

Rural Rambler

No. 3 Woods and Water

This walk takes you through woodland, along sections of the Tring Brook and beside the reservoirs.

Distance 3.0 miles (5.8 km) with an extension for 1.3 miles (2.1 km).

Low relief, some very muddy sections in wet weather. Two short, steep flights of steps. Road crossings.

Starting at the entrance to Marsworth Wharf walk down Watery Lane keeping the recreation ground on your left. The stream on your right, more visible further along the lane, is the Tring Brook (as in Brook Street in Tring) and marks the county and parish boundary. Walk on until you reach The Anglers Retreat (point A). Cross the road in front of The Anglers, enter Startops car park and climb the steps on your right onto the embankment of Startops reservoir. Turn right along the embankment, enjoying the views across the Vale of Aylesbury and, on a clear day, the Cotswolds in the distance, and pass along two sides of the reservoir. At the road cross carefully to the narrow entrance onto the footpath beside Tringford Reservoir (B). Follow the path across the bridge over the spillway and enter the woodland at the far end. Keep left, avoiding the marked path to Wiggles Lane, and enjoy the walk through this small strip of mixed woodland – note the splendid mature horse chestnuts on the left as you approach Tringford Pumping station (C)

At the pumping station turn left into the woods and follow the winding path through the trees with the Wendover Canal uphill to your right. After about a third of a mile the path can be extremely muddy as springs in the field on the right drain across the path. One soon encounters the Tring Brook once again and our path follows the stream until the embankment of the Wendover Canal is reached (D). A pipe at the bottom of the embankment marks where the Tring Brook, having passed through the housing estate opposite, is piped under the canal. Climb the steps (may be slippery when wet) and walk along the towpath, past the rear of Heygates Mill to the road bridge at point E

The alternative path starts here, either cross the road at the bridge, turn left and after 30yds join the tarmac pavement or cross the bridge, turn right and sharp left (stile or gate) onto the Wendover Canal towpath. **IN BOTH CASES BE AWARE OF TRAFFIC. CROSSING THE ROAD ON THE APEX OF THE BRIDGE GIVES VIEWS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS**

If staying on the main route use the pavement until you reach the entrance to the reservoirs on the right. The path runs through a small stand of trees and opens onto the causeway between Startops and Marsworth Reservoirs. At the footpath junction (G) turn left and follow the Grand Union Canal (GUC).

If taking the alternative route, walk along the Wendover Canal towpath until the junction with the GUC (F). Pass under the bridge and double back over the bridge, opposite the boat yard, and proceed along the GUC towpath until you rejoin the main route at point G.

Follow the GUC towpath, keeping right and avoiding Startops car park. Cross the road, pass down steps besides the derelict White Lion pub and take towpath to Marsworth Wharf.

To finish the walk cross the upper lock gate and walk through the Wharf development (taking care to keep to the marked path on the right). Alternatively take the towpath under the bridge and double back on the left to join Watery Lane.

