




# Dog Friendly Pub Walk

## Daw End to Longwood Junction

 walk time 30-40 minutes  
distance 1.6km / 1 mile



### WALKING TIPS

-  Walking times are approx, measured on an average pace of two miles an hour.
-  Follow the water and enjoy walking at your own pace... but allow time to simply sit and stare along the way.
-  Walk one way and hop on a bus for your return, or turn around and walk back to discover a different view.

-  towpath
-  access point
-  aqueduct
-  pub
-  parking
-  bus stop
-  railway station

# The Walk - Step by Step

A hawthorn-lined amble through seasons of blossom and berries. The walk treads into sweeping views over farmers' fields coloured by this year's crop. Grazing horses, sheep and honking geese go about their own business as your amble twists around warm inviting bends. The Daw End links the Rushall Canal to the Wyrley & Essington Canal. Like the 'Curly Wyrley', the Daw End follows the contours of the land and has no locks. When it was built in 1800 for the heavy industry of the Black Country, boats pulled by horses transported limestone from the nearby quarries, which have now been transformed into wildlife-rich nature reserves sitting at both ends of this walk.



**START** Join the towpath at the end of Park Road as it leads into Park Lime Pits Local Nature Reserve.

- 1 Over 200 years ago, this area was a thriving limestone quarry, with lime being loaded onto narrowboats here to be transported around the Midlands. The Reserve is now mature woodland and home to a huge variety of wildlife, with recordings of over 100 species of bird.
- 2 Leaving the residential streets of Daw End behind you, the canal crosses a short aqueduct over the railway line below, then weaves its way through open farmland on one side and the edges of the Reserve on the other. The fields on the opposite side of the canal are mostly full of grazing horses, though they are sometimes joined by the noisy honking of geese who gather in large flocks before taking off around sunset with much ado. Reeds gather at the edge of the fields creating the perfect habitat for coot and moorhen.

As you walk along the towpath, keep your eyes peeled and listen out for birdsong. Birds hide in the hedgerow which for most of the way from here to Longwood Junction is hawthorn, providing plentiful food in autumn and shelter during the rest of the year.

- 3 The idyllic canal scene around Riddian Bridge marks roughly halfway along your walk. The Beacon Way leaves the canal here on its way from Brownhills to West Bromwich. The Grade II-listed bridge was built in 1800 and is what is referred to as an 'accommodation bridge'. Farmland was often bisected by the canals when they were being built in the 18th and 19th centuries, so accommodation bridges were built to enable access from one field to another. Some of the most beautiful bridges along the canal networks are accommodation

bridges, seemingly not leading anywhere. You can go up onto the bridge to admire the views in both directions, and look closely to notice the masons' markings on the stones.

- 4 Follow the towpath below the bridge, noting the iron strip reinforcement gouged with rope marks from the toil of horses pulling heavy narrowboats through. The views open out across huge fields as the canal winds its way towards Longwood Bridge, a busy road crossing the canal here.
- 5 Carry on under the main road to Longwood Junction, which is where the Daw End Canal meets the Rushall Canal. The junction is home to the Longwood Boat Club, and there are boats moored along the canal and along the Hay Head Arm which is now part of Hay Head Wood Nature Reserve. The Arm used to be the main line of the Daw End Branch and led straight into the limestone workings, but became an Arm when the Rushall Canal was built in 1847 to meet the Daw End at Rushall Top Lock.

The former stables by the lock cottage are now the club house. In past times, up to 200 boats a day passed through the junction so the stables would have played an important role in keeping up the supply of well-fed and rested boat horses.

- END** The lock cottage and first two locks of the Rushall Canal are just beyond the junction itself. The canal heads off into the distance below the locks in a regimental straight line towards the Tame Valley Canal just under three miles away. The walk ends at Longwood Junction. There is a bus stop on the roadside nearby, but a return walk back will keep uplifting your senses.

**CANAL:**  
Daw End Branch, Wyrley & Essington Canal

**START:** Park Road  
OS Grid ref: SK031004 Postcode: WS4 1LG

**FINISH:** Longwood Junction  
OS Grid ref: SP039991 Postcode: WS4 2JS

**DISTANCE:** 1.6km / 1 mile  
(double if walk back to start)

**APPROX TIME:** 30-40 minutes

**PUB:** Manor Arms canalside on Park Road

**PARKING:** Car park at Park Lime Pits, or roadside. Postcode: WS4 1LG

**TRAIN:** Nearest train station: Walsall  
National Rail Enquiries  
Tel: 03457 484950 [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

**BUS:** Traveline  
Tel: 0871 2002233 [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

