



Walk 8: Wet your Whistle in Ash

Distance: **3.2 miles / 5.2km** • Duration: about **1½ hours**

Start point: **Brown Moss Nature Reserve** car park

A pleasant walk along quiet lanes and undulating fields with some lovely views of surrounding countryside.

The White Lion in Ash Magna offers an early opportunity for a rest and a drink.

Grazing to protect rare species

After extensive consultation Shropshire Council has put up fencing around the main part of Brown Moss to allow cattle to graze throughout part of the year, as they would have done in the past. The idea of this is to keep the overgrowth of naturally dominant species down and to allow rarer, more sensitive plant species to prosper.



Unfortunately, in recent years the site has been invaded by *Crassula Helmsii* (New Zealand pigmyweed), a very successful non-native, which is smothering some of the more delicate plants on site. When visiting this site please keep to the paths and away from the edges of the pools. This will help limit the spread of this plant and reduce the damage to fragile marsh areas.



Unusual cottages on Catterals Lane

The cottages at the southern end of Catterals Lane are distinctive in that they are built offset to one another so each one is not overlooked. Originally they were built for local railway workers.

Whitchurch Walkers' Bench

The wooden commemorative bench to be found just to the north of the central Brown Moss car park overlooking the main pool was installed in 2006 by local walking group – the Whitchurch Walkers – to mark their 30th anniversary.



Harding's Horses

Mr Henry Harding who runs 'Colour Supplies' – a large hardware store – in Whitchurch and a number of other local enterprises is a keen horse breeder. At any one time he can have over 50 horses of varying breeds and ages in stables and paddocks.



The White Lion at Ash

The White Lion is a traditional two bar local pub. At the time of writing it is renowned for serving an excellent pint of Timothy Taylor's Landlord bitter and tasty German schnitzels. The pub has a good collection of water jugs and beer/brewery paraphernalia including framed bar towels. (01948 663153 for opening times).



Route Description

Leave the main Brown Moss car park **1** and rejoin the lane heading south to a fingerpost by the bungalow called The Boathouse **2**. Leave the lane walk in a north easterly direction through some woodland and then through gates across two fields rising to a lane and a viewpoint.

At the top of the hill stands the village of Ash Magna. Walk on and turn left on to the road and you will soon arrive at a T-junction **3**. At this point you may decide you want a drink so turn right to arrive shortly at the White Lion.

Depending on your choice either retrace your steps and carry straight on at the junction or if you have resisted temptation turn left and walk on the roadside to a Christmas tree plantation on the right.

Turn right here **4** seemingly along a driveway for a short way and follow the path into a field. On a clear day there is a good view from this path over towards the Welsh hills and South Shropshire.

Follow the waymarked path through five fields to join Catterals Lane where you turn sharp left **5**. This quiet lane has a series of interesting, well spaced out and varied properties on either side. At the end you will come to a T-junction **6**.

Cross the road and go slightly to the right to an old narrow iron kissing gate. Follow the path through horse paddocks and four kissing gates to meet the Shropshire Way **7**.

Turn left on to what is in fact a bridleway and follow the Shropshire Way through two fields to join a quiet tarmac lane on a bend. Turn to your right and bear left following the Shropshire Way signs towards Brown Moss.

At the 'No Access' sign on your right keep straight ahead through a wooden gate into the trees and follow the path to reach the Whitchurch Walkers' 30th anniversary commemorative wooden bench for a well earned rest and contemplation of the largest pool on Brown Moss. The car park **1** is through the trees to your left.

