

Walk 1

Village Hall - Dale Lane - Brazenhill Farm - Village Hall



The walk is approximately 4km (2.5 miles) across fairly flat countryside with about a quarter on country lanes. It should take about 1 hour 15 minutes. The walk is suitable for all abilities but you will need to be fit enough to negotiate stiles. It is important you wear waterproof footwear as the fields can be very muddy at times.

1. Leave the Village Hall car park, turn left along the main road and continue past Royds Close and the garage, and cross Brazenhill Lane.



On the left you will see the old Moathouse, which is one of the oldest houses in the county, built around 1430 and probably the Manor House. At that time, the middle of the house was an open hall, hence the lack of windows in this section. There was no chimney, so the smoke from the hall fire escaped through the thatched roof. The soot-blackened roof timbers bear evidence of this. In 1680, Thomas Reynolds modernised it, introducing an upper floor to the hall area, building the main chimney and moving the right-hand third of the house to the back. Early in the 20th century, the outside was pebble-dashed, making a perfect home for death-watch beetle. This was removed by 1998 to reveal the half-timbered construction.



Continue along the main road for about a further 50 metres, and on the left you will see the old Haughton school which was converted into a private residence in 1983.



Immediately past the old school turn left and enter St Giles' churchyard through an iron gate. (2)



2. St Giles is the Parish Church of Haughton and dates back to the 13th century.

Continue along the churchyard path, passing to the left of the tower and round the back of the church to arrive at the gate on Brazenhill Lane.

Turn right onto Brazenhill Lane, and then left, to pass between the new graveyard and the rectory.



The rectory was built in 1958 to replace the old rectory which stood where Beech Close now is. The new graveyard came into use in 1927 when the church graveyard became full.

Continue along Brazenhill Lane to just past the playing field, to a track on the right-hand side with a bridleway sign. (3)



3. Go down this track to the end, and to the left of a gate you will find a stile.



At this point there are good views east to Berry Ring, an Iron Age hill fort at the top of Billington Bank, and further to the right is Appletree Hill.



Cross the stile, turn left, and continue with the fence on your left. In about 50m, where the line of the fence changes, turn half-right and walk across the field to a stile in the far corner. (4)

4. From here is a view of Bury Ring, an Iron Age hill fort.

Go over the stile and turn half-right across the field, heading towards Dale House, to a stile just to the left of a field gate. Cross the stile and turn left down Dale Lane.



Immediately on the right is Dale House which was once the home of Charlie Gunter, the last postman to deliver from the Old Post Office. Just past Dale House entrance on the right is a footpath sign and a stile. This is Dale Common which still belongs to the Parish Council.

Continue down Dale Lane for about 300m to arrive at Dale Cottage. (5)

5. Just before Dale Cottage are a fingerpost, bridge and stile, on the left. Cross here and walk straight across the field to a stile and a bridge.



Go over the stile and bridge, and turn half-left through a copse to a stile.



Once over the stile continue to walk with the hedge on your right. After about 100m there is a stile with a fingerpost on the right.

This path leads to the Millennium Way and on to Long Lane near Yew Tree Cottage.

Ignore this path and continue with the hedge on your right through a field gate in the cross hedge, to arrive at a stile, a bridge and another stile in the hedge on the right. (6)



6. From here, ahead and slightly left, are views of the village, with St Giles' Church tower in the centre.

Cross the stiles and bear slightly left across the field, with Brazenhill Farm on your left, towards a green gate in the fence ahead. Before going through the gate turn and look back at the views of Stafford Castle, Billington Bank, and to your left, the hills to the north of Stafford.



Pass through this gate and go straight on to another gate about 30m further on. (7)

7. Once through the gate, cross the drive to Brazenhill Farm. Ignore the stile on your left and go straight on through the gate ahead.

Continue down a track to a gate in the hedge.

If you turn round now, there is an impressive view of the red-brick front of Brazenhill Farm.



Go through the gate and straight on, through another gate, and straight across the field to a stile in the opposite hedge.

Cross this stile onto Brazenhill Lane. (8)

8. Cross the lane and go over a stile by the fingerpost.



Bear slightly left across the field, passing to the right of the pond, to a stile in the opposite hedge between two oak trees.



Go over the stile and bridge, and straight ahead to the left of a cross-hedge.

Continue with the hedge on your right to arrive at the edge of a housing estate, turn left, and then in 20m turn right and cross over a stile.



Walk up Meadow Drive to the main road. Turn left and pass the Old Hall to return to the Village Hall.



***In memory of Fred Price, who originally created these walks
(in association with the Ramblers)***