



The ford on Sandy Lane. As of 2021, the road was closed to traffic because of a landslip, but it is still accessible on foot.



A couple of the southern piers of Twemlow Viaduct have been adopted as a shrine by teenage fans of Harry Styles, lead singer of One Direction and one-time Holmes Chapel resident, after he chalking his name here in a homecoming video.



The River Dane rises near Buxton in Derbyshire and flows into the Weaver at Northwich. It is followed for 48 miles by the Dane Valley Way long-distance footpath.



Brereton Heath is a country park and local nature reserve operated by Cheshire East Council. As well as the 15-acre lake (the result of silica sand extraction of use in glass- and mould-making), there are small open areas of heathland and grassland that are actively managed for the benefit of their wildlife. Notable birds found here include the sadly declining Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Tree Sparrow.

three circular walks from



THE SWETTENHAM ARMS

NEAR HOLMES CHAPEL, CHESHIRE



SWETTENHAM BROOK
1 3/4 MILES: EASY
Explore our intimate local valley.

BRERETON HEATH
3 1/2 MILES: EASY
A straightforward there-and-back walk to a local lake, heathland and woodland country park.

TWEMLOW AND THE DANE VALLEY
6 1/4 MILES: MODERATE
A longer walk with historic buildings en route and lovely riverside views on the return.

As well as the walks listed here, there are delightful short strolls within the **Quinta Arboretum**, right next to the Swettenham Arms, described on laminated guides that can be borrowed at the entrance.

SWETTENHAM BROOK (1¾ miles: easy)

Allow 1 hour. Mud in places, and several stiles. Livestock possible.

1 From the car park in front of the Swettenham Arms, walk to the left of the church. **2** Turn left at the war memorial and follow the road between houses. Keep right at a junction, passing some brick barns on the left. **3** After about 200m, just after a farm entrance on the right, turn left at a fork onto Sandy Lane (as of 2021, this road is closed to vehicles because of a landslip, but can still be used on foot without difficulty). Follow the lane down to the ford over Swettenham Brook and cross via the footbridge. **4** Pass Brookhouse Farm and follow the lane uphill to its junction with Swettenham Road. **5** Turn left, shortly passing a turning on the right and then the entrance to Cloud Hill Farm on the left. **6** Pass the sign for Kermincham then, just before the turning to Swettenham Heath, turn left over a stile onto a footpath. **7** Follow the fence, swapping sides at a stile, to a third stile into a driveway. **8** Walk past the house and cross another stile. Follow the hedge beyond to another stile, then continue to a final stile, giving access to Cross Lane, a metalled driveway. **9** Turn left along the lane (a Cheshire Wildlife Trust reserve on the left has a loop trail which you can follow to extend your walk, rejoining the lane beyond Chestnut Farm; for a simpler, shorter walk, stay on Cross Lane past the farm). **10** Follow the lane to Crane Cottage and Ash Tree Farm, ignoring footpaths off to the right and left. **11** By the farm, turn sharp left down a sunken track that descends back to Swettenham Brook. **12** Cross the bridge at the bottom and climb the hill beyond to a junction with a farm road. **13** Turn right then, very shortly, left by a footpath sign. This leads to the lavender field next to the Swettenham Arms – walk up the left-hand side of the field back to the pub.

BRERETON HEATH (3½ miles: easy)

Allow 2 hours. Mostly surfaced throughout, with no stiles; suitable for all-terrain buggies. Some road walking, and much of the outward route is retraced on the return.

1 From the car park in front of the Swettenham Arms, turn right into Davenport Park Lane (signposted as a no-through road). **2** Continue past the last houses and follow the lane for half a mile down into the Dane valley. Pass a house on the left then continue along the drive past a second house by the gate into the Davenport Hall estate. **3** Cross the River Dane and continue along the track across the valley and then up the far bank. Walk past a series of ponds on the left, ignoring the entrances to Davenport Hall off to the right. **4** Beyond a gate, follow the road past Davenport House to the A54. **5** Cross the main road carefully and follow the road opposite, signposted to Brereton Heath Local Nature Reserve. **6** After 300m, turn left through a kissing gate and cross the grass to the surfaced path around the

lake. **7** Turn left and pass through a tree-lined section alongside a fence before emerging into grassland, where the path bears right to a woodpecker statue and birdwatching hide. **8** Continuing round the lake, past a fenced-off area of heathland on your left before entering deciduous woodland. Ignore the waymark for the South Cheshire Market Towns Trail. **9** Regain the lakeside and keep right at a stone marker. **10** When you reach the car park, continue to the entrance and follow the path ahead and left of the visitor centre. **11** Bear left at an interpretation board illustrating the butterflies of the reserve to return to the kissing gate. *From this point on, you are retracing your steps.* **12** Turn right along the road and follow it back to the A54. **13** Cross carefully and follow the driveway past Davenport Hall back to the bridge over the Dane. **14** Follow the lane back to the village.

TWEMLOW AND THE DANE VALLEY 6¼ miles: moderate

Allow 3–4 hours. Field paths may be muddy and cattle are likely to be encountered. Several stiles en route. There is a stretch of road walking on the outward leg, but the delightful return along the Dane valley is ample compensation.

1 From the car park, facing the church, turn left and exit into the lavender field. Walk down the right-hand side and exit in the bottom right-hand corner to a farm track. **2** Turn right then shortly left, onto a track that descends steeply to Swettenham Brook. **3** Cross the bridge then, partway up the hill, turn left over a stile and then a footbridge. Turn right up the grassy slope to emerge by Ash Tree Farm. **4** Turn left along the track and go through a gate and past Brook Farmhouse. **5** At the cluster of farm buildings beyond, ignore the footpath on the left (our return route) and bear right between the barns before turning right beyond them. **6** Follow this farm drive between fields to the buildings of Deerpark Farm. **7** At a junction, turn left, then follow the lane right, past a pond, at the entrance to Kermincham Hall. **8** Cross a small valley and follow the driveway out to the road. **9** Turn left and follow the road for half a mile to Twemlow Green. Carry straight on at a junction, past the entrance to Twemlow Hall, to the A535. **10** Cross and turn left along the pavement, then turn right into Twemlow Lane by The Smithy. **11** Cross Goostrey Lane and carry on along the road, passing the Old Fuel Depot business centre and crossing the railway after 300m or so. Pass Blue Slate Farm on the left. **12** After a series of bends, look out on the left for a waymarked gate, shortly before the Bidlea Dairy. **13** Walk down the left-hand side of the L-shaped field, then turn right past a lone tree at the end of the property on the right. This leads to a stile into the next field by a pond. **14** Follow the right-hand hedge then turn left and right through a gate at the far end of the field to a second gate leading to a driveway. **15** Walk straight on, past Hermitage Farm on the left. **16** At the entrance to the half-timbered Hollins Farm, follow the drive round a left-hand bend and descend past The Hermitage to the Dane valley. **17** Before the bridge over the Dane (dated 1707), turn left

through a kissing gate and follow the river upstream towards the Twemlow Viaduct. **18** After a second gate the right-of-way cuts across a meander, but the *de facto* path sticks to the waterside before diverting away from the river to cross a concealed footbridge over a sidestream. **19** Cross a stile and pass under the viaduct (decorated by fans of Harry Styles). Walk up to another stile (“Harry’s Style”) which gives onto the A535. **20** Cross and turn left along the narrow pavement (which ends at a house). Continue with care past a layby on the left and then, just after the Twemlow signs and before a farm entrance on the left, turn right over a stile by a house. **21** Follow the left-hand side of the field to the far left-hand corner, where a stile leads into the next field. Bear right along the top of the bank above the River Dane, to a kissing gate. **22** Drop down to a footbridge over a side-stream and then climb to a kissing gate into the next field. **23** Head to the left of a wooded bank in the middle of the field, then past a lone tree to climb to a gate at the top of a wood. **24** Beyond the gate and stile, bear right (leaving the obvious farm track) along the woodland edge, then climb a stile on the right and descend through the wood to a footbridge over another Dane tributary. **25** Climb the slope to the left of the wooded bank beyond, then cross the field to a stile in the opposite hedge. **26** Pass below and to the right of a small wood with a duckpond, then bear left uphill along a track. **27** Follow the track right at the top, then go through a kissing gate on the right and follow the bracken path on the other side of the fence above the steep valley side. **28** This path meets a farm track, then keeps right of the hedge to pass to the right of Brook Farm. **29** Go through a kissing gate then, at the end of a brick barn, turn left to another. **30** *From this point on, you are retracing your steps from your outward journey:* turn right along the track past Brook Farmhouse. **31** At Ash Tree Farm, turn right down the track that descends to Swettenham Brook. **32** Cross the bridge at the bottom and climb the hill beyond to a junction. **33** Turn right then, very shortly, left by a footpath sign. This leads to the lavender field next to the Swettenham Arms – walk up the left-hand side of the field back to the pub.

THE SWETTENHAM ARMS

Swettenham Lane, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 2LF

tel 01477 571284

email info@swettenhamarms.co.uk

web www.swettenhamarms.co.uk

  [theswettenhamarms](https://www.facebook.com/swettenhamarms)

We hope you enjoy your walk and we look forward to quenching your thirst and satisfying your appetite on your return. Please see our website or social media for opening and food service times.