

Rails to Trails

Walks from Railway Stations in Staffordshire
and Cheshire

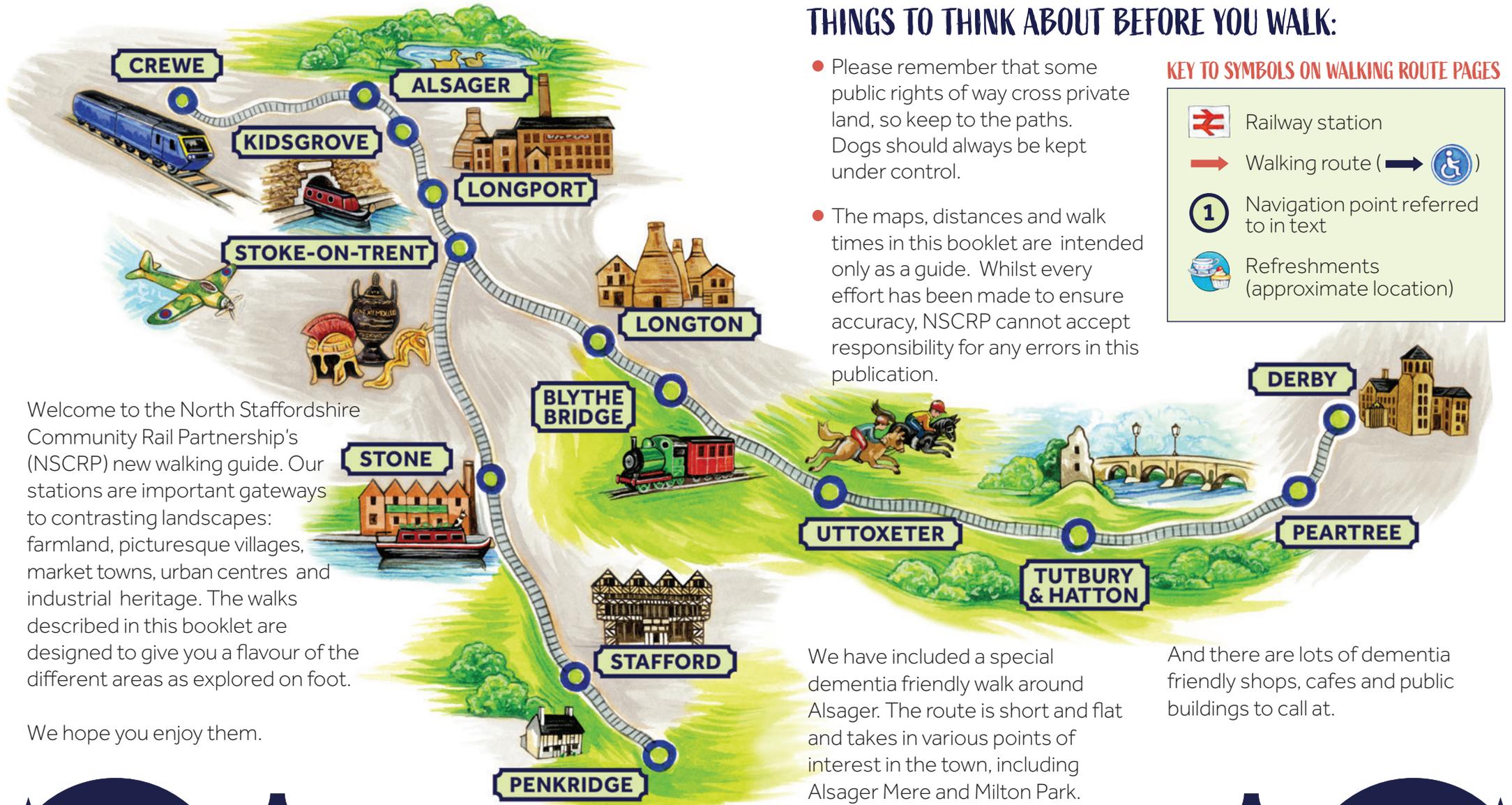


Produced by North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership (March 2021)
Explore more by train and discover what's on offer just a short
distance from our stations.

STATIONS OF THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

Always check train times before you head out for your walk.

Go to www.nationalrail.co.uk



Welcome to the North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership's (NSCRP) new walking guide. Our stations are important gateways to contrasting landscapes: farmland, picturesque villages, market towns, urban centres and industrial heritage. The walks described in this booklet are designed to give you a flavour of the different areas as explored on foot.

We hope you enjoy them.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE YOU WALK:

- Please remember that some public rights of way cross private land, so keep to the paths. Dogs should always be kept under control.
- The maps, distances and walk times in this booklet are intended only as a guide. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, NSCRP cannot accept responsibility for any errors in this publication.

KEY TO SYMBOLS ON WALKING ROUTE PAGES

-  Railway station
-  Walking route ()
-  1 Navigation point referred to in text
-  Refreshments (approximate location)

We have included a special dementia friendly walk around Alsager. The route is short and flat and takes in various points of interest in the town, including Alsager Mere and Milton Park.

And there are lots of dementia friendly shops, cafes and public buildings to call at.

DISTANCE: 3 miles / 4.8 km

TIME: Allow up to 1.5 hours

Muddy in parts with stiles.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS : Rough ground between 2 and 6 not suitable for wheelchair users.

Alsager gets its name from the Alsager family who owned manorial rights from 1258. It is recorded in the Domesday book as Eleacier.

- 1 Turn left out of the station along Audley Road.
- 2 After a few minutes turn right into Fanny's Croft. Follow the track for about 10 minutes to Bank House Farm. (Ignore farm track on the right after 3 minutes.)
- 3 At a metal farm gate turn right through a kissing gate. Continue, keeping the hedge to your left. Follow the path through 3 more kissing gates.
- 4 At a kissing gate by a tree in the hedge on your right, turn right to cross the field, keeping the pylons on your left. Then follow the field edge to a small wood where the path bends left and you go through the route's final kissing gate.
- 5 Turn left, keeping the hedge to your left.

- 6 Cross the stile, then turn right along a track and over a bridge across the railway.
- 7 After the bridge turn right along a small road past Hall Farm Shop and Café and The Old Mill.
- 8 Turn right onto Crewe Road and walk for about 10 minutes.

- 9 At the cross roads with Church Road, turn right to walk down Station Road.
- 10 After 5 minutes turn left to walk through Milton Park.

- 11 At the opposite end of the park, re-join Crewe Road and turn right.
- 12 At the traffic lights turn right along Sandbach Road South to the station.



Alsager

A dementia friendly walk

DISTANCE: 1 mile / 1.6 km

Pavements and well surfaced paths.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS : Wheelchair friendly.

This route is wheelchair friendly and takes in the peaceful beauty spots of Milton Park and Alsager Mere. In the town centre look out for shops and cafes with the dementia friendly logo in the window.

- 1 As you exit Alsager Station turn right onto Sandbach Road South, passing Cedars Medical Centre on your left.
- 2 Turn left into Station Road.
- 3 Crossing over Brookhouse Road, continue on with Milton Park on your right. Cross the road when you can.
- 4 Enter Milton Park at the gate entrance. If you have a picnic you can sit on one of the many benches around the park.
- 5 Take a look at the Sunken Garden, it is one of the original features of Milton Park. The original design was influenced by nearby Biddulph Grange Gardens.
- 6 Exit the Park and turn left along Crewe Road until you see the entrance to The B'hoys Gardens on the opposite side of the road.
- 7 These gardens lead down to The Mere.
- 8 Exit the gardens, turning left towards the town centre.
- 9 At the cross roads, cross over Sandbach Road North using the pedestrian crossing. You can rest here on the Civic Green benches.
- 10 To return to the station cross over Lawton Road using one of the pedestrian crossings, then walk back to the cross roads.
- 11 Turn left down Sandbach Road South and walk for about 10 minutes.



This walk was produced by Alsager Partnership as A Walk Down Memory Lane and is available at libraries and on their website.

Kidsgrove

Bathpool Country Park

DISTANCE: Approx. 3 miles / 4.8 km

TIME: 1.5 to 2 hours

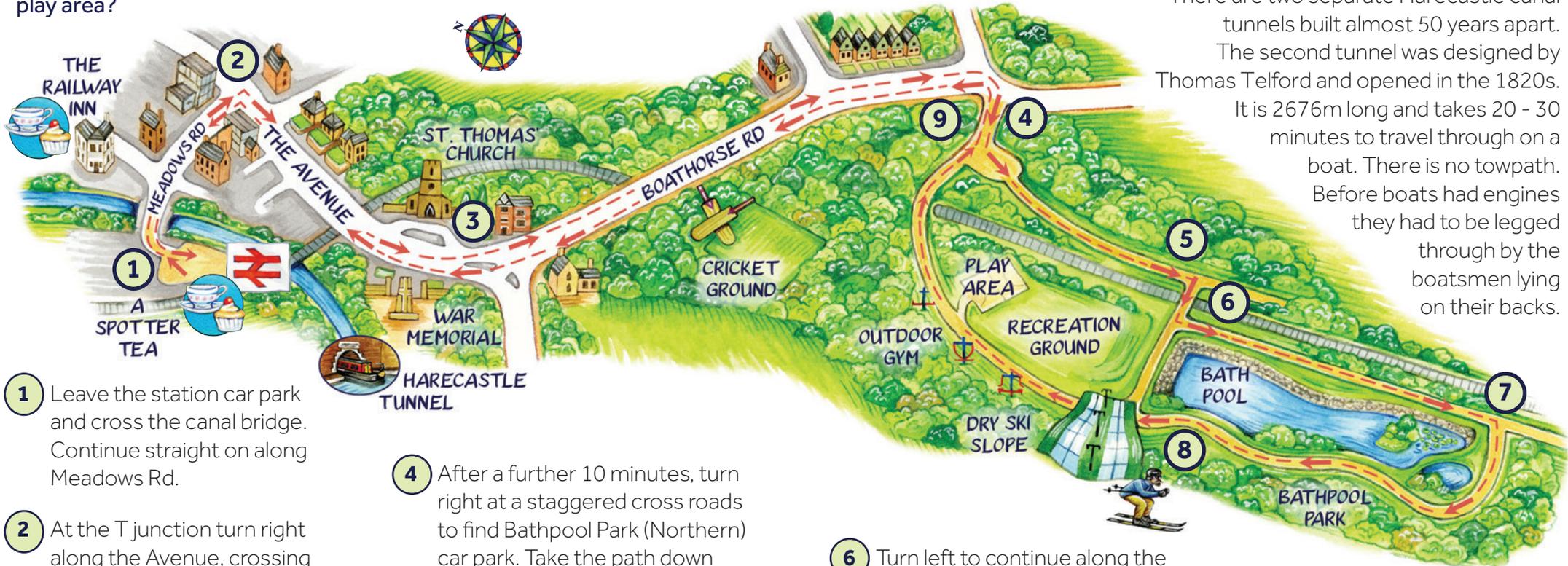
Surfaces mainly flat and hard.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS : Some rough ground between 3 and 6 not suitable for wheelchair users.

Bathpool Park is a haven for ducks, geese, swans and other water birds. Why not also go for a woodland walk or try the outdoor gym or children's play area?

DID YOU KNOW?

There are two separate Harecastle canal tunnels built almost 50 years apart. The second tunnel was designed by Thomas Telford and opened in the 1820s. It is 2676m long and takes 20 - 30 minutes to travel through on a boat. There is no towpath. Before boats had engines they had to be legged through by the boatsmen lying on their backs.



- 1 Leave the station car park and cross the canal bridge. Continue straight on along Meadows Rd.
- 2 At the T junction turn right along the Avenue, crossing the road when safe to do so.
- 3 After about 10 minutes turn left into Boathorse Road. (Use pavement on right hand side.)

- 4 After a further 10 minutes, turn right at a staggered cross roads to find Bathpool Park (Northern) car park. Take the path down the left hand side of the car park.
- 5 After about 10 minutes cross over the railway line using the bridge opposite the ski slope.

- 6 Turn left to continue along the path around Bath Pool.
- 7 Continue to walk along the lakeside path in a clockwise direction.
- 8 Continue straight on, passing Ski Kidsgrove on your left.

- 9 Return to the car park, then retrace your steps back to the station.



Stoke to Longport

The Heart of the Potteries

DISTANCE: 6 miles / 9.65 km

TIME: Allow up to 3 hours

Pavements and canal towpath.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: Limited due to steep canal bridges. Westport Lake is fully accessible.



1 Turn right out of the front entrance of Stoke-on-Trent Station. Turn right again to go under a low bridge. You'll soon see the Trent & Mersey Canal below you. Take steps down on your right (or ramp via Wharf Place on your left) to join it. Turn left along the towpath.

2 After about 30 minutes, at the junction with the Caldron Canal, continue straight on.

3 After 15 minutes you will arrive at Festival Park Marina. Ignore the road bridge and cross the black footbridge further along to join the right hand towpath.

4 After 5 minutes cross the next bridge to re-join the left hand towpath.

5 About 30-40 minutes later you will pass Middleport Park and a play area on your right. After that:

a. turn right across canal bridge 125 to visit to visit the historic Middleport Pottery, OR

b. continue on the towpath for another 20-30 minutes to arrive at Westport Lake.

6 Walk around the lake.

7 Retrace your steps back along the canal, leaving at Canal Street just before bridge 126. At the main road turn right.

8 Before the pedestrian crossing turn right down Station Street. You'll see Longport Station at the end.



Look for the blue wayfinding signs along this route – they will help you find your way.

Longton

The Twenty Bottle Kilns

DISTANCE: 1.7 mile / 2.7 km

TIME: About 1 hour

Pavements.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS : Mostly suitable; better options indicated in places on the map.

Longton is the southernmost of Stoke-on-Trent's six towns and its second busiest shopping location. It also boasts the greatest number of the city's iconic bottle kilns.



! There is no step free access to trains at Longton Station.

- 1** Exit the station on the Platform 2/Baths Road side. Cross Baths Road at the pedestrian crossing. Continue straight down The Strand keeping Longton Market on your left.
- 2** Opposite the Methodist Central Hall turn left into the Exchange Shopping Centre.
- 3** In the middle of the Exchange turn right, then take the walk way across the car park. Walk down the right hand side of B&M Home Store, then straight on down a short path, emerging onto Commerce Street.

→ Follow the arrows to point 4

- 4** At the end of Sutherland Road turn left, then soon right, onto Market Street. Keep to the right.

After 5 minutes pass under the railway bridge then cross the road. Walk past the station on your left.

In the heyday of the Potteries there were up to 4000 coal fired bottle kilns in the 6 towns. Now 47 remain, 20 of which can be found in Longton.

Can you find them all?



Blythe Bridge

Heritage Railway & Village

DISTANCE: 2 miles / 3.2 km

TIME: Allow up to 2 hours

Road side walk (pavements not always available).

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS : Suitable with care.

Blythe Bridge is a Staffordshire village built around the site of a stone bridge over the River Blithe (spelt differently from the name of the river).

- 1 From the station turn right and follow the route along Uttoxeter Road.
- 2 Cross over Uttoxeter Road at a safe point, making your way to the junction of Uttoxeter Road and Cheadle Road. Turn left along Cheadle Road.
- 3 Take time to look at the War Memorial and St. Peter's Church, then continue along Cheadle Road.
- 4 Follow the route walking along Cheadle Road and take a left turn along Caverswall Old Road.
- 5 Continue your walk along Caverswall Old Road. Heath House Farm is located on your right. Shortly after that you will reach the junction of Caverswall Old Road, Blythe Bridge Road and Caverswall Road. Pedestrians take care!
- 6 Turn right to visit Foxfield Light Railway (with limited opening hours). To continue the route you need to retrace your path along Blythe Bridge Road.
- 7 At the junction follow Caverswall Road to return to Blythe Bridge Station. (Take care whilst crossing the busy road.)

PLACES TO VISIT

The Foxfield Light Railway

The Foxfield is a heritage line offering visitors the chance to experience an exhilarating ride on a steam train. The beautiful station building is the perfect venue for refreshments.

Heath House Farm and Garden Centre

This renovated 19th century farmhouse site now contains a large garden centre, gift shop, conference venue and tea room. It's only a 5 minute walk from here to the Foxfield Railway so why not visit both in one day?



Uttoxeter

Historic Market Town

DISTANCE: 1.2 mile / 1.9 km

TIME: Allow 30 to 60 minutes

Pavements and well surfaced paths.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS : Suitable.

Uttoxeter is a friendly market town full of historic interest, shopping opportunities and a twice weekly outdoor market.



- 1 Exit the station via Station Road. After you cross the brook turn left down a footpath under the road. It brings you to the front of a supermarket.
- 2 Continue straight on up Bridge Street, passing Market Place on your left.
- 3 At the T junction turn left into Church Street.
- 4 Turn right to explore the shops and cafes of the High Street. Or go straight on into Carter Street to continue the route.
- 5 After about 5 minutes walking on Carter Street turn left into Balance Street.
- 6 At the end turn left onto Market Street. Explore the shops and refreshment stops in Market Place and visit the Dr Johnson Memorial.
- 7 Exit Market Place towards the war memorial, then turn right to retrace your route back to the station.



THE CENTAUR

A hybrid of horse and jockey, this statue celebrates the town's rural location and racecourse.

Tutbury & Hatton

Historic Castle & Village

DISTANCE: 2 miles / 3.2 km

TIME: Allow 1 to 2 hours

Mainly pavements.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS : Suitable, route beyond the castle gates can be bumpy and steep in places.

TUTBURY CASTLE

Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned here 3 times by Elizabeth I before being beheaded for treason in 1587.



1 Exit Tutbury and Hatton station, turning right from Platform 2 or left from Platform 1. Cross the River Dove. At the roundabout continue straight on along Monk Street.

2 Just before Castle Court turn right into Church Street. About 1 minute after the left hand bend you will see some steps on your right leading to a path.

3 To reach the castle gates:
a Turn right up the steps and join a path to St. Mary's Church. Turn left at the church to reach the road and the castle gates on your right. OR:
b Continue along Church Street with St Mary's Church above you to your right. Turn right onto Castle Street, then soon right, again to follow the sign for Tutbury Castle.

4 Walk through the gates along the track, reaching the castle after about 5 minutes.

5 After your visit retrace your steps to the castle gates, then walk straight on down Castle Street and Duke Street.

6 At the cross roads turn left into High Street.

7 Turn right into Bridge Street and retrace your route back to the station.

Stone

Canal & Market Town

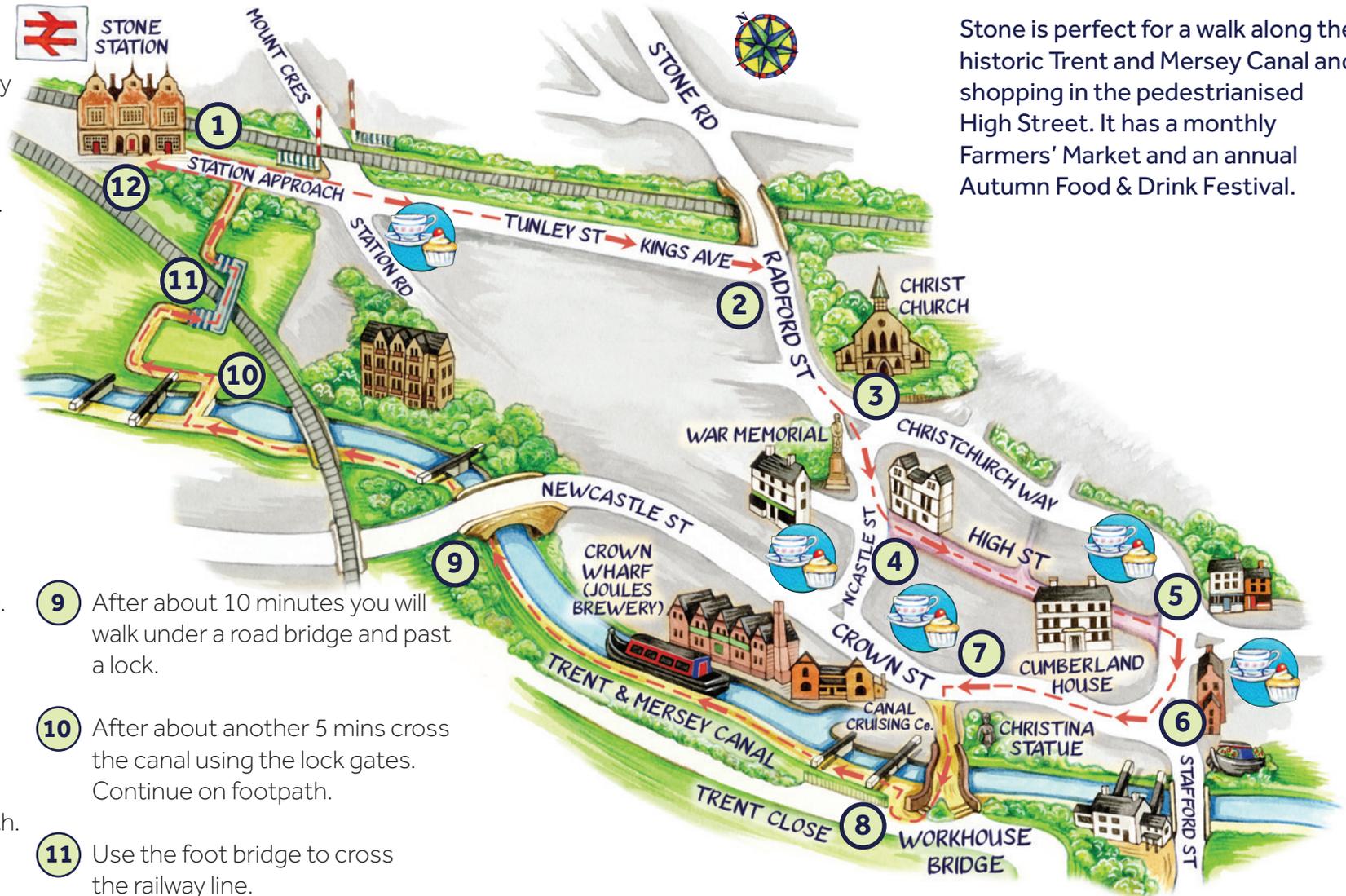
DISTANCE: 1.5 miles / 2.4 km

TIME: Allow 45 minutes

Pavements and canal towpath.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS : Canal and rail crossings not suitable for wheelchair users.

- 1 Walk to the end of Station Approach then cross into Tunley Street continuing into Kings Avenue.
- 2 Turn right along Radford Street.
- 3 Continue along Radford Street (ignoring Christchurch Way on your left).
- 4 Turn left into High Street.
- 5 At the end of the High Street turn right into Stafford Street.
- 6 After 1 minute turn right again into Crown Street. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing.
- 7 At the garage turn left into Trent Close. Cross Workhouse Bridge over the Trent and Mersey Canal.
- 8 Turn right and follow the towpath.
- 9 After about 10 minutes you will walk under a road bridge and past a lock.
- 10 After about another 5 mins cross the canal using the lock gates. Continue on footpath.
- 11 Use the foot bridge to cross the railway line.
- 12 Turn left to reach Stone Station.



Stone is perfect for a walk along the historic Trent and Mersey Canal and shopping in the pedestrianised High Street. It has a monthly Farmers' Market and an annual Autumn Food & Drink Festival.

Penkridge

Historic Village & Canal

DISTANCE: 1.7 miles / 2.7 km

TIME: Allow 1 hour

Pavements, canal towpath and cemetery paths.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS : Good, but steep ramp at point 5. Towpath can be very muddy.



1 Leave the station, following Station Road.

2 At the main church gates turn right down St Michael's Square. Cross the main road (Clay Street / A449) by the Littleton Arms, then turn left. Very soon turn right at the circular garden, then right again into Market Street.

3 At the end of Market Street, turn left into New Road, then first right, down Francis Green Lane.

4 Five minutes later, at the canal bridge turn left onto the towpath of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and walk past the moorings.

5 Walk under Penkridge Bridge, then up the ramp to leave the canal. Turn right (downhill) toward the Haling Dene Centre.

6 At the library turn right into Bell Brook. Pass between The Old Cottage and Penkridge Heritage Centre on Market Place. Then turn right again into Market Street.

7 At the end of Market Street continue into Crown Bridge, then turn right onto the main road (Stone Cross).

8 Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing. Turn left, then right into Pinfold Lane, passing under the railway line.

9 Take a path on your left opposite the doctors' surgery into the cemetery. Go through the tunnel under the railway line, then take a path to your right through the churchyard to join Station Road.

10 Turn right to the station.



Discover walks that will take you through pretty villages, urban landscape and Potteries heritage, across rivers and along canals. Visit hidden gems – historic buildings, independent shops and friendly cafes - or stop to feed ducks and spot other wildlife.

Why not choose the environmentally friendly option and take the train to the start of your walk? Train tickets can be bought from staffed stations, self-service machines or, if not available, from the Train Manager on your train. For Season Tickets and Group Travel visit your train operator's Tickets and Discount page. For rail cards visit www.railcard.co.uk.



How was your walk?

Let us know at northstaffscrp@stoke.gov.uk

Would you like to join us?

If you are interested in volunteering at any of our stations please contact us at northstaffscrp@stoke.gov.uk

Special thanks to:

North Staffs Community Rail Partnership Station Adopters

Chase Aqua Rural Enterprise (CARE) Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge

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The Alsager Partnership

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www.northstaffsrail.org.uk

