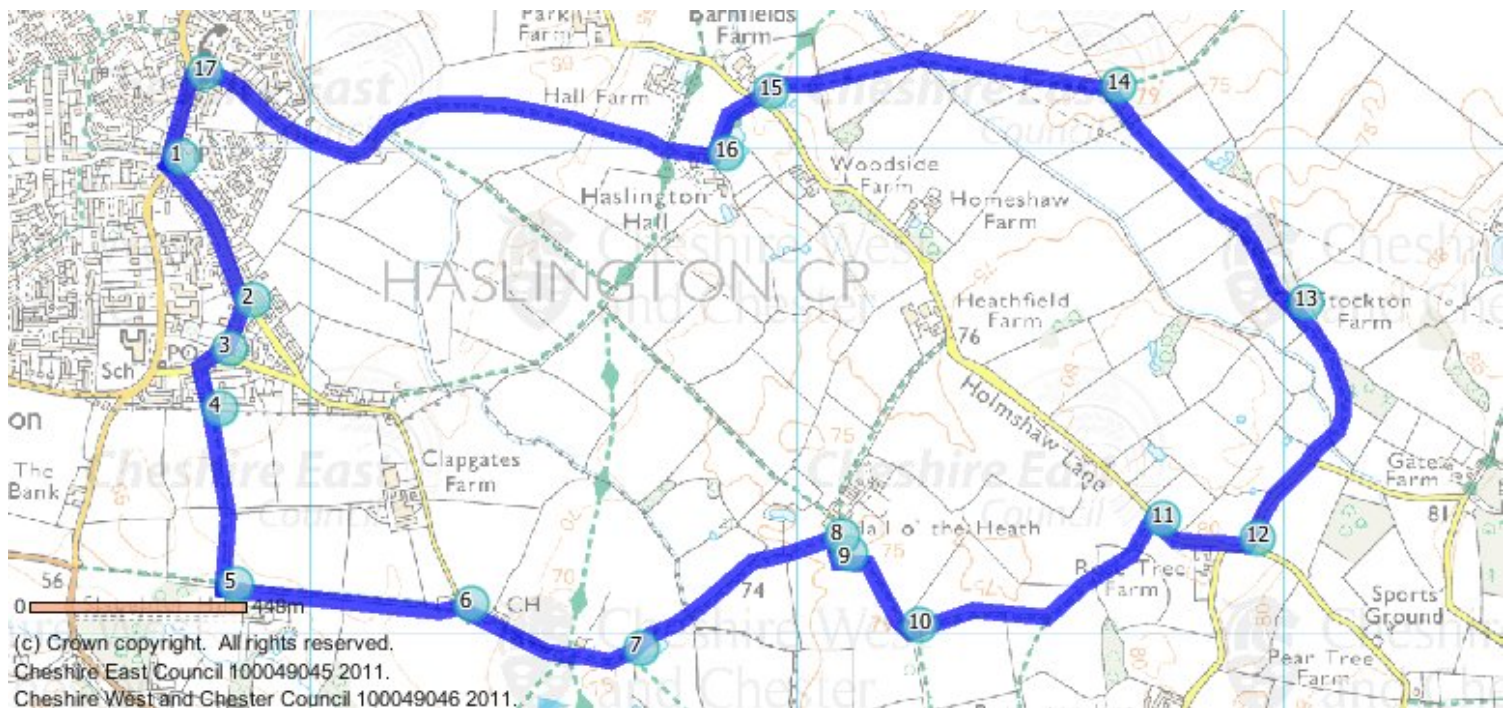


A Walk around Haslington

Come and enjoy this 6.5km/4mile circular walk along country lanes and public footpaths.

Grade	Easy
Distance	6.5 km/4 miles
Time	2 to 3 hours
Start	Public Car Park on Waterloo Road
Map	OS Explorer 257
Terrain	Minor roads and public footpaths, fairly level gradient throughout with some steep points.
Barriers	Approximately 22 stiles
Toilets	Haslington Village.
Contact	Tel: 01270 686029



Route Details

Explore the parish of Haslington along footpaths and country lanes. Discover its wonderful countryside with old buildings and battle sites.

During the Civil War, there was a great deal of unrest in the area. 1643 was the year of the 'Barthomley Massacre' when Royalists pillaged Crewe and Haslington. Slaughter Hill was the site of the Skirmish between Royalist and Parliamentary troops. According to local legend the battle made the brook run red with blood. A sword was actually found embedded in a bank of Valley Brook.

The Duchy of Lancaster owns the land in the area of Amicia Tenement. This estate cottage is much more elaborate than normal as it was used regularly by Lord Crewe for afternoon tea. He was known to be quite eccentric, staying up all night, to the dismay of his butler!

Crewe Golf Club first opened a nine-hole golf course in 1911. The land was rented from a local farmer at a cost of £4 per annum. The greens had to be fenced off and bunkers could only be constructed so long as they did not interfere with cattle grazing. As you pass the golf course pond in summer, look out for dragonflies darting in and out of the marginal plants.

Many ponds in Cheshire are old marl pits. Marl is a type of clay that was used by farmers to improve soil fertility, during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Local place-names such as Heathfield Farm and Hall o'the Heath Farm suggest that this area was once heathland. Mosslands are another feature of this area. Eighty people had the right to cut peat for fuel on Oakhanger Moss, in the seventeenth century.

The splendid timber framed Haslington Hall was built by Admiral Sir Francis Vernon in 1545 and contains parts of the original medieval manor house. Later the hall became the home of Mrs Watts, the founder and first President of the Women's Institute.

The Hawk Inn was once used for stabling horses and it is rumoured that Dick Turpin once stayed here. The Inn also had a mortuary and has a ghost known as the 'Lady in Grey'.

The first motorised buses passing through Haslington were called the Busy Bee and the Flying Fox. Prior to this, horse buses were used and until quite recently, there was a working blacksmith at the junction of Waterloo Road with the main road. The last horse was shod at the old smithy in 1974.

Directions

The walk is 6.5km/4miles. Allow 2-3 hours.

1. From the car park, turn left and walk along Waterloo Road.
2. Turn right into Cross Road.
3. Turn right out of Cross Road and take the first left down South Avenue.
4. Take the footpath across the fields towards Slaughter Hill and Valley Brook.
5. Turn left at the bottom of the second field near Amicia Tenement.
6. At the Crewe Golf Club car park, follow the track keeping the club house on your left.
7. Walk to the left of the pond and follow the path towards Hall o'the Heath Farm.
8. At the rear of the farm, turn right along the track.
9. At the next stile, turn left and follow the old trackway.
10. Cross the stile on the left and follow the footpath to Holmshaw Lane.
11. Turn right along Holmshaw Lane (for a short cut back, you can turn left here and rejoin the route at point 15 by turning left along the drive to Haslington Hall).
12. Take the first road left to Stockton Farm.
13. After the farmyard, cross the flat peaty fields and go to the top of the hill.
14. Take the stile left and follow diagonal field path to Barnfields Farm.
15. Cross Holmshaw Lane and continue along the drive to Haslington Hall.
16. On entering the yard in front of the hall, walk to your right and walk down the drive into Haslington.
17. Turn left at Crewe Road and walk back towards Waterloo Road and car park.