

# Ellesmere & Llangollen Canal Walk

## What can you do there?

A 1.5 mile circular walk (taking approximately 50 minutes) looking at watery wildlife and canal heritage with plenty of benches and stopping points along the route.

Along the walk you can see water birds such as moorhens, swans and kingfishers. Other bird species include swallows, sparrows and long-tailed tit in the hedgerows.

Insects such as banded demoiselle, orange tip butterfly and meadow brown butterfly can be spotted.

The canal margins contain a variety of plants including bulrush, water mint and forget-me-not.

Birch Road Pond (a local nature reserve) provides the chance to see herons and housemartins feeding over the water. Dragonflies and damselflies are also abundant as are the caterpillars of 90 moth species found on the willows. Great spotted woodpeckers, bullfinches, goldfinches, nuthatch, and willow warbler are among some of the other bird species seen there.

## Address / location:

The starting point of the walk is Ellesmere Town Centre Car Park, Cross Street, SY12 0AW.

## What3words location:

dwarf.guardian.outline

## Opening times:

The car park is open 24hrs and charges apply except on Sundays, Bank Holidays and 6pm to 8am.

The walk is open all year round.

## Getting there:

By car - Ellesmere Town Centre is 15 minutes' drive from Oswestry and 20 minutes from Whitchurch and Wem.

By bus - The No. 501 bus from Shrewsbury and the No. 53 bus from Oswestry go to Ellesmere.

## Facilities:

There are **no toilets** on site.



Public toilets are available in the car park. There are several coffee shops in Ellesmere (including dog friendly options).





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## Background:

The market town of Ellesmere stands on the banks of the Llangollen Canal.

At Ellesmere Wharf, you can find historic buildings including the Old Forge, which is still used today for making heritage metalwork.

Ellesmere Yard is owned by the Canal & River Trust and during spring and summer they offer monthly tours (booking essential).

## Who owns / manages it:

Llangollen Canal is managed by  
The Canal & River Trust

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Birch Road Pond is managed by  
Shropshire Wildlife Trust

[www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves/birch-road-pond](http://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves/birch-road-pond)

## For further information:

Other walks can be found here:

[www.ellesmere.info/things-to-do/walking](http://www.ellesmere.info/things-to-do/walking)



Birch Road Pond. Photo credit: Edward Bevan.

Photo credit: Chris Seddon.





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## Accessibility:

The town centre part of the walk is accessible for wheelchair users and pushchairs (please note the lack of pavement towards the end of the walk) as well as the first 400m of the canal towpath. The rest of the towpath can get muddy. There is an incline to bridge no. 58 onto Birch Road.

There is a boardwalk around Bird Road Pond, but it can be muddy so sturdy shoes are advised.

## Details of the walk:

1. Exit the car park onto Cross Street (with supermarket and shops in front of you) and turn left past the shops.
2. After a short distance turn right onto Scotland Street, then after a short distance turn left onto Wharf Road.
3. Walk to the end of the Wharf where you can see historic canal buildings. Benches are available here on the paved pedestrian area.
4. Continue onto the towpath with the canal and moored boats on your left.
5. Follow the towpath for 400 metres, cross footbridge 59 and turn right.
6. Follow the towpath for 250 metres, then exit via the incline in front of bridge 58 onto Birch Road. NOTE: there is no pavement.
7. Turn left and follow the path down.
8. There is an option to turn right and after a short distance you will come to Canal and River Trust's Ellesmere Yard on your right. NOTE: the site has uneven ground and steep stairs. Retrace your steps to get back on the walk.
9. Pass Ellesmere Cricket Club on the left and Blackwater Marina on the right.
10. Pass Love Lane on your right and there is a park area on the left, here you will find Shropshire Wildlife Trust's Birch Road Pond Nature Reserve.
11. Continue along Birch Road, past the White Hart Pub on your left until you reach the café on the corner. NOTE: there is approx. 100 metres without a path.
12. Cross the road walking past The Ellesmere Hotel on your left onto Watergate Street.
13. After a short distance you are back at the town centre car park on your left.

Download a free map here:

**[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/places-to-visit/ellesmere](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/places-to-visit/ellesmere)**

Photo credits: Chris Seddon

