

Short Loops

Route Descriptions

Short Loop 1 SHORT LOOP 1

Around Congleton (8.6km / 5.4miles)

Follow Points 1 to 10 (see overleaf), onto the Biddulph Valley Way. Then:

After going under the railway and shortly before the canal aqueduct **T-R** and up to the canal, then **T-R** along the towpath with the canal to the left.

Follow the canal for 1km and change sides at the "turnover bridge", number 76.

After 500m at the next turnover bridge number 77 cross over, leave the canal and continue on Lambert's Lane.

Ignore paths to left and right and after 800m go over a footbridge, ignore path left, then after a further 300m take the path just to the right of some old closed iron gates.

At the end of Lamberts Lane, where it meets Fol Hollow (tarmac lane), go straight across uphill on a wooded path to the Mere. Walk round the Mere (to right or left) to return to the Visitor Centre.

Short Loop 2 SHORT LOOP 2

Rode Heath Ramble, (8.8 km / 5.5 miles)

From the Salt Line car park, **T-L** onto the road, then soon **T-L** onto a track up to the canal and **T-R** and continue with the canal on the left for 4 km to the Broughton Arm, to the left. Go over the bridge number 139 for refreshments.

Then follow Points 37 to 47 (see overleaf) to return to the Salt Line car park.

Short Loop 3 SHORT LOOP 3

Sandbach to Brereton Heath Local Nature Reserve (16km / 10 miles)

Park at Lower Waitrose car park, near Points 62/63.

Follow Points 63 to 72 (see overleaf).

At Point 72 **T-R** onto Pillar Box Lane, keep right at a fork, go over the M6, then **T-R** onto a footpath following the waymarks for 500m and, soon after going over a brook, go left at a tee junction of footpaths. Follow the way markers for 700m and **T-L** at a tee junction of footpaths, to emerge onto the A50, opposite The Bear's Head pub at Brereton Green. Cross the A50 when safe and call in or pass the Bear's Head on the left and go through the North Lodge archway on a road to Brereton Hall. After 700m pass St. Oswald's Church and the Hall on the left and stay on the bridleway, ignoring footpaths after 250m to the left and after a further 0.5km to the right to reach a junction of roads (Bagmere Lane, Brereton Heath Lane and Davenport Lane) and cross over to enter Brereton Heath Nature Reserve.

Bear left and follow the path to the car park and the Visitor Centre with toilets. See map point 118.

Have a walk round the Country Park with the pool to the right, to return to the junction of roads (Bagmere Lane, Brereton Heath Lane and Davenport Lane).

Follow Bagmere Lane for about 1km, cross School Lane and take a footpath opposite. Follow waymarks for 800m to emerge onto the A50, and **T-L**.

On the A50, after 100m, at a footpath to the right cross with care and follow the path between hedges. Keep the left boundary to the left, over a footbridge to continue with a conifer hedge on the left, fence on the right. **T-R** at the end of the fence, follow the horse track round two sides of this field (the official footpath is diagonally across the field, but the track may be easier), and at the opposite diagonal corner, through a **K-G** to a second field. Go diagonally across this field and through a gap into a third field and diagonally across to a wooded boundary bending into the field, over a stile and footbridge onto an enclosed grassy footpath.