

## Short Walk

### Stanley Matthews Way

Distance:	Approximately: 2½ Mile
Duration:	54 minutes
Total Steps:	5,820

Stage	A to B	B to C	C to D	D to A
Duration (Mins)	5	12	10	27
No. of Steps	802	1,176	932	2,910

#### What will I see...

Starting from the traffic lights at the junction of Longton Road and Stanley Matthews Way, **A** walk along the pavement in the direction of the roundabout with Johnson's on your right, and the housing estate on your left. There is a small pretty landscaped lake here with bulrushes. Proceed along Stanley Matthews Way up to the junction with the housing estate going off to your left and Trentham Lakes Business Park going off to your right. Cross the road onto the opposite pavement, and walk on along a tarmac shared foot and cycle path. After a few yards you will come across a gravel path going off to your right, leading to Beaconsfield Drive council housing estate, Blurton; you should continue on along the pavement of Stanley Matthews Way. **B**

Walk on along the pavement and you will pass Screwfix which will be on your right. Across the pedestrian crossings to your left is another path which follows the river back down to the roundabout where you started this walk. Walk on and in front of you, you will see the incinerator chimney and further off in the distance the spire of Hartshill Church and the incinerator belonging to the North Staffs Infirmary. As you continue on around the bend you will see Britannia Stadium a little way ahead in front of you. (This is a bus route for the Baker Buses/Coaches (01782) 522101 which come along Stanley Matthews Way). On your left you will pass what looks like a large generator with a chimney, just before arriving at a pedestrian crossing and a street called Eastern Rise which goes off to your right. **C**



There is a little pond with bulrushes here, on the right hand side of the road, just after the crossing. Ignore the road going off to your right and continue on along the pavement beside the pond; there are a whole range of industrial units off to your right around the back of the pond.

You will now pass the Pets at Home super depot on your right and Reiter a little further on. Across the road to your left is a vast Portmeirion warehouse. At this point you can see the main frontage of Britannia Stadium looming up in front of you. You will start to walk up a slight incline and an Audi garage appears off to your left prior to a roundabout as you walk on up the incline. You will pass a gate and a stile, but you should ignore these and continue on up the pavement. At the top of the rise you will come to a crossing point, just before you reach the roundabout. **D** From this point, turn around and retrace your steps to point **A**.

## Long Walk

### Stanley Matthews Way & Trentham Canalside Walk

Distance:	Approximately: 3.7 Miles				
Duration:	1 hour 26 minutes				
Total Steps:	7,470				

Stage	A to B	B to C	C to D	D to E	E to F
Duration (Mins)	5	12	10	7	15
No. of Steps	802	1,176	932	688	907

Stage	F to G	G to H	H to I	I to A
Duration (Mins)	12	8	5	12
No. of Steps	1,019	640	363	943

#### What will I see...

Starting from the traffic lights at the junction of Longton Road and Stanley Matthews Way, **A** walk along the pavement in the direction of the roundabout with Johnson's on your right, and the housing estate on your left. There is a small pretty landscaped lake here with bulrushes. Proceed along Stanley Matthews Way up to the junction with the housing estate going off to your left and Trentham Lakes Business Park going off to your right. Cross the road onto the opposite pavement, and walk on along a tarmac shared foot and cycle path. After a few yards you will come across a gravel path going off to your right, leading to Beaconsfield Drive council housing estate, Blurton; you should continue on along the pavement of Stanley Matthews Way. **B**

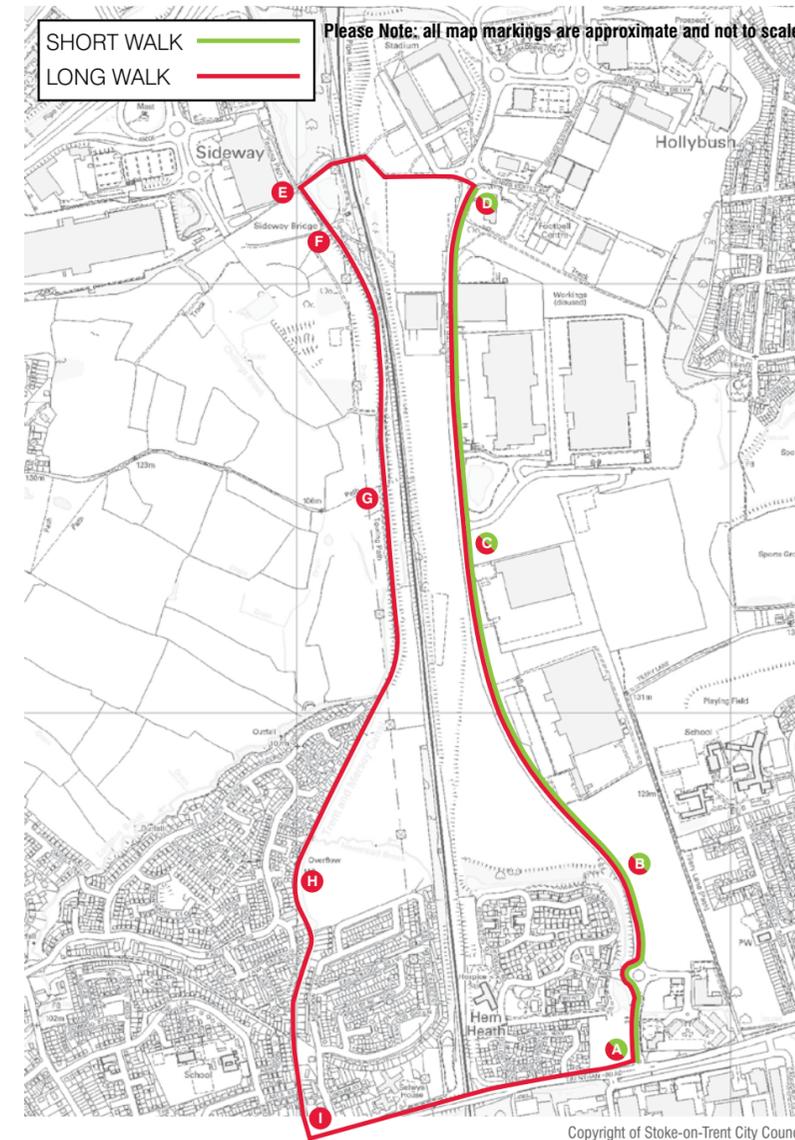
Walk on along the pavement and you will pass Screwfix which will be on your right. Across the pedestrian crossings to your left is another path which follows the river back down to the roundabout where you started this walk. Walk on and in front of you, you will see the incinerator chimney and further off in the distance the spire of Hartshill Church and the incinerator belonging to the North Staffs Infirmary. As you continue on around the bend you will see Britannia Stadium a little way ahead in front of you. (This is a bus route for the Baker Buses/Coaches (01782)

522101 which come along Stanley Matthews Way). On your left you will pass what looks like a large generator with a chimney, just before arriving at a pedestrian crossing and a street called Eastern Rise which goes off to your right. **C**

There is a little pond with bulrushes here, on the right hand side of the road, just after the crossing. Ignore the road going off to your right and continue on along the pavement beside the pond; there are a whole range of industrial units off to your right around the back of the pond. You will now pass the Pets at Home super depot on your right and Reiter a little further on. Across the road to your left is a vast Portmeirion warehouse. At this point you can see the main frontage of Britannia Stadium looming up in front of you. You will start to walk up a slight incline and an Audi garage appears off to your left prior to a roundabout as you walk on up the incline. You will pass a gate and a stile, but you should ignore these and continue on up the pavement. At the top of the rise you will come to a crossing point, just before you reach the roundabout. **D**

Cross the road towards the Stoke Audi garage; Britannia Stadium will now be on your right. Continue on along in front of the Audi garage and round to your left following the pavement. As you walk down the pavement, you will see Sainsbury's colossal distribution centre in front of you and as you continue on down, just off to your right is the grey incinerator at Sideway. Walk on and you will come to a metal footbridge; you should cross this bridge going off to your left, crossing the main railway lines before leading you onto a short pathway – which is also a cycle route. Follow this path on and around to your right and there is a signpost which reads 'Stoke Town Centre', and the path will lead you onto Caldon Canal towpath. There is a blue railing on your right; you should cross through this onto the towpath. **E**

From here, looking to your left a little way along the canal, you will see the grey incinerator building and part of the A500. If you look to your right there are a number of low canal bridges. Turn to your right and walk on towards these bridges, there is some seating just here on your right as you come through the entrance onto the canal. This seating



is constructed from several railway bogies held together with wooden planking. This would be a good place to stop if you need to rest. Walk on under the bridges; just after coming through the first bridge you will see a monolith on your right with a plaque on it, telling you all about Britannia Stadium, and there is a path here leading off the canal and down to your right. However, you should continue on along the canal towpath. You will come to a canal bridge numbered 108; there is a Canal signpost here, on your right, walk on either under the bridge, or up the side of the bridge across a gravel path down the other side, where you will cross through a stile and continue on along the towpath. Off to your right is a large area of open space ready for future industrial development. You will now cross underneath some electricity pylons as you follow the towpath. There is a house for the person who manages the railway crossings, on the other side of the canal. This part of the canal walk is a particularly pleasant stretch and would provide a lovely opportunity to de-stress, relax and enjoy some beautiful scenery on a warm summer's day. After about 15 minutes walking, you will come to another metal monolith reading Sideway Development. **F**

At this point, alongside a white metal railing, there are some steps going off down to the side of the white metal railing and a path leading from here across a muddy field. Ignore this and continue along the towpath. As you walk on, the canal takes a wide sweeping right hand turn. Just here, before some housing appears on your right, the River Trent passes under the canal and sweeps away to your right. This housing marks the start of the housing estates in Hanford. Just after here you will pass an elevated pipe crossing the river and there is a notice board on the plinth on the opposite side of the river, advertising the Plume of Feathers public house at Barlaston – 2 miles on; it offers moorings, bar meals (a la carte), a bowling green, patio, etc. Over on the opposite side of the canal is a wide open field and further ahead is a housing estate. On your side of the canal is an exit going into the housing estate on your right. **G** Ignore this exit and continue along the towpath.

You will pass another canal signpost; it reads Preston Brook to your right 39 miles, and Shardlow 55 miles. Walk on around a right hand bend and there are some very nice houses on the other side of the canal with



balconies and terraces backing onto the canal, making this a particularly pleasant area to walk. After a short distance you will come across another metal plinth reading North Staffs Railway, and there is a map of the Trent & Mersey Canal and the Caldon Canal on it. There are also some steps here, going off up to your right and into the housing estate on your right. You, however, should continue on along the towpath. **H** Just behind the metal plinth you will notice a huge tree trunk which has grown its way all the way along the top of the wall of what used to be a canal bridge (of the former railway), but which is now simply a wall at the side of the canal.

After a few yards you will see a stile going off through a hedge on your right into a little side street but you should continue on to another stile on the towpath itself, just before the canal bridge numbered 106; you should continue on under the bridge. As you emerge from the other side of the bridge you will come across another plinth reading: Longton Road and Hem Heath and Newstead Woods. Just beyond this are the steps going off to your right which you should follow up to Longton Road. **I**

If you are local, or you happen to live in the Trentham area, you could access this canal as the start of this walk, rather than starting it at Stanley Matthews Way. However, continuing with this walk; from the bridge you should turn right and walk along Longton Road on the pavement, past a BP petrol garage, and Hindley House care home on your right. You will pass Haversham House teacher's retirement home, also on your right. You will also pass a traffic camera beside a wood, and on the other side of Longton Road are the Guardian Care Homes: New House Centre - care for young adults, Mayfield House - general care, and Selwyn House - specialist nursing and EMI care. A little further along, you will cross a main line railway bridge. Continuing on you will also pass the entrance and car park to Hem Heath Woods and Nature Reserve which sit alongside an electricity sub station. However, you should ignore all of this and continue along Longton Road towards the approaching traffic lights in front of Newstead Trading Estate. Here you should cross onto the central reservation. Walk along this central reservation to the other traffic lights and cross Longton Road onto the pavement at the junction of Longton Road and Stanley Matthews Way. **A**

## Remember

Not all of these walks contain uphill stretches, but some of them do. If you are unsure about your level of fitness, please consult your GP prior to undertaking these walks.

**Toilets were not available in these areas at the time of going to press.**

### Hazards to look out for...

Tree roots, boggy areas of path, buried stones, paths churned up by motorcycles and maintenance/service vehicles, and flooding are some of the hazards in Hem Heath and Newstead Woods. Roads also present a hazard and care should be undertaken when crossing them; particularly Longton Road which is a main and busy trunk road.

Closer to home  
Circular Walks



SOUTH STOKE  
No:6

### Stanley Matthews Way & Trentham Canalside

## Points of interest

- The Caldon Canal is really a branch of the Trent & Mersey Canal at Stoke-on-Trent, but is little-known and much underrated for its beauty and dramatic views as it winds its way into the countryside above the Potteries and through to the Derbyshire hills. The canal then splits into two arms; the upper arm taking the high road to Leek, where it ends beside the now disused aqueduct on the outskirts of the town. The lower arm is joined by the River Churnet dropping down, through a beautifully peaceful wooded valley, to the Canal's terminus at Froghall; not far from Alton Towers.
- Caldon Canal has much of interest, including a well-preserved flint mill and pair of working water wheels at Cheddleton, a pub completely isolated from the roads at Consall Forge, and a very small tunnel at Froghall navigable only by the narrowest and lowest of narrowboats.
- A number of venerable old buildings remain and to this day produce fine china, although the strangely shaped 'Bottle Kilns' which once fired the clay are no longer used, though thankfully preserved. The restored canals still pass their doors, allowing us a privileged insight into Victorian working life as it was graphically illustrated within the pages of Arnold Bennett's classic book Anna of the Five Towns.
- The Caldon Canal leaves the Potteries taking a north easterly course, climbing into the Staffordshire Peaks to descend the Churnet Valley through an area so remote and peaceful that it has earned the title 'Staffordshire's Little Switzerland'.

www.thepotteries.org



Closer to home  
Circular Walks



Two walks around

## Stanley Matthews Way & Trentham Canalside

SOUTH STOKE  
No:6