

## Short Walk

### Birches Head & Northwood

Distance:	Approximately: 2 Miles	
Duration:	40 minutes	
Total Steps:	4,772	

Stage	A to B	B to A
Duration (Mins)	20	20
No. of Steps	2,386	2,386

#### What will I see...

From the T junction with Botany Bay Road, Monsal Grove and Athena Road, **A** facing Caldon Canal, you should turn right, walk 15 steps, turn left and follow the path across the canal bridge onto the canal towpath. Keeping the canal on your left follow the towpath along the Trent Valley. Initially, you will see houses to your left (on the opposite side of the canal) these soon give way to leafy green countryside. On your right you can see the wide expanse of the Trent Valley, falling away from the canal towards Abbey Hulton. Continue along the towpath and you will walk under a disused railway bridge; some of the wall has fallen so be mindful to watch your step. Continue on until you come to a brick road bridge with a low roof followed immediately by a metal bridge and a dirt footpath going off to your right. **B** At this point, you should turn around and re-trace your steps along Caldon Canal to your starting point. **A**.

## Remember

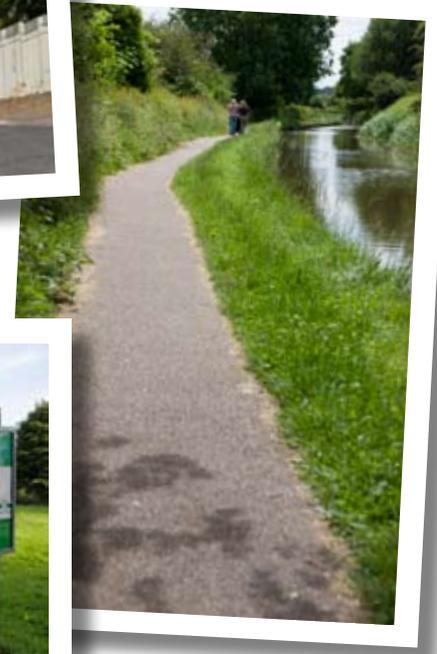
You do not need to be fit to do these walks, but you should be aware that the long walk contains steep uphill stretches of varying intensity; if you are unsure about your level of fitness, you should consult with your GP before engaging with the longer walk.

**There were no toilet facilities available at this location at the time of going to press.**

#### Hazards/things to look out for...

If walking with children, in areas where there are lakes, pool, canals, etc., please be mindful of the danger.

Shops can be found on Diana Road. If you walk up Athena Road from the T junction with Botany Bay Road and Monsal Grove, Diana Road crosses Athena Road near the top. You should then turn right and walk down Diana Road for around 50 steps to reach the shops.



## Long Walk

### Birches Head & Northwood, Canal Side & Housing Estate

Distance:	Approximately: 2.9 Miles
Duration:	45 minutes
Total Steps:	4,277

Stage	A to B	B to C	C to A
Duration (Mins)	20	15	10
No. of Steps	2,386	1,031	860

#### What will I see...

From the T junction with Botany Bay Road, Monsal Grove and Athena Road, **A** facing Caldon Canal, you should turn right, walk 15 steps, turn left and follow the path across the canal bridge onto the canal towpath. Keeping the canal on your left follow the towpath along the Trent Valley. Initially, you will see houses to your left (on the opposite side of the canal) these soon give way to leafy green countryside. On your right you can see the wide expanse of the Trent Valley, falling away from the canal towards Abbey Hulton. Continue along the towpath and you will walk under a disused railway bridge; some of the wall has fallen so be mindful to watch your step. Continue on until you come to a brick road bridge with a low roof followed immediately by a metal bridge and a dirt footpath going off to your right. **B**

Follow the dirt path and it will bring you onto Birches Head Road. Cross the footbridge that you have just passed under, staying on the pavement on the right hand side of the road. Continue up Birches Head Lane, (steep incline) passing Birches Head High School on your right, until you reach the pedestrian crossing just prior to 'The Bridge Centre Project'. Cross over Birches Head Lane at the crossing and continue onwards up the hill, past Huntington Road and turn left into Diana Road. **C**

Cross Diana Road and walk down the hill to Athena Road. (Note: if you were to carry on down Diana Road, there are some shops just on your right as you round the left hand bend.) Turn right into Athena Road and continue down the hill crossing many side roads until you come back to your starting point at the junction between Botany Bay Road, Monsal Grove and Athena Road. **A**

Closer to home  
Circular Walks



STOKE NORTH  
No:4

Closer to home  
Circular Walks



STOKE NORTH  
No:4

### Birches Head & Northwood

## Points of interest

- Caldon Canal: The famous potter Josiah Wedgwood was the driving force behind the construction of the Trent & Mersey Canal and its branch, the Caldon. Both these waterways revolutionised the transport of fragile porcelain, at a time when the normal mode of carriage was by mule and cart over rough tracks!
- Linking the Potteries to the Mersey Estuary by water also allowed the cheaper importation of China clay from the West Country mines, bringing the ownership of fine china within the means of the average Victorian family. The boom in business which resulted caused a rapid growth in the number of pottery manufacturers, many of whom sited their potteries along the Canal banks of Stoke-on-Trent.
- Abbey Hulton: The site of the Medieval Cistercian Abbey was acquired by Stoke-on-Trent City Council in 1987 and excavated by The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery's Archaeology Field Unit which included a number of volunteers and professionals between 1987 and 1994. The Abbey was founded by Henry De Audley in 1219 and consecrated in 1223. Following the dissolution in 1538 the site was lost until 1884; it was located during a chance excavation, later being investigated and published by Lynam.
- The City Museum and Art Gallery is home to a number of finds from the Abbey. Both Sites are free and open to the public.



Two walks around

## Birches Head & Northwood

