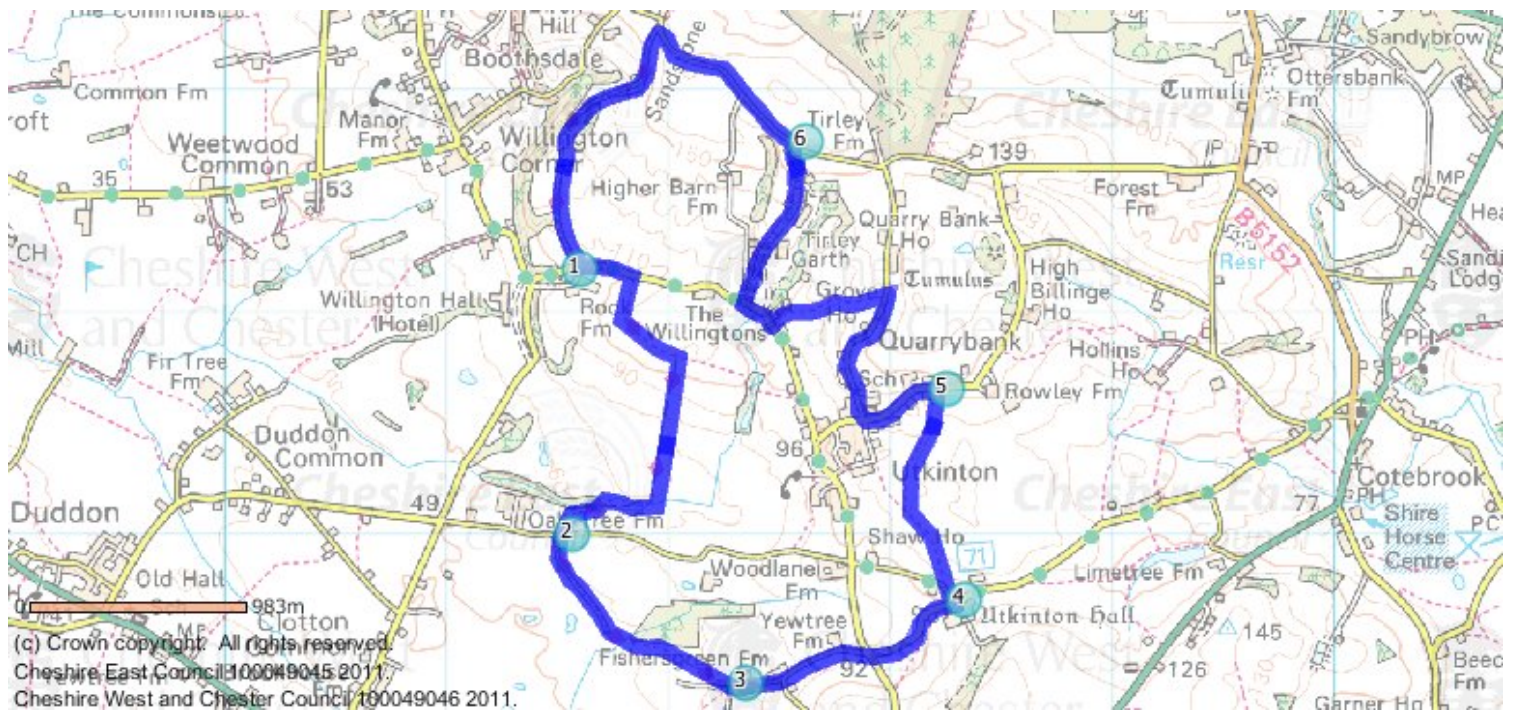


Utkinton

This walk takes you through beautiful dairy and fruit farming country.

Grade	Moderate
Distance	8km/5 miles
Time	2-3 hours
Start	Informal layby by Rock Farm (John Street)
Map	OS Explorer 267
Terrain	Mainly public rights of way across fields, with some country lanes.
Barriers	3 horse gates, 20 stiles
Toilets	N/A
Contact	Cheshire West and Chester Council Tel: 01606 271736



Route Details

Deep in the heart of mid-Cheshire, this route covers some of the rich dairy and fruit growing country for which the area is so famous. In fact, this quiet corner of the county has been inhabited and cultivated for thousands of years, as the nearby Iron Age hillforts at Eddisbury and Kelsborrow Castle testify.

The walk unfolds through a deep sunken lane and across a rolling patchwork landscape, with wonderful views across to the distant Peckforton Hills and beyond (see Raw Head walk).

For part of its length it follows the long-distance Sandstone Trail, before passing the ancient manor house of Utkinton Hall.

The route then takes walkers through the peaceful Cheshire village that gave the Hall its name, and skirts the beautiful gardens at Tirley Garth - which in late spring are ablaze with the colour of rhododendrons and azaleas in bloom.

Directions

Start at the informal lay-by near Rock Farm .

1. Walk up the road and turn right (south) onto the Sandstone Trail. Follow the edge of the field and cross the stile at the end. Turn sharp left and follow the path. Cross the stile and turn right down an old sunken track. Carry on along the hedgerow, cross the stile and follow the path as it bears to the right. Turn sharp left over a small brook, follow the edge of the woods and carry on to Wood Lane.

2. Cross the road and follow the Trail, signposted to Beeston Castle. At the end of the lane cross the stile on the left, and then another stile in the corner of the field. Bear left, keeping the trees on the left. Cross over a stile, go through the trees and cross another stile back into a field. Head for the field corner, (ignoring the entrance to the farm) and cross the stile onto a lane.

3. Leave the Sandstone Trail and turn left past the houses and Fishersgreen Farm. Go straight over the staggered crossroads, signed to Cotebrook, to Utkinton Hall.

4. Turn left at the T junction by the Hall and take the path on the right. Bear right, cross the second stile and follow the footpath alongside the hedge to the road.

5. Turn left at the road and walk down to the school. Turn right into Tirley Lane and take the path on the left just after Grove house. This brings you out at the side of Tirley Garth. Turn right past the entrance and take the bridlepath on the right. Follow this up the hill, keeping to the path. Turn left onto the road.

6. Continue along Tirley Lane, then turn left onto a track marked Sandstone Trail, just before Summertrees Café. This brings you out on the road, by the laybay where you started.