

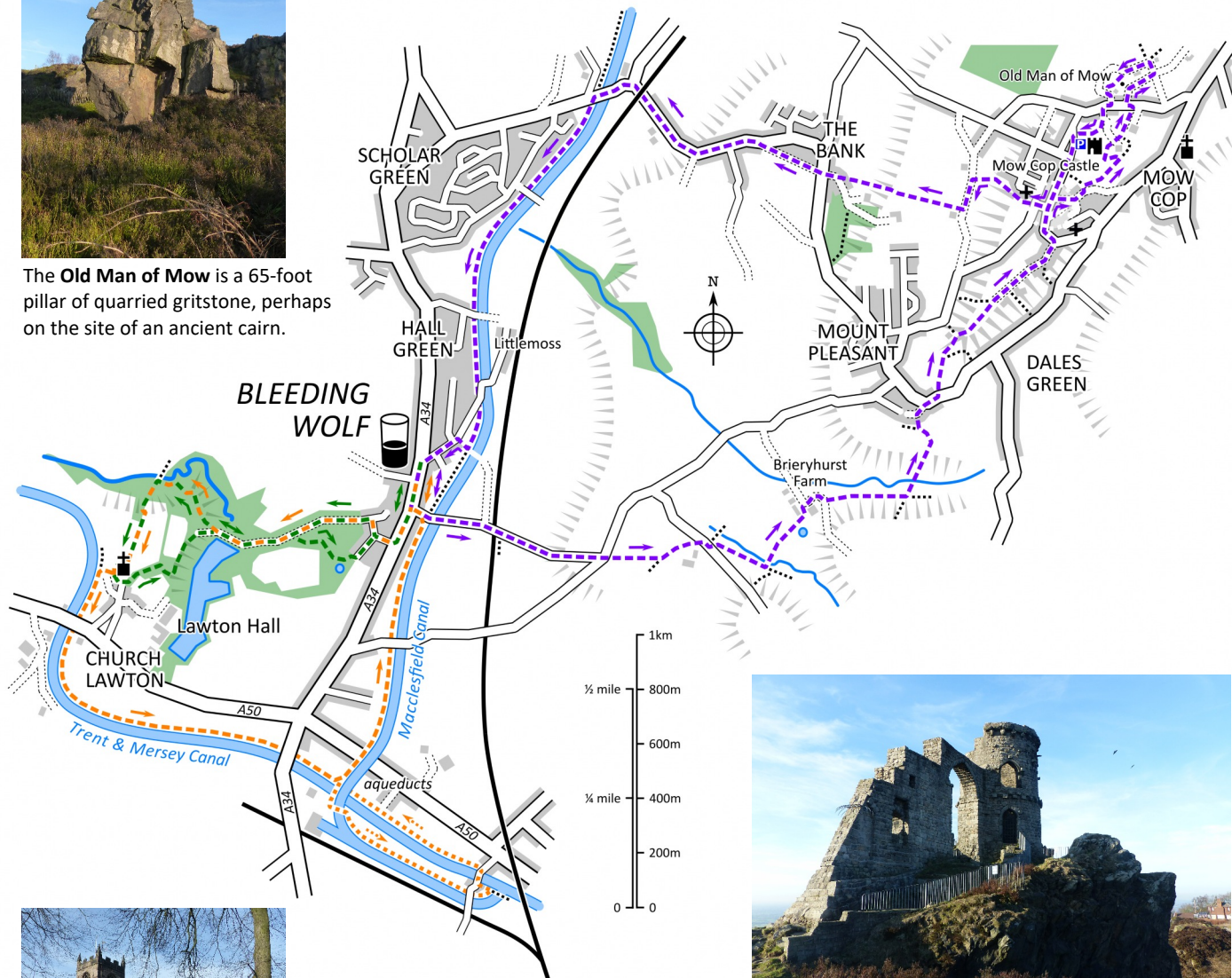


The **Old Man of Mow** is a 65-foot pillar of quarried gritstone, perhaps on the site of an ancient cairn.



Pool Lock Aqueduct, built 1828, carries the Macclesfield Canal over the Trent & Mersey. The aqueduct and adjacent footbridge are Grade-II-listed buildings, as is the Red Bull aqueduct nearby, which carries the canal over the A50 road.

www.walksfromthedoor.co.uk



All Saints Church near Lawton Hall has a Norman doorway of the 11th or 12th century and a 16th-century tower, but the nave was rebuilt in the classical style in 1803.



Mow Cop Castle is a folly, built as a summerhouse in 1754 by the local landowner and maintained by the National Trust. It has superb views, from Moel Famau in the northwest to The Wrekin in the south.

THREE CIRCULAR WALKS FROM *The* **Bleeding Wolf**

SCHOLAR GREEN, CHESHIRE



LAWTON HALL 2 miles

TWO CANALS WALK 3 or 4 miles

MOW COP 5½ miles



ROBINSONS

Lawton Hall (2 miles: Fairly easy)

A wooded stroll with a visit to a rewarding church, passing a stately home (private) and some interesting remnants of its estate.

Woodland paths may be muddy in places; one short, steep descent. Allow 1–1½ hours.

1 From the front door, turn right along the main road, crossing Bleeding Wolf Lane and ignoring the turning to Moss Lane on the left. **2** After 300 yards, turn right into The Spinney. **3** Turn right at the first junction, then left at the second. **4** Join a track into the wood beyond the gate after the last house and follow it downhill until you pass the end of Lawton Hall Pool. **5** Immediately beyond the lake, turn right up a short slope onto a path that runs along the top of a valley with the stream below and to your right. **6** Shortly beyond a projecting corner where the path bends abruptly left, turn right and descend steeply to the stream. **7** Follow it downstream (left) to a footbridge. **8** Turn left and climb out of the valley to a metal kissing gate, beyond which you cross a field towards the church. **9** Follow the churchyard wall to the right. **10** On reaching a fence by a water trough, turn left through a kissing gate and keep left to a second metal gate into the church car park. **11** Having visited the church, cross the car park and take the path next to the small brick hut, which skirts the churchyard then bears left, with good views over lawns to Lawton Hall to your right. **12** The path bears right, then left again, just beyond a private gate into the hall grounds (look out for the icehouse beneath your feet). **13** The path skirts a field then swings right into the trees and descends to the lake once more. **14** Cross the dam again (noting a ruined dovecote among the trees on the right) and retrace your steps up the track for 300 yards. **15** Just beyond a crossing track, bear right into the trees at a waymark post. **16** Keep right at a fork of paths then bear left, close to a field on your right within the wood. **17** Follow the narrow and indistinct path to the right beyond the field corner, then walk to the left of a pond to a kissing gate into a residential road. **18** Turn left, then right at the junction. **19** At the main road, turn left to return to the Bleeding Wolf.

Two Canals Walk (3 miles: Fairly easy)

Locks, bridges and aqueducts on the Trent & Mersey and Macclesfield Canals (with an optional 1-mile extension to their junction).

Allow 2–3 hours. May be muddy in places; several stiles.

Follow steps **1–9** of the **Lawton Hall** walk, above.

10 At a fence by a water trough, turn right towards the Trent & Mersey canal (a short diversion left gives access to the church). **11** On reaching the canal, turn left along the towpath and pass under the A50 (bridge 135). **12** Continue along the towpath for ¾ mile, passing locks 46, 45 and 44. **13** Beyond the Canal & River Trust building and its cranes at Red Bull Wharf, pass under the A34 road and walk past

lock 43. **14** just before Pool Lock Aqueduct, climb the steps on your left to the Macclesfield Canal. *For the shorter route, jump to step 21.* **15** For the longer walk, turn right over the aqueduct then cross the canal via a brick footbridge (bridge 96). **16** Follow the towpath beyond, with the Macclesfield Canal now on your immediate right. **17** After 600 yards, pass under bridge 97 and follow the towpath as it curves left to the bridge at the canal junction. **18** Turn left along the towpath of the Trent & Mersey and pass lock 41. **19** Turn right over the canal at the road, then turn left back onto the towpath, now with the canal on your left. **20** After lock 42, pass under the aqueduct and climb the steps on your right up to the Macclesfield Canal. **21** Turn left and cross another aqueduct, this time over the A50 road. **22** After ¼ mile, pass under bridge 95. **23** At the next bridge (96) leave the canal and turn left to the main road. **24** Turn right and follow the A34 back to the Bleeding Wolf.

Mow Cop (5½ miles: Fairly strenuous)

Field and quarry paths up to the famous folly, with superb views in all directions, and a pleasant canalside return.

Field paths (mud possible after rain) with a significant climb and some rocky ground around Mow Cop Castle. Allow 3 hours. Multiple stiles and some road walking.

1 From the front door, turn right along the main road, crossing Bleeding Wolf Lane. **2** After 100 yards, cross carefully into Moss Lane and follow it over the canal bridge. **3** Continue for ½ mile, crossing a railway bridge partway up the hill. **4** At a T-junction, take the footpath over the stile ahead, and bear slightly left across the field. **5** On meeting another path, turn left and follow the field edge to a stile into a road. **6** Cross over, and take the right-hand of the two paths, a green lane beyond a stile running roughly parallel to the road. **7** Just before a stile on the right, turn left over a stream. **8** Walk up the field edge towards Brieryhurst Farm, passing to the left of a pond, where you cross a stile on your left and turn right to the farm. **9** Pass through the farm buildings, then turn right onto a track (*at the time of writing, extensive building renovations were in progress here; follow on-site directions in the case of a diversion*). **10** As the track bends right, turn left by a waymarked telegraph pole, cross a stile and follow another grassy track below a slope on your right to a field. **11** Cross the field ahead and bear left to ford the small stream below a stone wall. **12** Walk up the field edge to a stile in the corner. **13** Continue, with the hedge on your right, bearing left to a metal kissing gate. **14** Join the driveway beyond and turn right to the road. **15** Turn right for a short distance and take a footpath on your left over a wooden stile. **16** Follow the path as it climbs through some disused quarries. **17** Keep left at a junction of paths by an upright stone, then bear right, ignoring a path off to the left. **18** Beyond another quarried area, keep right past a bungalow and join the track-cum-driveway, which you follow out to the road just above a chapel. **19** Turn left onto High

Street. **20** Just beyond a turning on the left (leading to the Primitive Methodist Church), turn right beyond a former mill (Coronation Mill) at a Heritage Trail fingerpost. **21** Ignore a turning, and then a stepped footpath, on your right to reach a junction of tracks, where you turn left then right (ignoring the path ahead through a bike barrier). **22** Walk along below the heathery slopes and past a gate with a National Trust sign. **23** Below an ivy-covered slope, turn left onto a path that zig-zags up to a loop at the end of the driveway of Beacon House, below Mow Cop Castle. Steps on the left lead up to the folly. **24** Returning to Beacon House, take the path opposite (with a waymark post indicating “Sugar Well Farm”). **25** Bear left above the farmhouse and follow the path beside and above the driveway out to Castle Road. **26** Turn left to the brow of the hill, where you turn right past a pair of mobile masts on your right and a house on your left. **27** At a junction of tracks, turn left and follow the track round to the left (ignoring a footpath straight ahead) to pass another house. **28** Just beyond the NT sign, turn left past a bench and to the right of the Old Man of Mow. **29** On rejoining the track beyond the rock pillar, turn left and follow the track out to the road. **30** Turn right then immediately left onto a track heading towards the Castle. **31** Take a path on the right that contours to the foot of the folly mound, then drop down to the car park on your right. **32** At the road, turn left and pass the junction with Top Station Road. **33** By Coronation Mill, turn right to Parson’s Well and the Primitive Methodist Chapel. **34** Take the footpath ahead, next to the phone box, and continue downhill beyond the chapel and past gardens until you meet a track. **35** Turn left, then turn right onto a footpath by a house. **36** Descend between fields to a stile and then walk down The Brake to Mount Pleasant Road. **37** Cross and follow a road/track opposite, until you meet another road. **38** Turn left, shortly crossing the end of Mill Lane. **39** At a bend, cross to the right-hand pavement and continue downhill to pass under a railway bridge. **40** Keep left at the road junction beyond. **41** Cross the canal bridge and turn left onto the towpath. **42** After ¼ mile, pass under bridge 89 and then Tramroad Bridge (91) a similar distance beyond. **43** Bridge 92 follows after a further 250 yards, then you finally leave the canal at Hall Green Footbridge (93), just above a lock. **44** Go up the ramp and follow the short path right, between garden hedges, out to Little Moss Lane. **45** Turn left for 175 yards to reach the main road within sight of the Bleeding Wolf.

THE BLEEDING WOLF

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Opening times

Mon–Tue 11:00–22:30
Wed–Fri 11:00–23:30
Sat 09:00–23:30 Sun 09:00–22:30

Food service

Mon–Tue 12:00–20:30
Wed–Fri 12:00–21:00
Sat 10:00–21:00 Sun 10:00–20:00