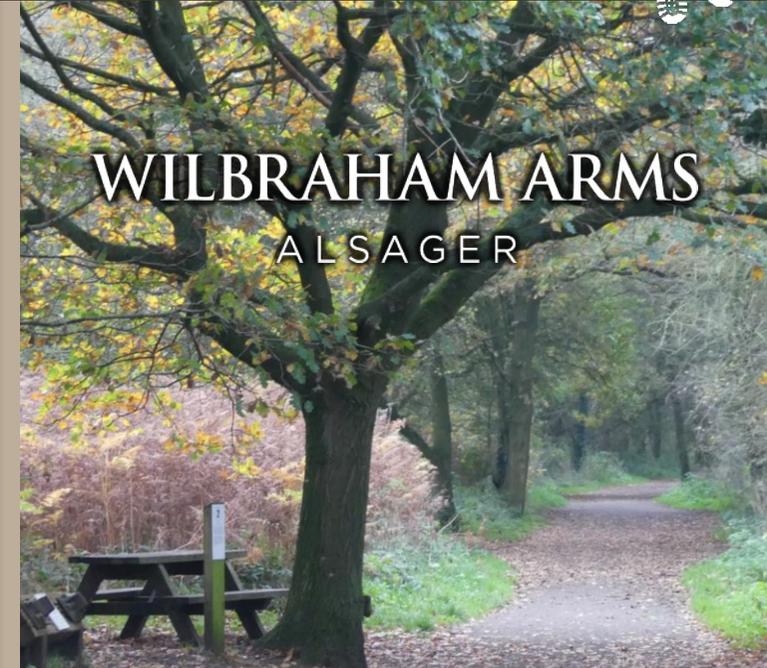




WILBRAHAM ARMS ALSAGER



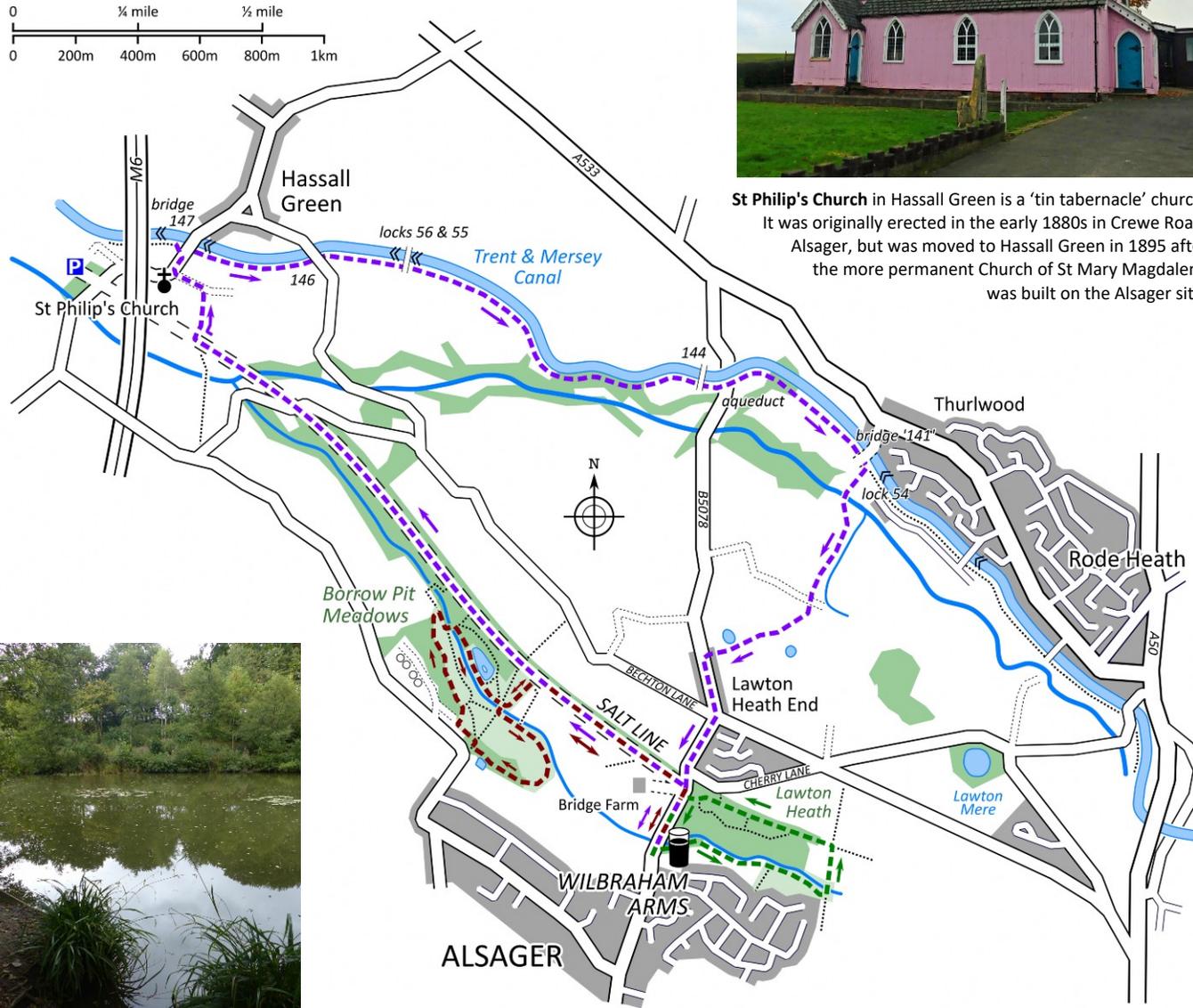
Lawton Heath
1 mile: easy
A woodland and streamside stroll along the line of a former railway.

Borrow Pit Meadows
2 1/4 miles: fairly easy
An easy stroll along the Salt Line to a pleasant public space with ponds and woodland.

Salt Line and Trent & Mersey
4 1/2 miles: fairly easy
Almost the complete length of the Salt Line, returning via the peaceful towpath of the Trent & Mersey Canal.



St Philip's Church in Hassall Green is a 'tin tabernacle' church. It was originally erected in the early 1880s in Crewe Road, Alsager, but was moved to Hassall Green in 1895 after the more permanent Church of St Mary Magdalene was built on the Alsager site.



Borrow Pit Meadows is a public open space on land that was previously occupied by a landfill site. It has woodland and grassland habitats, and a couple of ponds add to its wildlife value.

Lawton Heath

1 mile: easy

Allow 45 minutes. No stiles. Unsurfaced paths may be muddy.

1 From the car park entrance, turn immediately right then right again down a track into the woods before the stream. **2** Follow the path with the stream on your left and paddocks on your right until you reach an open space and then a footbridge (580 metres). **3** Turn left across the stream and head uphill across a cultivated field for 100 metres. **4** Turn left at a crossing path and join the old railway embankment. **5** Follow the path through the trees, ignoring any paths off to the left. **6** Just beyond a path connecting to Cherry Lane on the right, bear left and right after 450 metres to a gap in the fence onto the road. **7** Turn left along the pavement, past the 'Face in the Tree', to return to the Wilbraham Arms.

Borrow Pit Meadows

2¼ miles: fairly easy

Allow 1½ hours. No stiles; mostly on rail trail and surfaced paths.

1 Turn right from the car park entrance and follow the road for 220 metres, passing the 'Face in the Tree' on your right. **2** By the entrance to Bridge Farm, turn left onto the Salt Line, a former railway. Ignore a footpath off to the left after 150 metres. **3** Pass a bench on the right, then another on the left, then 600 metres after leaving the road turn left up a few steps and through a gap in the fence. **4** Ignoring a stile on the left, follow the tree-lined path ahead, downhill and away from the Salt Line. Follow the path right, to a junction of paths. **5** Turn left past a Borrow Pit Meadows sign, then turn left again (through two kissing gates). **6** Follow the path with the stream on your left, shortly passing a footbridge. **7** At a bench, follow the path round to the right, climbing gently away from the bottom of the valley. **8** Bear right again, past another bench, and pass a small pond on the left. **9** When you meet another path near the road, turn right then take the first left. **10** After a gateway, bear right to another, then turn left along a path along the edge of the Borrow Pit Meadows, with the recycling centre and water treatment works away to your left through the trees and an open field on your right. **11** At a T-junction of paths by a Tree Trail sign, turn right, with the stream on your left, passing a bench. **12** At the next junction, turn left over a footbridge. **13** Turn right immediately, and walk past a pond, back to the footpath you followed earlier by the Borrow Pit Meadows sign. **14** Carry straight on along the tree-lined path by which you arrived, back up to the Salt Line. **15** Turn right and retrace your steps along the old railway to the road. **16** Cross and turn right along the pavement back to the Wilbraham Arms.



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Salt Line and Trent & Mersey Canal

4½ miles: fairly easy

Allow 2–3 hours. Some unsurfaced paths, including the canal towpath, may be muddy after rain. Two stiles and some road walking.

1 Turn right from the car park entrance and follow the road for 220 metres, passing the 'Face in the Tree' on your right. **2** By the entrance to Bridge Farm, turn left onto the Salt Line, a former railway. Ignore a footpath off to the left after 150 metres. **3** Continue along the former railway past paths to the Borrow Pit Meadows (see the **Borrow Pit Meadows** walk for an optional loop around this pleasant open space). **4** Continue along the Salt Line for ¾ mile to a lane. **5** Cross straight over and continue along the old railway for a further 400 metres. **6** Not long before you reach the noisy M6, turn right onto a footpath that climbs through a gap in the embankment to a kissing gate. **7** Follow the field edge beyond until you meet a sunken track. **8** Turn left to emerge shortly on the road by St Philip's Church. **9** Turn right along the road up to the Trent & Mersey Canal. **10** Turn left then right onto the canal towpath (under the bridge and past the lock). **11** Pass under bridge 146 and pass locks 56 and 55. **12** Continue for ½ mile to pass under bridge 144 near a farm on the opposite bank, then cross the aqueduct over the B5078. **13** After 600 metres, turn right after the bridge numbered 141 to leave the canal and follow a footpath across a field, to the left of newly planted trees, to a kissing gate. **14** Continue down to a footbridge and follow the path parallel to a stream on your left. **15** Cross a farm track (via a stile then a kissing gate) and follow the right-hand field edge as it curves right past a pond on the left. **16** Cross the corner of the field to a stile and pass another pond (right) to a kissing gate onto a driveway between a house and garage. **17** Turn left along the road for 200 metres, then right into Sandbach Road North (signposted Alsager), crossing the entrance of Betchton Lane. **18** Follow the vergeless road downhill past a care home on the left to the end of Cherry Lane, opposite the start of the Salt Line. **19** Continue along the pavement, past the 'Face in the Tree' back to the Wilbraham Arms.



The **Trent & Mersey Canal** runs for 93 miles from the Bridgewater Canal near Runcorn to the River Trent near Derby. It was built partly at the initiative of pottery magnate Josiah Wedgwood and was completed in 1777, under the direction of engineer James Brindley. Many of its locks, bridges and distance markers are listed buildings.



The **Salt Line** follows the line of the former Kidsgrove to Sandbach branch of the North Staffordshire Railway, which opened in 1852 to carry coal and limestone to the local salt works, and later carried passengers to Trentham Gardens. Passenger services ended in 1930 and freight trains in 1964.

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If you're looking for a great pub in Alsager, you've found it! The Wilbraham Arms is all about good food, great drinks, and that friendly local feel. We serve pub classics, tasty lunches, and an elevated evening menu for when you fancy something a bit special. Whether it's a casual drink, Sunday roast, or dinner with friends, you'll always get a warm welcome here. **Please see our website or social media for menus and opening times.**