



stepped out of the bushes to hold up a coach. When the coach halted and Knox demanded the mailbox, out came four army officers returning from leave. In his panic to escape he failed to fire the pistol and was captured, tried and hanged within three days. His parents are believed to have buried him in the lane close to their cottage. The exact spot of Knox's grave is unknown, but probably lies beneath one of the blackberry bushes that border this lane.

Hopwas Woods
Also known as Hopwas Hayes Wood, is approximately 385 acres of ancient woodland north of Hopwas. Owned for many years by the Levett family of Wychnor Park, it is now owned by Tarmac and the Ministry of Defence. Public access to the wood is via bridleways. Due to threat of loss, the Friends of Hopwas Wood formed in 2004 and now provides a watching brief over activities.



Getting here

Hopwas lies just over 2 miles west of Tamworth and 5 miles east of Lichfield. It is situated where the A51 road crosses both the River Tame and the Coventry Canal. The walk begins from a layby on the A51 and a bus route passes the start of the walk. Check the website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/publictransport/buses/Plan-your-journey/Plan.aspx for more information.

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

tamevalleywetlands.co.uk

- ✉ enquiries@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk
- 📘 [Facebook.com/tamevalleywetlands](https://www.facebook.com/tamevalleywetlands)
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This walk has been created with assistance from:



Cover image, Hopwas Wood
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C/O Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

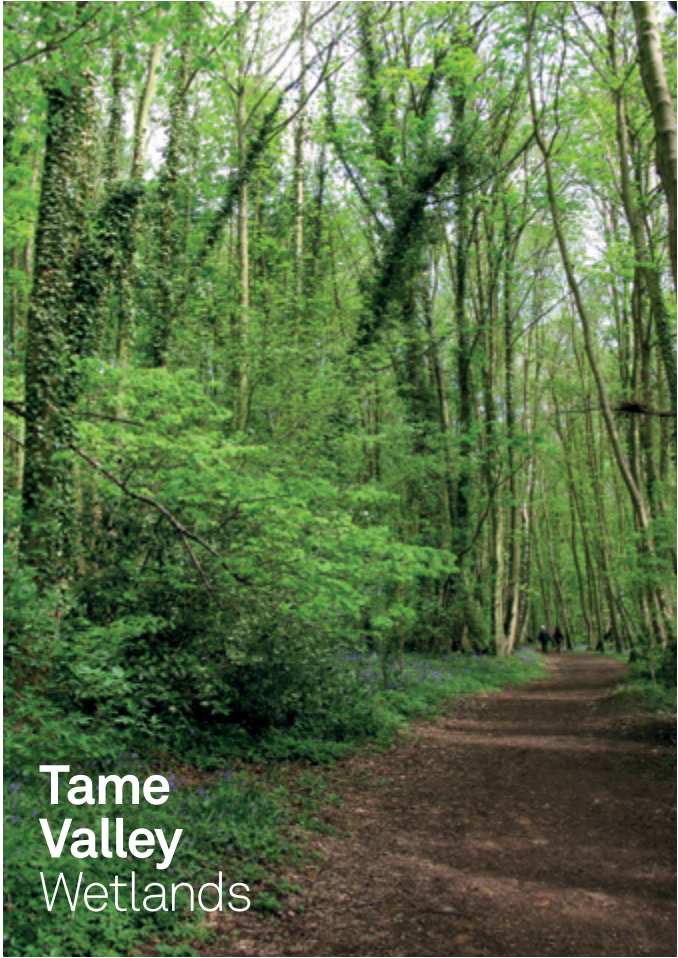


Recycle
after use

FSC

Hopwas Woods & Countryside Circular Walk

Medium: 3.5km / 2 miles



Tame
Valley
Wetlands



★ Walk highlights

Hopwas
“The King holds Opewas; there are three hides; the arable land is six carucates (a medieval unit of land that a team of 8 oxen could till in a single annual season). In demesne there is a mill of thirteen shillings and four pence rent; and eleven ‘villans’ and two ‘bordars’ employ five ploughs. Here are thirty acres of meadow, a wood six furlongs in length and three in breadth. The whole was valued aforetime and then at 40s.”
– Description of Hopwas in Domesday Book.

Knox's Grave Lane
A little-known local young highwayman whose life expired at the end of a rope. He came from a farm labourer's cottage of very poor parents in the Hopwas area in the late 18th Century. He would lie in wait in the country lanes for solitary travellers returning home at night from the local inn and hit him from behind with a heavy cudgel. Some believe he lived a hermit-like existence in a cave in Hopwas Woods. One dark night he had robbed a traveller of pistol, powder and shot and two nights later he



Key

- ★ Walk highlight
- ☕ Refreshments
- 🚻 Toilets
- P Parking
- 2 Route points
- Road
- - - Footpath
- - - Bridleway
- Track
- • • Hopwas Circular walk
- ○ ○ Additional Circular walk
- Buildings
- Open water
- Woodland

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



Hopwas Circular walk

Distance: 3.5 Km (2 miles) for Hopwas Walk (i.e. not including the white additional walk)

Allow: 1-3 hours

Landscape and path type:

The route uses surfaced footpaths & bridleways, muddy tracks, hills and steep inclines, tarmacked pavements and roads. There are slopes and kissing gates during this walk. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

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

There are other paths through the Hopwas Woods over the road which can be explored.

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

Directions:

1 From the unofficial car park along the A51, look for the finger post directing you up a slope to a kissing gate. Walk through the gate a short distance then go through another kissing gate. Turn right and walk along the surfaced bridleway downhill, taking the views towards Lichfield.

2 Follow the bridleway for 400m to a fork in the path, along Knox's Grave Lane. Turn left and walk uphill between two

fence lines for 330m joining a farm track, with a pool on the right hand side. Walk along the track for 400m and turn right near the houses along another bridleway.

3 Walk along this bridleway and rejoin Knox's Grave Lane in 400m, turning right and walking back along the bridleway, returning to the kissing gate in 1.3Km and walk through the next and back to the car park area.

START/END
HOPWAS
CIRCULAR

The nearest
postcode is **B78 3AR**
and the walk begins
at a parking area at
the grid reference –
SK 16650 05216.

★
Knox's
Grave
Lane

★
The Red
Lion

★
HOPWAS

★
The Tame
Otter

HOPWAS
WOOD

The Woodhouse

Hopwas
Wood
Bridge

River Tame

A51