

Sandbach Footpaths Group

Warmingham and The Moat walk

Distance: 3.5 miles / 2.6km, about 17 stiles - Allow about 2 Hours

As with all country walks, some paths are wet, muddy and uneven, so wear strong footwear and have clothing to suit the weather. On narrow country lanes, take care to watch for traffic, and when walking on the road make sure you can see oncoming traffic.

Note: KG = kissing gate

Start from the parking area on the canal on Plant Lane. From Sandbach, take Middlewich Road, over the traffic lights at the station and turn left immediately before The Fox public house. Follow Moss Lane, over the canal bridge, and the parking area is on the left.

1. From the parking area on Plant Lane, take Oakwood Lane, which is the right turn after you went over the canal bridge. After a while you will come to a Flash on your left, belonging to an Angling Club.

2. A little further along, take the grassy track on the left to The Moat (it can be muddy and uneven) leading through a wonderfully damp world of mosses, ferns, willows and anything that likes the wet. Follow this to the end, will see Yew Tree Farm on your right. *If it is flooded do not enter The Moat but stay on the road for about ¼ mile then through a KG across fields and out through a KG to a road, turn left and after about 200yards go right up steps and through a gate (as 3 below).*

3. Turn right onto Plant Lane, after 50 yards or so, you will see a gate on the left with 4 steps (Moston FP1). Proceeding through the gate, keeping the field boundary on your right, the path wiggles left and right to arrive at the next stile. Go over this stile and proceed across this field, passing a water tank on your left, to the corner where you will reach a double stile (note the sign for the Sandbach SSSI). Keep right and you will see a small pond with bulrushes; go under the low Oak Tree and over the stile, onto Green Lane.

4. Turn left onto Green Lane, downhill to the flashes on either side and then uphill. After the cottage on your right, you will see the finger post for Warmingham FP17. Go over the stile, keep the field boundary on your right, and ahead of you there is a gate, leading to a track, continuing in the same direction.

5. Follow this track to the junction with Warmingham FP12, where you turn left and follow this to the gate (there may be a chain around it, to secure, but it's easy to open). Through the gate, follow the hedge on your right to the next gate, over a stile and you are on Crabmill Lane.

Turn right and soon left on to School Lane. Cross School Lane to the footway, you will need to cross to the other side further along as the footway ends and resumes on the other side. After passing the entrance to Warmingham Grange Estate on your right, you will find Warmingham FP2 is on your left. *(If you wish to partake in refreshments, you can carry on a further 200 yards to the Bears Paw.)*

6. Through a gap then a KG onto Warmingham FP2, keeping the boundary on your left, then over a stile by a water trough and keep straight on. At the next field there's an electric fence, unhook/replace this using the insulated handle and follow the track ahead, noting the redundant stile on the left. Then through a gate (at the time of writing the adjacent stile is broken) and at the end of the hedge, before another gate, take the path to the left to follow Warmingham FP5, for a short distance, then over the stile (or through the gate) to emerge onto Crabmill Lane.

7. Turn right onto Crabmill Lane. After just 50 yards, take the KG on your left (Tetton FP2). Just a few yards ahead go through another KG (with another sign for the Sandbach Flashes SSSI). Head diagonally right across the large field, passing a small pond to your left and then a solitary oak tree, to go over a double stile. Follow the hedge to your right for about 25 yards and you arrive at a stile with bridge.

8. Over this and follow the field boundary with the hedge to your left, until you reach the corner of the field. Here you turn right, still with the hedge on your left, and after 20 yards turn left at the Oak Tree (see if you can spot the footpath marker high in the tree!).

9. After the oak tree, continue with the boundary on your left and when you get to the corner of this field, turn left over a stile, now with the hedge on your right.

10. After about 70 yards, you will find a closely spaced double stile in the hedge; go over this, and follow the path straight across the field, until you reach another double stile and bridge directly opposite (to avoid these stiles, see next paragraph in italics).

Alternative.

Sometimes, depending on farm crops, you can avoid stiles at 9 and 10:

At 9., do not go over the stile but keep straight on for a few yards, through a gap between two oak trees. Go left, now keeping the hedge on your left for about 70 yards, to come to the double stile at 10., but you turn away to the right, going across the field to the double stile and bridge opposite.

Over the double stile and bridge, heading diagonally across the field to the opposite corner where the final stile leads onto Plant Lane.

11. Turn right and follow Plant Lane to the car parking area.

