

Gawsworth & Danes Moss

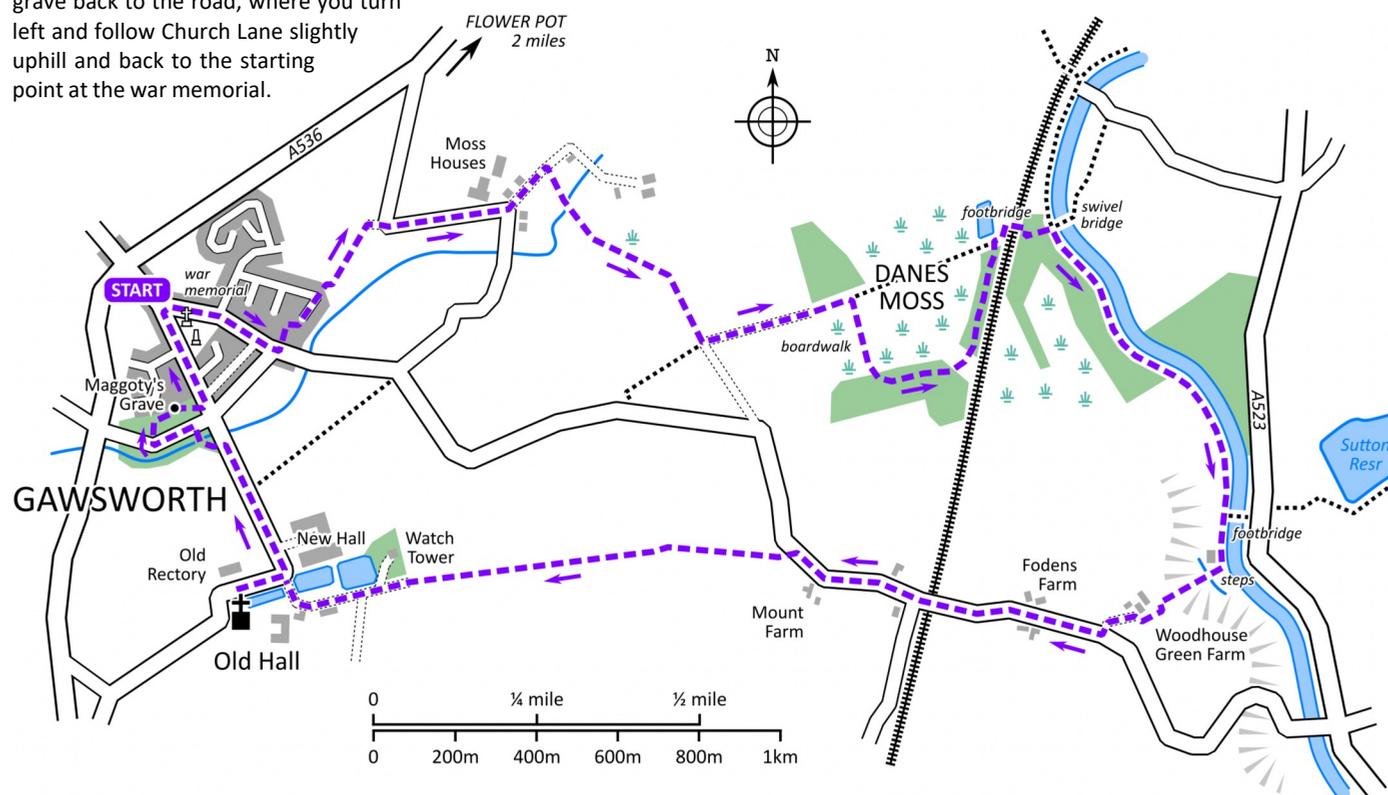
5 miles: Moderate

Allow 2–3 hours. Several stiles. Field paths may be muddy in winter and after rain.

Start: Gawsworth War Memorial (street parking, 2 miles). From the Flower Pot, turn right along the A536 Congleton Road. Follow the main road for 2 miles, then turn left at a crossroads signposted to Gawsworth. The War Memorial is at a road junction after 120 yards. Turn left into Woodhouse Lane and park considerably by the roadside.

1 Walk down Woodhouse Lane, away from the war memorial, passing the end of Longbutts Lane on the left. **2** Opposite the end of Wardle Crescent, turn left up three steps into a footpath between two houses. This winds between gardens before emerging into Benbrook Way. **3** Walk to the turning circle at the far end of the road and take the footpath directly beyond it, which leads between more gardens then out into a field. **4** Follow the right-hand field edge to a short track to the right which leads out to Lowes Lane. **5** Turn right and follow the lane to a T-junction. **6** Turn left down a private driveway. **7** After 150 yards, turn right over a stile and cross the field. Cross a stream and follow the fence on the left to a stile. Beyond the stile, bear half-left to the far corner of the field, skirting a wet area in the middle. **8** Cross a stile into a tree-lined green lane and follow it down to a junction of tracks beyond a stile, where you turn left. **9** Enter Danes Moss nature reserve and, after a short distance down the main path, turn right onto a boardwalk. This crosses the open area of the moss and then bears left as it enters the trees on the far side. **10** Pass under a line of pylons into more trees, then follow the path to the left when it reaches the railway. **11** On regaining the main path through the reserve, turn right and cross the railway via a high footbridge to meet the canal towpath at a swivel bridge. **12** Turn right along the towpath, with the canal on your left. **13** Follow the canal for half a mile. As it nears the main road, pass

under a footbridge and continue past a canalside house. **14** Turn right off the towpath and go down a flight of steps and over a footbridge into a field. **15** Cross to a small stream and then climb up the other side, aiming for the left-hand end of the farmyard at the top of the slope. **16** Go through a gate on the left into another field and turn right to reach a gate into the farm. Bear left through the farmyard and out to the road. **17** Turn right and walk up the road to cross over the railway. Ignore the turning to Bosley and follow the road ahead, signposted to Gawsworth. **18** Beyond Mount Farm (on the left), when the road bends to the right, take a track on the left which leads to a footpath. **19** Follow the path along the left-hand edge of a series of fields. **20** Beyond a farm gate, join a metal track which runs along the wall of the Gawsworth Hall estate with a lake on your right, passing a statue of Robert Peel. **21** Bear right at the Old Hall entrance to reach the public road at a bend. To visit the church and view the Old Rectory, turn left, returning to this point when you've finished. **22** Follow the road past the parking area for Gawsworth Hall, and past the entrance to Gawsworth New Hall on the right. **23** Just before the crossroads with Wardle Crescent and Maggoty Lane, turn left onto a footpath that crosses a wooded bank then descends to cross the stream. **24** Turn left along Maggoty Lane. **25** Turn right into the wood and climb the slope to visit Maggoty's Grave. **26** Continue beyond the grave back to the road, where you turn left and follow Church Lane slightly uphill and back to the starting point at the war memorial.



Built between 1480 and 1600, **Gawsworth Old Hall** is a superb example of a timber-framed house in the Cheshire black-and-white style. The house and gardens are open to the public on Sunday afternoons from late April to September (daily in high season) on payment of an admission fee.

three circular walks from the

FLOWER POT

MACCLESFIELD



South Park 2 miles: Easy

An easy and surprisingly green urban and parkland walk from the front door — suitable for pushchairs.

Redesmere & Capesthorpe Hall 3¼ miles: Fairly easy

Fifteen minutes' drive away, walk beside beautiful lakes, with thatched cottages and a fine country house.

Gawsworth & Danes Moss 5 miles: Moderate

Five minutes' drive to a fascinating village, with a mossland nature reserve and gentle canal scenery.

THE FLOWER POT

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OPENING TIMES

Mon–Thu: 11am–11pm

Fri–Sat: 11am–12pm

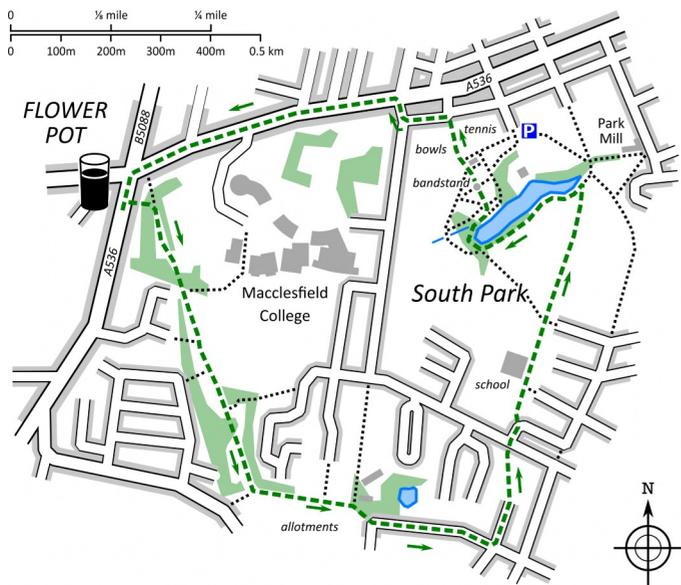
Sun: 12 noon–11pm

FOOD SERVICE

Mon–Sat: 12 noon–9pm

Sun: 12 noon–8pm

Please check our website before visiting for our opening hours.



South Park 2 miles: Easy

Allow 1 hour. No stiles. Paved paths and roads throughout.

1 From the front of the pub, cross the main road carefully and take a few steps to the left. **2** Turn right through a kissing gate by a carved owl and follow the path round to the right. **3** The surfaced path runs along a narrow strip of green space (Congleton Road Linear Park) with the striking new buildings of Macclesfield College away to the left. **4** Ignore paths to right and left until, after 600 metres, the path divides with houses in front of you. **5** Take the left-hand path which runs along a garden fence and then passes through some allotments. **6** Turn right at a junction of paths to emerge onto Mayfield Avenue. **7** Follow the road ahead of you, passing Mayfield Terrace on your left and then Belgrave Road on your right. **8** At a crossroads, turn left into Ash Grove. **9** At the end of the road, a path leads obliquely past a play area and out to another road, Western Avenue. **10** Cross into Robin Hood Avenue and almost immediately take the footpath ahead, between security fencing, when the road bends right. **11** Pass Christ the King School, continuing along the fenced path until it emerges into South Park. **12** Follow the path as it runs along the right-hand edge of the park then, beyond the last house on your right, continue downhill between two lines of trees. **13** At the bottom of the slope, turn left and follow the path along the near side of Ryle's Pool, with the lake on your right. **14** Follow the path to the right around the end of the lake then take the path left past the bandstand. **15** Pass between the children's play area and the Pavilion. **16** Bear left along a path between bowling greens (left) and tennis courts (right) to exit the park. **17** Turn left along Park Vale Road, then right at the end (Ryle's Park Road) to meet the A536 Park Lane. **18** Turn left and follow the main road for 500 metres, passing the Macclesfield College entrance on your left. **19** Turn left at the traffic lights to return to the Flower Pot.

Redesmere & Capesthorpe Hall

3¼ miles: Fairly easy

Allow 2 hours plus ½ hour driving time. Several stiles. Field paths may be muddy after rain and stiles slightly overgrown in summer.

Start: Redesmere (free parking, 5 miles). From the Flower Pot, turn right along the A536 Congleton Road. After 2 miles, turn right, signposted to Siddington. One mile on, turn left on the B5392 (signposted Holmes Chapel and Siddington). After 2 miles, turn right along the A34 (signposted Manchester). Take the first right (Redesmere Lane) and park in either of the two parking areas on the left.

1 From the Redesmere car park, walk back up Redesmere Lane to the A34. **2** Cross carefully and turn right along the pavement, passing the village hall on the right and a thatched cottage (Roadside Cottage) on the left. **3** Opposite the entrance to Redesmere Farm, turn left into a track which passes between wooded ponds and then between open fields. **4** Pass thatched Nursery Cottage on the right then, at a fork in the path, turn right. **5** This path leads pleasantly along the top of a wood with a stream below and to the left. **6** After leaving the wood, pass another thatched cottage (Blake House Cottage) and continue to the metalled drive at Blake House Farm. **7** Ignoring an entrance on the right, turn right along the metalled lane and pass the farmhouse and through the farmyard. **8** At a junction of farm tracks, go over the stile ahead and slightly to the left. **9** Walk diagonally across the field to the far left-hand corner, where you briefly join another farm track before turning right over another stile. **10** Bear left to a further stile, then cross the field diagonally to another. **11** Cross the next field to the far hedge, ignoring a stile and footbridge in the right-hand corner. **12** Turn left along the hedge, then follow it round to the right. **13** Turn right in the corner and follow the fence to a gate into a farm track. **14** Climb the stile opposite and head diagonally left across the field (via a stile over a fence in the middle) to the far corner. **15** Another stile leads out to the road by a bungalow. Turn left and immediately right into a driveway beyond the house. **16** When the drive turns left into another property, go through a gate ahead, into the field. **17** Follow the track across the grass to Capesthorpe Lake, with views of the Hall. **18** At the end of the bridge, turn right through a kissing gate and follow the path alongside the lake. **19** Keep left with views over a second lake, then follow the woodland edge to a kissing gate onto the A34. **20** Cross the main road and take a footpath into the woods opposite. **21** This swings left over a footbridge and along the reedy head of Redesmere. **22** Cross another footbridge and follow the obvious track beyond to the right. **23** At the sailing club entrance, turn left to a gate into woodland. **24** Follow the path to the right over a footbridge and then exit the wood at a stile. **25** Follow the woodland edge, with the lake to your right, and cross a couple of stiles until you reach Redesmere Lane. **26** Turn right to return to the car parks at the end of Redesmere.



Capesthorpe Hall was originally built in the early 18th century, though much of the building was destroyed by a fire in 1861 and rebuilt, partly in a Jacobean style, by Antony Salvin, famous as the architect of Peckforton Castle. The earthworks of an earlier house and chapel, and a deserted medieval village, remain within the estate. The hall and chapel are listed at Grade II*. The house and gardens are privately owned but are open to the public (on payment of an admission fee) during the afternoon on Sundays and Bank Holidays from April to October.



Danes Moss (see overleaf) is a lowland raised bog, a rare habitat. It is in the care of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Notable species include the Black Darter, Britain's smallest dragonfly. Boardwalks give easy access to the open areas of the mire.



Maggoty's Grave is the final resting place of Samuel "Maggoty" Johnson (1691–1773), an actor, playwright and musician. Sometimes described as the last jester in Britain, he was employed by the owners of Gawsworth Hall and probably wrote his own florid epitaph.

Ryle's Pool, the centrepiece of South Park, is named after John Ryle, an 18th-century Macclesfield landowner whose wealth stemmed from the silk trade. The lake and its surrounding land were donated to the Macclesfield Corporation for use as a public park in 1922.



Redesmere is a man-made lake built to supply the ornamental lakes at Capesthorpe. It is said to have once featured a floating island, now fused to the eastern bank. Birdlife includes Great Crested Grebes (year-round), Reed Warblers (summer) and Smew (winter).

Blake House Cottage is a thatched cottage hidden deep in the countryside near Blake House Farm. Like nearby Roadside Cottage and Nursery Cottage, also visited on the Redesmere & Capesthorpe walk, it is Grade II listed.



Text, mapping and photography (exc. cover)
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