

Birchwood Park

Distance 6½ miles

Time 3 hours

32 stiles

Directions

Maps: OS Explorer 258 and 259

Turn right out of the village hall car park into the Allways (1). Follow the road to the T-junction then turn right again to a stile set in the left-hand bank some 200m along the road. Climb this stile and walk straight ahead with the field boundary on your right to a stile in the far field boundary. Cross over this stile and turn left then it's a short step to a second stile.

Follow the footpath over this stile and down the hill to a stile and footbridge crossing Wheatlow Brook indicated by a red and white pole (2). Go over the bridge and turn right to follow the footpath across the field with the brook to your right until you reach a stile in the far field hedge. Cross this stile and walk straight ahead to a gate, with a waymarker, in the far field boundary.

Go through the gate and turn right to follow a rough track downhill to a pair of farm gates at a bridge across Wheatlow Brook (3). Cross the bridge and turn left to follow the left-hand field boundary first parallel to the brook, then uphill until you reach a stile near the corner of the field.

Climb this stile and walk straight ahead, with the brook now down in a dip on your left, towards Yew Tree Farm at Wheatlow Brooks. When you reach the farm cross the stile beside the farm gate and follow the track past the farmhouse then turn immediately right off the track to a stile by a gate (4).

Follow the footpath which branches right towards some poly-tunnels. Then walk on following the field boundary on your right for some 200m to a stile crossing the field boundary. Go over this stile and continue in an easterly direction, now with the field boundary on you left, to the stile at the far end of the field.



Wheatlow Brooks



Cross this stile and go left, following the left-hand field boundary to the stile at the far end of the field which gives on to Potmans Lane (5). Climb this stile and the stile on the opposite side of the road then walk half-left across the field to the stile part way along the field boundary, left of an electricity pole carrying crossed wires. Cross this stile and continue in the same line to a stile leading on to a metalled road with another stile opposite.

Cross both stiles and follow the footpath which runs to the left of the overhead cables to a stile in the far field boundary. To your right you see Greensnips Farm. Greensnips is a very old name being referred to in a document of 1492. The farm itself was part of the Earl of Macclesfield's estate in the 1800s (6).

Cross the stile and continue straight on with the field boundary on your left through a gate to the bridge across Sprink Brook. Cross the bridge and go straight up the middle of the field passing Sherratt's Wood to your left hand side. Cross the small bridge and stile at the far end of the field and continue straight on to a stile in the far boundary leading on to a track which leads from Hill Lane.

Cross the stile and turn right in the direction of Birchwood Park. After 50m the track bears sharp right then ends some 50m further on at a farm gate with a smaller gate beside it (7). Go through the gate and turn sharp left following a line of trees across the field to a gateway in the opposite field boundary. Go through the gate and straight on with the field boundary on your left to a stile and wooden bridge. Crossing these continue straight ahead now with the field boundary on your right to a stile beside a farm gate.



Climb the stile and continue to a further stile and footbridge. Go over these and then straight on to another stile leading into a large open field. Follow the footpath parallel to the right-hand field boundary to reach a stile which gives on to the driveway of New House Farm. Crossing the stile turn right and follow the track to the farm (8).

Entering the farmyard the footpath runs to a farm gate to the right of the main farm building. Go through this gate and straight ahead to the fence opposite, where there is a waymarker beside a curious stile where the top rail slides back horizontally for access. Climbing over the stile you arrive at a small stream. To cross the stream turn sharp right for 20m, to where the stream enters a pipe, then turn left and follow the footpath diagonally across the field to a farm gate in the far right corner of the field.

Go through the gate and follow the footpath half-right to the stiles in the far right-hand corner of the field, disregarding the stile set midway along the right hand field boundary. After crossing two stiles follow the track straight ahead passing the reservoir on your right and Myott's Wood to your left (9). Continue along the track that bears first left then right past Highfields Farm to rejoin the roadway.

Turn left to follow the road in the direction of Coton. After about 0.5km a fingerpost indicates a footpath off to the right in the direction of Calloway Farm (10). Cross the stile beside the farm gate and follow the footpath down the drive which passes between farmhouse and small barn to arrive at a farm gate indicated by waymarker.

Go through this gate and cross the field to the farm gate opposite. Passing through this gate there is now a field boundary on your left-hand side. Keep straight ahead, through a second gateway until you reach a farm gate beside a water trough. Go through this gate then straight ahead across the field to a stile to the right of two large trees in the far field boundary (11).

Crossing this stile turn left to follow Potmans lane in the direction of Milwich. After 0.5km a fingerpost indicates a stile on the right-hand side of the road (12). Climb this stile and take the left hand footpath towards Milwich crossing the field to the stile opposite. Cross this stile then go straight on over the next stile which leads into an open field. Continue straight ahead to the stile in the far field boundary. Cross this stile and follow the footpath parallel to the left-hand field boundary to the far end of the field where a stile gives on to the road.

Climbing over this stile follow the road to the right, then take the left hand turn into the Allways which leads back to the village hall car park.