

Walk M - Brush Works Permissive Path (1.3 miles)

This short walk starts at the Leslie Harris Picnic Site, by the side of the canal towpath at Stoke Wharf. It follows a waymarked path through woodland surrounding the Brush Works. It is private land and access is with the permission of the respective landowners.

Parking (roadside) is available near the start of the walk at the Harris Business Park. The walk is not served by any bus routes, but it does link up with parish walks B, C, D, F & H. The Navigation Inn will probably allow walkers to park but please check. Boots are recommended during wet times of the year. There are no gates or stiles on this walk.

1. Leslie Harris Picnic Site. – Follow the path through the trees, away from the towpath to a clearing. Turn left into the woods, just past old derelict tennis courts to your left. At the path crossroads (left to the towpath and right to the playing field) go straight on, past a small green hut on your left.

The Picnic site is named after Mr Leslie G Harris who, established the decorating product company in whose original grounds the picnic site lies. The company moved to the site around 1947 and the surrounding woodland was planted a few years later. It was intended as a future sustainable source of wood for brush handles. The advent of plastics meant the woodland was never used for its original purpose, but it has become a marvellous haven for nature.

2. Car Park. Follow path around the top of the Works Car Park and bear left onto a woodland track. Continue along track for 100 metres then take a path going off to the right (waymarker post). The path starts to bear right and eventually emerges in clearing where there are overhead power lines. This section can be particularly muddy. Turn left along the clearing and then right, back into the woods.

3. Public Footpath. – At the tee junction turn right onto public footpath then down steps and bearing left alongside building to factory road. Turn left by factory door J up steps. Follow public path alongside fence. Turn right to re-join the permissive path (waymarker post).

Note: *This section of the permissive path can become overgrown. An alternative route is to continue along the public footpath and turn right along the Hanbury Road. The walk can be re-joined at the front of the Brush Works.*

4. Brush Works. Continue onto driveway, crossing the stylish frontage of the Brush Works on your right. Continue heading straight towards the playing field. Enter the field by the gap just to the left of the security fence. Continue straight along the edge of the woodland (do not walk over the playing field) to reach the start point.