

Between Banwell and Barton



Banwell grew up around several springs and the pure waters from these were used in local mills producing paper and corn. Take this circular walk to Barton and back to see the water flowing. However, low-lying fields can get waterlogged during wet weather so it is best tackled during a dry spell.

Walk information

Distance: approx 4.5 miles

Difficulty: medium – numerous stiles and uphill sections. Can get muddy, so wellies recommended

Duration: approx 2.5 hrs

Map: OS Explorer map 153

How to get there

Start at map ref: ST 398592 (OS 153)

Car: Banwell sits on the A371, halfway between Weston-super-Mare and Churchill. A free car park is available opposite the primary school on West Street (the A371)



Set off from West Street car park, opposite Banwell Primary School. Go over the zebra crossing and turn right. The public footpath begins on the left, between numbers 35 and 37.

At the end of the path continue up the road to the junction with Littlefields Avenue. The footpath continues straight on, next to number 27. Follow this and turn left at the end. If this section of footpath is closed, follow Littlefields Avenue round to the left and onto High Street.



Walk along High Street, past the old cottages and pretty houses. On your left is a well and pump which was erected to celebrate Queen

Victoria's golden jubilee in 1887.

At Rock House, head up Hill Path on your right.

Continue up the hill but take time to stop and enjoy far-reaching views.

The path gets narrower and leads behind Trail's End house, through the metal gate and into the wood. Continue on and when you enter a field, keep to the left edge.

Join the wider track on the opposite side, and follow this through the gate into another field.

Keep to the left edge of this field and continue on and over a stile. You are now near the eastern end of Banwell Hill, which was a racecourse until 1798.



You will eventually exit the field over a stile. Turn right here onto the track. This lane was an ancient route from the Mendip lead mines to the port at Uphill.

The public footpath drops downhill to the left, shortly before the white house. Go through the wooden gate and follow the yellow way marker across the field, towards the opposite fence. The stile is about halfway down the field on the right-hand side.

Continue ahead across the next field, and downhill. Here you can enjoy wide-ranging views across the valley. This area forms part of the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The stile is in the middle of the fence at the bottom. Go directly across the next field and exit onto Christon Road through the metal gate.

Cross the road and go straight into the next field, heading towards the farm buildings.

Go through the round metal gate, past the farm, and then onto the road. At the junction, go over the stile into the next field, with Crook Peak directly ahead of you.

Exit this field in the far left corner, across a little wooden bridge, then veer left across the next field. Continue ahead, keeping to the left edge of the field. At the end go through the gate on your right, over the metal bridge, then head to the far left corner to exit the field. Go through the gate into the next field, and continue ahead, with Barton in front of you.

Go through the next metal gate, continue ahead, then exit through another metal gate.

Walk along the track, through the metal gates, and exit onto Barton Road next to Home Farm. Turn left onto the road and through Barton.

Continue past the houses until you see a gap in the hedge and a rusty gate leading into a field. Go straight across the field to the corner of the hedge and follow the footpath sign to the right.

Keep to the edge of the field and exit over a wooden bridge. Go clockwise around the next field and out on the opposite side over another wooden bridge. Go straight across the next field, towards the metal gate.

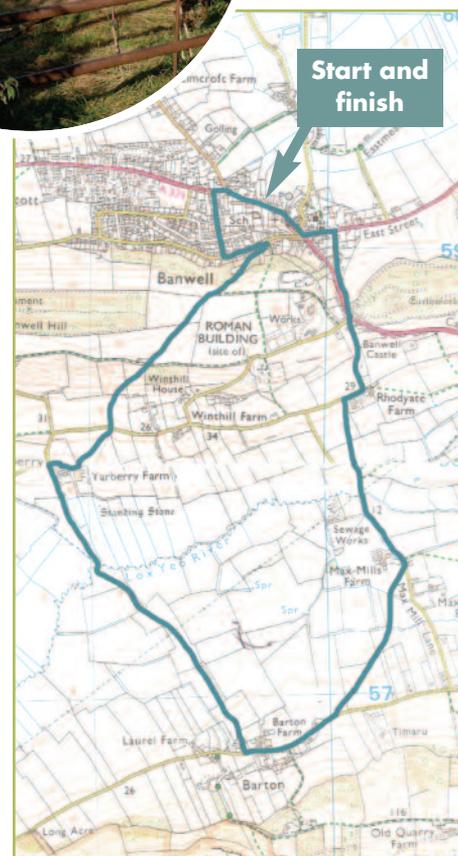
Head directly across the next field, to a wooden stile in the hedge, where you exit left onto Max Mill Lane.

A water-powered corn mill once stood in this lane. Although the mill is gone, you can still see the millpond and wheel.

Continue up the lane until you reach a gap in the hedge and a stile, with the footpath sign pointing north across the field. Go across this field, over the stile, then continue ahead. Exit this field over a wooden stile next to the farmhouse.

Turn right onto The Rhodyate and follow the lane round to the left as it continues uphill. You will come out alongside Banwell Castle.

Cross the road then head down Dark Lane, to avoid the A371. At the end, turn left onto East Street, then right at the junction with the A371 and back to your starting point.



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