

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.



Kangaroo Facts

☞ The Mere is the largest lake in the area and is very deep. Hidden cameras, disguised as herons, are used in the visitor centre to catch fishermen trying to hook the plug and let the water out.

☞ Each summer athletes try to swim, cycle and run across the Mere in the Ellesmere Triathlon. Most give up after the swim 'cos cycling across it is daft.

☞ Kangaroos are excellent swimmers but prefer skateboarding to cycling. As a result they are banned from doing the triathlon.



Discover
Shropshire

FAMILY FRIENDLY WALKS

Ellesmere Extravaganza



WHAT SORT OF WALK IS IT?

Type of ground – Flattish to start then gets hilly but not silly. Can be muddy in places

How long? – Less than 2 miles/
3.6 km. Allow 1½ hours

How easy? – Easy peasy, but more tricky in high heels or flippers

Suitable for pushchairs? –
Unfortunately not

A gentle circular walk to the canal and back to the Mere. Not for the easily tongue-tangled.

Do you know what keeps all the water in the Mere?

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 Ice 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.



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

- 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

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

