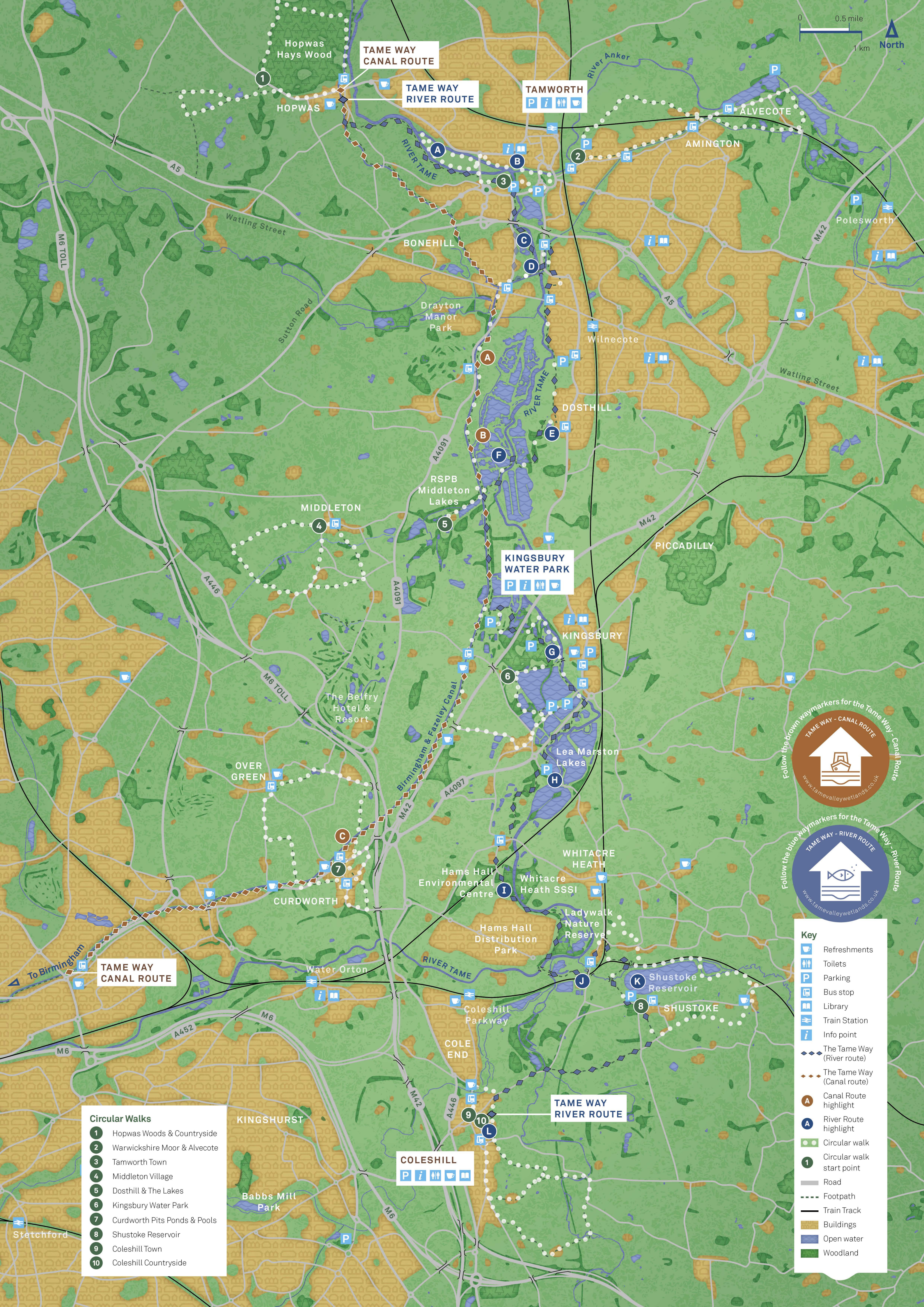
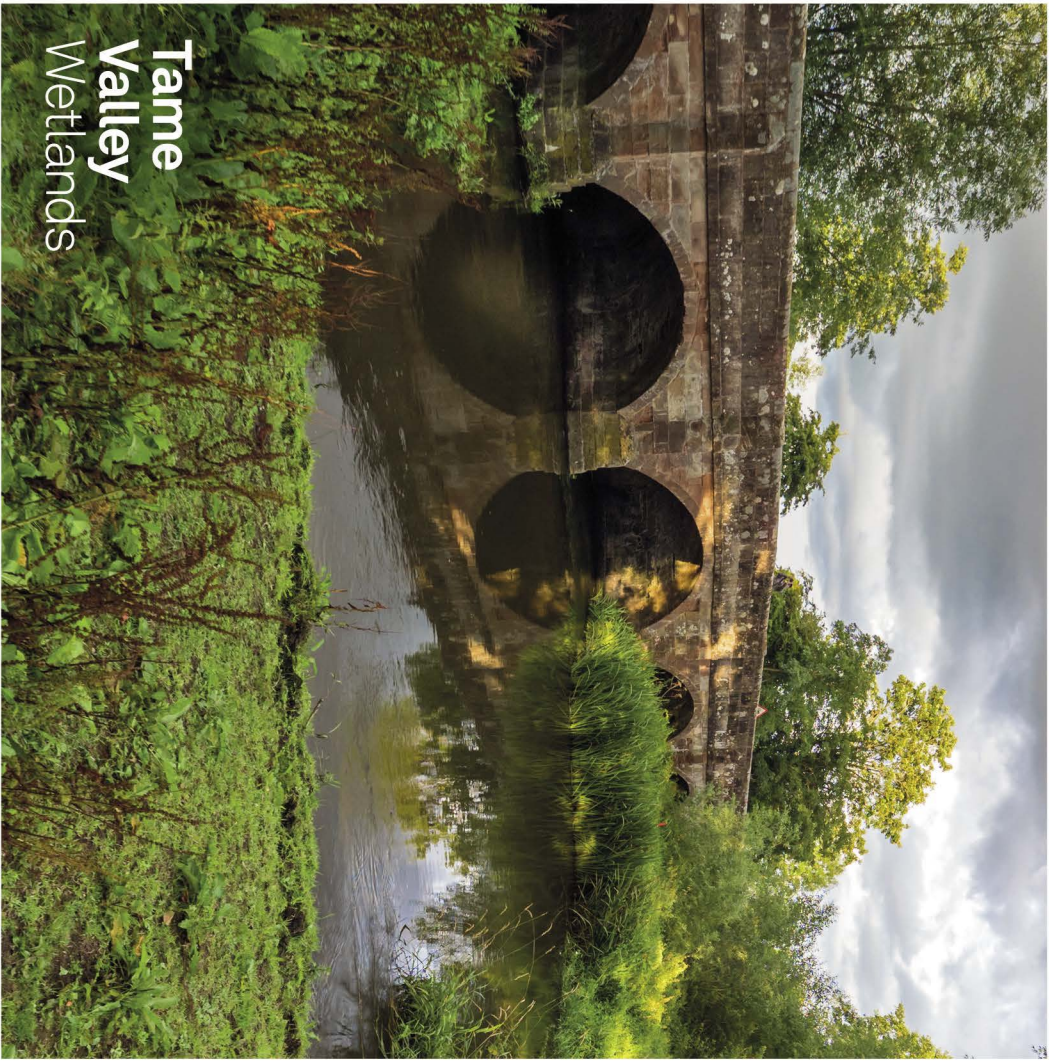




- Key**
- Refreshments
 - Toilets
 - Parking
 - Bus stop
 - Library
 - Train Station
 - Info point
 - The Tame Way (River route)
 - The Tame Way (Canal route)
 - Canal Route highlight
 - River Route highlight
 - Circular walk
 - Circular walk start point
 - Road
 - Footpath
 - Train Track
 - Buildings
 - Open water
 - Woodland

- Circular Walks**
- 1 Hopwas Woods & Countryside
 - 2 Warwickshire Moor & Alvecote
 - 3 Tamworth Town
 - 4 Middleton Village
 - 5 Dosthill & The Lakes
 - 6 Kingsbury Water Park
 - 7 Curdworth Pits Ponds & Pools
 - 8 Shustoke Reservoir
 - 9 Colehill Town
 - 10 Colehill Countryside



Tame Valley Wetlands

Cover image: Duke Bridge, Coleshill © Brent Thomson, Content © Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership
© C. Smith 19

Recycle after use

FSC

Funding raised by
The National Lottery
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund

LOTTERY FUNDED

BAGS
IT HELP
2020

This walk has been created with assistance from:

Coleshill Town Council, Diane Wells, Ian Owen, Middleton Parish Council, RSPB, Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group

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.

Tame Valley Wetlands
© C. Smith 19

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.

The Tame Way
River and Canal routes

Canal Route: Distance: 19 km (12 miles) – Allow: 5 hours including short breaks

River Route: Distance: 29 km (18 miles) – Allow: 9 hours including short breaks

Landscape and path type: These routes use unsurfaced footpaths & bridleways through arable fields and a nature reserve, muddy tracks, hills and steep inclines, tarmacked pavements, roads and towpaths. There are footbridges, steps, slopes, pedestrian and kissing gates and stiles during these walks. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

Maps: OS Map 232 Nuneaton & Tamworth, Lichfield & Atherstone, OS Map 221 Coventry & Warwick, Royal Leamington Spa & Kenilworth, OS 220 Birmingham, Walsall, Solihull & Redditch.

Dogs: Restricted to public rights of way through nature reserves. Please keep dogs on a lead and under close control at all times.

Hopwas Woods is used by the Ministry of Defence for exercises so please check the following website for information about firing times:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/whittington-ranges-firing-times

NOTICE:

During adverse weather, sections of these walks can flood. Please use sound judgement and adhere to any warnings, restrictions or closures in place along the routes.

Tamworth Castle
© Philip Alexander/Adobe

RSPB Middleton Lakes
© Chris Harris

Pedal boats at Kingsbury
© Viki & Co

River Route Walk highlights

- A Broad Meadow**
Local Nature Reserve
This 61-acre island between the two channels of the River Tame is an example of rare floodplain grassland where snake's head fritillary flowers can be found growing wild.
- B Tamworth Castle**
A Grade I listed castle built in the 11th Century on the likely site of a Saxon fort. William the Conqueror's steward, Robert Despensers, built the typical Mott and Bailey fashion castle. Circa 1100 it passed down to the Marmion Family of Tamworth and during their six generation ownership (to 1294) it was remodelled in stone. It was besieged by Parliamentary forces during the Civil War and captured on 25th June 1643.
- C Tameside Local Nature Reserve**
Tameside was historically pasture land and is now a valuable site for wildlife and people. Created by extraction for the construction of nearby road embankments, the reserve is a mix of grassland, scrub, ponds, and scrapes, and new areas of woodland.
- D Tame Aqueduct**
The Tame Aqueduct carries the Coventry Canal over the River Tame in Staffordshire. Built between 1785 to 1790 it is a Grade II listed structure. At the west end of the aqueduct a pillbox was built in 1940-41 and was part of the Western Command Stop Line No. 5 which ran from Tamworth to Burton-on-Trent. It remains a reminder of Britain's wartime history.
- E Dosthill Quarry**
Dosthill Quarry is the historical centre of Dosthill at Tamworth and mentioned in the Domesday Book. The Normans called the area "Derclai" which translated as Dorsethull. Excavations for its prized granite progressed until 1934 when a large slab was pulled off the south wall 150 feet below the surrounding ground level, causing a fresh water spring to flood the quarry.

- F 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.
- G Community Wetlands**
Scrapes and pools have been created here to encourage wildlife, along with an artificial sand martin bank for migrating birds to nest and breed.
- H Hams Hall Environmental Centre**
The centre features a classroom, pond, arboretum, and the half-timbered Lea Ford Cottage. It is situated in the old walled kitchen garden of Hams Hall, home of the Adderley family for 300 years until 1911.
- I Hams Hall Environmental Centre**
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The centre features a classroom, pond, arboretum, and the half-timbered Lea Ford Cottage. It is situated in the old walled kitchen garden of Hams Hall, home of the Adderley family for 300 years until 1911.

- The garden walls date from 1773 and are surrounded by yew trees planted at the same time.
- K Whitacre Waterworks**
Built around 1860, the Whitacre Heath waterworks pumping station at supplied fresh water to Birmingham until 1904. The magnificent red-brick building was built in a Venetian Gothic-style and supplied up to six million gallons of fresh water per day, extracted from the River Blythe and the River Bourne.
- L Shustoke Reservoir**
The reservoir was completed in 1884 to provide water for Birmingham. It supplied the city with 28 million litres of

- water daily, fed from the rivers Bourne and Blythe. The nearby Whitacre Pumping Station was built as a treatment plant.
- M Coleshill Parish Church**
The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, known commonly as Coleshill Parish Church, is a Grade I listed building. The oldest section dates back to the 14th Century but construction largely took place in the 15th Century. The Norman font inside the church gives a clue to a church being on the site much earlier than this.
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Whitacre Pumping Station
© Dore Harris

Barn Owl
© Dore Harris

Drayton Turret Bridge
© Donna Willis

View from Curdworth Bridge towards Tunnel
© Donna Willis

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- F RSPB Middleton Lakes**
Previously gravel extraction land and now an important site for overwintering wildfowl such as pochards, snew and tufted ducks. There is a variety of habitats including lakes, reed beds, woodland and meadows.
- G 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.
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