

Plough Walks



WALK NO: 3

WHITEGATE'S MAGICAL MYSTERY TRAIL.

- **START/FINISH:** THE PLOUGH
 - **MAPS:** OS EXPLORER 267
 - **DISTANCE:** 9KM / 5.7 MILES
 - **ALLOW:** 2HRS
- **FIRM SURFACE WITH LEVEL & ELEVATED PARTS. SOME SECTIONS CAN BE WET/MUDDY IN WINTER.**

About the Walk

This walk is everything its title suggests, taking you on a memorable two hour journey via some of the areas most secluded paths & woodland. The walk starts with a little used path close to Beauty Bank, which heads to St Mary's Church via Foxwist & Cinder Hill. (Incidentally the white dwelling opposite the church, used to be the original village pub, The Rifleman Inn. In 1870 it had its licence revoked, as the then Lady Delamere objected to the drunken behaviour of its customers as she left church one particular Sunday morning!) The walk continues into Church Wood & then woodland adjacent to Vale Royal Drive. It is from here that you emerge to see Monks Well Cottage aptly named for the ancient well located in its grounds. After a short walk in open fields the journey continues into Rookery wood & along the old course of the River Weaver. You are now walking amidst some of the forgotten grounds of the Delamere estate, where successive members of the family created fine Italian gardens & planted trees from all over the world, including the giant redwoods that can still be seen today! Sadly most of the gardens have long since disappeared.



1. The Plough to Church Wood.

Turn right out of the Plough and then right down the track through the trees and then right as you emerge at the road, then after a few yards, turn right through the kissing gate next to the pumping station. **(If you reach the first dwelling on the right called Briary farm you have missed the kissing gate so go back)** Walk along the wooden fence and upwards to the next kissing gate. Go through the gap and turn right and go past **Foxes Green farm** And then turn left down the lane just before the dwelling with the white gate (**Swallows nest**) **(1.25km)** After a short distance go through the kissing gate on the left and across the field to another kissing gate & then on to the stile in the corner of the field, next to a dwelling.

Go over the stile and walk along the fence next to the dwelling, then down some steps to the road at Cinder Hill. Turn right and down into Whitegate village & continue on through the church gates **(2.35km)** around the left hand side of the church and through the graveyard, with benches & hedge to the right. When you reach the gate into the angler's car park, turn right & then right again at the road. Cross over the road just before the school road sign and then go through the gap in the fence and into Church Wood.

2. Church Wood - Rookery Wood

Follow the path keeping straight on and eventually past the memorial bench before reaching a gate. Go through the gap next to the gate & turn right & across Vale Royal drive, through the trees and into the field. **(3.15km)** at the end of the field, go through the gap by the metal gate and into the wood. Bear left at the clump of trees and walk down to the bottom of the wood, cross over the sleeper bridge and emerge out of the wood, with Monks Well cottage directly ahead. **(4.15km)**

Turn right and continue along the narrow path past the stile on the left and through the gap in the hedgerow ahead. Turn left and walk alongside the field to the end & then through the gap in the hedgerow and into the next field. Continue to the left of the field for a short distance, then at the signpost go across the field to the right, past two oak trees ahead and then down and through the gap and into **Monks Well Wood**.

3. The Weaver Old Course - Whitegate Village.

On entering the wood follow the path around to the left for a short distance (**less than 0.1km**) before descending right towards the river Weaver. Continue along this path, with the river to your right, for approximately 500 metres, until you emerge on the tarmac drive of Vale Royal House. Turn left here and after a few yards take the path to your right which follows the fence line bordering Rookery wood (**5.40km**). Continue along this path, until reaching a point where a path crosses, from the right over a stile in this fence. Turn left at this junction, over a footbridge and continue up through the wood, until emerging on the golf course, where you turn left and follow the path around the rear of the 13th tee.

4. Vale Royal – Foxwist Green

Continue on the path, bearing right at the 13th tee, through the golf course and then through the gate and the gap between the dwellings (**6.45km**) Go across the road (**St Mary's drive**) and along the road ahead between the dwellings, then left into the trees and right on the track called Vale Royal drive (**formerly the original Westerly road to the Abbey**) Walk a short distance and pass by the metal gate and then turn left down Sutton Field. At the end of the road turn right onto Mill road and just before the road bears to the right, cross over to the left and thru the metal gate and then over the footbridge.

Continue along the path and up through the field to a gap and then right and on through another field, following the path with trees to the right. Cross over a stile between some trees and then on to the next stile and through a small field to yet another stile, bringing you to the road at Foxwist Green. Turn right at the road and after a short distance go thru the kissing gate on the left hand side (**opposite Chadwick Foxwist Green**)

5. Beauty Bank & the Plough

Walk down along the hedge to your right and turn right through the small metal gate. Turn left and go through the next gate and then over the footbridge.

Continue upwards through two kissing gates and on through the field to the road at beauty bank. Turn right and walk the short distance back to the Plough (**start & finish**) (**9.10km**)

▪ Why not finish your walk with a drink and a meal in our welcoming hostelry

Hidden in a quiet corner of beautiful Cheshire countryside that is popular with walkers and steeped in history, the Plough Inn offers traditional beers, fine wines, and quality home cooked food served in a comfortable and friendly atmosphere.

We have one of the most varied menus in the area. Favourites such as steak pie and chips are served alongside starters, salads and a continually changing specials board. A wide variety of fish and seafood is also available. All our dishes are prepared on the premises using fresh sustainable produce from local meat and fish suppliers.

We would appreciate any feedback regarding our walks, please forward them to Nigel Durose at the following email address. Nigedurose05@googlemail.com

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Further walks are available from the Plough or by visiting the above website.