

Aston Nature Reserve



What can you do there?

A beautiful 2-mile circular walk along the Montgomery Canal and around Aston Nature Reserve. Soak up the tranquility and look out over the wetland in secret from the Otter Hide.

Address / location:

Queen's Head, Oswestry
SY11 4EB.

Limited free car parking is opposite the Queen's Head pub and open 24 hours.

Getting there:

By car – Queens Head is approx. 4 minutes' drive from Whittington, 24 minutes from Shrewsbury and 40 minutes from Telford.

By bus - Shrewsbury Bus Station to Queens Head Pub No. X5.

Background:

Aston Nature Reserve was created to help conserve the valuable aquatic, woodland and grassland habitats associated with the canal corridor. It is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the rare species found there.

You may find swans, Canada geese, cormorants, kestrels, hobby, the unusual red-eye damselfly and dragonflies, such as emperor and broad-bodied chaser.

Otters, weasels and foxes can be seen here too.

What3words location:

tilting.anchorman.absorbs

Opening times:

The walk can be done any time of the year.

Facilities:

There are **no toilets** at the car park or on the reserve.

The Queens Head Pub serves hot meals, tea and coffee.



Who owns / manages it:

The Canal & River Trust owns and manages the Montgomery Canal.

Call 0303 040 4040

Monday to Friday 8.00am – 6.00pm

Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays
9.00am – 5.00pm.

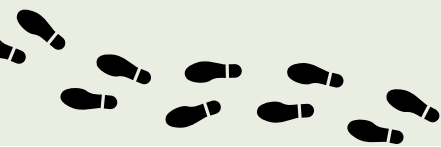
For further information:

Look here for more walks around Oswestry and the surrounding area:

www.visitoswestry.co.uk/information/download-itineraries



Photo credits:
Nicola Lewis-Smith,
The Canal & River Trust.



Aston Nature Reserve



Accessibility:

Most of the canal towpath and reserve is accessible for those with buggies and wheelchair users. However, at Lock 3 you will need to retrace your route as the crossing is narrow.

Details of the walk:

This walk is approx. 2 miles long, which may take 1 - 2 hours.

From the car park turn right and walk over the canal bridge, then turn right and walk through the gate and down onto the towpath. Walk along the canal for approx. half a mile and cross over the canal at Lock 2.

On the canal side is an information board "Wild Wet Wonderland" that offers a detailed map and information on what you can see.

Take the left-hand path and follow it a short distance, past the decorated totem poles. The ceramic plaques are mounted on timbers recycled from an old lock gate.

There is a small path that takes you up to the giant dragonfly installation.

Re-join the path and follow it round to the Otter Hide which overlooks one of the pools. Go inside to observe wildlife in its natural wetland habitat.

From the Otter Hide continue along the path which will take you around the pools. There is a dipping platform at the edge of the pond. This area can be muddy.

Pass the dipping platform and cross over the canal at Lock 3 (not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs). Turn left and follow the towpath back to the start.

Find a map of the walk here:

<http://bit.ly/3PGWA5C>



Photo credits: Nicola Lewis-Smith, The Canal & River Trust.