## 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 Baker Way*** | *from Chester to Delamere stations* | *21 km* |
| ***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: Peter and Jean Waite, David Kendall, Mike Abraham and Whitley WI

Information sources: Revd. Alec Brown – St. Mark's Church, Antrobus

Web version: Peter Waite

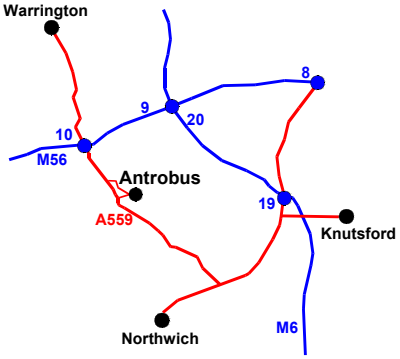
Mapping Peter Waite
© OpenStreetMap Contributors
***Please observe the map copyrights***.

Issue 1 – February 2021
Links revised – Aug 2021



## The Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society

## Waymarked Walks in Central Cheshire




# THE BOYD WALK

An easy 8km (5 mile) circular walk in the Cheshire countryside around Antrobus.

## USING THIS GUIDE

This guide has been produced to allow walkers not local to Antrobus to have access to the walk information via the internet. A colour brochure produced by the Antrobus Heritage Initiative is usually available at the Community Shop in the Village Hall Car Park and at St Mark's Church. A website, The History of Antrobus, can be found at:

https://antrobushistory.wordpress.com/

The use of an Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map to supplement the maps included in this guide is recommended. This provides more accurate and current detail, particularly for field boundaries.

The following link provides on-line access to a map 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.

Antrobus O.S. 25K map

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

Antrobus OSM

This guide can be downloaded in pdf format from the MCFS website

http://www.mcfs.org.uk/



## More About The Boyd Walk

Arnold Whitworth Boyd was born in Altrincham in 1885 and became a keen naturalist with birds being his speciality. He moved to Frandley House in 1919 where he lived for 40 years. He included natural history items about Antrobus and the surrounding area when he wrote his weekly column, Country Diary, in the Manchester Guardian. When he retired from the family firm (James Boyd & Son, Yarn Merchants, Manchester) in the 1950s he published two books, Diary of Country Man, and A Country Parish (1951). He died in Northwich in 1959 and is buried alongside his wife in the churchyard of St. Mark's Church in Antrobus.

Many of his papers are lodged in the National Archives.

John Gittens (Cheshire Landscape Trust) and Derek Enfield (a local resident) have ensured that the Boyd Walk around the village is maintained and enjoyed in his memory. St. Mark's Church organises a 'Boyd Walk Day' every year, usually in May.

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.

** Boyd Walk waymark discs are replaced locally.

12. Follow the line of the path (which is N of the pond). Go through a series of kissing gates following the Boyd Walk waymarks to meet a driveway between the buildings of The Pole on your right and a new farmhouse on your left.
    *{The Pole is the 17th century home of the Eaton family who, as large landowners, lived there for 400 years.}*
13. At Pole Lane turn L then L onto Knutsford Road and past the Hollins Lane junction.
    *{Grandsires Green is an area that in the early 17th century was inhabited by wealthy yeoman farmers; but why Grandsires?}*
14. Go through the kissing gate on your R opposite the 2nd house and walk with the hedge on your R to the top corner of the field where you reach the path crossroads. Here you go R to walk to Keepers Lane.
15. Turn L and walk past Bobs Lane and Brow Lane on your R to reach Newall's Rough and the entrance to Oakdale Farm on your L.
16. Go through the kissing gate on your L at the junction and turn sharp R to walk with the driveway on your R. At the bottom of the field, cross a stream and walk with the hedge on your L to the kissing gate at Knutsford Road.
17. Turn R and walk to St. Mark's church where the grave of Arnold Whitworth Boyd and his wife Violet Blanche can be found. Continue along the road to the car park.
    *{The grave is NW of church under a sweeping yew tree.}*
18. Please could you support the Community Shop before you leave.

Hopefully you've enjoyed this walk and found this publication useful.






# ABOUT THE BOYD WALK

Distance: 8 km or 5 miles

Waymark: Black lettering on yellow arrow, inscribed "BOYD WALK"




Maps: OS Explorer Map 267

Start: Antrobus Village Hall

Route: Start from either the Village Hall or the Antrobus Arms. You should allow 2 to 3 hours to enjoy the walk.

Parking: Antrobus Village Hall, Knutsford Rd. CW9 6LB or Antrobus Arms CW9 6JD (with permission from the pub)

Public Transport: There are bus services to Antrobus from Warrington and Northwich.

Refreshments: Antrobus Community Shop & Tea Room at the Village Hall Car Park or the Antrobus Arms at the junction of Meg Lane and the A559.

Please support local businesses.

It would be appreciated if you could carry secateurs to cut back any obstructing vegetation that can easily be removed before it gets too large to cut.

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

# The Route Directions

1. Please park considerately before leaving the car park and turning R then L into Barbers Lane.
2. Go through the gate opposite Keepers Lane and follow the waymarked path through a number of kissing gates to emerge on Knutsford Road. (This path is often muddy.)
3. Turn R and then L into Meg Lane. Walk to the Antrobus Arms at the A559 junction.
4. Carefully cross the often busy road in front of the pub to go through a gate into the field. Turn R and walk close to the hedge until you reach the point where the public footpath starts near the bend on the A559.
   *{The walk uses Public Footpaths apart from the path from **4** to **5**. This is a permissive path which has white waymarks (albeit the Boyd Walk one is yellow!). The path is available with the consent of the landowner but, unlike a Public Footpath, permission can be withdrawn at any time.}*
5. Walk in a straight line across the field so that you reach Well Lane under a big oak tree between Well Farm and a property to the right.
6. Turn R and then L into Scotch Hall Lane.
7. After about 300m you cross a bridge over a stream on your L to walk close to the hedges on your L until you reach Sandiway Lane.
8. Turn L and then R into Well Lane. Take great care when turning L onto the A559 Z bend and crossing to go to School Lane.
   *{The Friends' Meeting House (1676) is just to your R as you emerge into Sandiway Lane. It is still in use for services.}*
9. The stile is on your R as you reach School Lane. Walk in a straight line across the middle of the field in the direction that the waymark shows. You are heading towards a stile in the corner of the field.
   *{This straight path was part of the old Roman road.}*
10. Turn L onto the A559 and then L into Old Lane.
11. Go through the kissing gate on your R and keep close to the hedge on your L until you reach the end of Deakin Yard where you go through the kissing gate and take the R branch as indicated by the Boyd Walk waymark. (Don't turn L.)
    *{Deakin Yard is a fox covert (small wood) planted around marl pits.}*

**continued...**



