

Start/End	Car park at Whixall Social Centre
Grid reference	SJ 51628 34483
Distance	Approximately 4 miles
Time	Approximately 2 hours
Terrain	Field paths, canal towpath and quiet lanes

Turn right out of the Social Centre car park on to Church Lane. After a few metres (and before Church Farm) take the unmade road on the left, reaching Farthing Cottage after approximately 100 metres. Go over a stile on your right and follow the footpath towards a drinking trough. Pass to the left of the trough, crossing a concrete cattle track and continue in a similar direction passing a pond (in the trees) on your left.

Cross a stile and follow the cattle track to the next gateway. Climb over the stile next to the gate and cross the field, keeping another pond (again surrounded by trees) to your right. Cross over two more stiles with a footbridge over a ditch and ignoring signs for the Shropshire Way, (which bears sharply right along the hedge line) follow the Whixall Walks sign towards a fenced gateway. Cross the wire fence to the left of the gateway (via blue plastic piping).

Take the path which cuts through a small thicket into the next field. Keep the hedgerow

to your left and after about 400 metres there is an oak tree. Cross the bridge and stile immediately to the right of the tree into a small field. Continue along the footpath, over another stile near a large twin-trunked oak tree into a field of rough grass. *This patch of 'unimproved' grassland is valuable to wildlife especially barn owls.*

Continue to cross a stile in the bottom left corner of the field onto a lane, where you turn left to Welsh End.

At the T junction, turn right and follow the road to the Waggoners pub (now derelict) where you turn left, heading down to the canal. Just before the canal bridge turn left and follow the lane which runs parallel to the canal, passing a few canalside cottages along the way. After approximately ½ mile you reach Roundthorn Bridge. *This stretch of canal is part of the former Ellesmere Canal built between 1797 and 1804 by William Jessop and Thomas Telford. It became part of the*

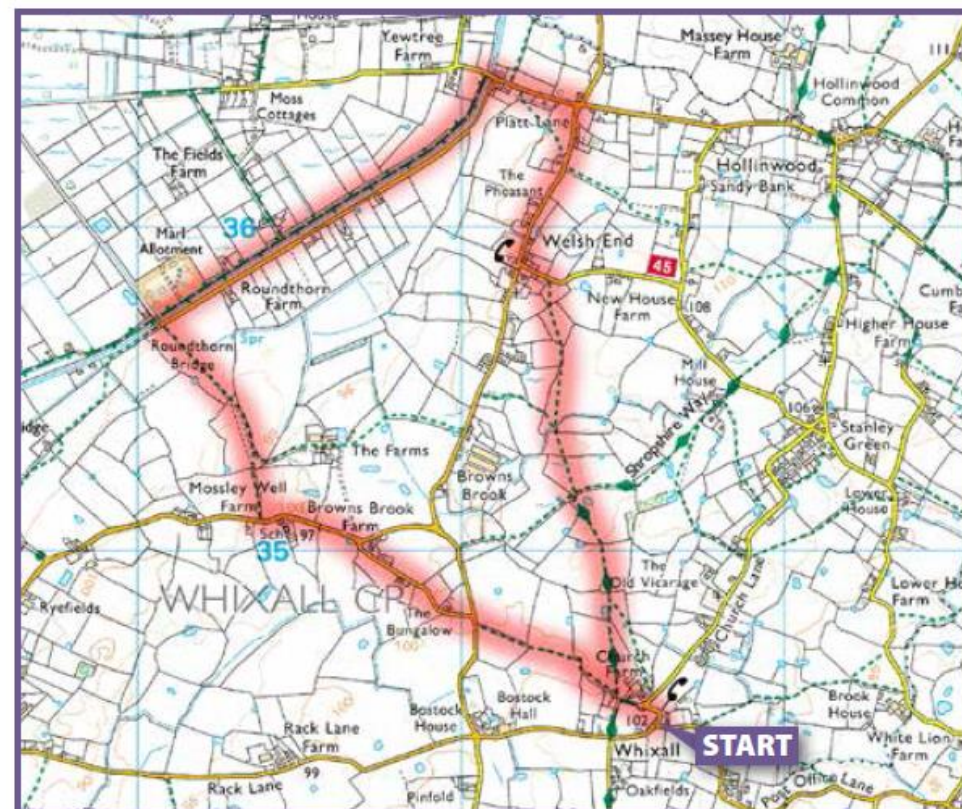


The Church of England Primary School was established in 1967 and occupies the buildings of what was originally Whixall County School. The Social Centre where you start and finish the walk was once a second Whixall school.

After passing the war memorial take the lane to your right and follow it for approximately ¼ mile to a T junction.

Cross the road and go over a stile which you will find about 15 metres to the right of a gate. Cross two fields and on exiting the second one beware of the electric wire fences each side of the stile through a hedge. Proceed along the field edge keeping the hedge and drainage ditch to your right and continue over a stile past Farthing Cottage on your right. Retrace the start of the walk along the track and back to the Social Centre.

Shropshire Union in 1846. It is worth pausing here for the view from the bridge. By crossing over the canal you reach the Marl Allotment (see walk 10) and can access Whixall Moss. To continue the walk, do not cross the bridge, but bear sharp left just before it through a kissing gate to take a footpath across four fields. On reaching the road turn left, passing Whixall School on your right.



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