

# THE MOAT HOUSE TEDDESLEY PARK AND CANAL TRAIL, ACTON TRUSSELL, STAFFORDSHIRE



Moderate Terrain

4.5 miles  
Circular  
2 hours

150914



## Access Notes



1. The walking route has a few steady gradients and follows a mixture of field and woodland paths which can get quite muddy after rain and in winter.
2. There are a couple of stretches of road walking, including one section along the edge of a fairly busy road, so take particular care of traffic at these points. You will need to negotiate gates, footbridges and six stiles, some of which are entirely enclosed with wire fencing so dogs will need a lift over.
3. You are likely to come across sheep in most of the fields and maybe cattle in one field, so take particular care with dogs.

**The Moat House is a 14th century moated manor house which today houses an award winning pub, restaurant and hotel where you can be assured of a warm, friendly welcome.**

A 4.5 mile circular trail from The Moat House in Acton Trussell in Staffordshire. The walking route explores the adjacent rolling countryside taking in the farmland, local villages, Teddesley Park and a stretch of the pretty Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. You will have chance to see 1,000 year old oak trees plus a former home of JRR Tolkien which later featured in his writings.

## Getting there

Acton Trussell is a small village located about 4 miles south of Stafford in Staffordshire, and accessed from Junction 13 of the M6. The walk starts and finishes from The Moat House, a hotel and pub on Lower Penkridge Road.

Approximate post code **ST17 0RJ**.

## Walk Sections



### Start to Plashes Farm



Standing with your back to the entrance to the pub building within the hotel complex (facing the picnic tables and lake), turn left and follow the tarmac access lane out through the gate to reach a side road. Turn right for just a few yards to reach a T-junction with the main village road. Turn left and then almost immediately turn right along Barn End Road.

You'll find this and many more walks at [iFootpath.com](http://iFootpath.com). All iFootpath walks are available to download on the iFootpath App, allowing you to follow your real-time progress on the live satellite map as you are walking (no more getting lost!). You can also add your own comments, ratings and photos to each walk. If you notice any changes required to this walk please contact us at [walks@ifootpath.com](mailto:walks@ifootpath.com)



As you reach the telephone box in front of the pretty half-timbered old school house, turn right onto Meadow Lane, signed for Bednall and Cannock. Across the hedge on the right you will be able to see St James' Church in Acton Trussell beyond the fields.

Follow the quiet lane, taking care of occasional traffic, until you reach a T-junction with Teddesley Road. Take particular care here as this next road is fairly busy and the traffic can be fast moving. Turn left along the road edge, using the grass verge wherever possible. Follow the road as it swings steadily right and, just before a left-hand bend, turn right into the entrance drive for Plashes Farm (signed as a public footpath).



## 1 → 2 Plashes Farm to Cock Lane



Follow the access lane as it swings left, with an impressive line of poplar trees running on the right. Where the drive swings right, leave it and walk straight ahead to reach a stile, half-hidden in the hedge line. Cross the stile into the corner of a pasture (probably holding sheep). If you look diagonally right you will see a radio mast on the distant hills at Cannock Chase. Head for the telegraph pole which sits just to the left of this, at about 2 o'clock.

Cross a stile set within the wire fence to enter the next pasture and continue in the same direction to reach the far right-hand corner. Cross the footbridge and stile to enter the next pasture and walk straight ahead, following the hedge on the right. At the top of the field, pass through the open gateway and bear slightly right to continue following the hedge on the right. At about 11 o'clock you will see the tall spire of All Saints Church in Bednall.

Go ahead through the next open gateway and continue with the fence on the right to reach a stile in the corner ahead. Cross this and follow the enclosed path (which leads left and then right). Follow the stone and grass track, passing under old oak trees and between a handful of properties, to reach a T-junction with the road, Cock Lane.

## 2 → 3 Cock Lane to Teddesley Park

Should you wish to detour to explore the village of Bednall and visit the church, turn left here, otherwise, turn right along Cock Lane, leaving the village behind. Pass the entrance to Moors Covert Farm on the left and continue along the quiet lane for some distance further, enjoying the expansive views.

Where the track forks, keep right and then a little way along, when you reach a break in the hedge on the right, turn right onto the signed public footpath. Follow this path, part of the Staffordshire Way which follows the wide grass verge along the left-hand edge of a crop field. As you reach the start of the

power lines, fork left to cross the adjacent field at about 10 o'clock.

Across to the left you will see a few of the cottages that make up the hamlet of Gypsy Green. This small settlement holds an unlikely claim to fame. The author JRR Tolkien, known best for *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, lived here for a short time in 1918. Having served as an officer stationed at nearby Cannock Chase in 1915/16, it is thought that the surrounding countryside influenced his work in developing the idea of Middle Earth. His former home featured as Fladweth Amrod in his writings for *The Silmarillion*.

At the far side of the field, pass through the metal gate into a belt of woodland. Cross the wooden footbridge and join the boardwalk through the marshy woodland. Cross a second stream and then stay ahead in the same direction (through holly bushes). You will emerge to the edge of large open fields, the start of Teddesley Park Estate.

## 3 → 4 Teddesley Park to Park Gate Lock



Keep straight ahead on the obvious grass track which runs between the fields. (Take care with children and dogs as the fields may have electric fencing). At the crossroads with a farm track, go straight ahead, still following the Staffordshire Way, with a hedge on the left.

A little way along, across to the left you will see a very large, haggard and eerie-looking oak tree, one of several on the estate thought to be more than 1,000 years old. The estate once held Teddesley Hall, the main seat of the Littleton Baronets and then the Barons Hatherton, but the hall was demolished in the 1950s.

You will meet the end of a hedge, keep to the left of this following the grass track steadily downhill. The track gently winds ahead and then swings left across the bottom of the fields. About 100 yards later you will see a wooden footbridge



across the stream on the right. Cross this (via the pair of barrier stiles) and cross the next field diagonally left, heading for the telegraph pole visible in the gap within the tree line opposite.

Continue past this telegraph pole and you will emerge out to a small industrial area. Keep right, following the hedge on the right, to pass the brick built chandlers on the left. Cross the canal bridge alongside Park Gate Lock.

## 4 → 5 Park Gate Lock to End



Here, the route leaves the Staffordshire Way. After crossing the bridge turn right along the grass verge and then pass through the gap in the fence to reach the canal towpath. Turn left to follow the grass towpath with the canal on the right.

The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal is 46 miles long and was opened in 1772 to link the River Severn at Stourport with the Trent and Mersey Canal at Great Haywood. It formed part of the chief engineer James Brindley's 'Grand Cross' plan for waterways connecting Hull, Liverpool and Bristol. The canal was a thriving commercial success, carrying trade from the Staffordshire potteries down to Bristol.

Some way along, you will pass Shut Hill Lock on the right. Stay on the left-hand towpath to pass under Shut Hill Bridge. Soon afterwards, at about 1 o'clock, you will see St James' Church coming back into view confirming that your journey is nearing its end. Continue past the church and, soon afterwards, you will pass the back of The Moat House on the far bank.

You will soon come to the next bridge across the canal, Acton Moat Bridge. Leave the towpath just before this (up the slope to the left) and turn right to cross the canal bridge. Pass through the gate ahead and you will come to a T-junction with a residential street. Turn right for just a few paces and then right again into The Moat House for some well-earned hospitality.

### Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

### Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

