

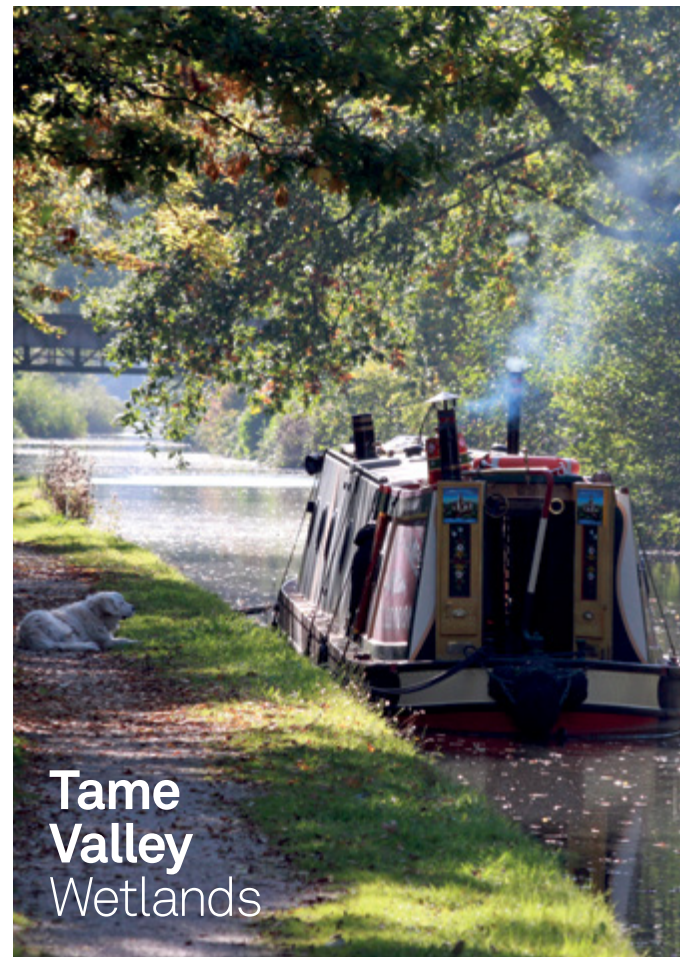


Sections of this circular walk travel through wildlife friendly areas. Please be aware of this and know your Countryside Code:

- Leave gates and property as you find them and keep to paths
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Be considerate of locals and others enjoying the outdoors
- Follow advice and local signs.

Curdworth Pits Ponds & Pools

Circular Walk



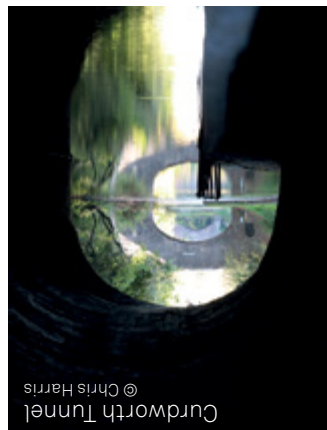
Curdworth Said to be the first recorded Anglo-Saxon settlement in the English Midlands, founded by the Mercian King Creoda in 585 AD, 'Curdworth' is a corruption of 'Creodas Wort', which translates as 'Property of Creoda'. At the time the Domesday Book was written, 1085/86, Curdworth had a population of 22. The current population is around 1200.

Wiggins Hill During the summer months, look out for skylarks rising vertically from the crops in these fields. Listen out for a treacherous pit.

Church Pit Currently used to draw water to irrigate fields and also used by anglers. It is thought the nearby Blindpit Lane is named after the large and open fields.

Over Green Take some time to enjoy the wide vistas over the Midlands, looking out for kestrels hunting over the open fields.

Farm of Wicga's People: 'Winchicelle', meaning 'The Farm of Wicga's People'; the Domesday Book as 'Winchicelle', meaning 'The Hill is first mentioned in when in flight. Wiggins or a long fluid warbling 'chirrup' call when alarmed



and west tower. The chancel and nave were built after the mid-12th Century. Some of the original windows have been retained and some remains of the nave doors also survive. In the 14th Century these were walled up and new doorways created in the westernmost window days. During the 15th Century, the nave was lengthened and the tower constructed.

Curdworth Tunnel

The only tunnel on the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal resulted from the engineers' decision to ignore instructions to dig a cutting. For these builders it was their first chance to create a tunnel which now has Grade II listed status.

Curdworth Top Lock. Just before the lock is a winding hole, where barges could change direction before entering or leaving the lock system.

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'Winchicelle', meaning 'The
Farm of Wicga's People'.

Curdworth is located near Junction 9 of the M42.

A public car park can be found off Kingsbury Road near the King George V Playing Fields.

This walk is served by Central Buses, services 75/75A stopping near the Post Office/Stores on Coleshill Road, Curdworth. Stops are also along the Kingsbury Rod (A4097) parallel to the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal.

This guide is available to download from the website.
For more information visit:

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 enquiries@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk

 [Facebook.com/tamevalleywetlands](https://www.facebook.com/tamevalleywetlands)

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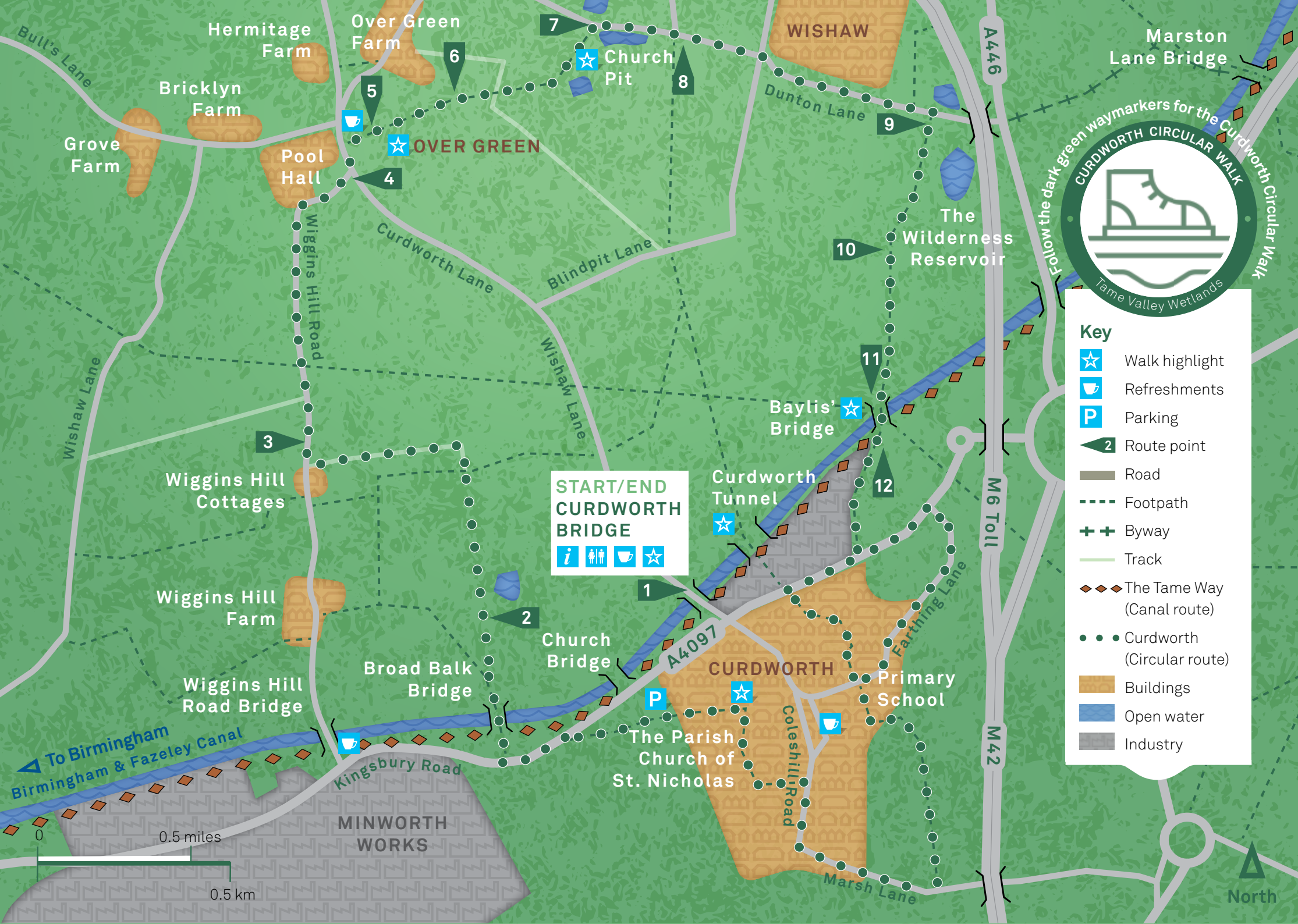


Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group's ramble entitled *Pits, Ponds and Pools* provided the inspiration for the northern part of this walk.

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Landscape Partnership
C/O Warwickshire Wildlife Trust



Curdworth Bridge
© Donna Willis



Curdworth Circular walk

Distance: 9km (5.5 miles)
Allow: 2 hours
Ascent: 38m

Landscape and path type: Public footpaths. Open countryside, towpath and village. There are three pedestrian kissing gates and no stiles with rough ground when not on roads.

Dogs: Permitted, under control at all times.

Map: OS 220 Birmingham, Walsall, Solihull & Redditch.

Directions: Section 1 (Circular route through countryside)

1 From Wishaw Lane, walk down the steps before Curdworth Bridge onto the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal towpath. At the bottom of the steps, turn left and walk west along the canal towpath, following the Tame Way. Pass beneath Curdworth Church Bridge then up onto Broad Balk Bridge, after 600m.

2 At Broad Balk Bridge, turn right following the way markers over the bridge toward arable farmland. Turn left here for Curdworth circular route, see section 2. Follow the way marked route towards the north, passing a wildlife pond on your right. Follow the permissive path and turn left on the farm track towards Wiggin's Hill Cottages.

3 At the road side, turn right and walk up hill towards the village of Over Green. Take some time to enjoy the wide vistas over the Midlands, looking out for kestrels hunting over the open fields.

4 At the T-junction is Pool Hall . Turn left briefly onto Curdworth Lane.

5 Ahead is the The Cock Inn, a good point for a halfway break.

6 From The Cock Inn, follow the way marked route east through the car park back onto farmland, skirting the field edges, across the field towards an oak tree, passing a wildlife pond in the grounds of the Old Rectory.

7 Then north east, towards Church Pit.

8 At Church Lane, turn right and walk along the road east.

9 Continue along Church Lane, going straight ahead at the staggered crossroads, going into Dunton Lane past Rookery Cottages, for about 850m. Look for the way marker post near the hedgerow and the kissing gate, leading to the footpath. To the left is a water run-off pool for the M6 toll road.

10 Walk south through the arable field, keeping to the marked routes. The Wilderness reservoir is on your right.

11 Carry on across the fields to Baylis' Bridge over the Birmingham

& Fazeley Canal.

12 Follow the route back onto the canal towpath or follow the road through the industrial area for a circuit through Curdworth Village (see Section 2). Re-joining the canal, turn right along the towpath, following the Tame Way, with the canal on your right hand side. After almost 500m you will walk through Curdworth Tunnel (52m in length). You can bypass the tunnel by climbing the steps to the left.

After passing either through or over Curdworth Tunnel, carry on along the towpath towards Curdworth Bridge, returning to the start point of the circular walk.

Section 2 (Circular route through Curdworth Village)

From Broad Balk Bridge, turn left and head towards Kingsbury Road (A4097). Turn left and follow the dual carriageway for about 150m, until it ends and you spot a way marking post on the opposite side of the road. Cross the road and head through the gap in the hedge into the field. Turn left towards Curdworth Village, through a hedge and across the King George V Playing Fields towards Church Lane, passing between The Parish Church of St. Nicolas and St. Peter ad Vincula and a park on your right.

Follow the way markers to the right, down a slope and through a kissing gate to a housing estate, joining Oaklands. Walk east in the direction

of Coleshill Road, then following Coleshill Road, south then bearing east onto Marsh Lane.

Follow the way markers, down a set of steps and through a kissing gate on to grazing land. Walk up the slope through a further three gates and kissing gates, reaching Curdworth Primary School. Walk down the track until exiting onto Farthing Lane, turning right towards Curdworth Hall Farm.

Upon reaching the end of Farthing Lane at Kingsbury Road (A4097), turn left towards Curdworth Village, after approx 200m cross the road and walk through the Fairview Industrial Estate, reaching the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal again after 330m.