



A Festive Walk From Barston

After a few days of festive indulgence, there is nothing better than pulling on your walking boots and new Christmas jumper for a ramble in the crisp fresh air of our beautiful local countryside.



This is a 5-mile circular walk from Barston to Knowle encompassing open fields, canal towpaths and country lanes with an opportunity for a halfway refreshment stop to enjoy a hot beverage, sweet treat or something stronger!



This walk begins at the heart of the village by the Bulls Head and St Swithin's church. Start by following Barston Lane past the phone box, then turn left down Brook Green Lane. Towards the bottom of the lane before the house, you will take a right along Wood Lane.

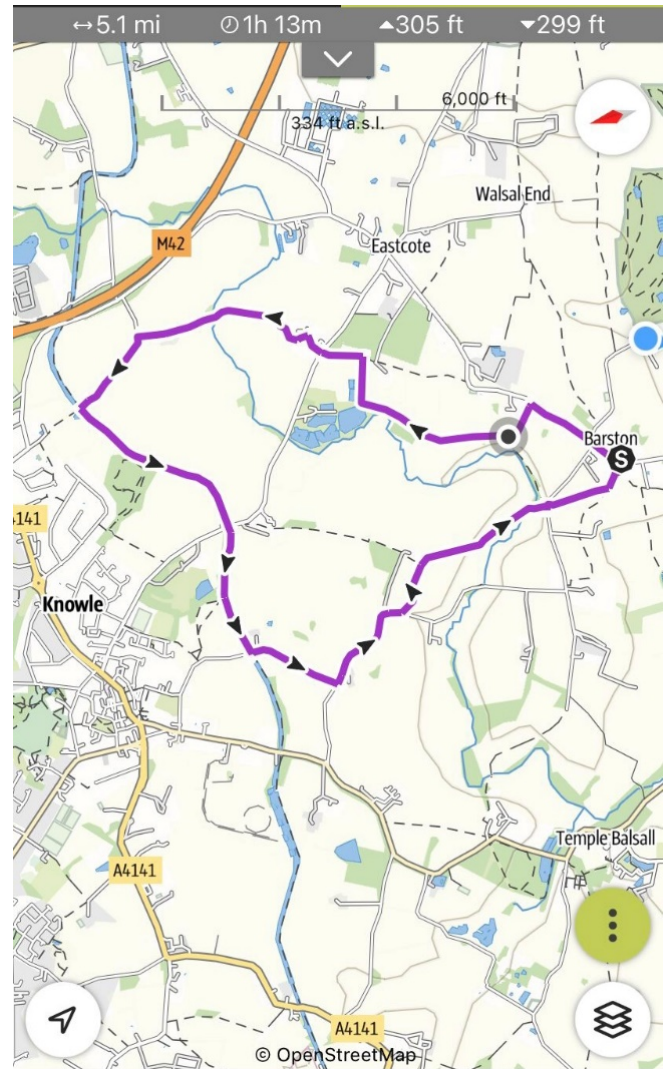


If there has been a lot of rainfall, this stretch can become muddy in places so you may prefer to continue along Barston lane past the Malt Shovel pub, joining Wood Lane on the left.

After walking along the Wood Lane path and bearing right, there is a gate with an adjoining stile which leads you left across the field towards Knowle Road with lovely views towards the fisheries and Knowle.

Climb over the stile and carefully cross Knowle Road into the houses beyond. You will see the yellow footpath arrow to guide you down the driveway through the houses.

Following these footpath signs for a short way until you see a left turn where you will pass between the houses and down a hedge lined pathway.





At the end of the path is a metal kissing gate leading you up a small hill to cross a stile. Bear left past the large tree towards 2 further gates.

Turn left through the second gate to follow the fenced track down the field towards the River Blythe. Here you will cross the bridge and continue to take the footpath past Henwood Hall Farm.



Walking uphill with the farm on your left, you will soon see the yellow footpath arrow which will take you left, before the path bears right across fields and a stile towards the Grand Union Canal. When you reach the bridge over the canal, take the first towpath down to the left towards Knowle.



This is a lovely flat section of the walk along the tow path and you can divert towards Knowle for a pitstop if you fancy by crossing over the iron footpath bridge (maybe treat yourself to a delicious cake from Monica Bakes).

Otherwise, continue walking and leave the canal at the next bridge marked as No 72 onto Kixley Lane.



Turning right away from Knowle, walk a short way down the lane to the gate leading over the fields back to Elvers Green Lane. Be aware that sheep may be grazing in these fields, so keep dogs on a lead.



Turn left at the gate on to Elvers Green Lane walking down towards the ford then taking the gate just past the pedestrian bridge to lead you along the river to Hob Lane. From here you can either keep to the road uphill back into Barston or take the track opposite leading to the back of St Swithin's Church.

Make sure to treat yourself to a well-deserved drink or bite to eat at the Bulls Head Pub!



Happy festive walking!



Laura and Alice



Please remember to close all gates and keep dogs on a lead near livestock