazlescross Road. After 250m the road widens where limited parking is available along its sides. For bus information telephone 0871 200 22 33.

Woodlands Past and Present

The valley of the River Churnet is considered one of Staffordshire's most beautiful landscapes. The slopes of Kingsley and Consall are thick with woodland; largely of oak and birch, holly and hazel. In the tranquillity of these woods, wildlife flourishes and it is difficult to imagine that the area was, for centuries, exploited for its timber and mineral resources.

Since the fourteenth century, iron ore was mined and smelted locally. Charcoal burners coppiced the woodlands - they cut trees to a stump or 'stool' from which a mass of new shoots would sprout. These were then made into charcoal for use in primitive furnaces. The woods were hence a renewable resource, whilst providing an excellent habitat for nesting birds and small mammals.

Although the area has hardly been disturbed in the last century, evidence of these activities remain: Coppices of 'introduced' sycamore, ash trees on disturbed mine workings and heathland on cleared ground.

At Ruelow, the semi-natural woodland has been completely replaced with conifers. Here the 'Cherry-eye' mine produced huge quantities of iron ore in the nineteenth century. It was named after the condition of miners who worked with the red dusty ore.

Enjoy the Walk

The 2½-hour walk is approximately 4 miles long, crossing through the Churnet Valley at Cherry-eye and Consall. Some steep climbs and descents reward you with magnificent views over the valley. The Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 259, Derby, Uttoxeter, Ashbourne and Cheadle may be used.

Remember these paths cross private land.
Please:

- Keep your dog under control
- Fasten all gates behind you
- Take all your litter home
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Follow the country code

For comments or more information please contact:

The Parks and Countryside Service
at

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

Tel: 0845 605 3010

E-mail: countryside@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

Web: www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk



1. Take a track opposite the haulage depot on Hazlescross Road onto a path between hedges. Bear slightly left across the first field and head for the far left corner of the second. Continue on to and down through the woods. Cross the lane and descend steeply. An excellent view of the valley reveals the River Churnet, railway and canal.

2. Pass under the railway bridge and over the footbridge to the canal. Turn left and continue along the towpath to Cherry-eye Bridge, looking out for evidence of coppicing opposite. Cross over the bridge by way of a stile on the left then bear right across the small field of ant hills to enter Ruelow Wood.

3. Climb steeply through the woods keeping left at both path junctions. Listen out for coal tits and tree creepers feeding noisily in the conifers. At the top, cross the field but not the next stile. Turn left along the wall to a gate then continue onto Booths Wood. This finger of woodland, extending from the valley, shelters wildlife within farmland.

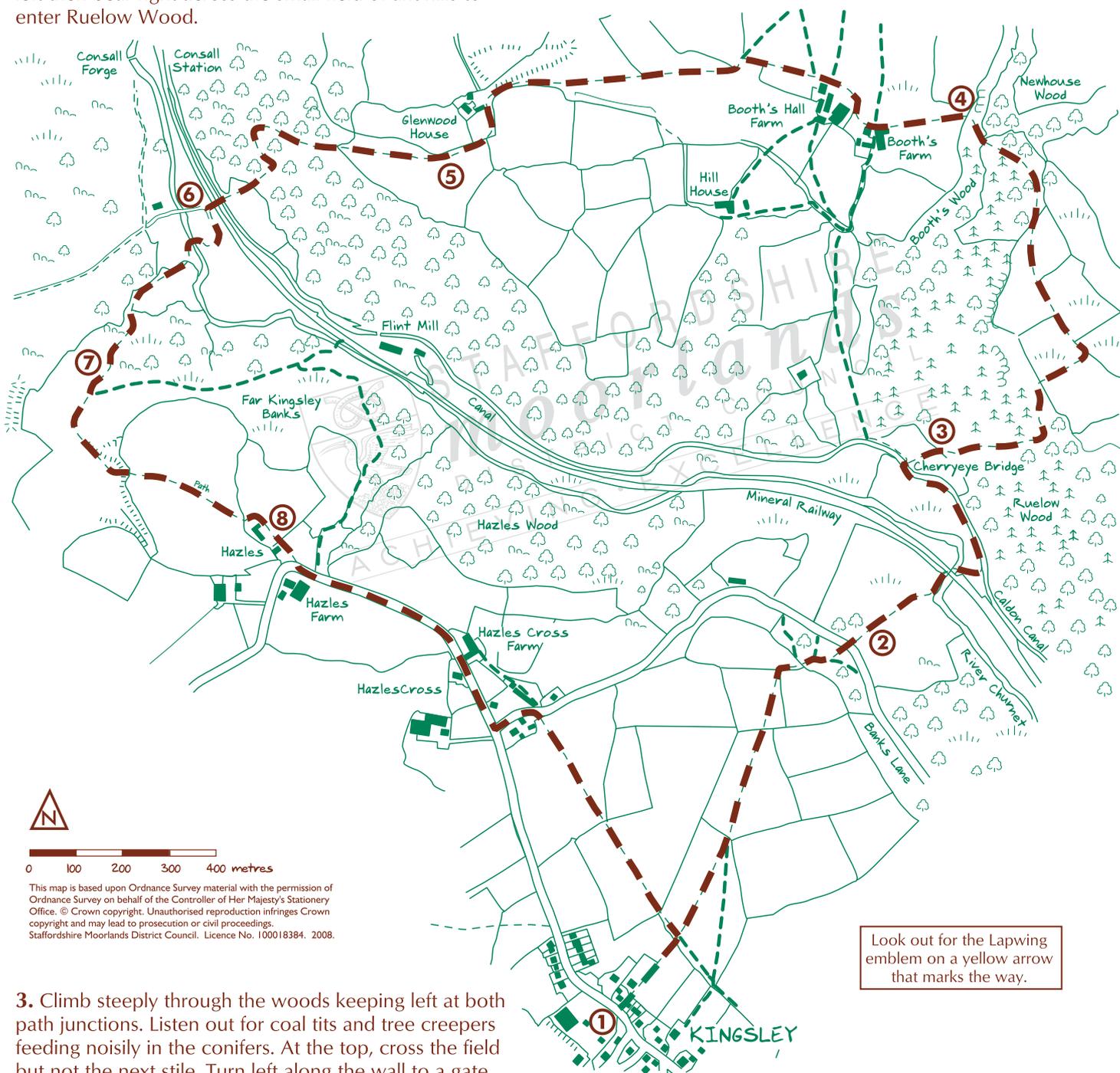
4. Leaving the wood, head uphill. Keep to the right of Booths Farm to meet a track then cross over the wall opposite. Stay again to the right through Booths Hall and as the track bends right carry straight on along the field edge. After the stile, bear hard right towards a round water trough, and continue to another track. Turn right and arriving at Glenwood, turn left.

5. In the next field follow the hedgeline right and cross a stile into Booths Wood. Bear right and follow a well-defined path down the hill. You will now pass through RSPB and Consall nature reserves, boasting 70 species of birds, 15 mammals and 16 butterflies.

6. In the valley, cross over the bridge and take the stile to the left. Follow the path over the footbridge and then bear left to another bridge. The path then follows a small stream where marsh marigold and butterbur may be seen in spring.

7. There is a steady climb up the hill to Hazles, turn right at the path junctions then after 20m fork left. Bracken is a problem on these heathy slopes, preventing ground species from flourishing. Crossing a stile at the top, keep the hedgeline on your right and at Hazles, follow the fenceline around the left of the property to the lane.

8. Turn left and after ½ mile (600m) turn left again at Hazlescross. The path over the fields back to Kingsley is on the right after a small group of houses. Cross several fields and turn right back into the village.



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

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. 2008.