

## Short Walk Around Large Lake

Distance:	Approximately: 1½ Miles	
Duration:	25 minutes	
Total Steps:	4,875	

Stage	A to B	B to A
Duration (Mins)	22	3
No. of Steps	4,625	250

### What will I see...

From the car park at the entrance to Westport Lakes and Nature Reserve, walk past the WCs and join the main path. **A** Keeping the large lake on your right follow the path all the way around the lake until you come to the Visitor Centre - currently under construction - on your right. At this point, pass through the stile and turn right, **B** keeping the visitor centre on your right, walk back down to the car park where you started. **A** There is a wide variety of wild fowl and birds to be seen at Westport Lake; Swans, Coots, Moorhens, Mallards, Canadian Geese, other assorted Geese, Swifts and House Martins. Herons and Cranes are also seen at different times of the year. The lakeside area also boasts a wide array of wild flowers and assorted shrubs.



## Remember

These walks have no hills or steep inclines and are suitable for anyone of any age and fitness level. However, if you bring children along with you on the walks, please be mindful of the danger keep a close eye on them when near the water.

**Toilet facilities were not available at Westport Lakes and Nature Reserve at the time of going to press, however a Visitor Centre is currently under construction.**

### Hazards to look out for...

The path through the Nature Reserve is muddy during wet weather; in dry weather it is pitted and uneven so walkers should watch for this. There are also a number of low branches in the area that walkers will need to be mindful of.

During late spring and summer, midges are plentiful swarming in clusters under trees. Anyone suffering from allergies to bites and stings may want to take precautions.



## Long Walk

### Westport Nature Reserve and Small Lake

Distance:	Approximately: 2¾ Miles
Duration:	42 minutes
Total Steps:	5,311

Stage	A to B	B to C	C to D	D to A
Duration (Mins)	5	20	15	2
No. of Steps	585	1,663	2,856	207

#### What will I see...

From the car park, facing the small lake, turn left onto the gravel path with the children's play ground, picnic bench/tables and a grassy play area are on your left. **A** After rounding the top end of the small lake, ignore the small paths going off to the left. Follow the path that leads to the large lake and take the left fork, just before the picnic bench, leading into the Nature Reserve. **B** In wet or damp weather the path here can be muddy and pitted.

Once in the Nature Reserve, the path bears right between the Fowlea Brook which will be on your left, and a series of small ponds on your right. Walking on you will come to a crossroads with an interpretation panel on your right, you should carry straight on along the central path. At next interpretation panel, also on your right, take the path that bears left alongside the pond with lily pads and reeds. Walk on and the path narrows as you enter a tunnel of trees, at the end of which you come to a bridge and path on your left. You need to take the path that leads beside the pool on your right and follow this through the stile and rejoin the main lakeside path. **C**

Turn left onto the large lakeside path, and follow it until the path forks; follow the left fork going uphill to the Canal. Just before the Canal bridge, turn right onto the path running parallel with the Canal towpath; from this elevated position you get an excellent view of the Canal, of Westport Lakes and the Nature Reserve. At the end of this path you will come to the Visitor Centre - currently under construction. At this point pass through the stile and turn right, **D** keeping the visitor centre on your right, go through the stile. Turn right and walk back down to the car park where you started. **A**

Closer to home  
Circular Walks



STOKE NORTH  
No:5

Closer to home  
Circular Walks



STOKE NORTH  
No:5

### Westport Lake

## Points of interest

- Westport Lake: formerly the site of a Marl Pit, was opened in 1971 for people to visit and enjoy the green open space and wildlife. The main lake holds more water than anywhere else in the City of Stoke-on-Trent!
- It contains two lakes, one large, one small, surrounded by grassland and a wooded conservation area with a series of small ponds.
- The lakes are well inhabited by birds with large numbers of ducks and swans arriving in the winter. Heron arrive at other times of the year along with winter migrant water birds.
- The Fowlea Brook and Trent and Mersey Canal run through the Nature Reserve acting as important wildlife corridors. Pipistrelle and Daubentons bats feed over the main lake and kingfishers are a regular sight in the conservation area.
- An assortment of uncommon plants like greater knapweed and pale toadflax flourish alongside the railway. Other notable species in the area include yellow flag iris.



Two walks around

## Westport Lakes & Nature Reserve

