The Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society

Waymarked Walks in Central Cheshire



THE BAKER WAY

From Chester to Delamere railway stations
(Revised route)

An easy 21km (13 mile) walk in the Cheshire countryside.

USING THIS GUIDE

This guide describes the walk in both directions.
To walk east from Chester to Delamere please turn to page 2.
To walk west from Delamere to Chester please turn to page 15.

The use of Ordnance Survey 1:25000 maps to supplement the maps included in this guide is recommended. These provide more accurate and current detail.

The following links provide on-line access to these maps which can be printed to take with you as paper or electronic copies. Click on the link and it should open the appropriate OS 25k “Streetmap”. You may need to scroll to the location arrow near the centre of the map which may be off your screen.

Chester Railway Station

Christleton

Brown Heath

Tarvin

Brine's Brow

Delamere Railway Station

The following link is to an OpenStreetMap street level map.
You can zoom in and out and drag the map to any location.

OSM Chester

Walking east from Chester to Delamere

ABOUT THE BAKER WAY (Walking East)

Distance: 21 km or 13 miles

Waymark: Black lettering on yellow arrow, inscribed "Baker way"

Maps: OS Explorer Maps 266 and 267

Start: Chester Railway Station

Route: Chester-Christleton-Brown Heath-Tarvin-Ashton-Brine's Brow-Delamere railway station

Parking: Street parking or car parks in Chester.

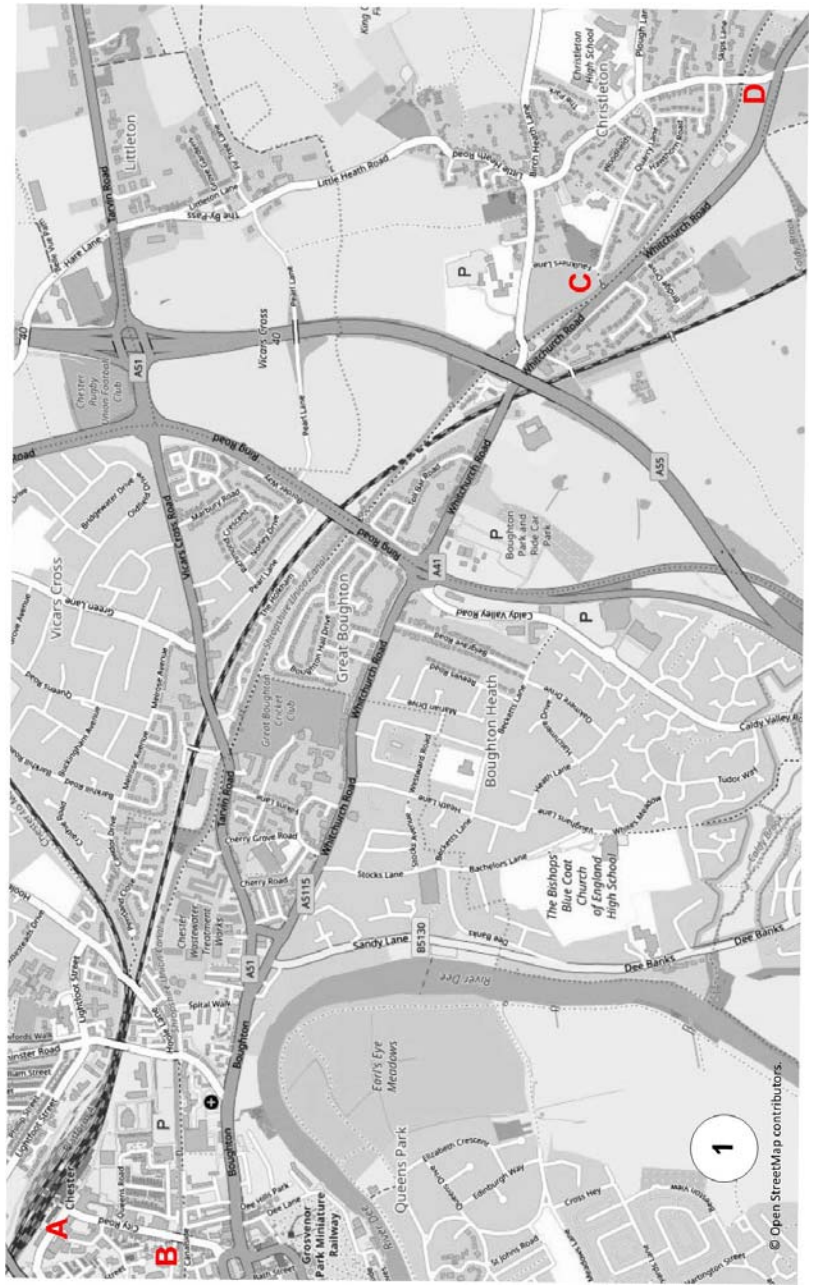
Public Transport: There are good rail services to Chester. Trains from Chester to Northwich (and beyond) stop at Delamere and Mouldsworth.
There are bus services to Chester from Warrington, Runcorn and Northwich.

Refreshments: There are many public houses and other outlets selling food in the villages along the route.

If you encounter any problems en route please report them to :
Cheshire West and Chester Council (Website, letter or telephone)

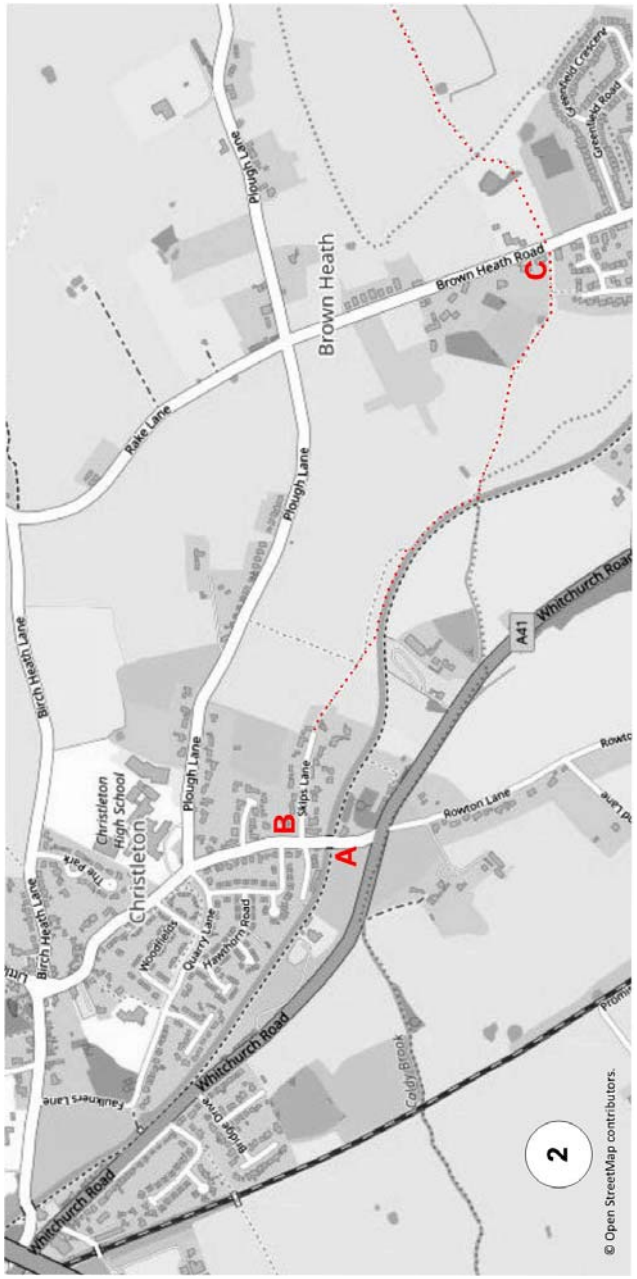
Chester Railway Station to Christleton 4¼ km or 2½ miles

Starting from Chester Railway Station **A** go into City Road, which is directly opposite the station entrance and has the Queen's Hotel on the left and the Town Crier Public House on the right. Walk down City Road for about ½ km (¼ mile), cross the Shropshire Union canal and turn left down the steps onto the towpath **B**. Follow the towpath with the canal on your left for just under 4 km (2.5 miles). You will pass the old steam mill, the (lead) shot tower on your left, Waitrose and the old water tower on your right and five locks, then go over the railway and under the A55 by-pass and the Pepper Street bridge (bridge number 122, beside "Ye Olde Trooper" pub - permanently closed in 2021). After this you will pass close to the A41 and under a brick footbridge number 121 **C**. Immediately after this bridge there is a Winding Hole (pronounced with a short 'i' as in ink) where boats up to 70 feet long can turn. On your right is the Cheshire Cat inn which is just before Rowton Bridge (bridge number 120) where you leave the towpath **D**.



Christleton to Brown Heath Road 2½ km or 1½ miles

Leave the towpath through the kissing gate **A**, cross over the bridge and continue down the road for 70m to the junction with Skips Lane **B**. 210m down Skips Lane is a house called 'Lane End'. The path goes to the left of the house in the narrow gap between the gate post and the hedge. Exit through a kissing gate and go ahead through two fields to the canal, ignoring the footpath to your left at the hedge. Turn left along the canal; after about 180m the path goes through a kissing gate. After 270m in total watch for a narrow path to the left leading into a small copse and thence to a kissing gate leading to the fields. Continue along the hedge through two fields, through a kissing gate and along a broad track to Brown Heath Road **C**.



Brown Heath Road to Tarvin 4½ km or 2¾ miles

Cross Brown Heath Road **A** into the lane opposite (Dolly Peg Hall). There is a path 180m down this lane to the right of the last house, going round a paddock to a kissing gate. The path then crosses four fields via kissing gates. Crossing a farm track, go through into the next field and head half left to the road **B**. Turn right along this road, Plough Lane, and keep straight on where the main road (Cotton Lane) turns left after 180m. You are now in Platt's Lane. Keep straight on for 1km, passing two footpaths on the right to come to three attractive arch bridges (Grade II listed packhorse bridges) **C** over the water at the Cheshire Wildlife Trust Reserve at Hockenhull Platts. After 520m fork left to pass a turkey farm and bear right on the surfaced road which leads to the Tarvin by-pass, A51 **D**.

Cross over the A51 carefully into Hockenhull Lane which leads shortly to a built up area on the outskirts of Tarvin. The Baker Way goes straight along Hockenhull Lane to its junction with High Street (passing the signs pointing left to the Library and Community Centre) **E**.



Tarvin to Brines Brow Car Park 7¼ km or 4½ miles

Turn right down High Street **A**, passing shops and between two pubs to bear slightly left to the junction with the A54, just after passing the Pool Bank Business Park and ignoring the footpath sign at the entrance. Cross the main road and turn right. In 90m turn left into the junction of two roads and take the right hand one slightly uphill (Sandy Lane) **B**. After 270m cross over Barrow Lane and past a stile into the field. Another stile after 180m leads to a large field where the path continues in the same line, parallel to the right hand hedge and heads for a large tree with a painted waymark on it. Continue on to cross Salters Brook by a stout footbridge **C** and on to cross a farm track keeping in the same general direction. Here the Baker Way keeps the hedge on the right through one field and then heads slightly right across two more fields to join a green lane via a kissing gate.

Turn left (NW) for 90m. Cross the field ahead (230m) bearing slightly left, to a bridge **D**. Cross and turn right, shadowing the tree-lined stream for 320m (avoiding the deep badger holes) to a kissing gate. Turn left up the lane, reaching Peel Hall after 270m **E**. Bear left just in front of a gate, then shortly turn right between a building on your left and a paddock fence on your right. At the end go left through a yard then bear right on a track. Follow this round to the right and down to Gongar Lane **F** which leads from Ashton. Cross the lane and a stile and continue over another stile between a hedge and a fence for 450m until a kissing gate is reached just below Ashton Hayes Church on your right. After the kissing gate, follow the hedge on the right for about 250m until a stile is reached on the B5393 Ashton to Mouldsworth road **G**. Turn left along the B5393 for about 100m and then fork right up Grange Road. Follow this road for about 1 km (1 mile), rising gently all the way to a junction where another minor road joins it from the left. Keep right and after 150m turn left, opposite Woodside Farm **H**, along a track to reach a road at a footpath signpost. Cross over to another track then very shortly turn left down a path which emerges in the car park at Brine's Brow **J**.



NOTE:
The picture shows the footpath signpost opposite Woodside Farmhouse. This was erected by the Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society in memory of Syd Robinson, a much loved member and friend.

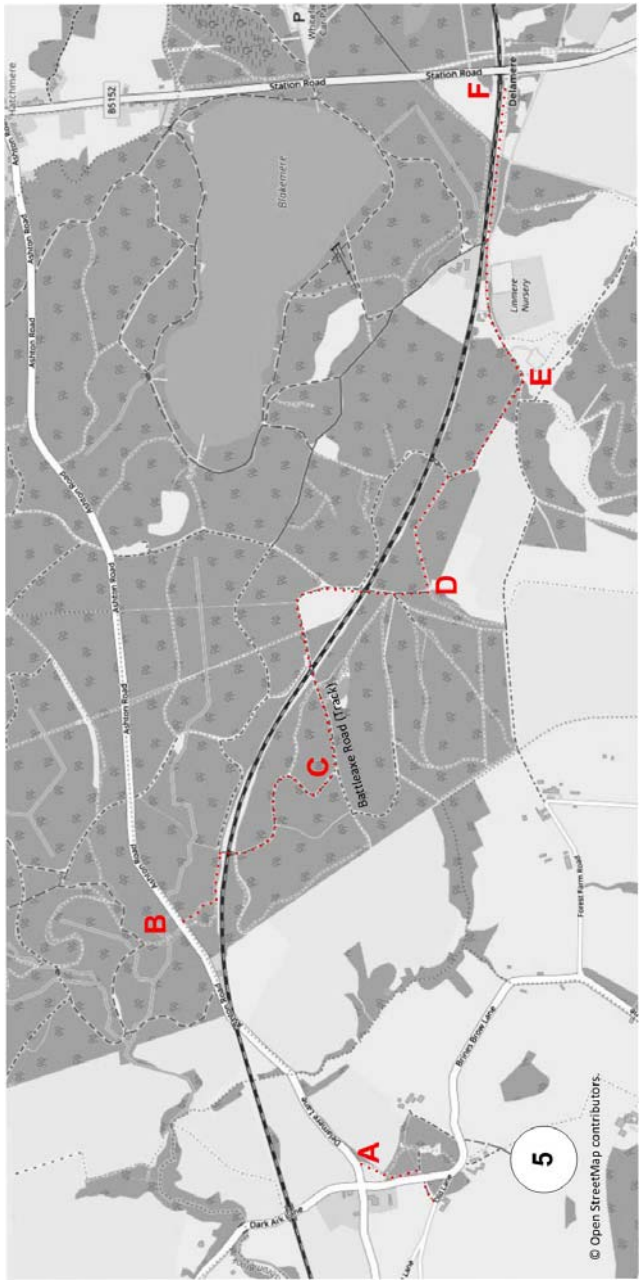


Brine's Brow to Delamere Station 4¾ km or 3 miles

From the Brine's Brow car park **A** continue with care east along Ashton Road towards the Delamere Forest. Pass under the railway bridge. About 200m beyond "Fox Howl" outdoor education centre, opposite a track with a barrier to your left, tum right through a gap in the bank into the forest **B**. *Go parallel with the road to a footbridge over a stream, then bear right up through the trees. Cross an open area with picnic tables and continue to your right down towards the bridge over the railway line. Cross the railway and bear half left, following the main track round several bends to a wide forest track (Battleaxe Road) **C**. Turn left, passing a marshy pool (Black Lake) on your right and cross the railway again. Continue along the main track, bending to the right and meeting another wide track (Sandstone Trail). Turn right on this and cross the railway for a third time, continuing to a fork where the Sandstone Trail bears right. Here turn left **D**, leaving the Sandstone Trail, and follow another well-used track through the forest. Do not cross the railway, but go ahead over a small brook and bear round to the left. At a junction with a major track (Forest Road) turn right along it and carry on to the new Delamere Forest Visitor Centre and Café on your right **E**. Continue on the tarmac road to the next railway bridge; do not cross, but take the track bending left. Keep to the left of the entrance barriers to the car park and follow a track on the right parallel to the road. At the end of this track, cross the road to your left leaving the road. Almost immediately, the path splits and take the right branch between the road and the railway to the Station Café and Delamere Station **F**.

*NOTE:
The route to the railway bridge as described above may be the best way to get from the road to the bridge, particularly if the ground is wet.

The official route is:
At the gap walk perpendicular to the road until you reach a Tee junction with a well defined track close to the railway line. Here you turn left and walk uphill to the bridge where you turn right to cross the railway.



Walking west from Delamere to Chester

ABOUT THE BAKER WAY (Walking West)

Distance: 21 km or 13 miles

Waymark: Black lettering on yellow arrow, inscribed "Baker way"



Maps: OS Explorer Maps 266 and 267

Start: Delamere railway station CW8 2JE
At grid ref. SJ 556 704.

Route: Delamere-Brine's Brow-Ashton-Tarvin-Brown Heath-Christleton-Chester railway station

Parking: Car park near Delamere station
grid ref. SJ 556 704

Public Transport: There are good rail services from Chester. Trains from Chester to Northwich (and beyond) stop at Delamere and Mouldsworth.
There is no suitable direct bus service to Delamere.

Refreshments: There are many public houses and other outlets selling food in the villages along the route.

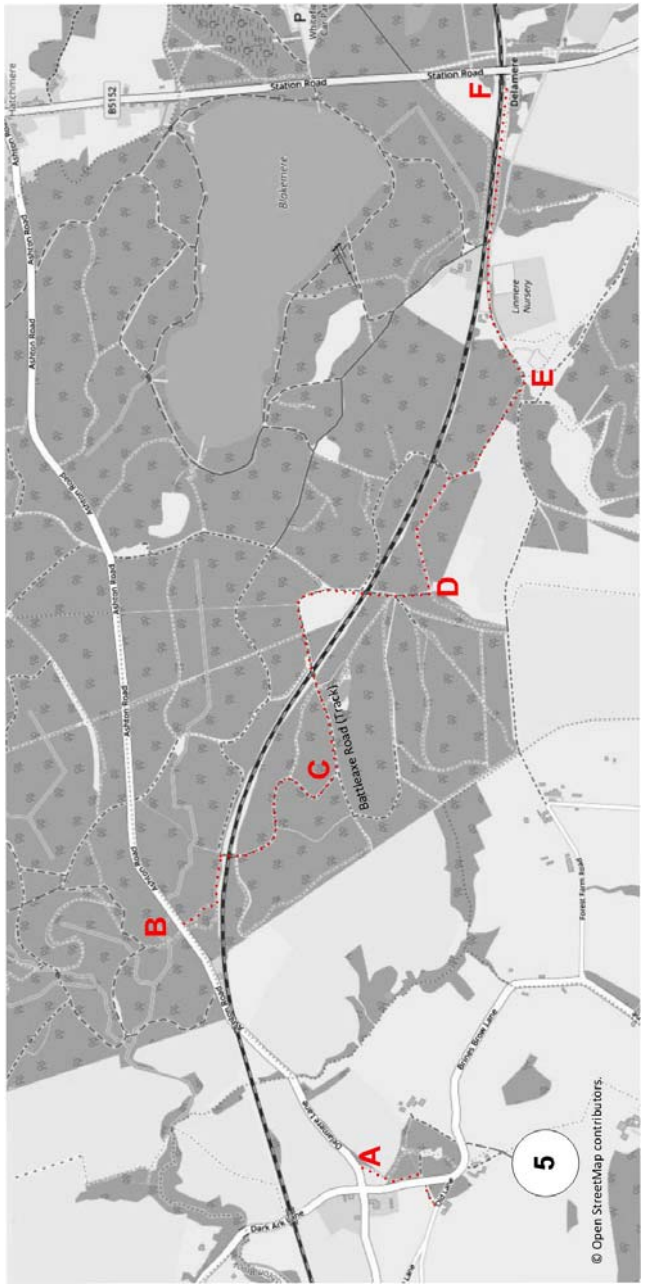
If you encounter any problems en route please report them to :
Cheshire West and Chester Council (Website, letter or telephone)

Delamere Station to Brine's Brow 4¾ km or 3 miles

From the Delamere Station **F**, go past the Station Café and through the Pay & Display car park onto a track. After 50m bear left where the track splits. Cross the road and turn right to walk parallel to the road. At the car park barriers, turn half right (sign: Offices & Deliveries). Ignoring the railway bridge on your right, continue to pass the new Delamere Forest Visitor Centre and Café on your left.

Keep on the tarmac road and, just after a right-hand bend, turn left down a forest track following the yellow waymarks **E**. Follow the track as it bends right and after crossing a brook bear left on a lesser track (do not cross the railway). Follow this until it reaches a much broader track (Sandstone Trail) **D** and turn right on this for 200m and over a railway bridge. After a further 150m turn left along a wide track, leaving the Sandstone Trail, and keep left to reach a second railway bridge. Cross the railway and continue along this main track (Battleaxe Road), passing Black Lake on your left **C**. Turn right along the first broad track, which twists and turns until you reach another railway bridge. Cross the railway for a third time and immediately turn left on a small track beside the railway fence. At the point where the track levels off (almost), bear right* to descend the slope to Ashton Road **B.** Turn left along the road, go past the Fox Howl outdoor education centre and under the railway bridge. Continue on the road to the Brine's Brow parking area **A**.

*NOTE:
Should you miss this turning, or if the ground is too wet, continue on the track and you'll emerge on Ashton Road at Fox Howl.



Brines Brow Car Park to Tarvin 7¼ km or 4½ miles

From the car park at Brine's Brow **J** walk south west through the picnic area to a path that runs parallel with Brine's Brow Lane then turn right along the access track, past a barrier, to the road. Cross this road and continue for 90m on a path to Old Road opposite Woodside Farm* **H**. Turn right along this road; after 150m fork left onto Grange Road and continue for 1¼ km to the B5393, Church Road **G**.

Go left along the B5393 for 90m, past the access to Ashton Hayes Cricket Club, until a signpost and kissing gate are reached on the right. Enter the field and follow the hedge on the left for 180m to a kissing gate just below Ashton Hayes Church. Ignore the path to the church and continue for 450m between the hedge now on your right and a post and rail fence until Gongar Lane is reached **F**. Cross the lane and continue along the tarmac approach road to Peel Hall for 500m, ignoring a track to your right and the first left to Peel Hall. The track turns left and then left again between farm buildings and then right between a wall on your right and a paddock fence on your left to head roughly south **E**. Continue for 250m down a green lane to a signpost and kissing gate on the right (just *before* a left bend and a Scout Hut). Follow this path, which has multiple badger holes along it, shadowing the tree-lined stream on the left for 320m, where a bridge leads over the stream **D**. Cross the bridge and proceed up the field SE for 230m to a stile. Cross the stile and continue along the green lane for 100m to a kissing gate and a signpost on the right. With your back to this gate cross the field to a kissing gate in the facing hedge. Bear slightly right and continue to the big open gap in the facing hedge. Pass through the gap and continue with the hedge on the left. Cross a farm track and continue in the same line with the hedge on your left. At the next stile keep the same line towards a large tree in the field, crossing Salters Brook by a bridge **C**. At the gate in the facing hedge continue with the hedge on the left to a minor road, (Barrow Lane). Cross Barrow Lane into the narrow lane opposite (Sandy Lane) and go down Sandy Lane to reach the busy A54 by-pass **B**. Turn right and after a few metres, cross the road and take the road (High Street) on the left signposted to Tarvin. Continue on High Street through the centre of Tarvin, past the Church Street turning on your left and passing between the George and Dragon on the right and the Red Lion on the left.

After 80m, just past Tarvin Hall, turn left onto Hockenhull Lane **A**.

*NOTE:
Please see page 11 for information on the Syd Robinson footpath signpost here.



Tarvin to Brown Heath Road 4½ km or 2¾ miles.

Walk along High Street **E** until you reach the end of the brick wall (Tarvin Hall) on your left and turn left into Hockenhull Lane. Follow this road almost straight to the A51, avoiding the road markings which lead you to a road called Crossfields on your right. Cross the by-pass (A51) **D** and keep on along the lane opposite. After it bends right, bear left at the grass triangle track junction to pass a farm building on the left.

After 400m at the end of this track turn right along a surfaced path. This path is called Platts Lane. After 450m it passes Hockenhull Platts Nature Reserve and over three ancient and interesting sandstone arch bridges (Grade II listed packhorse bridges) **C**. After another 350m the path passes Cotton Farm on the left, and becomes a metalled minor road, Plough Lane. Continue along Plough Lane for 600m to pass the junction with Cotton Lane on the right, and then for another 180m to a kissing gate in the left hand hedge by a tree **B**.

Bear right to the far corner of the field where you bear right again to a farm track leading to Cotton Abbotts Farm. Cross the track and walk almost perpendicular to the track across the next four fields which have kissing gates in the hedges. As you exit the last field go half left to a gate to the left of a house (Dolly Peg Hall).

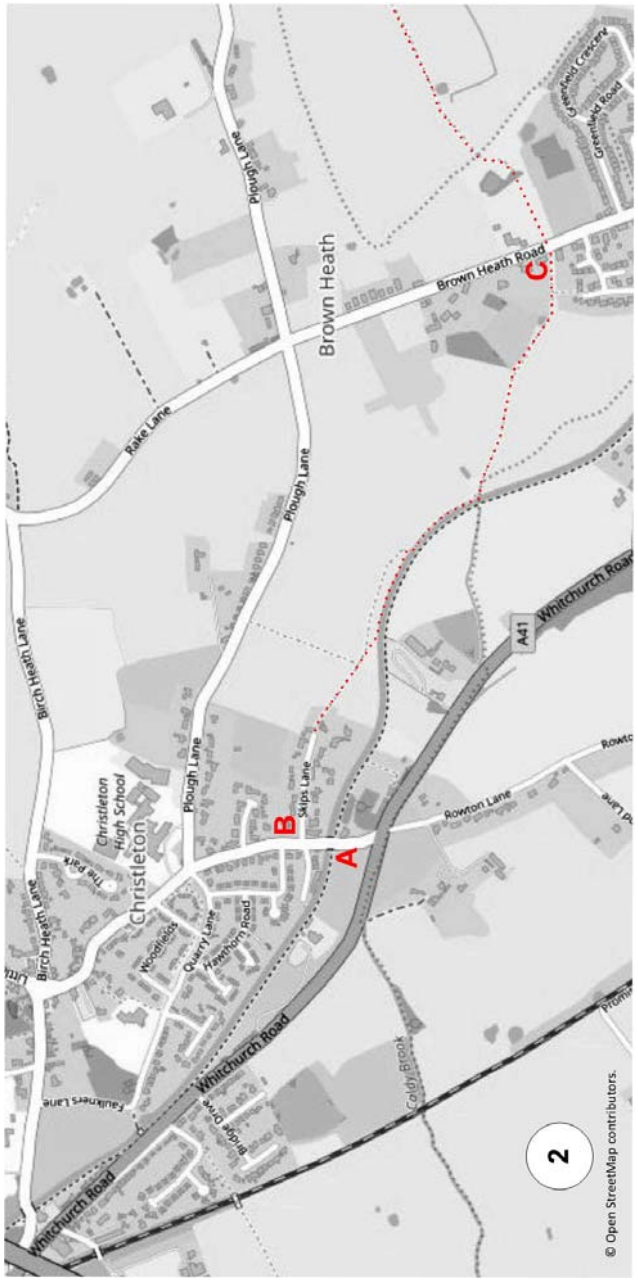
Go through the gate to reach the private drive that gives you access to Brown Heath Road **A**.



Brown Heath Road to Christleton 2½ km or 1½ miles

Cross Brown Heath Road **C** and head down the wide track opposite towards Rowton Bridge. At the end of this short track go through the kissing gate and across two fields with the hedge on the right to reach the Shropshire Union Canal. Turn right and walk along the canal bank with the canal on your left.

After about 350m go half right across a field corner to go through a kissing gate at the hedge, ignoring the path running alongside the hedge. Continue in roughly the same line to a kissing gate towards the right of the houses. Go through the gate to Skips Lane and walk to Rowton Bridge Road **B** where you turn left to the canal bridge **A**.



Christleton to Chester Railway Station 4¼ km or 2½ miles

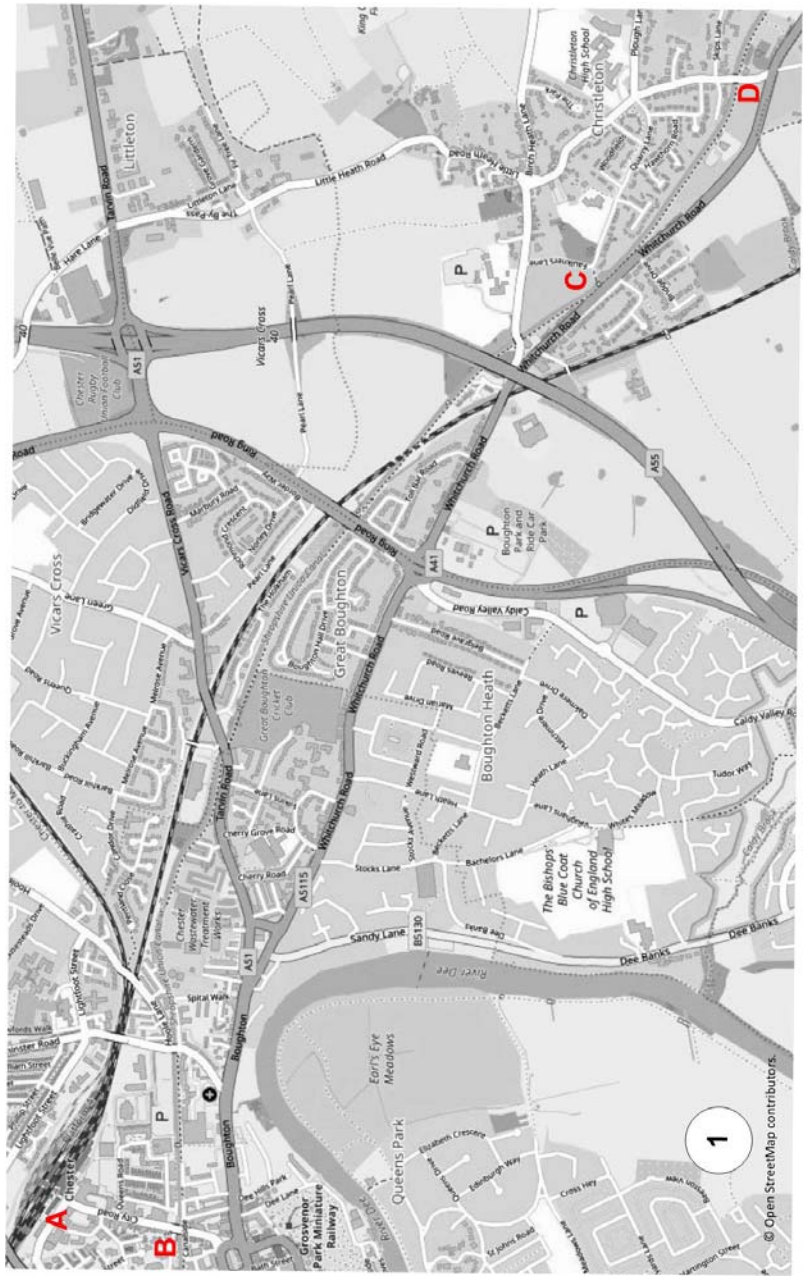
Cross Rowton Road canal bridge number 120 **D** and go through the white gate to reach the towpath. Walk with the canal on your right to pass the Cheshire Cat inn on your left. There are five locks and many bridges along this section of the Shropshire Union Canal that you are walking.

Immediately before the next bridge (Quarry Lane footbridge 121) **C** there is a Winding Hole (pronounced with a short 'i' as in ink) where boats up to 70 feet long can turn.

The Ye Olde Trooper inn (permanently closed in 2021) is at bridge 122 (Trooper or Pepper Street bridge). You will go over the railway, pass Waitrose on your left just after the water tower at the wastewater treatment works and the lead shot tower opposite.

Just past the old steam mill (look up!) and the Old Harker's Arms you take the metal steps at bridge 123B up to City Road **B**. Walk up City Road for about ½ km (¼ mile) to Chester Railway Station **A.**

NOTE:
Should you wish to reach the Chester Bus Station, which is at Gorse Stacks, you may wish to stay on the towpath at bridge 123B and walk 500m to the Lock Keeper inn at Frodsham Street bridge 123. Here you leave the towpath and cross the bridge. The bus station is to your left.



More About The Baker Way

The Baker Way is one of the medium-to-long-distance footpaths created by the Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society and for which guide leaflets have been produced. It is named to commemorate the life and work of Jack Baker who was a Rights of Way Officer with Cheshire County Council. The original route from Christleton to Brine's Brow has since been extended to become Chester railway station to Delamere railway station . By using Chester, Mouldsworth and Delamere stations, with bus links, it is possible to complete the route in either direction without using a car.

The route offers sight of Beeston and Peckforton Castles and the old (lead) shot tower by the canal at Chester. Aston church spire is a useful navigation landmark.

There are numerous websites providing further information on this scenic route.

The Baker Way is shown on OS 25K maps as a trail using the green diamond symbol on the usual green lines.



The trail name is written along the footpath symbol at various intervals.

Walkers should be aware that whilst the MCFS frequently replaces the yellow waymark discs, these and finger posts do go missing from time to time. Since this booklet was last revised, stiles may have been replaced by kissing gates or gaps in the hedge and hedges may have been removed. Although farmers are obliged to reinstate footpaths crossing their fields, sometimes this does not happen and routes can become obscure particularly in late summer. You should always endeavour to keep to the path even if it is through a crop.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and clarity, the MCFS cannot be held responsible for errors, omissions and post publication changes to the route.

THE MID-CHESHIRE FOOTPATH SOCIETY

The Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society was formed in 1961 for all those interested in keeping open and well-marked the footpaths in that part of Cheshire not covered by existing societies. Its area is bounded by Lymm, Runcorn, Middlewich, Crewe, Audlem, Malpas and Chester.

The Society organizes walks throughout the year on Wednesdays and alternate Sundays, covering as many different areas as possible. The purpose of these walks, which are generally between five and eight miles long, is to inspect, and subsequently report on, the condition of the paths, to the local authority responsible for the maintenance of public rights of way.

Publications available from the Society...

The Delamere Way	*from Frodsham to Stockton Heath*	*34 km*
The Eddisbury Way	*from Frodsham to Higher Burwardsley*	*27 km*
The Longster Trail	*from Helsby Hill to Chester*	*19 km*
The South Cheshire Way	*from Grindley Brook to Mow Cop*	*55 km*
The North Cheshire Way	*from Hooton to Disley (book)*	*114 km*

Acknowledgements...

Writers and Walkers: F Hewitt, P Robins, B Wright, D Kinsell and many others, as well as those members who maintain the way-marks. The 2019 version was walked in 2018 from west to east by Elisabeth Sullivan and Society members. The 2021 version was walked in 2021 by David Kendall and Mike Abraham.

Web version: Peter Waite

Mapping Peter Waite
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Revision 4 – August 2021