

DISCOVER
ASHBOURNE

Country Walk 1:
Atlow Moat

A quiet walk along the Henmore Valley to the hamlet of Atlow offering lovely views across the valley to the hills beyond, and plenty of picnic places and a scheduled ancient monument. If lucky you could see kingfishers and otters. Be warned, the Henmore Valley can be muddy in places, and the route is not well waymarked. 13 km (optional short route 8 km). Allow half a day for full route.

DIRECTIONS

1. Start from the Shawcroft car park. Note the brick plinth where the annual Shrovetide Football is "turned up" (starts). Cross the road by the pedestrian crossing and go into the park up the sloping pathway in front of you. Follow the perimeter path around the left hand side of the park. Immediately after the bust of Catherine Booth (the Mother of the Salvation Army, who was born in the town) turn left and exit the park.
2. Turn right along Cockayne Avenue. Just after Cockayne Mews take the road to the right towards the school playing fields.
3. At the next road turn left, then right at a footpath sign, passing behind the pavilion to reach a hedge. Turn right and follow the hedge to a gap in the hedge. Cross the footbridge and go ahead between the sports pitches to reach a gate in the hedge opposite.
4. Continue in the same direction through two more gates to enter a wood and reach a tarmac track. Cross the track and continue in the same general direction through a plantation of poplars.
5. Leave the plantation at a gate and go ahead through a gap in the hedge line. Continue in the same direction through a gate to reach a gate in the corner of a field.
6. Continue across the field to a gate in the hedge about one third of its length along from the left hand corner. Cross the next field bearing slightly left to a gate and continue ahead, with the Henmore Brook on your right, over 2 small footbridges, a gate, another footbridge and a stile. Bear slightly uphill to a hedge gap before descending to a footbridge in the bottom right hand corner of the field.
7. Turn right and shortly left on a tarmac road with a No Through Road sign. (To shorten the walk, keep right on the road, over Agnes Meadow Bridge on the Henmore Brook and past Corley Farm, where the longer walk rejoins).
8. In 50m, go right through a gate and cross the field ahead bearing left to another gate. Bear slightly left to a stile in a slight depression.
9. Continue in the same direction to find a stile next to a field gate, partially hidden by a tree. Walk past a ruined building, ignore the track going left and cross a stile next to a field gate ahead.
10. Walk alongside the Henmore Brook through 2 fields to reach a footbridge. Cross the footbridge and continue to walk along the brook, picking a line with the least mud through a number of hedgerows and passing a ruined building to reach a footbridge taking you back over the brook.
11. Cross the brook and turn right to follow a permissive footpath around Atlow Moat to a footbridge over a small stream. Atlow Moat is a scheduled ancient monument and a good example of a medieval moated homestead.
12. Go straight ahead to reach another footbridge over the Henmore Brook. Cross the bridge and head straight uphill towards the church, picking your way carefully over the wet ground to reach a squeeze stile on your left into Atlow Churchyard. Exit by the Church gates and turn right onto the road.