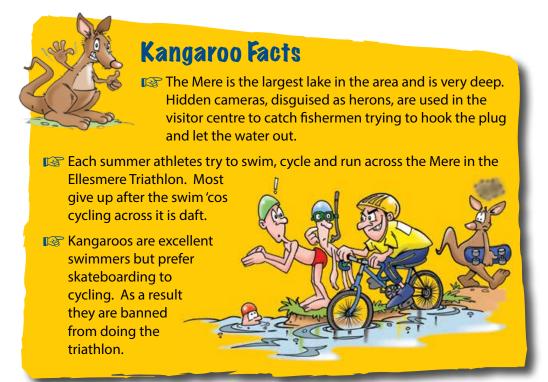
- 4 Turn left into the Nature Reserve. Follow the stoned path for short distance then turn right up the earthen path through trees. Leave the reserve closing the wooden gate behind you.
- 5 Turn left along the quiet lane to a kissing gate on the right with a signpost directing you to the visitor centre.
- 6 Go through the gate and head towards the picnic tables.

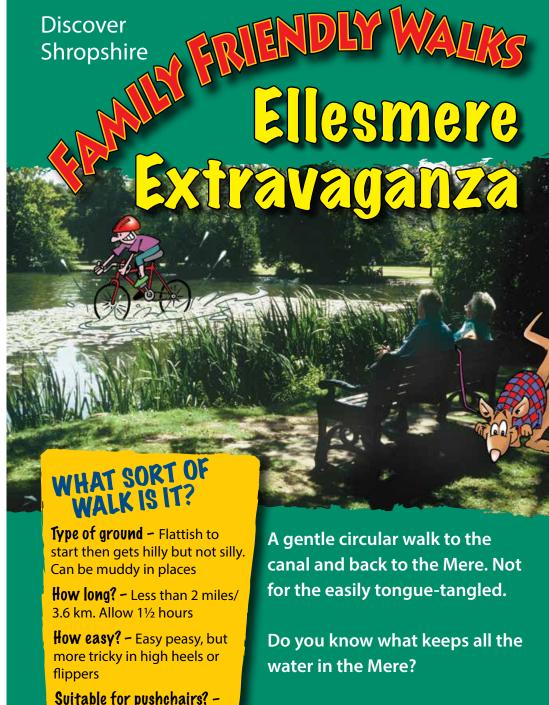
Some geologists think the Mere has a clay bottom that keeps the water in. If you punched a hole in it, all the water could drain away.

7 At the furthest picnic table drop down to the tarmac path, leading you to a kissing gate. Cross the road to the visitor centre using the crossing.





Unfortunately not



## Finding the start

Start at the **Mere Visitor Centre** & **Boathouse Restaurant**,

Ellesmere. There is ample pay and display parking nearby.

Ellesmere is thought to have been named by the Saxons who called it 'Aelsmere' or 'great lake.' Imaginative lot the Saxons.



Start

1 With the Mere on your left, walk back along the road passing the Moors car park. Cross the grass at the far end of the car park where you will see a finger post that directs you to canal towpath. Cross over the road, taking care as this road is busy.

The Moors is all that's left of a big bog that had been here since the end of the last lee Age. Two hundred years ago the canal builders cut through and drained it. They dumped the soil in the Mere to make Eleanor's Island.



2 Follow the path to the Shropshire Union Canal and turn right along the tow path.

This bit of the Shropshire Union Canal is called the Llangollen Branch. It links to the Montgomery Canal and runs into Wales. It takes years of practice to say Llangollen. The double L

sounds like 'chl.' Try saying it without drowning in dribble (chlan-gochlen).

3 Leave the canal and turn right along the path signposted 'Visitor Centre, Car Parks, The Mere.' Follow the path over the boardwalk.

