

WALK 8 CIRCULAR WALK: MARBURY COUNTRY PARK TO ANDERTON BOAT LIFT.

DISTANCE: ABOUT 5.6 KM / 3 MILES TIME: ABOUT 2 hours

A circular walk which takes you to the Anderton Boat Lift and back with woodland paths by a stream, meadows and canal towpath. Fine view of Bluebells in spring. Some short inclines and steps. Good paths, but often muddy in places. Cattle often in Marbury fields for part of the year.

1. With your back to the Rangers' green cabins, follow the wide tarmac track parallel with and to the right of the Lime Avenues. Turn right at the crossroads at the end of the tarmac and continue to reach Marbury Lane. Cross the lane to a path opposite, signposted 'Hopyards Wood' and walk down the woodland path.
2. When you come to the stream (*Marbury Brook*), turn left and with the stream on your right, walk to an arched wooden bridge.
3. Cross the stream and follow the path uphill and turn left at the junction to walk through the young tree plantation to *Anderton Marina*.
4. Walk to the road and turn left. Almost immediately, turn left into a road signposted 'Anderton Boat Lift'. *To your left is the Anderton Marina and a restaurant, 'The Moorings', which provides home-made food (closed on Tuesdays).*
5. Walk over the canal bridge and take the path to the right, *with picnic tables*, to avoid walking on the road. Continue until you arrive at the approach to *Anderton Boat Lift*.
6. *You may want to visit the exhibition (free) or maybe take a boat trip in the summer (also open in December). There is also a shop, café and toilets.*
7. For your return to Marbury: exit the Boat Lift complex and turning right, walk along the canal towpath for about a mile. You will pass under bridges 199 and 198. Cross over a small bridge just before you reach *Anderton Services, run by Canal and River Trust*.
8. About 50 yards later, you walk under green pipes over the canal. Go through a gate on your right near some houses (*Brine Pump Cottages*). Follow the track away from the cottages and turn left when you reach Marbury Lane.
9. Cross over the canal and after about 30 yards, take a path on your right, signposted 'Big Wood' and 'Car Park'.
10. Follow the path through Big Wood (*semi ancient woodland*) and turn left at the signpost for 'Car Park'. Walk on the path between two fields. At the wooden gates, turn left through a kissing gate, signposted 'Car Park. Walk on the path through the fields, through another kissing gate and into a small wood. *The main parkland, with its Lime Avenues and Marbury Lodge are ahead.* The car park is on the left.

