

Follow the Countryside Code

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 close control
- Be considerate of locals and others enjoying the outdoors
- Follow advice and local signs.



Shustoke Reservoir

Circular Walks

Medium: 9km / 5.5 miles



Explore the landscape, history and wildlife of the Tame Valley Wetlands. Stretching between Birmingham and Tamworth is an extraordinary, hidden landscape on the doorstep of over one million people.



Emperor dragonfly
© Chris Harris



Grebe
© Donna Willis



Whitacre Pumping Station
© Chris Harris

Walk highlights

Shustoke Reservoir

Today Birmingham is fed by reservoirs in the Elan Valley in Wales with Shustoke providing water to Nuneaton and the surrounding districts of Bedworth and Atherstone. When walking, keep a look out for bird species such as great crested grebe, house martins and swifts and also look to the north west for the Whitacre Pumping Station in the distance.

The reservoir was built to provide water for Birmingham in the late 19th Century. It supplied the city with 28 million litres of water daily, fed from the rivers Bourne and Blythe.

The nearby Whitacre reservoir was completed around 1884.

During spring and summer the great crested grebe can be seen courting displaying and performing their 'weed dance', where potential mates will 'dance' by mirroring each other's head and neck movements, sometimes whilst holding weeds in their bills.

Shustoke Reservoir, owned and managed by Severn Trent, is a popular destination for sailing, fishing on Upper Shustoke, bird watching and walking.

The Plough Inn

The weathercock was made by Richard Snape, the village blacksmith, in 1762 at a cost of £25. The village pub was built in the 1790s and is a good opportunity for a break after the walk.

St Cuthbert's Church

St Cuthbert's Church has its origins in the medieval period. It is thought the nave and chancel date from the first 30 years of the 14th Century, with the tower and spire added the following century.



Getting here

This walk is served by a number of irregular bus services throughout the week. More information can be found at the following web address: warwickshire.gov.uk/BusTimetable

Shustoke Reservoir is owned by Severn Trent – the car park is located off Coleshill Road (B46 2BE) and has approximately 24 spaces with a charge to park. Please visit www.stwater.co.uk for more information.

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

tamevalleywetlands.co.uk

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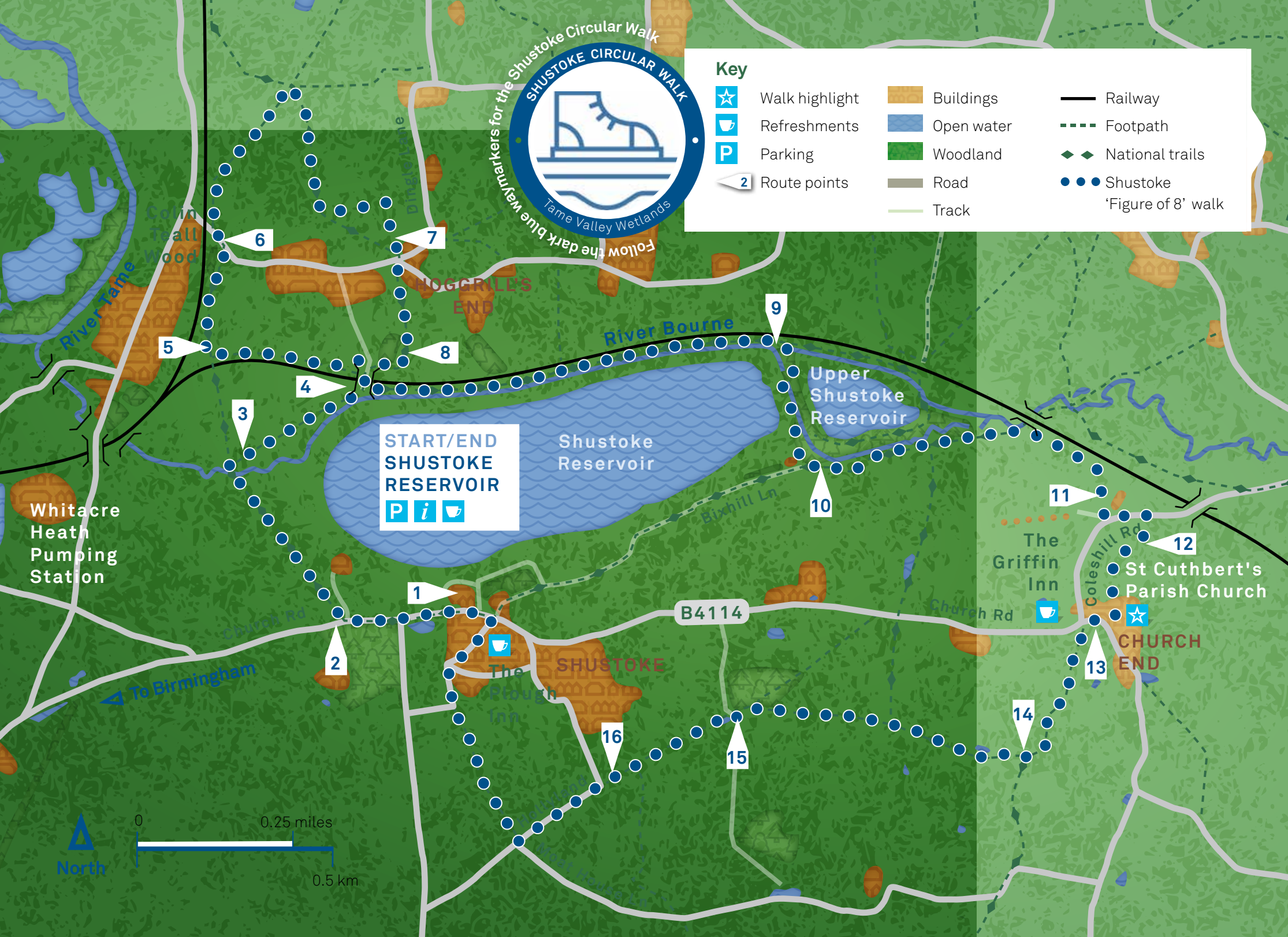
This walk has been created with assistance from:



Cover image, Shustoke sailing
© Donna Willis. Content © Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership
C/O Warwickshire Wildlife Trust



Tame Valley Wetlands



Landscape and path type: The route uses unsurfaced footpaths through arable fields, farm tracks, tarmacked pavements and roads. There are sets of steps, footbridges, slopes, pedestrian gates, kissing gates and a stile during this walk.

Map: OS Map 232 Nuneaton & Tamworth, Lichfield & Atherstone.

Shustoke 'Figure of 8' Circular Walk

Distance: approx. 9km (5.5 miles)
Allow: 2.5-4 hours

Directions:

1 From the car park, walk back to the main entrance of the reservoir onto Coleshill Road. Turn right and walk along the pavement for approximately 300m until you reach a waymarker post at the entrance to a field, follow the path around the reservoir.

- 2** Follow the old, largely obscured tarmacked path to the left, through the field.
- 3** After crossing the footbridge, turn right following the course of the River Bourne to a kissing gate then over the railway.
- 4** After crossing the railway bridge, turn left alongside the railway.
- 5** In 400m, turn right through the kissing gate and walk north following the hawthorn hedge. On your left will be Colin Teall Wood. Walk through the disused stile and carry on northwards towards the edge of the field, crossing the stile onto Dingle Lane.
- 6** Upon reaching Dingle Lane, turn left towards the bridge and follow the path down to the right of the bridge. Walk alongside the railway for a short distance then bear away to the right, keeping the boundary hedge of the field on your right, follow the way marking posts over a small ditch crossing. Walk to the left along the field edge and after crossing a second ditch, turn to the right walking south along

- the ditch line to your right. Upon reaching the next field, follow the way marker and permissive path to the left then right towards Dingle Lane once again.
- 7** Cross the road and go through the kissing gate into another arable field, walking uphill towards the trees in the distance and another way marking post. Follow the tree line to the next kissing gate and turn right alongside the railway, returning to the earlier railway bridge.
- 8** Cross the railway once again and walk through the kissing gate then bear left through another kissing gate along the Ash Path, following the railway track for approximately 1.1km.
- 9** Look for the finger post and follow it to the right, down a set of steps, over the stream and up another set of steps to the eastern side of Shustoke Reservoir and turn left, along the road, uphill to a kissing gate.
- 10** Turn left through the arable field, keeping to the marked routes. Upper Shustoke Reservoir is on your left.

- 11** Go over a ditch crossing and through two more gates, bearing to the right along the field edge to reach Coleshill Road (B4114). Please be aware of fast traffic on this section.
- 12** Upon reaching Coleshill Road, turn left following the green fence on your left hand side, along the grass verge. After approx. 110m, cross the road and walk down to the wooden kissing gate into a field. Please keep dogs under close control here as this field contains horses. Cross the field, heading up the hill towards the north west edge of the grounds of St Cuthbert's Church and another kissing gate.
- 13** Now is a good opportunity for a refreshment break at The Griffin Inn. Walk down the lane to the roadside and turn right but just before the junction turn left and go through a kissing gate and then a pedestrian gate onto more fields. Walk in a southerly direction, following the waymarking posts through another kissing gate then continue heading for the south west corner of this field

- through the kissing gate. Then walk between the hedgerow and a pool on your right.
- 14** Continue through three more kissing gates until you enter the woodland. Following the way marker posts and turning left, walk through a kissing gate, along the track straight ahead to another kissing gate and farm track which joins Hollyland after 100m.
- 15** Carry straight on down Hollyland. Upon reaching the junction with Moat House Lane in 260m, turn right and go through the kissing gate, walking through an arable field in a northerly direction.
- 16** Passing through two last kissing gates will find you on Back Lane in Shustoke. Walk north once again to Church Road (B4114), past The Plough Inn, the village pub built in the 1790s and a good opportunity for a break after the walk. Cross the road and follow the pavement to the left and in 80m find the entrance to Shustoke Reservoir on the right hand side.

Shustoke Reservoir Walk

Distance: approx. 2.9km (1.8 miles)
Allow: 1 hour

Directions:

From the car park, walk north towards the reservoir and turn left through the gate towards the interpretation panels, detailing the history of the reservoir. Follow the path round the reservoir.

When on the east side of the reservoir, walk south along the access road and look for a large gap in the hedgerow. Walk through into a meadow and head for the kissing gate in the distance.

Follow the path through woodland for 350m then through another kissing gate back into the car park.

Alternatively, walk past the gap, up the hill then right along Bixhill Lane. When opposite The Plough, turn right and back into the reservoir car park on the right.