



WALKS IN LONGDON PARISH

pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Proceed along Dark Lane, past Dark Lane Cottage until you reach the junction with Borough Lane, where you re-join the main walk route.

6. SHROPSHIRE BROOK

Turn left along Borough Lane. (care needed - fast vehicles). Approx 30m after the junction with Dark Lane climb the stile on your left, walking straight ahead through the field keeping the hedge to your right. Take care if cattle are in the field and because of the uneven ground. Climb the stile at the end of the field and proceed into the small copse, where a bridge over Shropshire Brook and a stile will take you into the horse paddocks. Continue straight on up the field to locate further stiles (3). This section of the walk can be arduous in early summer, if the long grass has not been mowed for hay. Mares with young foals can also be skittish - be careful if they are in the paddocks (regardless of your right of way!). Exit onto a track known as Catmeadow Lane. Walk up the track to the road.



7. HOLLINSHEAD RACING STABLES

Turn right past the Hollinshead racing stables. You may hear the farrier at work at his forge. Cross the road (take care as traffic can be fast) to locate the small metal gate and footpath just to the left of the main gates to Windmill Farm. The seat can be most welcome. Notice the recently restored windmill on the hill. Follow the footpath diagonally left through the small copse. In spring and summer this is a glorious wild flower meadow. Exit the copse and head diagonally i.e. across the field to find the stile by a small building with a weather vane.



8. THE KENNELS

Skirt the garage and down the driveway of The Kennels (this is a right of way). Before the road, turn right through the gate walking up the field...



9. UPPER WAY

to a further gate at the top onto Upper Way. Cross the road onto the footway turning left and return to your starting point.



REMEMBER THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow signs
- Consider other people
- Leave gates and property as before
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control

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NUMBER 9 ANGLESEY ESTATE WAY

WALK DISTANCE:

3 miles (5 km) • Time 1.5 hours

A circular walk to the south east of Upper Longdon via the hamlet of Red Hill and onto the Grand Lodge of Beaudesert, using a mixture of minor metalled roads, and footpaths across undulating farmland and woodland, returning via horse paddocks.

Parts of this walk can be muddy at times especially in winter and after rain.

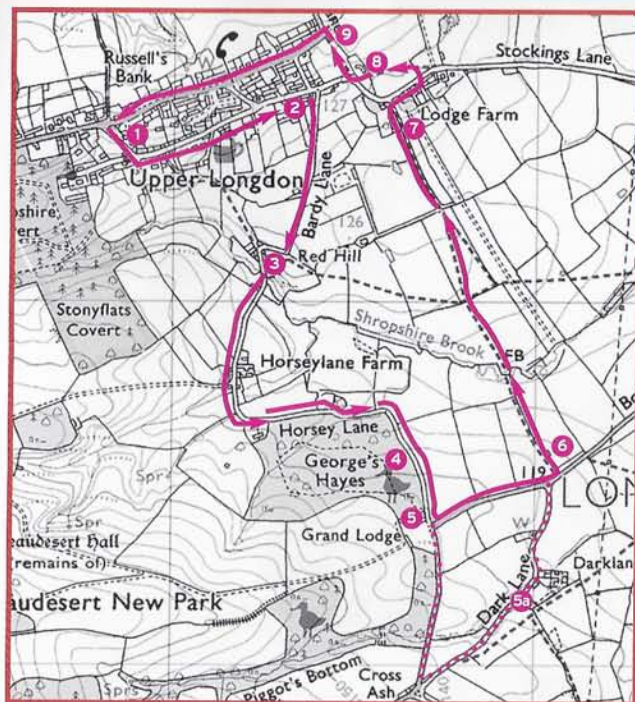


1. STARTING AT THE CHETWYND ARMS

Public house at Upper Longdon (where parking may be available by permission of the landlord) and with the pub behind you walk to the left along Upper Way for about 100 yards. At the top of Shavers Lane take in the view to the south over part of the old estate of Beaudesert, former home of the Lords Paget, Marquises of Anglesey, and through the trees beyond towards Lichfield. Descend Shavers Lane. Note the name of Gunpowder Cottage at the bottom of the hill. (Unfortunately, no interesting history). Turn left to walk along Lower Way taking care as there is no footpath. Appreciate the variety of interesting houses.

2. LOWER WAY

Continue along Lower Way until turning right into Bardy Lane passing Longdon Stud and Bardy Farm Cottage. Ignore the sharp right-hand bend but carry straight ahead through the gate into the tranquillity of Red Hill Forest Garden. This has recently been cleared and planted with trees. Proceed to the right of the garden and carefully descend the steep steps to the Shropshire Brook, which wends its way eastwards, passing through Longdon Village (used for the annual Duck Race) and eventually joining the River Trent at Armitage.



3. RED HILL

Emerge into the hamlet of Red Hill originally part of the Marquis of Anglesey's Beaudesert Estate. Before turning left, take a short diversion (50m) to the right. Notice the timber fronted house known as the White Cottage dating from 1889 with front windows added in 1960s from a hotel in Shrewsbury. Originally a one up, one down estate worker's cottage. Garden Cottage, next to it, was once three alms houses. Retrace your steps.

4. HORSEY LANE

Now proceed past Red Hill Cottage up the lane now known as Horsey Lane, narrow but little traffic, past Horsey Lane Farm and Tree Tops on towards the Grand Lodge of the old Beaudesert Estate. If you fancy a sit down at this



point, venture into the George's Hayes Nature Reserve. This ancient woodland is managed by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and is open to the public. The main entrance and car park is just past the Grand Lodge (approx. 100m) further along the lane. The reserve is made up of George's Hayes, Piggot's Bottom and Square Covert. All these woodlands are termed 'ancient woodland' which means that the ground has been continuously covered by woodland since 1600. But this doesn't mean that the trees you see are over 400 years old. George's Hayes is one of our best ancient woodland sites and known for its native wild Daffodils, also Bluebells, Ramsons, Wood Anemone, Common Spotted orchid, and Red Deer. There are a couple of seats along an informal circular path through the woodland; keep your eyes peeled for deer, but be careful of the uneven path in parts, which have been churned up by horse riders. Return to Horsey Lane and turn right towards the Grand Lodge.



5. BEAUDESERT ESTATE

At the road junction notice the Grand Lodge originally with a central arched gateway being the main entrance to the Beaudesert Estate. There is a small car park just beyond the Grand Lodge at Piggot's Bottom (part of the George's Hayes Nature Reserve) should you wish to return by car.

5a. DARK LANE

At this point there is an opportunity to extend the route by approx. ½ mile 1km to take in the sunken Dark Lane. If you choose this diversion, walk past Grand Lodge, pausing to enjoy the view eastwards, with Longdon Church (St James the Great) in the middle distance. Beware of traffic along this short section of the road as it can be a busy rat run at certain times of the day; Piggot's Bottom is on your right, if you fancy venturing into this larger part of the nature reserve. Continue along the road until you reach the three way junction of Thorleys Hill, Stonywell Lane and Dark Lane. Exercise great care at this point as the junction is on a blind bend. Turn left into Dark Lane, now closed to vehicular traffic, but still used by