

Prees Walks

WALK 3 – PREES AND LOWER HEATH



An anti-clockwise 5.3 mile circuit with magnificent views

Route notes

1. Start from Prees Village car park. Walk up the hill to the church.
2. Follow the road (Cross End) round passing the church. At the front of the school turn up the track towards the reservoir and phone mast on the hilltop.
3. Just after the last bungalow on the left, bear left over a stile. Walk up across the middle of the field heading up to the far corner of the field.
4. Cross a stile in an often-muddy gateway and bear slightly right across the field. Enjoy the views to South Shropshire Hills. The Long Mynd and Stiperstones are clearly visible on a good day. Looking further right you'll see across to the Breidden Hills with Wales beyond. Make sure you follow the direction indicated by the angle of the waymark disc on the stile. The brow of the hill prevents you from seeing the stile you're aiming for until you get close to it.
5. Having crossed the field, cross a stile next to a farm gate. On the left is a small copse. You are now heading downhill with a hedge on your left.
6. The path crosses a stile in the hedgerow (by a cow trough) and you carry on walking in the same direction with the hedge now on your right.
7. Go straight over the next stile and head straight across the next field to join the hedge on the lefthand edge of the field.
PLEASE NOTE – this gateway can be hard to walk through after heavy rain or in mid winter. It can get very swampy!
8. Follow the hedge line until, having crossed a stile, you come out on a lane (Cruckmoor Lane)
9. Turn left and walk for 30 yards on the lane and then go right through a metal footpath gate.
10. Follow the path through 4 more gates (and across a sleeper bridge) until you come to the B road.
11. Cross the B road (take care – there's a bend in the road here and there can be fast traffic) and walk to the right for a few yards before turning left through a kissing gate onto another footpath.
12. Bear left through another kissing gate after just a few yards.
13. Follow the path through 2 further kissing gates and then, bearing to the right, head down to a little footbridge over Sidley Moor Brook.

14. Having crossed the footbridge, bearing slightly left, follow the path to a stile by an oak tree in the hedge. Crossing that stile you emerge onto a lane (Broadhay Road). Turn right and walk on the road for a quarter of a mile.
15. Take the SECOND track on the right which is the entrance to Broadhay Farm – you'll see the sign. Go through a farm gate into the farmyard. Then go through the farm gate on the left into a field.
The views to the right are of Hawkstone Park, Hawkstone Hall and Hawkstone Abbey Farm – the latter is the home of famous Appleby's Cheshire Cheese.
16. Through another farm gate where the path forks. Take the left fork towards a hedgerow. When you reach the hedge, keep it on your left and walk to the end where, having carefully opened a bungee clip gate in the electric fence (and closed it again), you reach the farm track up to Hawkstone Abbey Farm.
17. Turn left on the farm track. Walk to the end where it joins Broadhay Road again. Turn right onto the road.
18. After 100 yards you reach a T junction with the Prees to Marchamley road. Turn left.
19. Be careful as you walk on this stretch of road. There can sometimes be fast traffic. You only need walk on the road as far as the white house on the left at the first bend in the road.
20. Just past the white house (called Park Coppice) cross a stile in the beech hedge and head off across the meadows.
21. The path crosses 5 stiles – for most of this path there is a line of established beech trees on your left. Look out for the beautiful lake through the trees.
22. Crossing the final stile and sleeper bridge you reach the B road again. Turn right and then, after 20 yards, turn left up a farm track. There are usually Highland Cattle in the field on your left here.
23. 150 yards up the track there is a stile on the right. Cross that and through a series of 5 metal gates/kissing gates and across a couple of sleeper bridges until you come out on a track/drive.
24. Turn left and on your right is a modern house called The Bungalow. Here you can often buy local honey.
25. The path continues between a wooden shed and a garden. Go through the kissing gate, and then on a path running between a fence and a hedge and through another kissing gate onto an open arable field.
26. Look ahead and you'll see a black Dutch barn in the distance and you may see the blades of a wind turbine too. Head for these landmarks but bear in mind the path takes a slightly curved route. There's an electric fence clip gate by a cow trough to go through half way across this section of path.
27. When you reach the black corrugated iron barn, cross a stile next to it and turn left on the lane (Armoury Lane)
28. Follow the lane for a third of a mile. Go past the fishing lake on your left, and then around a sharp right hand corner and past a house (Fox Hollow) on the left. Then take the path on the left by crossing a stile.
29. Cross another stile into a more open meadow with fabulous views to the left of Cumberbatch Wood and Hawkstone Hall.

30. Cross another 2 stiles and you come to a wooden gate. Go through that and walk straight across the lawn. Go through another wooden gate at the other side of the lawn and then over a stile and a little bridge to emerge in some well planted, landscaped gardens. Walk across the lawned path to the far side of the garden keeping the house distant on your left.
31. There's a gap in the hedge. Walk through that and you immediately join the tarmac drive for a neighbouring house. Turn right and walk to the end where you turn left onto a road (Lacon Street).
32. Follow the road back into Prees, past the church and down the hill (Church Street) back to your start point in the car park.