



2.5 miles | Easy

LITTLE BUDWORTH COMMON

Gentle green lanes to an attractive area of lowland heath and woodland – a Site of Special Scientific Interest.



4.5 miles | Moderate

UTKINTON HALL

Field paths over rolling Cheshire farmland, passing an attractive millpond and historic houses.



5.5 miles | Moderate

EATON AND LUDDINGTON HILL

Walk to pretty Eaton, returning via a sunken quarryman's way and a placid millpond.



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LITTLE BUDWORTH COMMON

*Muddy in places after rain
No stiles*

- 1** From the car park entrance, turn right for a few yards then turn right into a track. At a path junction by a house, follow the track to the left.
- 2** At a crossroads of tracks, turn right; follow this track along the edge of Little Budworth Common for a little over half a mile until you meet a road.
- 3** Turn left into the Country Park. After 1/4 mile, turn left on a crossing riding track marked with a horseshoe waymark.
- 4** The track crosses an open area; as it re-enters the trees, bear right, to skirt the woodland with open heathland on your immediate right.
- 5** Pass through a belt of trees and cross a fenced path, keeping ahead on another path, still with trees to the left and heathland to the right.
- 6** At the end of the open area, bear left through the trees to a track by a sign for Smithy Lane.
- 7** Turn right and left onto a sandy track with the open lawns of a polo ground on your right. Follow the track to a crossroads; from this point on you are retracing your earlier steps.
- 8** Go straight on, passing Hunters Cottage on your right. When the track bends right, follow it back to the A49 and turn left to return to the Fox & Barrel.

UTKINTON HALL

*Muddy after rain & overgrown in places
with numerous stiles & some road walking.*

- 1** From the car park entrance, turn right for a few yards then turn right into a track. At a path junction by a house, turn right onto a footpath. Follow the path downhill, crossing a stream to return to the A49.
- 2** Follow the left-hand pavement to a crossroads, where you cross the A49 into Utkinton Lane. Walk up past the church and cross Stable Lane.
- 3** Follow the road for 1/2 mile, passing Briar Lane on your left and Hollins Hill and then thatched Mosley Brook Cottage on your right.
- 4** At a road junction, turn left and follow the lane marked "Unsuitable for HGVs".
- 5** At the bottom of the valley before the pond, take the footpath on the right over a footbridge and through two hand-gates into a field.
- 6** Bear left, with the millpond on your left.
- 7** Beyond the end of the pond, cross a stile beneath a tree on your left and turn right.
- 8** Follow the fence and hedge up the valley and exit to the road in the top corner.
- 9** Turn left and follow the lane to a road junction at Utkinton Hall.
- 10** Turn right (though a short diversion beyond the Hall to view the more accessible Bailiff's House is worth the effort).
- 11** From Hall, follow Smithy Lane to a bend and follow a track with a footpath sign on the right.
- 13** When the hedge on your right bends right, bear left and walk below a grassy bank to a stile.
- 14** Follow the top edge of the field over a further stile then, at a gateway, skirt to the right-hand side of a clump of trees then return to the left-hand field.
- 14** Follow the hedge uphill then turn right over a stile just before the road; turn left to a further stile.
- 15** Turn right along the road and walk past Rowley Cottage (left) and Farm (right).
- 16** About 200 yards beyond Rowley Farm, take a footpath over a stile on the right.
- 17** Cross to a second stile, then bear left to a third in the projecting corner of a hedge.
- 18** Follow the right-hand field edge to a footbridge and double stile.
- 19** In the next field, follow the contour approximately, to a stile at the end of the field.
- 20** Cut across the corner of the next field to a stile on the right, leading down wooden steps to a path alongside a garden.
- 21** Turn left between the properties before existing to a driveway, and turning left.
- 22** Turn right at Bush Cottage and walk down to a road junction.
- 23** Keep right and follow the road downhill for a third of a mile to return to Utkinton Lane.
- 24** Turn left and follow the lane back past Cotebrook church to the A49. Cross and turn left along the pavement back to the Fox & Barrel.

EATON AND LUDDINGTON HILL

Muddy after rain, under crops or overgrown with numerous stiles & some road walking.

- 1** From the car park entrance, turn right for a few yards then turn right into a track. At a path junction by a house, turn right onto a footpath. Follow the path downhill, crossing a stream to return to the A49.
- 2** Follow the pavement left to a crossroads, where you turn left into Oulton Mill Lane.
- 3** Follow the road for 1/2 mile to a grassy triangle, where you keep right to pass a picnic area on the left. At the next crossroads, turn right (Beech Lane) and follow the road for 1/4 mile.
- 4** Shortly after a 40mph sign, cross a stile on the left.
- 5** Pass to the left of a small copse, then turn left into a field. Follow the right-hand edge of the field (which may be boggy underfoot).
- 6** Cross a stile in the far corner.
- 7** Walk straight on down the middle of the next field towards a farm. **8** Pass between the farm buildings and exit by the farmhouse into a winding lane.
- 9** At a T-junction, turn right then immediately right over a stile.
- 10** The path bears half-left diagonally across the field, but if the line is not obvious you may find it easier to follow the right-hand edges of the field.
- 11** In the far left-hand corner, cross a stile and drop down a bank.
- 12** The path continues diagonally, but this time if the line is not obvious follow the left-hand edges of the field. A stile on the left leads out to a lane.
- 13** Turn right and follow the road into Eaton, passing the listed Lower House Farm on your right.
- 14** Beyond the school entrance, turn left into Winterford Lane.
- 15** At the bottom, turn right and follow Edgewell Lane, firstly through modern housing but latterly past a couple of rewarding half-timbered buildings.
- 16** Turn right at the end of the road, passing the church to reach the village cross.
- 17** Turn right then immediately left into Lightfoot Lane.
- 18** Beyond the houses this develops into a hollow way and passes through a small disused stone quarry.
- 19** At an oak tree bearing a sign for the 9th tee, turn right along the byway through the golf course.
- 20** At the top end of the course, turn left through a metal kissing gate and follow the hedge along the side of the course down to the A49.
- 21** Turn right along the narrow pavement then, beyond a number of entrances, cross to a footpath sign by a stile on the left-hand side.
- 22** Go down wooden steps to a second stile and walk down the side of the field beyond.
- 23** After a stile in the corner, continue to a footbridge on the left. A short but potentially muddy stretch alongside the stream leads to a stile into a field on the other side.
- 24** Bear right to the bottom of the valley and cross a stile beneath a tree.
- 25** Turn right and follow a path alongside a narrow millpond.
- 26** Towards the end of the water, turn right through a couple of gates and cross a footbridge to emerge on a narrow lane.
- 27** Turn left and walk up the road to a T-junction.
- 28** Turn right and walk along Utkinton Lane for about quarter of a mile, passing the thatched Mosley Brook Cottage on your left.
- 29** Carry on along the lane past Hollins Hill on your left and Briar Lane on the right.
- 30** When you reach Stable Lane, cross straight over and walk past the church down to the A49.
- 31** Cross with care and turn left along the pavement to return to the Fox & Barrel.