



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

**North Cheshire CAMRA
Circular Country Pub Walk no. 1**

6 miles / 3 hours: Grappenhall - Lumb Brook Bridge - The Dingle - Fords Rough - Appleton Thorn - Grappenhall Heys - Grappenhall

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 276 for "Bolton, Wigan and Warrington" and the "Street A-Z Atlas of Warrington, Runcorn & Widnes" both cover the route.

This walk starts at the Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, WA4 2SG in Grappenhall village grid reference SJ 642 863. The Community Centre is about half a mile off the A50 and ample car parking is available. Alternatively several Warrington Borough Transport Buses, notably numbers 5 and 6, pass close to Grappenhall village. See <http://www.networkwarrington.co.uk/> for travel information. Of course if you use public transport you can enjoy the ales and ciders on offer without worrying about driving your car!

1. Turn right out of the car park heading towards Grappenhall village, with the church on the skyline. The **Bellhouse** is on the right as you leave the car park. You may not want a drink yet but it could be an hour and a half before your next opportunity in Appleton Thorn. Alternatively, it is one of the options for a beer at the end of the walk.

2. Just before the bridge over the canal, take the Cheshire Ring Canal Walk footpath to the right along the side of the canal, heading towards Stockton Heath. Follow the towpath, passing under the road bridge and then eventually passing Hill Top Road bus shelter.

3. After about a mile, having passed the Old Stables (On OS map as Mountain Farm) on the opposite side of the canal, look out for an unmarked path leading to steps down to a road (the first main path off the towpath) on the right at Lumb Brook bridge and descend to the road.

4. At the road turn left, following Lumb Brook Road for about 100 yards under the bridge and up to the junction with Bridge Lane. Cross the road and take the footpath next to the Bridge Lane road sign. Head into the trees and continue into Millennium Green, bearing right on the footpath approaching the expanse of open grass.

5. Follow the path along the bottom of the Millennium Green to a small bridge over a stream on the edge of a wood. Cross the bridge and bear left along the footpath, ignoring the green footpath sign to the right. As the path starts to go up hill, bear left at the sign for house numbers "91 to 103".

6. Follow the path into The Dingle, keeping the stream on your left, passing school playing fields on the right. At an unmarked junction, bear left under the road bridge, which is just visible through the trees. Continue through The Dingle alongside the stream. Ignore paths off on the right.

7. On reaching the end of The Dingle, turn left along the road (Dingle Lane on OS map) and after about 50 yards take the path on the right through the metal swing gate just after the bridge into Fords Rough woods. Follow the path through Fords Rough, slowly ascending, reaching a lane at the end of the woods.

8. At the lane turn right and then at the T-junction take the bridleway to the left, signposted Green Lane, following it to Appleton Thorn village.

9. In Appleton Thorn there's the option to take a break for a pint at the **Thorn Inn**, opposite the church or **Appleton Thorn Village Hall**, turn right just past the church and it's 200 yards further on the right. *Note the Village Hall is only open Thursday to Sunday with restricted opening hours.*

10. From the road junction by the Thorn Inn, take Grappenhall Lane (B5356) towards Lymm and Knutsford. 200 yards after passing New Lane on the left take the footpath left across the fields towards Grappenhall Heys.

11. Follow the path along the edge of the fields, crossing a footbridge, to a sign-post at a kink in the path where it bears left between two fields and then turns right along a line of trees. At a T-junction turn right and head towards a fingerpost in the middle of the field, then left towards Grappenhall Heys.

12. At the edge of the field turn right on a hard surfaced path heading towards the woods. Continue over a wooden bridge, follow the signpost to the left side of the woods, then alongside the open field by the hedgerow, heading for the footpath sign in the corner.

13. Follow the path as it bears left on entering the woods and, after a quarter of a mile meets an unmarked path. Turn right along the path to a signposted footpath T-junction by a pond on the right.

14. Here turn left, signposted Grappenhall Heys 1/8 m. After 200 yards turn right and follow the wide tree-lined path downhill into Grappenhall village, passing Grappenhall Cricket Club on the left as you approach Broad Lane.

15. Cross straight over Broad Lane onto another footpath signposted Church Lane. At Church Lane, turn right into the cobbled village centre, where there is the choice of a refreshment stop at either the **Rams Head** or the **Parr Arms**, or even both.

16. Continue through Grappenhall village, over the hump back canal bridge, passing the towpath on the left where you started out, finally arriving back at the Grappenhall Community Centre car-park. If you missed the **Bellhouse** on the way out why not drop in now for a final drink?

To find out more about the pubs featured, including opening hours and the range of beers normally available visit www.whatpub.com.

NOTE: If you have any comments, corrections or suggestions concerning this walk, please contact North Cheshire CAMRA: secretary@northcheshirecamra.org.uk.

Further copies of this leaflet can be obtained either from pubs mentioned along the route or you can download the latest version from our website <http://www.northcheshirecamra.org.uk>.