



Bridgewater Canal

The carving of a cat on the tower of **St Wilfrid's church** in Grappenhall is said to have inspired the Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

The church is Norman in origin but was largely rebuilt in the 16th century.



www.walksfromthedor.co.uk



**Walton Hall** (right) was built in 1826 for Sir Gilbert Greenall (1806–1894), a brewer and MP and friend of Lewis Carroll, who lived at nearby Daresbury.

The house was designed by the Lancaster architect Edmund Sharpe. It was sold to the Warrington Corporation in 1941 and opened to the public in 1945. The estate includes a children's zoo and a cycling museum.

**The Dingle** (left) is the attractive wooded valley of the Lumb Brook.



# THREE CIRCULAR WALKS FROM THE



## LONDON BRIDGE



### PUB AND KITCHEN

#### Walton Hall (2½ miles: easy)

To our local stately home, returning along the Bridgewater Canal.

#### Appleton Reservoir & Walton Hall

4 miles: fairly easy

Canal and lakeside walking with views from the Mersey Valley Trail.

#### Grappenhall & The Dingle

5¼ miles: moderate

Canalside walking to a pretty village with a historic church, returning via a leafy stream valley.

## Walton Hall

2½ miles: easy

*Allow 1 hour. May be muddy in places. Some steps.*

**1** From the London Bridge Inn, cross the A56 with care and walk down Birchdale Road. Follow this quiet residential street for about ¼ mile until you reach a T-junction (Red Lane). **2** Cross and turn right then, after 50 metres, turn left onto a roughly surfaced lane by a house with two porthole windows. **3** Follow this lane beyond the houses into open countryside, and continue as far as Hillfoot Farm. **4** Pass to the left of the farmhouse and continue along the driveway. **5** Shortly after the drive bends right, a path on the left runs parallel to the lane through the trees for a while before rejoining it. **6** Ignore a footpath on the left onto the golf course, instead staying along the main track to cross a stream and meet Hough's Lane. **7** Turn left for a short distance then step over the wall on your right into the grounds of Walton Hall. **8** Turn right then bear left along the woodland edge, to the left of the pitch-and-putt course, then cross towards the main house. **9** Walk to the left of a bowling green then climb the terrace steps and pass the bandstand to the house. **10** Follow the main drive right, around the house, and then bear left and right across the park (though you can turn right to the children's zoo if you choose). **11** Pass to the left of the glasshouses and bear right beyond the café. **12** Cross the footbridge over the Bridgewater Canal then turn right down the steps onto the towpath. **13** Turn left and follow the towpath for 300 metres before passing the Hough Lane bridge and adjacent parking area. **14** Continue along the towpath for ½ mile to the next bridge (Red Lane) and carry on as the canal bends gradually right. **15** Walk parallel to Beech Road but stay on the towpath. **16** Shortly before the white-painted London Bridge, turn left past Thorn Marine onto Mitchell Street. **17** Turn right and then right again to cross the canal back to the London Bridge Inn.

## Appleton Reservoir & Walton Hall

4 miles: fairly easy

*Allow 2 hours. One short climb; paths may be muddy and uneven in places. Some steps.*

Follow steps 1–3 of the **Walton Hall** walk, above, to Hillfoot Farm.

**4** Walk to the left of the farmhouse and just beyond it take a footpath on the left. Follow the fenced path uphill. **5** At a junction of paths, turn right (signposted 'Permissive Path'). Follow the path along the top of the field and through the trees. **6** The path continues along the bottom of the wood on your left, with Walton Hall Golf Course on your right, for 500 metres, before emerging onto a wider track (Park Lane). **7** Turn right and follow the track for 200 metres, ignoring a public footpath onto the golf course on your right. **8** Pass a couple of house entrances then turn right at a junction, passing Daintith Farm

on your right. **9** At the end of Appleton Reservoir, turn left onto the permissive path around the lakeshore. **10** Follow it round to the left along an arm of the reservoir then up steps to a private road. **11** Turn right across the inlet then immediately right back onto the path along the waters' edge. **12** The path curves left and crosses another inlet, up steps to a path junction. Keep right, with the reservoir to your immediate right. **13** When you reach Park Lane, turn right along the road, with the reservoir still to your right. **14** Take the left turning into Hough's Lane and pass a couple of houses on the right and one on the left. **15** Shortly after a golfers' path crosses the lane, step over a low section of the wall on your left into the grounds of Walton Hall.

Rejoin the **Walton Hall** walk at step 8 and follow the directions thereafter back to the London Bridge Inn.

## Grappenhall & The Dingle

5¼ miles: moderate

*Allow 3 hours. Some paths may be muddy.*

**1** Cross the canal bridge and turn left into Mitchell Street. **2** Almost immediately, turn left past Thorn Marine onto the towpath and turn left under the London Road bridge. **3** Follow the towpath for half a mile to the Lumb Brook aqueduct. **4** Continue alongside the canal for a mile, latterly running alongside the A56. **5** Pass under Stanny Lunt Bridge and continue along the canal as it curves right (away from the A56). **6** At Grappenhall (Church Lane) Bridge, leave the canal and turn right over the bridge towards the church (which is worth a short diversion). **7** Turn left into Canal Side, now with the canal on your left. **8** Just before a house called Bridgewater, turn right onto a signposted footpath that winds its way to Grappenhall Wood. **9** Take the path heading slightly right, following the electricity wires, then bear left at a fork between the trees. **10** Bear right along a gravelled path at the far edge of the wood to the road (by a wooden carving of a wizard). **11** Turn right along the road for quarter of a mile, then turn left by a footpath sign along a driveway. **12** Beyond the houses, continue along the green lane to a wooden kissing gate into trees. **13** Turn left and right alongside a pond, then left with the pond on your left. **14** Bear right out of the trees, follow the hedge then pass through a belt of trees. **15** Continue along the hedge then bear right and left at the end of the next wood. **16** Follow the path along the right-hand edge of a grassy area then bear right before turning left out to a road. **17** Cross and turn left past Stud Farm Cottages. **18** At a T-junction, turn right. Pass Dingle Barn on your left and descend into the Dingle valley. **19** Cross the bridge and turn right through a metal barrier into The Dingle, shortly passing a sandstone outcrop on your left. **20** Follow the valley downstream before crossing and recrossing the stream via wooden footbridges. **21** Continue alongside the stream, ignoring any paths off to the left, and pass under a road bridge dated 1997. **22** The path continues along the stream past houses and gardens on the left until you meet a road (Dale Lane). **23** Follow the pavement ahead

then turn right over a footbridge across the stream into Lumb Brook Millennium Green. **24** Turn left and follow a path across the grass, keeping the stream on your left and winding through trees. **25** At the end of the green space, bear left to the road. **26** Follow the residential road opposite then turn right to Lumb Brook Road. **27** Turn left and pass under the aqueduct. **28** Turn right immediately onto a narrow stepped path below the bridge abutment up to the canal towpath. **29** Turn right over the aqueduct and retrace your earlier steps along the towpath back to London Bridge. **30** Pass under the bridge, then turn right past Thorn Marine to Mitchell Street. **31** Turn right and right again to return to the London Bridge Inn.

### THE LONDON BRIDGE INN

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Looking for traditional pub food in Stockton Heath paired with quality cask ales? Join us at The London Bridge Inn, a welcoming gastropub in the heart of Stockton Heath, perfect for a relaxing meal or drinks with friends.

Whether you're enjoying a cosy pint by the fire or soaking up the sunshine in our pub garden in Stockton Heath, there's no better place to unwind. Our menu features home-cooked favourites using locally sourced ingredients, ideal for lunch, dinner, or a hearty Sunday roast.

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There's always something happening at The London Bridge Inn, one of the most popular pubs in Stockton Heath for both locals and visitors alike. For upcoming events, live music nights, and seasonal menus, check out our What's On page and don't forget to sign up to our newsletter for the latest updates.

