

## Geographygeek Explorer Trail 5: Burton-Upon-Trent Washlands, Staffordshire (2.6 miles)



Really Important Health and Safety bit:

- Take someone responsible with you and do not talk to strangers.
- Watch for traffic when walking alongside the roads.
- Keep away from the river banks as the currents here are very strong.
- This is floodplain land, so is inaccessible during times of heavy rain.

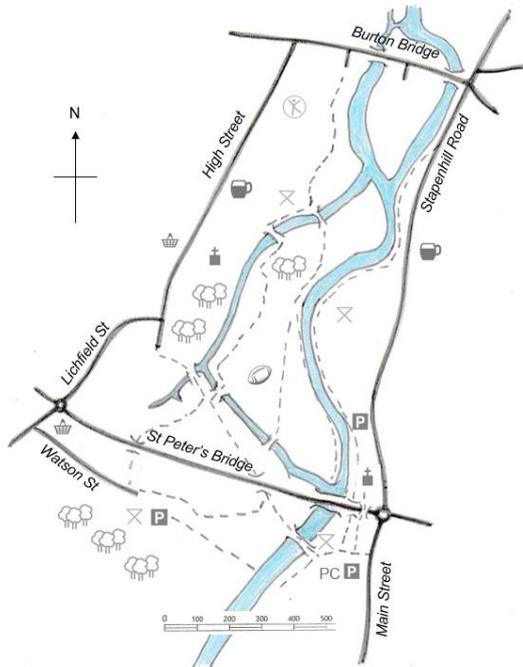


Park at the Watson Street free car park (DE14 3AH). It is open 8am - 9pm April to Oct and 8am - 4.30pm Nov to March.

You will also need:

- A compass or a compass app

Fill in the boxes to answer the questions as you go along. For now, ignore all of the small letters that are shown in the bottom of some of the boxes, but try not to write over them as you'll need them later!



KEY	
	Car Park
	Toilets
	Church
	Woodland
	Pub
	Picnic/Play area
	Footpath
	Shop
	River
	Playing fields
	Leisure centre/swimming



1. From the car park, walk in a south-easterly direction to the left of the brick building.

**What year was this building constructed in? (hint: look above the door!)**

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2. Take the path that leads 75° ENE until you reach a signpost. Change course to the north, following the sign to Stapenhill Gardens. This path will take you up onto a footbridge that runs roughly north-west to south-east. Take the south-east route. As you cross the river, a metal structure gives some information about this bridge.

**What year was the bridge built in?**

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**What was the name of the First Baron of Burton, who paid for this bridge?**

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3. At the end of the bridge, walk forward to the street sign that says 'The Dingle'. You will see a brick archway in front of you and two street signs. The archway used to lead through to a pub, but it now leads to a play area which you can visit if you have time.

**What was the name of the pub that used to be here?**

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4. Bear north-east, along Jerrams Lane, with the low brick wall to your right. When you reach the care home on the right, you will see a signpost. Follow the sign to The Greenhouse. Continue along a bearing of 15° N and then continue up onto the footbridge crossing the road.

**How many steps are there up to the top of the footbridge?**

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5. Cross the footbridge on a bearing of 25° N. Once in the middle of the footbridge, look to the east and down onto the road below.

**What is the speed limit for cars as they approach the roundabout below?**

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6. Once over the footbridge, continue along the path in a northerly direction. You will see a black metal fence to your left and the church to your right. Keep walking downhill and meet another track beside the river. Continue north, crossing over a small bridge. Once over the bridge, you will see a green signpost.

**What is the name of the car park to the east of this sign?**

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7. Continue along the path at a bearing of 330° NNW, with the river on your left. As you walk, you will see benches and bins along the way.

**What colour is the recycling bin?**

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**How many benches do you pass before the next part of the instructions?**

- The path bears round to  $80^\circ$  E and you will eventually reach a green sign that points to 'The Greenhouse' and 'Stapenhill Gardens'. Follow the route to the north-east, heading towards the old stone wishing well.
- The path splits a few times along here. Whenever the path splits, continue along the lower route to the north, with the river to your left. You will reach a small area of grass, where a stone structure sits in the hillside to the east.

**How many archways does the stone structure have?**

- Continue to the north-east. Where the track bends to  $40^\circ$  NE, you will see a wooden fence ahead and the rowing club behind. Look at the National Forest sign to your left, which lists 16 trees that can be found in this area.

**What is the name of tree number 15 on this board?**

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- Join the main road and continue walking at an approximate bearing of  $20^\circ$  N towards the traffic lights.
- When you reach the traffic lights, bear  $290^\circ$  W onto the bridge. Be careful here as the road is very busy! About halfway along the bridge, you will see a path that leads down to the left. This is a restricted area, which means that you shouldn't pass the white barrier.

**What group do you have to join to be allowed through this barrier?**

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- Continue cross the bridge, bearing left  $190^\circ$  SSW down the second path as you reach the other side. Walk down this path, past an information board to your left. This is the first time that you have walked south along this route. If it is a sunny day, you will now be walking towards the sun in the sky.
- At the bottom of the path, continue in a southerly direction, with a low brick wall to your right and the river to your left. You will pass by the leisure centre.

**What is the name of the leisure centre?**

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- Once past the leisure centre, continue along a bearing of  $220^\circ$  SW, past the library to your right. There are lots of picnic benches here and a play area. You are also close to the High Street if you need refreshments.
- Pass by the left hand side of the play area, past the first bridge, and you will reach a second bridge. Cross over the second bridge.

**What is the name of this bridge and when was it built?**

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17. Once across the bridge, you will be standing on Andresey Island, which is a section of land completely surrounded by the river Trent. This means you will need to cross another bridge at some point in order to get off the island!
18. Bear to the SW and follow the path. This path is lined with trees that are all the same. Look carefully at the leaves (see image to the right). Look at the images below and identify the name of these trees.



Holly



Hawthorn



Ash



Lime

Source:  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/gardening\\_with\\_children/homegrownprojects\\_leafguide.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/gardening_with_children/homegrownprojects_leafguide.html)

**Which type of tree is found along this path?**

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19. Continue along this path, crossing a small metal bridge. Here you can take either path as they both travel south and lead to the same place, which is another small metal bridge.
20. When you've crossed the second of the two bridges, follow a 220° SW bearing, with some trees to your right and rugby fields to your left.
21. Eventually this path veers to 155° SE and then leads on to the start of a bridge. Walk towards this bridge until you reach an information board that tells you all about the bridge.

**What year was St Peter's Bridge opened?**

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22. At the sign, bear 300° NW and walk underneath the footbridge. Continue along a bearing of 220° SW through some trees. As the path bears more towards the west (250° W), notice the grass bank to

your north. This is an artificial flood embankment. When the river floods this area, these grassy banks stop it from flooding the town centre.

23. Continue underneath the road bridge, along a bearing of 210° SW. Eventually you will meet a road that runs north-west to south-east. Travel south-east along this road, looking out for traffic.

**What are the fence posts/fencing at the side of this road made from?**

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24. Continue along until you reach the car park where you started off.

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NOW USE THE ANSWERS TO CRACK THE CODE AND COMPLETE THE INFORMATION ABOUT BURTON-UPON-TRENT:



Burton-Upon-Trent is a town of over 72,000 people. It is famous for brewing 

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 and the town originally developed around an 

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, which was thought to be the most important monastery in Staffordshire by the 

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s. Burton beer is said to taste so good because of the quality of the local 

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, which contains a high proportion of dissolved gypsum salts from the surrounding hills. A by-product of beer is Marmite, which is also made in the town. Burton has a market with independent stalls, which has been held on Thursdays since King John granted a charter in the year 

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00. However, it has also appeared in the top 

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0 clone towns in England, because of the dominance of 

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 stores in the town centre.