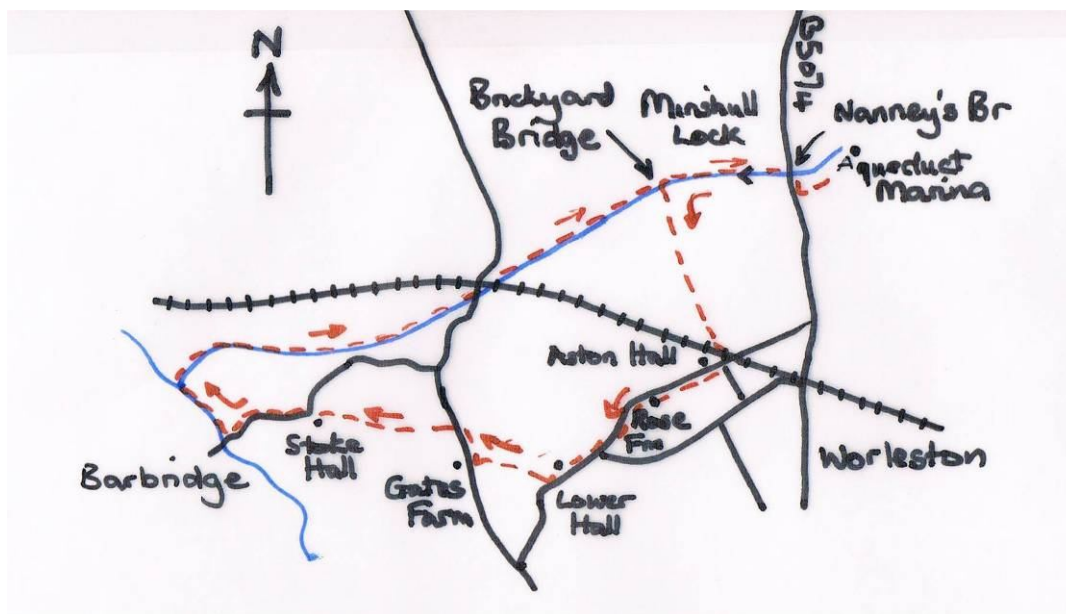


Circular Walk to Barbridge

Eight and a half miles Footpaths, quiet lanes and towpath



Starting at Aqueduct Marina, the route follows footpaths and quiet lanes to Barbridge, where the pub could easily provide a diversion for those so inclined, and then follows the canal back to Nanney's Bridge and Aqueduct Marina.



From Church Minshull Aqueduct Marina, walk down the drive and turn right to Nanney's Bridge over the canal. Cross the canal and turn down onto the towpath, pass under the bridge and, with the canal on your left, walk towards Minshull Lock. Continue on past the lock and the next bridge to the high level, black and white Brickyard Bridge. Pass under the bridge and then climb the steps to cross over the bridge itself.

Follow the Crewe and Nantwich Circular Walk almost due south towards Aston Hall. Immediately before the railway bridge, cross a stile on the left (don't follow the path into the farmyard), cross the railway and then follow the driveway round to the left and then right to join a minor road. Turn right at the road.

This quiet lane, Dairy Lane, meanders gently past Rose Farm, with its pretty buildings, converted barns and attractive pond, passes Green Farm and meets the junction with



Church Lane. Continue straight on, passing Aston Lower Hall on the right and take the next footpath signposted to the right about 100 yards or so past the farm. This year the farmer sprayed out this path through the crops from the bend in the road about 50m past the footpath sign. This path heads diagonally to the left, up the bank towards the pond, visible only as a group of trees beyond the rise from this point. On reaching the pond turn to the left and head directly across the remainder of this large field to the lane, where a stile opposite Gates Farm gives access to the road.



Turn right and walk along the road a short distance until you see the footpath sign on the left of the road. Cross the stile and follow the path alongside the hedge on the left. The footpath crosses into a wood and at the other side of the wood, still heading in the same direction, it is now to the left of the field boundary hedge.

After crossing a small stream, the path heads slightly more to the right and passes between Stoke Hall Farm and Stoke Hall, joining Stoke Hall Lane at a bend in the road. Turn

left on the lane, which follows a winding course, crosses a stream and then climbs back up towards the canal at Barbridge.

For those of you who feel you've walked far enough without refreshment, the Barbridge Inn is just the other side of the canal bridge. For the more resilient and determined of you (and those who have partaken of the delights of the Barbridge Inn by this stage), the walk continues north west from the canal bridge along the towpath with the canal on your left.

At the canal junction, cross the bridge and turn left, down onto the towpath again, turning to your left to pass under the bridge and head along the towpath of the Middlewich Branch with the canal now on your right. From here it is about two miles to Cholmondeston Lock and Venetian Marina, where there is a café and ice creams available for those in need. Continue on along the canal in the same direction for another two miles to return to Nanney's Bridge from where you can retrace your steps to Aqueduct Marina and the delights of The Galley at your starting point.



Chris Owen-Roberts
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