

Short Walk

Florence Greenway

Distance:	Approximately: 1¼ Miles
Duration:	24 minutes
Total Steps:	2,386

Stage	A to B	B to C	C to A
Duration (Mins)	10	2	12
No. of Steps	978	215	1,193



What will I see...

From the entrance to Florence Greenway at the top of Belgrave Road, just below the junction with Lightwood Road, you should enter the Greenway. This is point **A**. Belgrave Primary School is on your left as you enter the Greenway; the New Florence public house just beyond the school. As you walk on a few yards you will come to an access point from the new Florence housing estate which is on your left. There will be some green metal railings and an assortment of trees on your right. Just a little way on and over to your left you will notice a children's play area within the new housing complex. You should continue on the main path passing a basketball court on your left. At this point there is a steep hill going off to the right with trees growing on it. Continuing on, you will pass another access point into the new housing estate on your left. You should walk on along the greenway. As you do so, you will come to a metal stile that used to be painted green and is now mottled grey and battered. **B** Continue to walk along the path to the monolith/metal signpost. There is an old bridge just to the right of it. This is the other end of Florence Greenway. If you look out beyond the bridge to your right you will notice the railings of Longton Park top gates further along Cocknage Road. However, this former railway bridge **C** marks the half way point on the linear walk from Belgrave Road to Cocknage Road. To complete your walk, simply turn around and retrace all of your steps to point **A**.

Medium Walk

Longton Park to Florence Greenway and Park

Distance:	Approximately: 2½ Miles				
Duration:	48 minutes				
Total Steps:	4,482				

Stage	A to B	B to C	C to D	D to E	E to F
Duration (Mins)	5	3	5	7	5
No. of Steps	497	300	361	692	515

Stage	F to G	G to H	H to I	I to J
Duration (Mins)	10	5	3	5
No. of Steps	959	361	300	497

What will I see...

From the top gates of Longton Park, **A** cross over Cocknage Road, onto the pavement turn right and walk on until you come to the entrance to Florence Greenway. **B**

Walk on into the greenway, past the stone bridge and continue until you come to a battered stile on your right leading to a housing estate. **C** You should exit the greenway at this point and walk through the stile into the housing estate on a pathway leading between two small wooden railings. At the end of these railings you should turn right and walk along Suffolk Road, and as you start to bear round to the right you will see Durham Drive on your right. You want to turn left into Hampshire Crescent and follow it along. Walk on and round the left hand bend to Romney Grove where you will turn right and walk up to the access to a park. Florence Walk – the site of the former Florence Pit. **D**

Pass through the stile leading into the park and follow the tarmac path straight ahead of you through some trees and onto a grassy trail. You should stick to the main paths at all times. As you walk on you will pass a ditch on your right and some tall trees on your left. Continue on up the steep slope following the barbed wire fencing which is on your right. At

the top of the rise a trail goes off to your left up into some trees but you should continue on following the wire fencing on your right beside the main trail. **E**

As you walk on along the green grassy path, across the fields to your right you will see a farmhouse and there are cows in the fields here and around. The landscaped coal tip mound is off to your left, covered in trees. The grass continues on around the bend and up a steep incline levelling out at the top. Keep the railings on your right and the pit mound on your left and continue on. Just after this point the path bears round to the right. Ignore any paths going off to the left, but follow the wire fencing and you will come to a tarmac path. **F**

You should turn right and follow the tarmac path. A little way on you will come down around a right hand bend with a ditch on your right; Cocknage Road is just off to your left. In the distance you will see the housing tower blocks at the top of Bucknall Road, Hanley, and off to your left in the distance you can see Britannia stadium. You will come to another right hand bend, and there will be a housing estate just off to your left, which is Florence housing estate. At the end of the path you come to the stile that you entered in order to get onto Florence Park. **G** (Point **D** earlier)

Go through the stile and walk down the road, passing Ryland Close on your right and the road that you turned down earlier which was Romney Grove. At this junction turn left and walk all the way down to the bottom of Hampshire Crescent, where you will turn right onto Suffolk Grove. As you are rounding the bend you will see the pathway that you came up earlier which leads you back to Florence Greenway. **H** (Point **C** earlier)

You should pass through the battered stile and enter Florence Greenway. Turn left and walk along the path until you reach the stone railway bridge and the entrance to the greenway. **I** (Point **B** earlier)

Leave Florence Greenway, turn right and walk along Cocknage Road until you reach the junction with Chaplin Road. Cross over the street to Longton Park **J**, and your starting point **A**.

Long Walk

Longton Park to Florence Greenway and Park

Distance:	Approximately: 3¾ Miles					
Duration:	76 minutes					
Total Steps:	7,335					

Stage	A to B	B to C	C to D	D to E	E to F	F to G
Duration (Mins)	5	3	5	7	5	3
No. of Steps	497	300	361	692	515	275

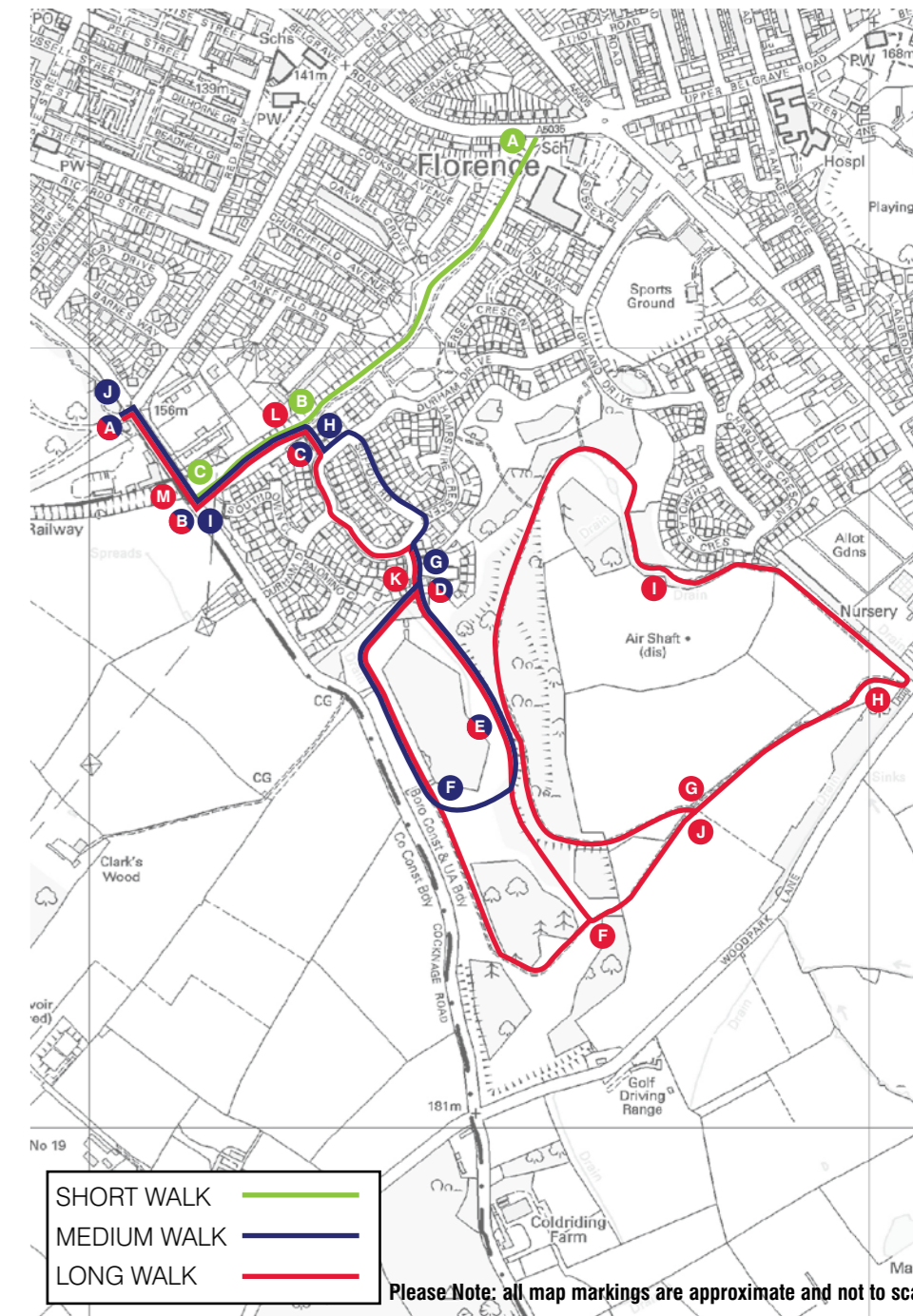
Stage	G to H	H to I	I to J	J to K	K to L	L to M	M to N
Duration (Mins)	5	8	12	10	5	3	5
No. of Steps	512	796	1,179	1,050	361	300	497

What will I see...

From the top gates of Longton Park, **A** cross over Cocknage Road, onto the pavement turn right and walk on until you come to the entrance to Florence Greenway. **B**

Walk on into the greenway, past the stone bridge and continue on until you come to a battered stile on your right leading to a housing estate. **C** You should exit the greenway at this point and walk through the stile into the housing estate on a pathway leading between two small wooden railings. At the end of these railings you should turn right and walk along Suffolk Road, and as you start to bear round to the right you will see Durham Drive on your right. You want to turn left into Hampshire Crescent and follow it along. Walk on and round the left hand bend to Romney Grove where you will turn right and walk up to the access to a park. Florence Walk – the site of the former pit. **D**

Pass through the stile leading into the park and follow the tarmac path straight ahead of you through some trees and onto a grassy trail. You should stick to the main paths at all times. As you walk on you will pass a ditch on your right and some tall trees on your left. Continue on up the steep slope following the barbed wire fencing which is on your right. At



the top of the rise a trail goes off to your left up into some trees but you should continue on following the wire fencing on your right on the main trail. **E**

As you walk on along the green grassy path, across the fields to your right you will see a farmhouse and there are cows in the fields here and around. The landscaped coal tip mound is off to your left, covered in trees. The grass continues on around the bend and up a steep incline levelling out at the top. Keep the railings on your right and the pit mound on your left and continue on. Just after this point the path bears round to the right. Ignore any paths going off to the left, but follow the wire fencing beside the grass path and you will come to a tarmac path leading uphill to your left and downhill to your right. **F**

As you continue on along this tarmac path you will round a left hand bend. The views over to your right are spectacular: showing the whole of Lightwood and Cocknage; a beautiful area. Continue along the path, up the hill and you will see some wooden posts either side of the tarmac path. Just here there is a trail coming down from the left and the former pit heap. **G** From here if you look out to your left you can see the TV aerial masts over Fenton and Berry Hill. You can also see St. James' church Longton, and swinging round on the horizon you will see Park Hall in the distance, Longton High School, the housing estate at the top of Sandon Road, Meir Heath and right the way across to Lightwood. Walk down the hill which becomes quite bendy as you do and at the bottom of the hill, as you bear round to the right, you will see a car park with a stile. This car park is off Woodpark Lane which comes down from Lightwood Road, and leads to Cocknage Road. **H** This is Florence Park car park and it is open on Saturday and Sunday only, April to September from 9 – 4. Please take any litter that you may have home with you.

As you near the bottom of the tarmac path just prior to the car park there is a gravel path going off to your left, take it. As you walk on the path takes a downhill turn to the left past the new housing which will be on your right. Continue on along the path. At this point there is a gate going through into a housing estate; ignore the gate and continue

along the path. You will notice that there is a ditch on your left and a wooden fence on your right and what used to be the slag heap is immediately in front of you. There is a statue on the top of the hill there; a relic of the former Florence Pit.



As you walk on there are various paths going off to the left up into this area but you should ignore them and stay on the main gravel path keeping the wire fence on your right. You will come to an area where there is an open space and a wooden bridge crossing the ditch going off to your left. Ignore this. Continuing on the gravel path, you will see the new-ish Florence housing estate down on your right and Lightwood Road beyond it. You will come to a three way junction. **I**

You should continue on up the hill in front of you. You will walk across a drainage ditch, and you will pass another little culvert on your left as you walk up the steep incline. You will see some more housing off to your right. Continue on up the slope past a path going off to your right and another one up the steep incline to your left. The little path going off to your right leads into the housing estate. There is a ditch on your right as you walk up what is a steep, prolonged hill. At the top of the rise you will come to a left hand bend; stay on the path, and walk on. Ignore paths going off to your right and left and stay on this gravel path. The view opens out to reveal an open, rolling landscape with three wooden posts sticking up out of the earth beside the main tarmac path that we followed earlier. **J** (This position is very close to point **F** from earlier).

Turn right and continue straight on along the tarmac path. You will come down and around a right hand bend with a ditch on your right and

Cocknage Road will be just off to your left. In the distance you will see the housing tower blocks at the top of Bucknall Road, Hanley and off to your left in the distance you can see Britannia stadium. You will come to a right hand bend, and there will be a housing estate just off to your left, which is Florence housing estate. At the end of the path you come to the stile that you entered in order to get onto Florence Park. **K** (Point **D** earlier)

Go through the stile and walk down the road, passing Ryland Close on your right, and the road that you turned down earlier which was Romney Grove. At this junction turn left and walk all the way down to the bottom of Hampshire Crescent, where you will turn right onto Suffolk Grove. As you are rounding the bend you will see the pathway that you came up earlier which leads you back to Florence Greenway. **L** (Point **C** earlier)

You should pass through the battered stile and enter Florence Greenway. Turn left and walk along the path until you reach the stone bridge and the entrance to the greenway. **M** (Point **B** earlier)

Leave Florence Greenway, turn right and walk along Cocknage Road until you reach the junction with Chaplin Road. Cross over Cocknage Road and return to Longton Park, and your starting point. **N** (Point **A** earlier)

Remember

All of these walks include some short hills, some of which are steep. If you are unsure about your level of fitness, please consult your GP prior to undertaking these walks.

Toilets are available in The New Florence public house (and Wacky Warehouse) next to Belgrave Primary School, just off Lightwood Road.

Hazards to look out for...

Muddy/slippery paths over Florence Greenway after heavy rain.

Closer to home
Circular Walks



STOKE SOUTH
No:3

Closer to home
Circular Walks



STOKE SOUTH
No:3

Florence Greenway & Florence Park

Points of interest

- Florence Park, greenway and housing estates are all situated on the site of the former Florence Colliery, one of the many coal mines dotted around the Staffordshire countryside since the early nineteenth century, which saw a dramatic rise of activity in the mining of the country's coal fields.
- Thousands of people were drawn off the land and from factories into the coal mines. Stories of how these people lived and worked began to circulate among the general public; it was said that women and children worked long hours underground in cramped and dangerous places doing hard, back-breaking work. The public conscience was stirred and a number of Victorian philanthropists pressed Parliament for change. During the 1912 coal strike, at Florence Colliery in Longton, people were forced to scavenge on waste tips in order to find coal to heat their homes and cook.
- The miners' strike of 1984-5 was the longest strike of the twentieth century. It came in response to a programme of pit closures and poor salary increases, these factors heralded the end of the coal industry in Stoke-on-Trent and for the UK as a whole.

www.exploringthepotteries.org.uk



Stoke on Trent

Three walks around

Florence Greenway & Florence Park

