

Points of Interest

Tucklesholme Nature Reserve

Since gravel extraction ended in 2018, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust have been working to transform this former gravel pit into a wetland habitat. Shallow water, reedbeds, sandy shingle and wet grassland areas provide key habitats for breeding bird species such as little ringed plover, oystercatcher and lapwing.

The Type 24 Pillbox

Is a small fortification built during the early years of the Second World War. It was designed to have a garrison of seven consisting of five light machine guns and two riflemen. Pillboxes in the Transforming the Trent Valley landscape were part of Stop Line Number 5. They were built at strategic points along the rivers, particularly overlooking bridges and shallows where Nazi forces could have crossed the rivers.



Branston Water Park

This site was originally an open cast gravel pit and is now home to many species of plants and animals, both common and nationally rare. The reed bed is particularly important to wildlife as it is one of the largest in Staffordshire.

Being a responsible visitor

- Please respect other users as you walk this route
- Take your litter home and dispose of it carefully
- Dogs can scare or harm farm animals so please keep your dog on a lead
- Please pick up your dog poo and put it in a bin.

The Trent Valley Way is a long distance, way-marked walking route extending to 170 miles from its source near Stoke-on-Trent, to the Humber estuary.

It connects towns and villages, wildlife and history, enhancing wellbeing, attracting visitors to the area and contributing to local economies.

A new section of 43 miles (69km) between Rugeley and Shardlow has been made accessible by Trent Rivers Trust working as part of the Transforming the Trent Valley landscape project. Maps can be found online

The Trent Rivers Trust website
www.trentriverstrust.org

Transforming the Trent Valley
www.thetrentvalley.org



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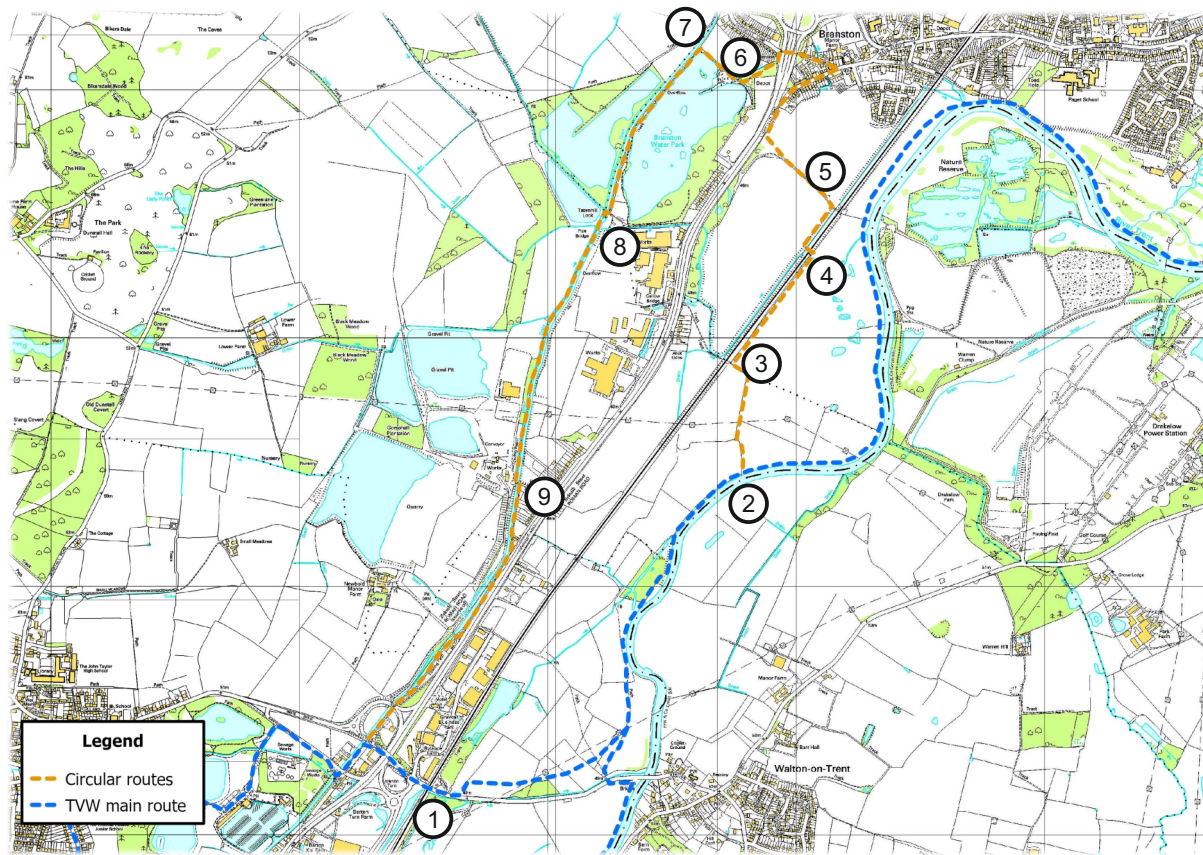
Tucklesholme & Branston Circular Walk

5.5 miles (8.8km)



This flat walk follows the Trent Valley Way along the River Trent and the Trent and Mersey canal.





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1. Follow the blue Trent Valley Way disc to the right of the lake along a wide gravel pathway. Walk under the electricity pylons then through a kissing gate. You will soon join a path alongside the River Trent.
2. After 1.25 miles, at the end of the lake just through a large gap in a hedge, turn left off the Trent Valley Way onto the National Forest Way (marked with a disc)
3. Just after passing a bench and before the railway line, turn right onto a wide grassed path, parallel to the railway line (1.55 miles).
4. After 10 minutes cross over the railway line via the footbridge, and continue along the other side of the track.
5. Turn left into the Branston Leas development onto a tarmaced path, and follow this until you reach a large wooden fence, where you turn right. Pass to the left of The Gate Inn onto the road and follow this to Court Farm Lane, where you turn left towards a subway under the A38 road. Go through the subway, which bends to the left and emerges at Branston Water Park.



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Route details

Approximate time: 2hrs 30 mins.

Parking: Free car park at Tucklesholme nature reserve, or at Branston Water Park

Refreshments: Pubs in Walton-on-Trent and Hub café at Branston Water Park

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 245 (Burton upon Trent, Swadlincote, Ashby-de-la-Zouch & Coalville)

In this flat 5.5mile walk partly alongside the River Trent and the Trent and Mersey canal, expect to see plentiful birds, trains and boats. Walking along well-defined paths, there are steps and a footbridge over a railway line. Care should be taken when walking along the road over the A38.

There is a café half way round the circuit with adjacent playground and the parking at Tucklesholme is free with plenty of space. There are several benches for you to take a break.

Location Map



6. Take the right path next to the Water Park sign and follow the lake path clockwise. You may wish to visit the Hub Café or the childrens' playground here. You are halfway round the circuit here.
7. Head for the exit at the far-right hand side of the car park, to the Trent & Mersey canal opposite Burton Rugby Club.
8. The remaining part of the walk is mainly on the canal towpath. Cross the canal bridge at Tatenhill Lock, and cross back over at the next bridge (4.25 miles).
9. Walk along the towpath and under another bridge but at the 5 mile mark exit the towpath and walk to the left of a lorry park and up to the road. Turn right and pass over the A38 and continue on the path until you reach the roundabout with business parks either side. Go straight ahead signposted Walton on Trent and walk along the path to the right of the Walton road for a few minutes until you see Tucklesholme Nature Reserve on your left.

