



Accessibility Guide for RSPB Consall Woods

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<https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/consall-woods>



Welcome

Consall Woods is situated in the village of Consall in the Churnet valley, about 9 miles East of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. It is a woodland site within a steep sided valley home to pied flycatchers, redstart, argent & sable moth and much more.

Set in a steep-sided valley with the River Churnet running through, it's a picturesque spot where you can see both woodland and wetland birds. In spring, birdsong fills the air as Blackbirds and Wrens lend their calls to the dawn chorus. Be sure to listen out for Great Spotted Woodpeckers, the drummers of the group. In late spring and early summer, Flycatchers and Redstarts arrive.

Down by the river in autumn, patient watchers may be rewarded by a glimpse of Dippers and Grey Wagtail. And, in winter, keep your eyes peeled for Willow Tit and Marsh Tit by the pools.

The beauty of Consall Woods is its variety and that's what we work to safeguard at the reserve. We carefully manage the site for the benefit of all the wildlife that calls it home. Consall Woods is a mosaic of mature trees and scrub, made up of trees of all species, ages and sizes. We preserve this mixture, ensuring the ideal balance for biodiversity. We also tend the grassland meadows, keeping them full of flowers by using grazing with old breeds of cattle and traditional hay-making methods.

Stretching over 479 acres, there's so much to explore at Consall Wood. You'll find a range of trails to suit different abilities, with conveniently-located benches so you can stop and rest or have a snack while taking in views across the valley

At a Glance

Level Access

- There is level access from the carpark to:
 - Consall Woods Reserve Toilets
 - Viewing area in front of the old visitor center.

General

- There is at least 1 public toilet for disabled visitors.
- Dogs on leads are permitted on site.

Getting here

Address Consall Woods, Consall, Staffordshire, ST9 0BE	What3Words grove.garage.menu	Grid reference SJ994 484
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Travel by public transport

- Moorlands Connect may run a service to Consall Woods if requested: Email bookings@moorlandsconnect.co.uk (48 hours advance notice) or Tel 01335 342951.

For more information see Ashbourne Community Transport

- Churnet Valley Railway run regular steam trains into the valley. enquiries@churnetvalleyrailway.co.uk
01538 360522
- You can get a taxi with Leek Taxis by calling 01538 340 006 .
- You can get a taxi with Leek Link Taxis by calling 01538 399999.

Parking

- We have a car park. There are accessible parking spaces. Parking is not free. Please pay for parking using the pay by phone app or with cash.
- The car park (open dawn until dusk) is situated on your right, approximately half a mile after the reserve entrance. Accessible toilets are only a few metres away from the designated accessible car parking spaces. visitors can be dropped off in the car park, where there are no kerbs.

Arrival

 Ticket/ information desk

Visitor Centre

Currently closed

Public toilet

Consall woods Reserve Toilets

- There is one public toilet for disabled visitors. Accessible with a radar key.
- From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access to the disabled toilet.
- There are two uni-sex public toilets for other visitors. This toilet has a step up into it.
- The toilets have a sanitary bin in each.

Picnic Area

Picnic Area

- From the car park to the picnic area, there is level access. The path is 1450mm wide, or more.
- The entrance is 1450mm wide.
- Some tables have space for wheelchair users. You can bring your own food to the picnic area.
- A picnic area is available next to the main car park
It contains 2 benches, 1 of which can be used by wheelchair users



Viewing Platform in front of the old visitor centre

- From the car park, there is level access. The route is 1520mm wide, or more.

Getting around outside

 Designated Walking Trail

Nature awaits

Discover the secrets of this once industrial valley. Nestled alongside the river, Consall Woods is now teeming with wonderful birds, enchanting wildlife and mature woodland.

Explore Consall Woods today

CONSALL WOODS

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Ch Chase Wood loop

Easy route | 1 mile | 40 min

From the Churnet river follow this lovely, short path through ash and oak woodland of Chase Wood.

The path is narrow and muddy in places but not too steep. Go up into the woodland and follow the loop rightwards. After a short set of steps on the edge of a pine plantation turn right, the loop comes back to the river. In spring this is one of the best places in the Churnet Valley to see pied flycatchers and redstart.

C Crowgutter loop

Hard route | 1.9 miles | 1 hour 15 min

This longer route is packed full of history.

Walk along the canal towpath and then tackle the Devil's Staircase behind the Black Lion pub and go past Price's Cave and Belmont Pastures. Walk down the drive then take a right to shortcut through the woods. You then need to turn right and walk along a quiet road for a short time before turning right and heading back down through Crowgutter Wood. Here you will pass an old waterfall used during the industrial revolution. Keep an eye out for buzzards and deer. The paths can be steep and muddy in places.

B Booths Wood loop

Hard route | 1 mile | 40 min

This route is a steeper loop but is very peaceful and worth the effort.

Head straight up the Staffordshire moorlands path but instead of crossing a stile into the meadows, follow the woodland trail on the right. Keep following this trail back down to the canal and walk along the tow path back to the beginning. Along the way you will see badger setts, deer trails and great views of pied flycatcher and redstart in the spring. Wild garlic and bluebells carpet the woodland floor in May and June.

P Pool side stroll

Easy route | ½ mile | 20 min

This shorter stroll takes you around the lovely pools at Consall.

This gently sloping path is only a short distance from the car park. These are beautiful pools set within mature woodland. This gently sloping path quickly brings you to Heron Pool, a short distance from the car park. A lovely relaxing stroll will take you past Lawn Pool, where you can sit on one of several benches and take in the beautiful surroundings. If you visit in late spring you may notice the common spotted orchids within the grasslands and there are often goosanders passing the day on the water.

W Woodland valley loop

Easy route | 1 ¼ miles | 50 min

This easily followed walk takes you along the trails through beautiful, mature woodland.

A great walk to hear the dawn chorus in spring, you might even see pied flycatchers along here in April or May. These birds are doing much better here since the holly has been reduced in the understorey. This is a nice shaded walk for a hot summers day.

F The Far Kingsley banks loop

Hard route | 2 miles | 1 hour 20 min

This hike takes you past the river and then up steep slopes to views overlooking the valley.

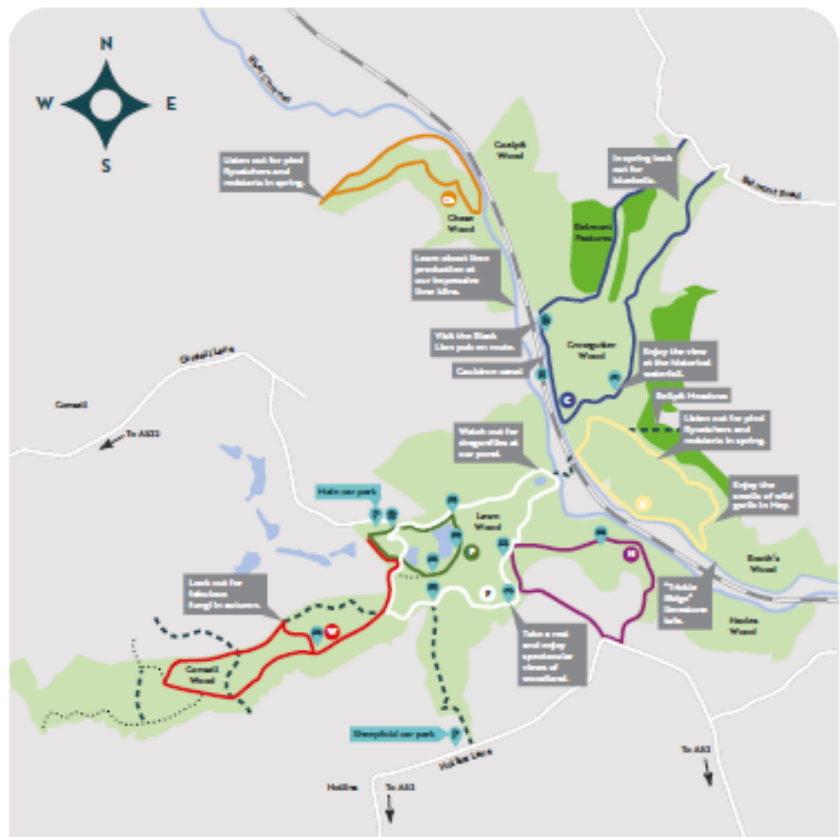
Start by heading down the valley past both Heron and Lawn pools and towards the beautiful river Churnet. You might see willow tits in this area or dippers and herons when you get down to the river. From the river the route follows the public right of way along a boardwalk and then up a steep flight of steps. Please ensure dogs are on a lead, as there are some very steep slopes and cliffs on this route. Once at the top of the steps you'll proceed to an open area where a bench allows you to rest and take in the magnificent views of the valley below. This path is often muddy.

H Hazles loc

Hard route | ½ mile | 20 min

This one and a half mile walk takes you through mature woodland and open farmland, with views overlooking the valley.

You can do this walk by either starting at Sheepfold car park and heading east along the road, about 670m, to Hazles farm and joining the route there, or adding it to the Far Kingsley, white route. From Hazles farm, walk around the east side of the farm along the public right of way. You'll then cross open pasture, from where you'll be greeted with magnificent views of the valley. Once entering the woodland the route keeps you higher before descending a long flight of steps. Please ensure dogs are on a lead, as there are some very steep slopes and cliffs. The old mine shaft is evidence of the industrial past of this now tranquil valley.



Water	Parking	Consall station	Woodland Valley loop
Grassland	Visitor centre	Chase Wood loop	Far Kingsley banks loop
Woodland	Bench	Crowgutter loop	Hazles loop
Railway line	Viewpoint	Booths Wood loop	Public right of way
	Black Lion pub	Poolside stroll	Permissive path

For more information on the accessibility of Consall Woods, please visit rspb.org.uk/consallwoods

