

## **WALK 6 GUIDE --- 16km (10miles). The Croft Great Circular**

This is a greater distance circular route for the more adventurous. Although mainly on public rights of way, the first section is along a country lane without a pavement so extreme care should be taken. Some paths may be muddy during or following wet weather and geese and cattle may be encountered on one section. It can be started either at the Horseshoe Inn or the General Elliot.

1. Turn left out of the Horseshoe car park into Smithy Lane. Take care beyond New Lane as there is no footpath.  
(Alternatively walk from the General Elliot turning right on to Lord Street and left on to Smithy Lane)
2. At the junction with Millhouse Lane and Dam Lane, take extra care at the sharp narrow bend when crossing to the track ahead.
3. Continue along the track and take the right fork in front of the motorway bridge.
4. Follow the track between the 2 fields until you reach Southworth Lane in front of Southworth Hall Farm and turn right.
5. After 350m, turn left on to the footpath (signposted) just beyond Cockshot Farm.
6. Continue straight ahead for about 1km, avoiding the footpath on the right after 300km.
7. The path then turns left, then right and left and right again where it then runs alongside a tall hedge to Stone Pitt Lane
8. Turn right along the lane and after 20m turn left on to the footpath.
9. Follow this path around the edge of the field until you reach a small pond on the left
10. Turn left beyond the pond and follow the path initially alongside the hedge and then across the field, through a gap in the hedge on to the cobbled track of Main Lane.
11. Turn right along Main Lane until you reach Kenyon Lane.
12. Turn left and after 300m, take the footpath on the right alongside a metal gate.
13. Walk straight ahead passing through a narrow gap in the hedge until you reach a crossing of footpaths.

14. Turn left and take the path for 400m and enter Culcheth Linear Park via a number of steps. (The Park forms the boundary between the parishes Croft and Culcheth)
15. Turn right and walk through the park under the first road bridge (Wigshaw Lane) passing the Ranger cabin on your left and carry on to the next road bridge (Warrington Road)
16. Exit here and turn right on to Warrington Road. After 70m cross the road at the first of the 2 footpath signs and enter the field.
17. Turn left and walk on the inside of the hedge until you reach the corner of the field.
18. Turn right and walk along the field boundary next to the disused railway for 0.5km
19. Exit the field via steps leading up to a track bridge and turn right across the field to the hedge
20. Turn left and walk around the boundary with the business Park until you come to the tall communications mast
21. Go completely around the mast until you are walking towards the farm where the track then veers right to a signpost.
22. Turn right and follow the path which sweeps round to the restored Risley Landfill site.
23. Go straight ahead between 2 ponds, turn right and walk past 2 ponds until you come to a kissing gate and turn left.
24. Walk through the wood (path can be muddy), over the narrow wooden bridge (can be slippery) and immediately turn left.
25. After 30 m, cross the stile and walk the narrow path to the next stile and go straight ahead along the track.
26. Walk 200m, turn right and follow Silver Lane to Warrington Road
27. Cross Warrington Road and go straight ahead along Cross Lane
28. After 400m, turn right in front of the pond and take the track through a farm gate.
29. Go through a gap in the hedge and walk along the field boundary with the hedge on your right and cross the stile in the corner of the field into the next field

30. After 200m, turn left at the signpost and walk 700m until you reach Lady Lane (take care as cattle and geese may be grazing here)
31. Go over the stile and turn left and after 50m, cross the 2 stiles on the right and enter the field.
32. Cross the field and go through a narrow gap in the hedge and turn left.
33. After 20 m, turn right turn right at the yellow top signpost and walk across the field keeping a straight line between 2 small woods until you reach a gap in the hedge.
34. Enter the path through a 'tunnel' of hedges into Abbey Close.
35. Turn right and on reaching the T-junction at Lord Street, turn right to the General Elliot or left to the Horseshoe Inn.

