



You may park your vehicle on the car park just below the Castle, free of charge (gates locked at dusk). There are no public toilets available on the route. N.B. Due to the gradient of parts of this walk and the unevenness of unmade roads, in other parts, we regret that the route is not suitable for people who have difficulty in walking nor for wheelchair users. All other visitors traverse the route at their own risk. It is recommended that you begin your walk at no. 1 on the map, follow the yellow route (and the blue route too, if you wish) back to the start point and then ascend to the Castle heights, where you will be able to enjoy magnificent panoramic views of several English counties and the Welsh mountains. In addition, on a clear day you may be able to see Jodrell Bank space telescope and the Wirral to the N. West. plus you will also be able to trace the path of parts of the walk that you have just completed.

Public houses on the route

If you feel in need of refreshment during your walk then there are several public houses along the way.

- *Mow Cop Inn, Congleton Road, Mow Cop *(weekends only)
- The Ash Inn, Mow Cop Road, Mow Cop
- The Crown, Chapel Street, Mount Pleasant
- The Cheshire View, Station Road, Mow Cop (this latter is a little way off the route.)

Other nearby places to visit

- The Mow Cop Chapel Museum
Hillside, Mow Cop
Wed. to Fri. 2pm to 5pm
Sat. & Sun. 2pm to 6pm
Bank Hols. 11am to 6pm
Tel: 01782 522004
- Heritage Narrow Boats
Kent Green, Scholar Green
Tel: 01782-785700.
- Biddulph Grange Gardens (NT)
(admission charge)
Grange Road, Biddulph, Staffs.
Tel: 01782 517999
- Little Moreton Hall
(admission charge)
On the A34 between Talke & Congleton
Tel: 01260 272018
- Apedale Heritage Centre
(admission charge)
Chesterton
Tel: 01785 813417 (daytime only)

The term Mow Cop possibly stems from the Anglo Saxon *Moela Copa* meaning bald hill. It may have been so named due to the craggy peak of rock protruding above the surrounding densely wooded slopes, giving the appearance of the hill being bald when viewed from the counties which it overlooks. These are predominantly Cheshire & Staffordshire, the border of which bisects the village. Settlement on the hill probably began with a few hill farmers later followed by quarrymen, living in very basic 'houses' with turf clad roofs. The settlers impinged on what was the manorial waste ground and their haphazard way of development resulted in the narrow, winding lanes and scattered housing which characterised the Staffordshire side of the hill. The dwellings were so unevenly placed that until the census of 1861, the census enumerators described the area as 'the scattered houses on Mow Cop.' The 1850's saw a marked contrast on the Cheshire side of the hill, when the opening of the railway station saw the development of the area known as Fir Close, which was laid out in a grid iron pattern. Later, the growth of quarrying, coal mining and the introduction of the mills, saw more uniformity in the housing on both sides of the county boundary. Although Mow Cop is 1090 ft above sea level at its highest point, an unusual natural feature of the area was an abundance of natural springs. Where any of these springs spouted unabated, then the inhabitants constructed stone alcoves around the God given precious supply, to allow easier, cleaner access to their staff of life. Some of these 'wells' had names given to them, as is the case with the Parsons Well or the Squires Well and they may have inscriptions carved into the stone work that surrounds them, e.g. The Parsons Well has the inscription 'Keep Thyself Pure.' There are only 3 'wells' to see on this walk; but if you allow your mind to go back in time and imagine the survival of families depending on the daily task of fetching and carrying of water from these springs, in all weathers then you get a real feel of how harsh and basic life on Mow Cop was in bygone years.

