

There are a number of routes to the canal for the return walk: The quickest route to the canal via a footpath is to turn right along main road and, directly after passing St Michaels Church/Poor Clare's Convent sited across the road on the left, cross road and take the signed footpath to the canal.





Turn left along towpath and soon walk through tunnel (torch is handy here!)

The canal engineered by Telford was opened 1801.

The tunnel is 80 metres/87 yards long and there is a handrail for the full extent. On emerging from tunnel the next point of interest is Blakemere which is very picturesque. Continue along towpath. At Bridge 55 there is a thatched cottage, Little Mill and further on views of Colemere and some "interesting" summer houses. At Bridge 53 is Lyneal Trust, a charity that provides canal-based holidays for persons with disabilities.

Leaving the canal at Bridge 51 pass under the bridge, left up steps and turn right along Lyneal lane returning to village by retracing your steps via the second footpath on the right, or if there is time, walk along lane to view St Michael and All Angels Church.

Carefully cross A495 turning right to start of walk.

Church of St. John the Evangelist on rise to the east of the mere. The ancient yew tree by the gate marks mooring point on the ancient shore of the mere. Follow the path to the left just inside the gate into St John's Wood where you will find interpretation boards giving information about the wildlife it contains. The Church, designed by G. E. Street (see Bettisfield on WALK 1) was built in 1870 and inside (if open) it has a very fine terracotta reredos (relief carving behind the altar) by Tinworth.

The Nature Improvement Area and Landscape Partnership Scheme



The Meres and Mosses Landscape
Partnership Scheme is working to preserve,
enhance and raise awareness of this
precious landscape. The Partnership is
mainly funded by a combination of money
from Heritage Lottery Fund and a
Government funded Nature Improvement
Area; this project area covers the heartland
of the wider Meres and Mosses region.

This work is being delivered by a wide partnership comprising:

Butterfly Conservation
Canal and River Trust
Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Environment Agency
Harper Adams University
Natural England
RSPB

Shropshire Rural Community Council Shropshire Council Shropshire Wildlife Trust







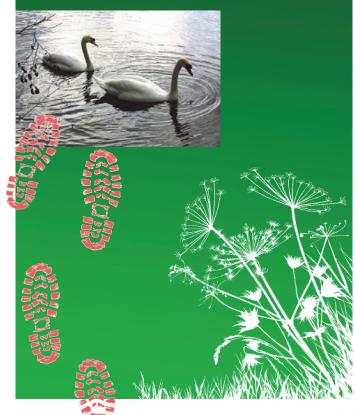




Please note that while the publishers take every care to be accurate, no liability or responsibility will be accepted in any circumstances whatsoever, should anyone experience any inaccuracies, loss, damage or injury. This leaflet/map should be used solely on this understanding.

Circular route from Welshampton via Blakemere Parking available at Parish Hall, adjacent side road on A495 and at Sun Inn with proprietors' consent Fields, meres and canal using paths and lanes with 4 stiles (bring a torch)

 $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles (depending on route) $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours









Cross A495 road at The Sun Inn car park to footpath which runs along left side of hairdressers, Williams of Welshampton. Cross two stiles to reach Lyneal lane. Turn left along lane and then right through swing gate where the next footpath crosses the lane.

Keeping hedge on left walk along edge of field and through metal swing gate. Follow directional arrows to small metal gate on right. From here, keeping lone oak tree to right, cross field to next swing gate. Turn slightly to the right, keep left of tree, cross field and go through large opening in hedge to next field. (Occasionally this opening is gated depending on the farmer's land usage).

Walk diagonally left towards another large oak tree at the top of the hill and keep to the right of this tree. (There is a circular concrete water storage construction sited here although it is not known if it is still in use.) From this point the next swing gate is seen in the hedge. Walk through next field keeping to the left side of the hedge. This hedge line is very sparse in places but continue following it and pass through a large gap at the end of the field where there is a directional post.



(From here looking straight back you can clearly see the concrete construction at the top of the hill). Take a straight line in the next field, walking down the slope to a swing gate. Cross this field, (it can be boggy) towards a gate by the road. Turning left along lane, carry on straight ahead at cross roads...

...where, according to folk lore, suicides used to be buried. It is also where the ghost of the headless horseman is said to have been seen.

...until reaching a canal bridge.

The black and white cottage is Little Mill which in medieval times was owned by the monks of Haughmond Abbey.



From this bridge Colemere Country Park comes into view. This is a very important Site of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSI), and the only place in England where the Least Water Lily grows.

Should you wish to extend the walk, just over 1 mile/1.6km, from this point, continue around the Mere and rejoin towpath at bridge 54.



Do not cross the bridge but take the footpath on right up slope through the trees. Turn left following grassy track around field. In the winter geese feed here on the maize stubble. From this path Newton Mere comes into view ahead right. There is no access to this water which is used by a fishing club.

Turn left along lane, passing houses on left, until reaching A495 main road. Take care crossing road and turn left along rough grass verge for nearly half a mile until reaching a post and stile. Keeping a large group of trees to the left walk diagonally left up slope and then downwards to a marker post in front of a large oak tree, (middle tree). Keep fence posts to right and on reaching stile, cross over and walk to main road.

This is part of the ancient route between Welshampton and Ellesmere.