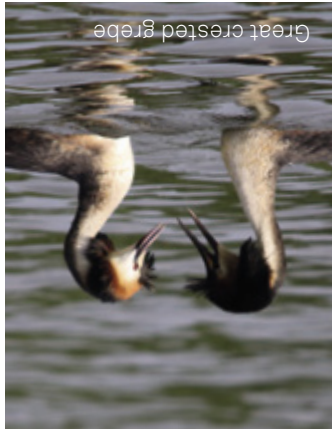




Drayton Turret Foot Bridge
This unusual Gothic-style footbridge was built in the 1830s by the celebrated architect Sir Robert Smirke, while constructing nearby Drayton Manor for local MP Sir Robert Peel (later to become Prime Minister). The manor house was demolished in 1929 and later became the site of the Drayton Manor Theme Park. The Grade II listed footbridge is located near the entrance of the theme park and is among the most ornate bridges anywhere on Britain's canals.



Norman Chapel, Dosthill
The foundation stone was laid on 5th October 1870 by Mr. Farmer. The church was built between 1870 and 1872 to designs of the Birmingham architect Edward Holmes. George Lilley of Ashby-de-la-Zouch was chosen as the contractor. It was consecrated by the Bishop of Worcester on 2nd April 1872. The Norman Chapel, sometimes referred to as the Wayfarer's Chapel, in the grounds of St. Paul's Church dates from the 12th Century.



Walk highlights

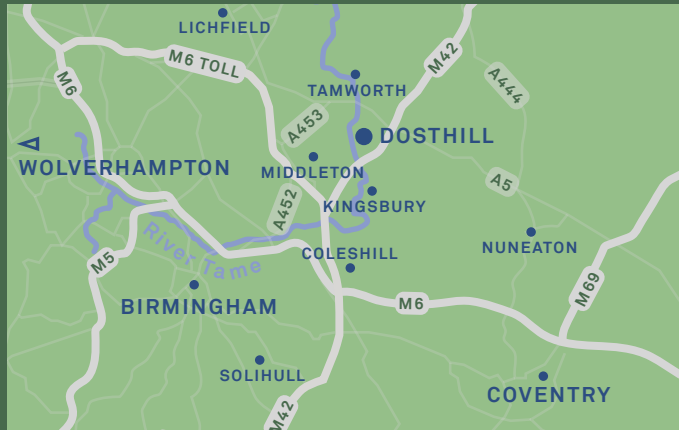
RSPB Middleton Lakes
Middleton Lakes provides and protects a variety of habitats including open water, wet grassland, reed bed, meadow and woodland. It was developed on reclaimed gravel extraction land in the Tame Valley, just south of Tamworth. Middleton Lakes is one of RSPB's newest nature reserves to open to the public. The area is already regionally important for overwintering wildfowl such as pochards, tufted ducks and smews.

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

Dosthill and the Lakes

Circular Walk

Hard: 11km / 7 miles



Getting here

RSPB Middleton Lakes is not currently serviced by a bus route. Dosthill has a regular bus service (118/119) running each day of the week and bank holidays. More information can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/buses then search for 'Dosthill'

The nearest postcode is B76 2AE and the walk begins at RSPB Middleton Lakes' car park, at the grid reference – SP 19435 98283. Café and toilet facilities can be found at Middleton Hall

RSPB Middleton Lakes car park costs £3 per day (free to RSPB members). Height restriction of 2.1m (6', 11").

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

tamevalleywetlands.co.uk

- enquiries@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk
- Facebook.com/tamevalleywetlands
- @thetamevalley

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C/O Warwickshire Wildlife Trust



Tame Valley Wetlands

RSPB Middleton Lakes



Dosthill & The Lakes Circular walk

Distance: 11km (7 miles)

Allow: 3.5 hours

Landscape and path type: The route uses surfaced footpaths & bridleways through a nature reserve, muddy tracks, hills and steep inclines, tarmacked pavements, roads and towpaths. There are footbridges, steps, slopes, pedestrian and kissing gates and a stile during this walk. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

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

Dogs: Restricted to public rights of way through the reserve, under close control at all times.

Notice: During adverse weather, the section of this walk through RSPB Middleton Lakes can flood. Please use sound judgement and adhere to any warnings, restrictions or closures in place along the route.

Directions: (Circular route through countryside)

1 From the RSPB car park, walk (north east) towards the heronry over a boardwalk and past a viewing screen. Follow the bridleway for 830m, crossing Fisher's Mill Bridge over the Birmingham & Fazeley canal to reach the reserve. There is a permissive route option via the woods avoiding the ford section of the bridleway.

2 Walk down the short set of steps ahead and turn right, before turning sharply left and reaching the bank of the River Tame in 260m. Follow this track for approximately another 450m and cross the bridge over the River Tame, walking towards the kissing gate ahead.

3 Take the surfaced track to the left then follow the way marking posts to the left again, over a stile. Walk along this track, over a section of board walk then into a wooded area. Continue along the track ahead and bear slightly left walking further into the woods, reaching a gate in 250m.

4 Turn right and follow the way marked route through the disused Dosthill Quarry along the steep paths. Take some time to enjoy the views behind of the Tame Valley. In 300m you will see a metal fence ahead, follow the track to the left, bearing right at the bottom of the slope then descending more steeply and bearing right again into the car park for Dosthill Quarry diving centre, reaching Wigford Road in 340m.

5 Turn left down Wigford Road, again enjoying the views of the Tame Valley to the left. In 370m walk along the finger posted path through the housing estate and shortly reaching Orchard Close after 180m, bearing left through a short alley towards a kissing gate and onto arable farm land. Walk down the hill across the field into Dosthill Park. Take the way marked route ahead, up the hill through the park down a long path, exiting onto Belvoir in 600m. Continue walking ahead along the cycle route, keeping the River Tame on your left reaching Watling Street in 830m.

Key

- ★ Walk highlight
- ☕ Refreshments
- P Parking
- 🚻 Toilets
- i Information
- 🏠 Buildings
- 🌊 Open water
- ● ● Dosthill (Circular route)

- ◆ ◆ ◆ The Tame Way (River route)
- ◆ ◆ ◆ The Tame Way (Canal route)
- Route point
- Road
- - - Footpath
- - - Bridleway
- Track
- Train track

6 Cross Watling Street onto Mount Pleasant and follow the blue pedestrian signs. Turn right onto New Street leading to Parkfield Crescent. Go past Birchfield Close on your left and follow the blue pedestrian sign to the left towards Peelers Way. Cross the road, again following the blue signs to the left and sighting the Coventry Canal on your left in 250m. Follow the canal ahead onto the unnamed road, then cross the Kettlebrook Barn Bridge (no.75) in 360m. Immediately turn left after crossing the canal then left again, through a barrier onto the canal towpath.

7 Turn right and follow the towpath reaching the Tame Aqueduct in 460m. Continue along the towpath, passing beneath bridges 76 & 77, until you reach Fazeley Junction. Turn and use bridge 77 to cross over the canal, joining the towpath along the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal.

8 Walk south along the towpath, passing beneath three bridges (Watling Street Bridge, Tolson's Footbridge and Coleshill Road Bridge), reaching Drayton Turret Bridge in 1.3 km. Carry on along the towpath to reach Fisher's Mill Bridge in 2km. Walk over the bridge and retrace your route back to the car park and the end of the walk.

