



A canal feeder runs from Rudyard Lake for 3 miles to supply water to the Leek arm of the Caldron Canal.



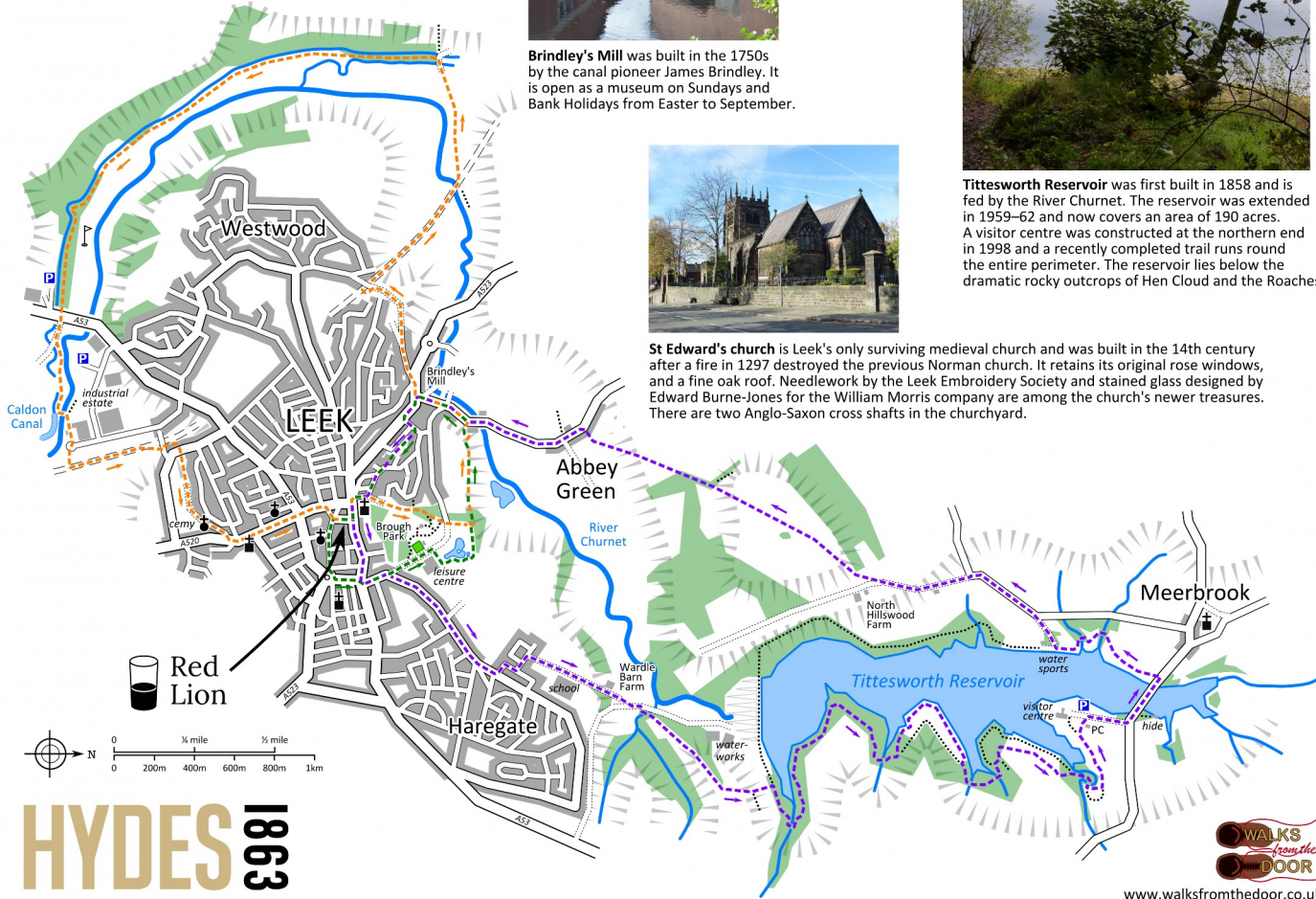
Brindley's Mill was built in the 1750s by the canal pioneer James Brindley. It is open as a museum on Sundays and Bank Holidays from Easter to September.



Tittesworth Reservoir was first built in 1858 and is fed by the River Churnet. The reservoir was extended in 1959-62 and now covers an area of 190 acres. A visitor centre was constructed at the northern end in 1998 and a recently completed trail runs round the entire perimeter. The reservoir lies below the dramatic rocky outcrops of Hen Cloud and the Roaches.



St Edward's church is Leek's only surviving medieval church and was built in the 14th century after a fire in 1297 destroyed the previous Norman church. It retains its original rose windows, and a fine oak roof. Needlework by the Leek Embroidery Society and stained glass designed by Edward Burne-Jones for the William Morris company are among the church's newer treasures. There are two Anglo-Saxon cross shafts in the churchyard.



three circular walks from the

## RED LION Leek, Staffordshire



### Brough Park and Brindley's Mill (2 miles)

Never far from the town centre, but with parkland and rural interludes.

### The Churnet Valley (5½ miles)

Town and country walking with a long stretch alongside a canal feeder in the quiet Churnet valley.

### Tittesworth Reservoir (7¾ miles)

Lakeside walking and superb views.

### THE RED LION

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### OPENING HOURS

Mon to Sat 9.30am-late

Sun Midday-9.30pm

## Brough Park and Brindley's Mill

### 2 miles: Easy

*Allow 1–1½ hours. Some muddy stretches after rain and one steep descent, with uneven steps.*

**1** From the front door of the Red Lion, turn left and walk past the market cross. **2** Turn left into Derby Street and follow it for 300 yards to the Nicholson War Memorial. **3** Turn left along Ball Haye Street and follow it to the Buxton Road. **4** Cross over and follow the road as far as a right-hand bend by a park lodge. **5** Follow the road ahead into Brough Park. **6** Walk between the bowling green (left) and leisure centre (right), then turn right between gateposts with tennis courts on your left. **7** Beyond the tennis courts turn left, then bear right when you meet a lake. **8** Leave the larger lake to pass to the right of a smaller pool, and go through a metal kissing gate beyond. **9** Turn left and keep to the right of the grassy area ahead of you. **10** In the corner, pass an information board for Brough Park Fields Local Nature Reserve and pick up a footpath ahead of you into the trees. **11** At a kissing gate you enter an open field. Follow the path along the top of the field, past a bench, and then continue in similar vein above a second field. **12** After a kissing gate, climb three steps into a fenced section and then through a hand-gate on your right. **13** The path descends between two gates and down a flight of steps, then descends further before swinging left behind a workshop to a final short flight of steps down to the road. **14** Turn left and follow the riverside road to the main road (the last footbridge on the right gives views of Brindley's Mill). **15** Turn left along the main road, then left into Hamil Drive. **16** Pass the end of Badnall Street then, before the junction with Hencroft, turn right up a cobbled alleyway. **17** This leads uphill between walls with views of Big Mill. **18** At the end of the alleyway you emerge into Daisy Bank. Go straight on, then turn left into Mount Pleasant, passing to the left of the graveyard of the former Methodist Chapel (now demolished). **19** A cobbled stretch leads past Naylor's Yard to Church Lane, where you turn right, past the church. **20** At the main road, turn left back to the Market Square.

## The Churnet valley (5½ miles: Moderate)

*Allow 3 hours. Sections may be muddy after rain; one steep descent. Some urban road walking in the latter stages.*

**1** From the front door of the Red Lion, turn right and walk up to Church Street. **2** Turn left along the main road. **3** Cross over at the traffic island and go through the gate into the churchyard. **4** Bear left past the tower and exit the churchyard into cobbled Church Lane. **5** Turn right and bear right into Ball Lane; walk down the hill into Brough Park. **6** At the bottom of the hill ignore a path off to the left and carry on in the same direction, bearing left into some trees below the bandstand. **7** At a fork near the end of the trees, take the left-hand path. **8** At a T-junction, go straight on across the grass; cross a park road and continue ahead to the far corner. **9** Take a footpath off to the left down into the trees. **10** At a kissing gate you enter an open

field. Follow the path along the top of two fields. **11** After a kissing gate, climb three steps into a fenced section and then pass through a hand-gate on your right. **12** The path descends between two gates and down a flight of steps, then descends further before swinging left behind a workshop to a final short flight of steps down to the road. **13** Turn left and follow the riverside road to the main road (the last footbridge on the right gives views of Brindley's Mill). **14** Turn right and cross the main road at the lights. **15** Turn right to cross the bottom of Belle Vue then turn left by the lime kilns into Kiln Lane. **16** Keep right at a fork after the houses, then bear left by a house called Bryn Helyg and follow the sunken track over the brow of the hill. **17** Descend past Oakwood Cottage to a bridge over the old railway. **18** Turn left before the bridge, then right through a metal barrier onto the former railway; turn right and pass under the bridge. **19** Follow the old railway for nearly half a mile to a bridge over the River Churnet. **20** Immediately after the bridge, turn left down the embankment to a stile and bear right across the field ahead of you. **21** Cross a stile and follow a path, then a concrete farm track, along the left-hand edge of the next field. **22** When the track bends right, turn left over a stile and follow the path along the canal feeder. **23** When the leat leaves the trees, continue to follow it (dropping down into the field on your left as necessary to avoid muddy stretches). **24** The surface improves beyond the start of a golf course on your left and the path continues its winding way through trees again, past a series of footbridges, to the road at Ladderedge Country Park. **25** Cross the road and follow the metalled farm drive opposite. **26** When the drive crosses the leat, turn left along the stream with the Churnet in close attendance on your left. **27** Drop down to the left and climb a short slope to a kissing gate. **28** The leat re-emerges from a conduit and you follow it until it finally meets the canal. **29** Turn left over the former aqueduct, then turn right between security fences. **30** Cross the entrance to a scrapyard and follow the path opposite to another stretch of the old railway; turn left. **31** Walk past more security fencing, then take the right-hand path as you approach a railway bridge. **32** Turn left then right (before the bridge) along a narrow path that leads between houses out to the road. **33** Cross and follow a metalled path opposite. **34** This path climbs to some cemetery gates then continues as a track to pass the cemetery chapel and Condlyffe Almshouses into Cheddleton Road. **35** Turn left and walk past All Saints' Church on your right and St Mary's on your left. **36** Cross the A53 by the Ash Almshouses and walk up St Edward Street. **37** Turn right into Stanley Street to return to the Red Lion.

## Tittesworth Reservoir

### 7¾ miles: Moderate

*Allow 4–5 hours. Some paths may be muddy after rain. Some suburban walking at the start, and several moderate ascents.*

**1** From the front door of the Red Lion, turn right to the main road, and right again. **2** Walk past the Nicholson Institute (Library) and continue past Union St and New St until you reach the lights at the crossroads.

**3** Turn left and then right (Ball Haye Rd) at the bottom of the hill. **4** At a T-junction opposite the entrance to the Leisure Centre, turn right. **5** Follow the road for 700 yards until you pass a playing field on your left. **6** Turn left into Tittesworth Avenue and follow it round to the right. **7** Turn left into Nightingale Gardens. **8** By a litter bin, turn right into a driveway and follow it behind a school and downhill to Wardle Barn Farm. **9** Go through two kissing gates to a road; turn left for a short distance then right onto a footpath that passes a bench and then crosses a footbridge over the River Churnet. **10** Walk up the hill past a couple of benches to a kissing gate and continue along the side of a field, past another bench. **11** Turn left by yet another bench and go through a kissing gate, bearing slightly right to cut the corner across the field. **12** After another field (with kissing gates at either end) you reach the yellow-waymarked Long Trail. **13** Turn right and follow the Trail, which descends to cross a stream and then follows the reservoir's edge. **14** The Trail leaves the water to run alongside fields, then turns left back into trees. **15** At a junction, take the left turn ("Water's edge path"), which leads down some steps to a footbridge. **16** Follow the path to the reservoir edge and then along the bottom of a couple of fields. **17** On rejoining the Long Trail, turn left. **18** Stay on the main trail, turning left at a junction where the Short Trail joins from the right. **19** The Trail runs along the top of a field and then drops to cross a bridge; after a second bridge, over the River Churnet, turn left (downstream) and then left again at the next junction. **20** When you reach the car park, turn right, past a playground and toilet block, to the main entrance road. **21** Turn right (unless visiting the Visitor Centre) and walk out to the public road. **22** Turn left and cross the causeway. **23** Take a path on the left which crosses a couple of fields then drops to cross a stream, and then a second. **24** When you reach Tittesworth Watersports, turn right, away from the reservoir, up the entrance road. **25** On reaching the public road, turn left for ¼ mile. **26** At a right-hand bend, leave the road to follow the drive for North and South Hillswood Farms, over a cattle grid. **27** Pass the entrance to Hillswood End then descend to a valley. **28** Partway up the other side, before the farm, turn right onto a tractor track up the hill. When this turns left into a field, carry straight on, along the wall to a stone squeeze stile. **29** Climb to the top of the hill, passing to the right of a copse, and follow a descending track beyond, with views over Leek. **30** Go through a gate and follow the track through trees for a short distance; when the track bends right, take a narrow path on the left that leads through a decorative gate into open fields. **31** Pass a bench and follow the path at it bears slightly left down the hillside. **32** Go through a metal kissing gate at the bottom and cross the car park of the Abbey Inn to the road. **33** Turn left and follow the road past some cottages. **34** Cross the River Churnet and follow the road alongside the river to the main road (the last footbridge on the right offering views of Brindley's Mill).

Now follow steps **15** to **20** of the **Brough Park and Brindley's Mill** walk to return to the town centre and the Red Lion.