

Start/End	Car park next to Morris Bridge at the end of Moss Lane
Grid reference	SJ 49327 35407
Distance	Approximately 4.5 miles
Time	About 2.5 hours
Terrain	Canal towpath, tracks and field paths (can be muddy and wet in places)



From the car park at Morris Bridge, walk up the slope to the canal towpath and turn right. You will soon come to Roving Bridge which you cross to join the Prees branch of the canal near to Roving

Bridge Farm (a former toll collector and land clerks cottage which is Grade 2 listed and was designed by Thomas Telford).

Continue along the towpath of the Prees branch to the next lift bridge (Allman's Bridge). Cross Allman's Bridge and follow the track as it descends to a farm gate (marked Whixall Walks). With the brook on your left cross the field at a slight angle to a metal gate, go through the gate and up a small track to another gate. Turn immediately right after going through the gate and follow the track for about 300 yards.

The track veers sharp right but you continue straight on along a smaller grassy path through a lush alley of silver birch. After about a quarter of a mile you cross another path to continue straight on at post no 2. *You are now on Bettisfield Moss, lesser known sister of Whixall Moss.*

After another quarter of a mile you will pass through some wooden fence posts into a rough field to follow a fainter path. Cross a small wooden plank bridge over an open drainage ditch and follow the trail along the left hand hedge line, keeping to the left of a big oak tree. This soon brings you to a metal gate into a wooded area. Go through the gate and turn right along a clear path.

Through the trees to your left you can see Bettisfield Windmill, an eighteenth century corn mill shown as still working on the 1873 Ordnance Survey, but disused by 1900. It is now a private house.

The path soon emerges onto Cadney Lane which you follow past some cottages. The path becomes a tarmac road. Follow this round a left hand bend. Shortly after the bend turn right opposite Brook House and look for a stile on the right after about 200 yards between some large oak trees. Cross the stile and head across fields towards the church in the distance. After crossing a brook and another stile cross the next field towards the copse of trees that is slightly to the right of the church spire. Enter the copse and you will reach the canal crossing it at Cornhill Bridge.

To visit Bettisfield you would turn left along the canal and enter the village from the next canal bridge. There has long been a settlement at Bettisfield which appears in the Domesday book as 'Beda's field' – though who Beda was seems unknown.

If you're not visiting Bettisfield, cross the bridge and turn right along the canal towpath. *The garden you can see through the trees along this stretch of canal is part of the Taraloka Buddhist Retreat Centre.*

Follow the towpath for about 1.5 miles back to Morris Bridge where the walk started. *This straight section of the canal is known locally as 'The Quob'. In 18th century English, this meant 'to quiver and throb', which possibly describes how the moss moves when walked on. This is a prime site for spotting the blue flash of a kingfisher.*

About half way down you will cross the Welsh/English border marked by a wooden post. There are good views of the Mosses from a viewing platform situated just past the border marking post and in the spring, the strange looking butterbur flowers can be seen along the towpath.



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