

How to get there

Oakamoor is on the B5417, 3 miles to the north-east of Cheadle. Parking is available in the picnic site which is on the right when entering the village from the Cheadle direction.

Buses run from Stoke and Cheadle: - For information telephone Traveline 0871 200 22 33.

Historical Background

Oakamoor is a quiet village in the wooded valley of the River Churnet. In the nineteenth century it was, however a busy industrial site with limestone works and a large copper factory established by Thomas Bolton in 1797. Here, wire was produced for the first transatlantic cable.

The main road from Cheadle was part of the Blythe Bridge to Thorpe turnpike and, although now demolished, there was a toll house adjacent to the Cricketers Arms.

At this time the Alton Towers Estate extended to Oakamoor and the 15th Earl of Shrewsbury created leisure routes into the forests so that he might tour his estate.

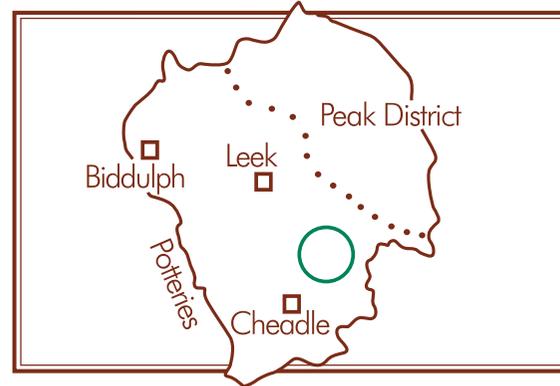
Much older than these carriageways, were old pack horse routes which networked the area from the Middle Ages well into the eighteenth century. These narrow 'green lanes' were vital links when horses were the only effective means of transporting goods over rough terrain. Most have now been swallowed by modern roads but small sections still exist.

Enjoy the Walk

The walk is approximately 3 miles (4½ km) long and you should allow 1½ to 2 hours to enjoy the wildlife and scenery. The Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 259 'Derby, Uttoxeter, Ashbourne and Cheadle' and Landranger 128 map 'Derby and Burton upon Trent' may be used.

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

LOCATION OF WALK



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

Web: www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/countryside

E-mail: countryside@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

Tel: 0845 605 3010

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

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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS WALKS

Woods and Ways

A WALK AROUND OAKAMOOR



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ACHIEVING · EXCELLENCE

To start the walk, turn right out of the car park over the bridge and left at the Cricketers Arms. Head towards the Lord Nelson and bear right up the hill.

1. Just above the church, look out for a footpath on the left and follow its direction into the woods.

2. Follow the waymarkers through the woods (straight on at the first junction, fork right at the second and right again at the top of the bank). Continue uphill through the plantation to a stile. The narrow track lined with huge Beech, Oak and Scots Pine suggests that there was once a more natural woodland here.

3. The path leaves the woods and crosses a field to the lane. Turn right and, soon after, left up some stone steps. Follow the hedge line through several fields until you join another lane. Turn right.

4. After approximately 1/3 mile (500m) bear right at the second of two paths onto a green lane. This was probably an old pack horse route on which goods such as copper ore, stone and coal were transported to and from Oakamoor.

5. Follow the green road until you reach a squeeze stile on the right. Cross into the field and stay close to the wall until you reach open ground. This small heathy area is a distinctive habitat of heather, bilberry and grasses; quite a haven for birds, insects and reptiles. On a spring day it is also possible to catch sight of young foxes playing on the hillside.

6. Carry on down the bank, taking a right turn when you reach the stoned trackway. Continue along the track where there are splendid views of Cotton College. This was built at the beginning of the eighteenth century as a country manor, then used as a Roman Catholic boys school between 1873 and 1987. Look out for Cotton Dell Nature Reserve, this is managed by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and there is an unsurfaced circular walk around the site.

7. After passing a small cottage on the left, the path bears right up the bank into the woods. This old road once linked several isolated small holdings between Garston and Oakamoor but is now only passable by foot.

8. Look out for a gate on the left which brings you to a narrow walled section of the track. This passes Orchard Farm on the left and joins the road which can be followed left down to Oakamoor.



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