

Points of Interest

Bishton Hall

Bishton Hall is a Grade II* listed building. Though the current house dates back to the mid-18th century, parts of it are older. There has long been a structure on the site and Bishton was mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086.

Families that have lived at the hall through the centuries include three former High Sheriffs of Staffordshire – John Sneyd, Cecil Stafford Northcote and John Sparrow. The latter was a lawyer and magistrate who purchased Bishton around 1776.

In 1954 the Stafford-Northcote's opened St Bede's school at Bishton Hall. It remained a school until 2018. It is currently home to Hanson's Auctioneers.

There is a tearoom and free access to the beautiful landscaped gardens, which feature one of the best Doric screens in the country.



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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Wolseley Circular Walk

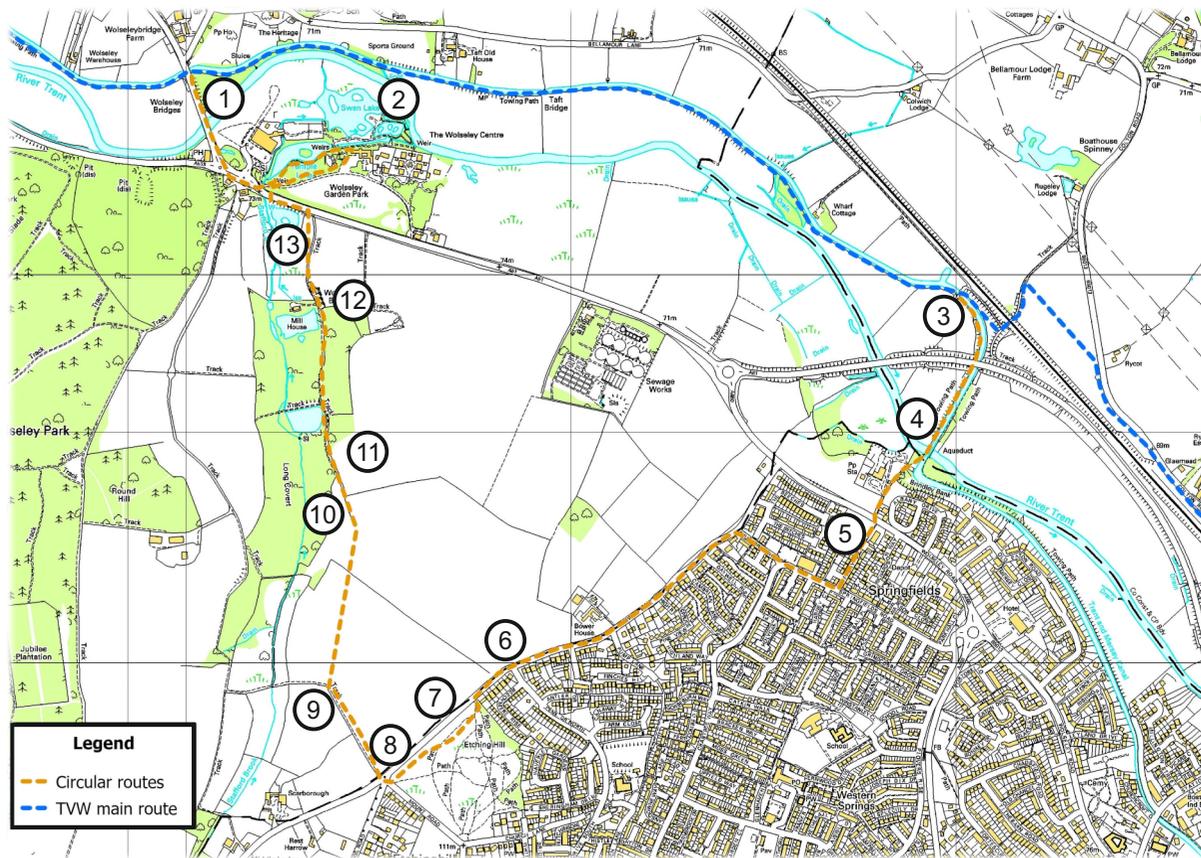
4.3 miles (7km)



This gentle walk follows the Trent Valley Way and canal towpath to the steps at Brindley Bank.

After a short stretch along roads towards Etchinghill, the route follows a bridleway across open fields and woodland before returning to Wolseley.





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1. Follow the pedestrian route from the Wolsley Centre and turn right onto the A51 footpath to Wolsley Bridge. Proceed over the River Trent and cross the road to the steps down to the canal towpath. Turn right under the bridge.
2. Continue along the towpath and cross the narrow metal footbridge over the weir. Bishton Hall and then the Taft Christian Centre can be seen on the opposite side of the canal.
3. Stay on the right-hand side towpath at Bridge 68. Do not cross the bridge - that way continues along the Trent Valley Way and through Rugeley. Instead we will continue to follow the canal.
4. After crossing the bridge over the River Trent at Brindley Bank Aqueduct, note the Canal & River Trust interpretation sign (site of the 'Bloody Steps'). Take the steps and path alongside the pumping station that leads up to the A460, Wolsley Road.

5. Cross the road and take the walkway alongside the children's play area into the housing estate. At the end of Jeffrey Close turn right onto Springfields Road and continue past the Co-op store along Shugborough Road. At the end turn left onto Bower Lane.

6. Continue on this road, passing Bower House on the right.
There is an option here to take the public footpath at the gate opposite Penk Drive North. This leads across the fields over stiles through a small wood and down another field, before re-joining the end of the main route (13) and crossing the A51 to complete the walk.

7. Turn left into Etching Hill Wood passing an interpretation board and then immediately right to follow the path roughly parallel to the road which eventually drops down to a barrier on Mount Road. (This is instead of continuing along Bower Lane which is very busy and has no pavement beyond this point).
8. Turn right to the finger post opposite Mount Road on Bower Lane. Go into the field and follow the wide track keeping to the hedgerow on the left.
9. At the next finger post, take the path on the right and walk across the field. (*no sharp right or sharp left turn*)

10. Bear left at an opening into the wood, leaving the field boundary at this point, and then go through a metal gate a little further on.

11. Continue along the path, bearing left past a pool.

12. There are some small caves in the sandstone rock opposite Mill House but there is no public access. The Cannock Chase Geotrail provides more information on the rocks, landscape and the geological industrial heritage of the area: CCGmapsideside.pdf (staffs-ecology.org.uk).

13. Continue to the end of the track, past the finger post and cross over the A51 to return to the starting point at the Wolsley Centre.

Route details

Approximate time: 1 hour 30 minutes (40 minutes for shorter version)

Parking: Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre, Wolsley Centre, ST17 0WT. A small donation is requested. Visit the website staffs-wildlife.org.uk and check the information board for opening and closing times

Refreshments: Visitor Centre, pub and café at Wolsley Bridge; Local Store at Springfields Road.

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 244 (Cannock Chase & Chasewater)

Easy Walking along well defined paths, although some sections may be muddy after rain.

Steps, but no stiles to climb. Care should be taken when walking along narrower sections of towpath and along lanes without footpaths.

Location Map



Shorter Route

For a shorter circular walk (3.5km, 40 minutes) start at this finger post and follow the route from stage 13 in reverse through to stage 6. Here, at the finger post on Bower Lane's intersection with Mount Road, take the footpath across the field (6A) for panoramic views across the Trent Valley. Go through the small wood (6B) on Chapel Hill and down another field to return to the finger post at the A51 (13). Note: this route has stiles.

