



WALK 3

Consall Nature Park

2 Kms, Easy, Allow ¾ hour

Alternative: 3.5 Kms, Strenuous, Allow 1½ hours

Start – Consall Station



These paths can be very muddy and wet, following rain or prolonged periods of wet weather. Waterproof and sturdy footwear should be worn. Not suitable for push chair.

- 1** Leave Consall Station, cross the bridge over the River Churnet and turn left along the lane that leads from the Black Lion pub. Follow the lane for 300 metres to reach the road leading up to Consall village.
- 2** Cross the road and find the public footpath sign. Once off the road turn right and follow the white, way-marked path up the hill towards Consall Nature Park visitor centre.

Consall Nature Park is managed by Staffordshire County Council. There are four separate way-marked paths and several further footpaths to explore. Although there is little evidence of it now, this area was once heavily industrialised. The last Ironstone mine closed in 1923. Dogs must be kept on a lead in the park.

- 3** Follow the way-marked path up the hill until you come to a small car parking area used by anglers. Turn left here and take the green way-marked path along the left hand side of the lake.

This lake is called Lawn Pool and has several fishing platforms along its edge. However the far side of the lake is a conservation area with no access. Along with Grey Squirrels, Canada Geese, Mallards and Coot you may be lucky enough to see a Grass Snake swimming in the lake!

- 4** At the end of the lake take the right fork, until you reach a bench, then head slightly to the left heading up to the second pool on your left. Keep walking uphill until you reach the visitors centre.

This second lake is called Heron Pool. The visitor centre is open on summer weekends and school holidays only. Toilets are available at the back of the visitor centre.

- 5** With your back to the visitor centre walk down the field to reach the corner of Heron Pool. Turn left and follow the green way marked path. At the end of the lake the path turns down to the right and then left as another path joins from the right. Continue along the green path and then take the right fork at the next junction. You will shortly come to the first lake (Lawn Pool) again on your left. At the fork, bear right and follow this unmarked track down the hill.
- 6** At the next junction of paths turn right and rejoin the white way-marked path back down the hill. Re-cross the road and follow the lane back to Consall station.



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Optional extension to this walk

This route has steep slopes, many steps and is often muddy. Stout footwear is essential!

- 7** After leaving the visitor centre Walk downhill to reach the bottom right hand corner of Hero pool, follow the red and white way-marked path down the hill, across a stream and to the point where the white path turns left down some steps. Go down these steps and cross the stream at the bottom via a footbridge.
- 8** Now climb the hill using steps where available until you reach the top. At the "Hollins Lane" sign bear left and start back down the hill until you cross a stream again. Once again climb up the hill until you reach the top. The path is narrow here and has a steep drop to the left.

You may wish to take a rest here on the convenient seat while you get your breath back and admire the view.

- 9** Ignore the red and purple waymarks but bear left and drop back down the white way-marked path along a set of steps until you come to a marshy area crossed by a boardwalk.
- 10** Follow the boardwalk until you reach a small footbridge and meadow. Cross the bridge turning left towards a substantial footbridge crossing the River Churnet. Don't cross this bridge, but turn left and slightly uphill until you come to the footpath sign and the point where you entered the nature park earlier.
- 11** Follow the lane back to Consall Station.

