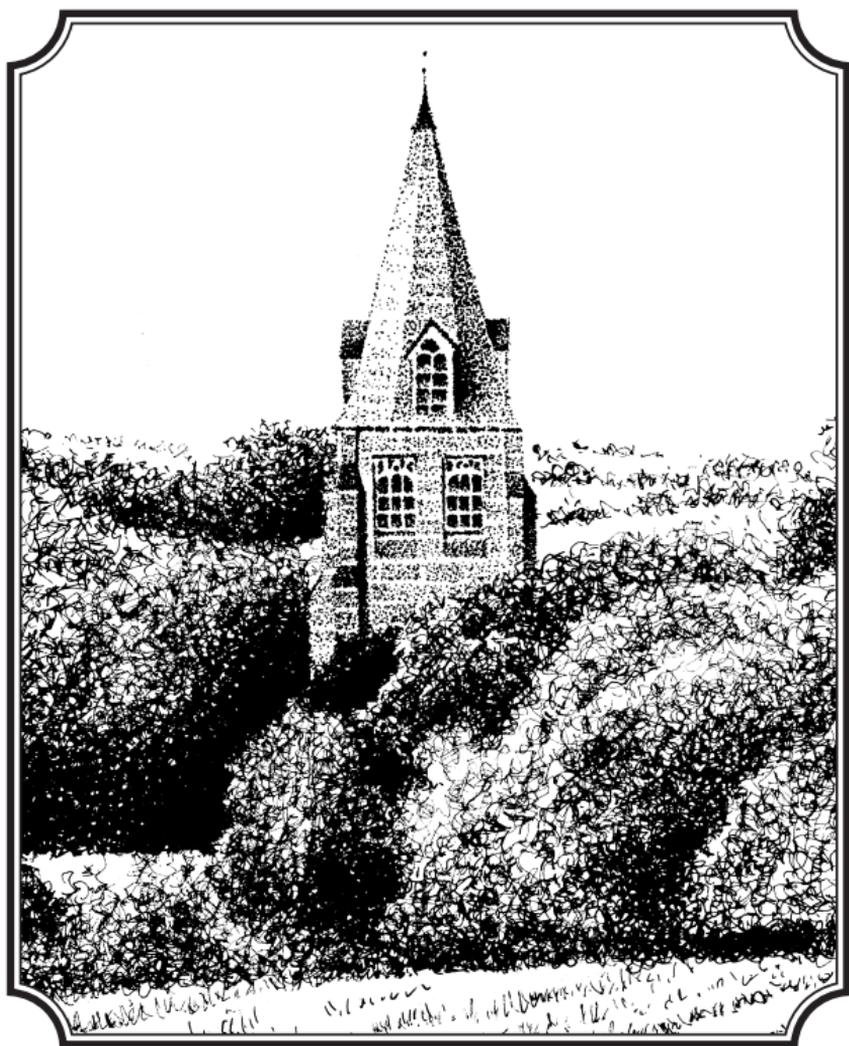


COUNTRY PARK TRAILS

THE
LONGSDON
—• WALK •—

*Leek to Longsdon via
Ladderedge Country Park*



STAFFORDSHIRE
moorlands
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ACHIEVING • EXCELLENCE

ENJOY THE WALK

The Longsdon Walk is 4½ miles long (7 km) and is mainly along easy roads and tracks with a few harder sections across fields. Allow 3-3½ hours to complete the walk. Stout footwear should be worn as the ground may be muddy and slippery in places. The walk is not waymarked.

The Ordnance Survey Explorer map OL24 'The Peak District - White Peak Area' covers this area.

If you have any comments on this walk or would like further information on other walks in the Staffordshire Moorlands, please contact the Countryside Service on 0845 6053010.

BACKGROUND

Ladderedge Country Park covers an area of 70 acres with a variety of different wildlife habitats including open fields, woodland, marshland and streams. The Country Park is open to public access.

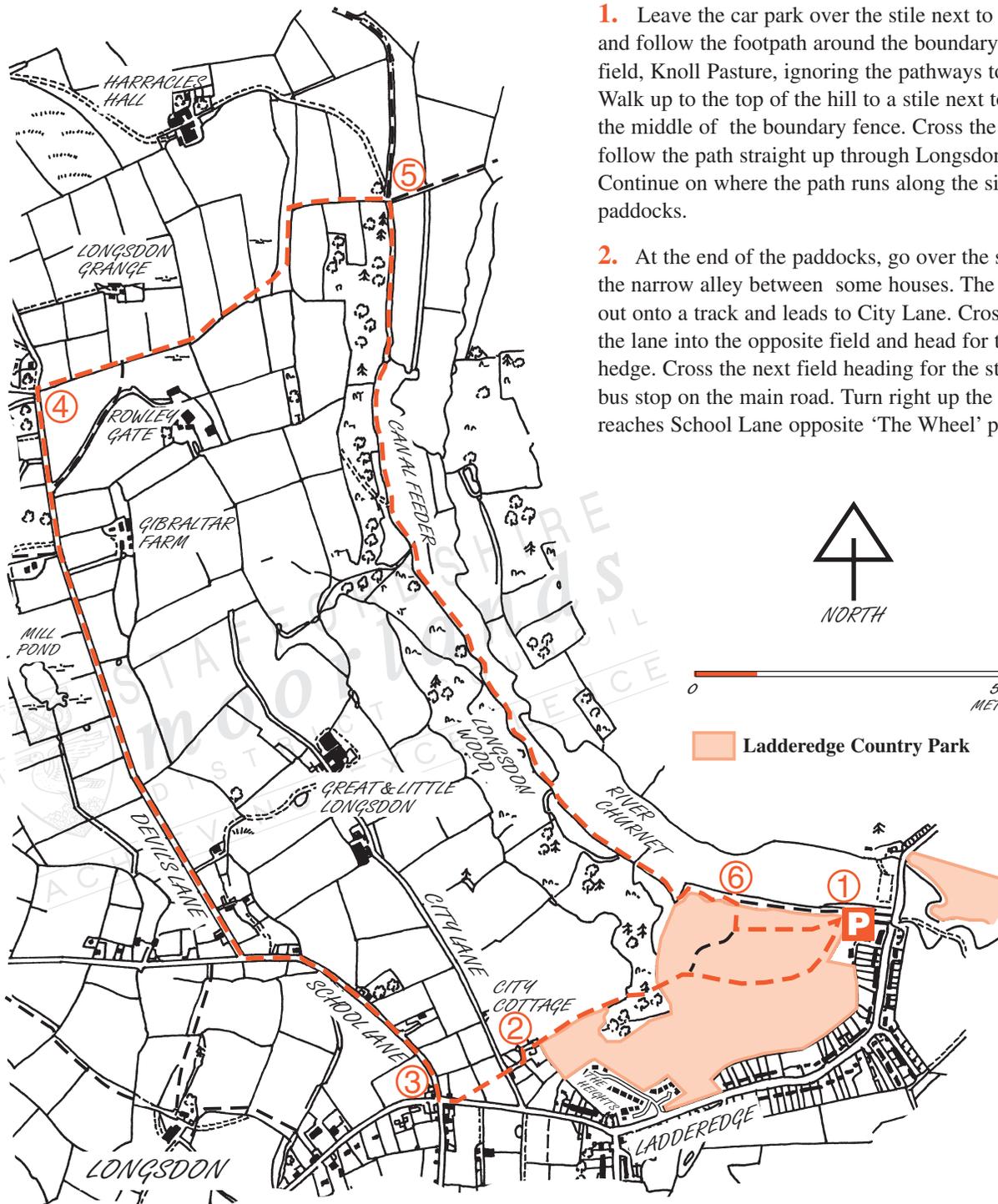
Longsdon Wood, at the northern end of the park, is believed to have been wooded continuously from before 1600AD and is classed as semi-natural ancient woodland. The wood is home to many species of flora and fauna, including the beautiful Autumn crocus. The heronry includes more than 20 nests annually.

The canal feeder, which runs along the bottom boundary of the park and woods, feeds the Leek canal with water from Rudyard Reservoir. The canal system was built by John Rennie at the start of the 19th century.

ADVICE FOR ROAD WALKING

Always walk on the pavement but where there is no footpath walk in single file, face the traffic and walk on the right hand side of the road. In poor light or at night always wear something bright or reflective.

When walking with children, walk between them and the traffic. Always keep your dog on a lead.

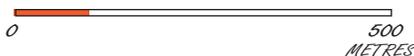


1. Leave the car park over the stile next to the field gate, and follow the footpath around the boundary of the main field, Knoll Pasture, ignoring the pathways to your left. Walk up to the top of the hill to a stile next to a field gate in the middle of the boundary fence. Cross the stile and follow the path straight up through Longsdon Wood. Continue on where the path runs along the side of two paddocks.

2. At the end of the paddocks, go over the stile and follow the narrow alley between some houses. The alley comes out onto a track and leads to City Lane. Cross straight over the lane into the opposite field and head for the gap in the hedge. Cross the next field heading for the stile next to the bus stop on the main road. Turn right up the road until it reaches School Lane opposite 'The Wheel' pub.

3. Turn right up School Lane and follow the road for 1/2 mile until you reach Devil's Lane, a turning on the right hand side. Go up Devil's Lane and follow it for about 1 mile, until you reach a squeeze stile on the right. About half way along the road is a Mill Pond on the left which is home to a variety of waterfowl.

4. Turn right through the squeeze stile and follow the path, keeping close to the dry stone wall on your right hand side. Continue through a number of fields. On a clear day there are excellent views of Rudyard Lake over to the left. Continue following the path down the hill until it joins a farm track. Bear left, following the track for about 150m, and go through the squeeze stile on the right. Follow the wall down the hill until the path crosses the feeder canal channel. Turn right into Cowhay Wood, a Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve.



 Ladderedge Country Park



Lesser Celandine

5. Follow the path along the canal feeder for about 1 1/2 miles as it runs alongside the wood. This is an ideal place to see woodland birds such as Treecreepers and Woodpeckers.

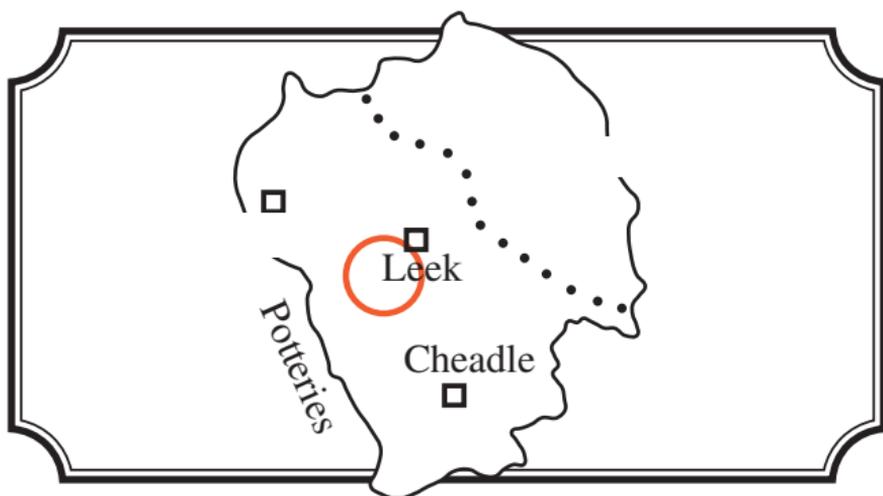
6. After 1 1/2 miles, the path crosses a small bridge over the canal feeder to take you back uphill to Knoll Pasture. Once in the pasture, the path bears left and runs along the top of the bank above the feeder and back to the car park. Alternatively, follow the feeder canal path back to the car park.

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HOW TO GET THERE

Ladderedge Country Park is off the A53 Newcastle to Leek road, about 1 mile south west of Leek Town Centre. The walk commences from a car park reached via a track on the right hand side of the road, if travelling from Leek, between the Staffordshire County Council Highways Depot and the golf course. The car park is a 10-15 minute walk from Leek town centre.

Location of walk



COUNTRY CODE

When out walking, please follow the Country Code.
Please:

- Keep to public paths
- Clean up after your dog and keep it under close control
- Fasten all gates behind you
- Use stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Take your litter home
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Take special care on country roads

**Parks and Countryside Service,
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Moorlands House,
Stockwell Street, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 6HQ**

Telephone: 0845 6053010

www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/countryside

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Designed and printed by White Peak Design Telephone 01588 640442

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