

# The Dysart Arms and Bunbury, Taporley, Cheshire



Challenging Terrain

3 miles  
Circular  
1.5 hours

170114



## Access Notes



1. The walk is relatively flat with just a few gentle inclines. The paths are almost all across grass pastures and these can get very muddy after rain so good waterproof boots are a must (along with a change of shoes for the pub!).
2. You will need to negotiate a number of kissing gates plus 11 stiles, some of which are very tall (so may pose a challenge for less able people), and enclosed (so dogs may need a lift over). The large fields you cross are likely to be holding cattle, sheep and horses so take care with dogs.
3. Bunbury Mill is only working on Sunday afternoons in the summer months, so time your walk accordingly if you want to see the mill in action.

The Dysart Arms is a classic English village pub with lovely open fires, lots of old oak and a really pleasant garden.

A 3 mile circular pub walk from the Dysart Arms in Bunbury, Cheshire. The walking route performs a simple loop around the surrounding countryside with chance to visit the nearby Bunbury Mill, an old watermill, and lots of peaceful stretches through the local fields and pastures.

## Getting there

Bunbury is located south of Taporley and north-west of Nantwich. The walk starts and finishes at the Dysart Arms on Bowes Gate Road. The pub has its own small car park, but at busy times please park in the village streets with consideration for residents. Alternatively you can park at Bunbury Mill (Waypoint One).

Approximate post code **CW6 9PH**.

## Walk Sections



### Start to Bunbury Mill



The walk begins from the front door of the pub, standing facing the church. Turn left and follow the road as it swings right following the line of the church yard wall, signed to Bunbury Mill.

The church is dedicated to Saint Boniface and dates mainly from the 14th century, although a church has stood on this site since the 8th century. It is considered to be one of the best architectural examples of its type, built from distinctive red sandstone with a lead and slate roof.

Continue past another church yard on the left and follow the road as it swings gently right passing a triangle of grass on the right. Immediately after this triangle turn right over a stile to enter a large hillside grass pasture (any of the pastures from this point may be holding cattle). With your back to the stile, cross this field between 1 and 2 oc'clock, heading for the centre of the woodland at the far side. Towards

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the end of the field, the path swings hard left and leads to a stile with a wide gate alongside. Cross the stile and swing right to walk across the circular parking area for Bunbury Mill, passing to the right of red brick mill building itself.

## 1 → 2 Bunbury Mill to Bird's Lane



There is evidence that a corn mill has been on this site since 1290. The present building dates from about 1844, when an earlier mill was destroyed by fire. Bunbury Mill is now open to visitors on Sunday afternoons 1-5pm from Easter until the end of September. The mill is working during opening hours and so if you're lucky enough to be passing at this time you'll hear the roar of the waterwheel and the rumble of mill stones.

Keep ahead over the bridge across the weir. Swing right in front of the visitor centre, then keep left along the side of the visitor centre and join some boardwalks which lead you left to a stile. Cross the stile into the next pasture and walk ahead up the short slope with the fenced water treatment works on your left. Before the end of the fence, fork right heading for a solitary oak tree.

Just before you reach the tree, swing left (between 9 and 10 o'clock) heading half-way between two telegraph poles and at the boundary you'll come to a stile (which sits just to the right of a metal gate). Cross this and head at about 2 o'clock to reach the corner of the square hedge line which juts into the field. Once you reach this corner, keep right along the hedge line and cross the next stile out into Bird's Lane.

## 2 → 3 Bird's Lane to Farmhouse

Turn right along the lane, passing Woodworth Cottage on the left. Ignore the footpath left after this, instead just keep ahead along



the lane. After about 200 yards, turn left down a stone lane marked as a footpath.

At the fork, keep right on the stone track which heads towards the farm buildings. Before you reach the buildings you'll see a footpath yellow arrow on a telegraph pole pointing left. Turn left here and follow the right-hand edge of this field until you reach a wide metal gate ahead. Go through this gate onto a concrete farm

track (you may only be able to see the mud layer over the concrete – that's dairy farming for you!) and go through the next gate into the pasture.

Keep ahead on the concrete track for just a few paces and, before the track ends, fork right to follow the right-hand boundary fence of this pasture. Cross the stile into the next field and keep ahead along the right-hand boundary. As the hedgeline swings away right, keep ahead to reach the hedge corner on the opposite side.

Pass through the metal gate and keep ahead down the right-hand edge of this next field. At the end of the field, cross the stile ahead into a smaller field where you'll see a large brick farmhouse to the left.

## 3 → 4 Farmhouse to Tree Lined Track

Keep ahead for a few paces and you'll see a stile to the left which



heads into the farmhouse. Do NOT take this, instead turn right and walk along the field directly away from the farmhouse. The path begins relatively close to the left-hand hedge, but soon veers slightly right and then crosses a footbridge via a pair of stiles.

Cross straight over this next short field and then go over the next stile into the large open pasture. Cross this pasture at about 1 o'clock. Half way across this field the path veers slightly left to reach a stile in the far boundary. Cross this and you'll come to a junction of paths. Keep straight ahead on the path along the right-hand fence.

Pass through the kissing gate and walk at 11 o'clock, take another kissing gate and continue in the same direction to reach a third kissing gate which leads you into a tree lined track.

## 4 → 5 Tree Lined Track to End



Go ahead down this track, passing under the arches of trees. Opposite a large horse chestnut tree, turn right through a kissing gate and keep ahead along the right-hand edge of this field. Keep

ahead in the same direction (via kissing gates) through the next three fields which are likely to be holding both sheep and horses.

You will reach a collection of bungalows. Keep left along the tarmac lane, pass the Methodist Church on the right and you'll come to a T-junction with the main village road through Bunbury. Turn right along the village road (taking care of any traffic), and keep right at the junction (signed to Taporley).

Pass the Village Hall on the right and then turn right down Wyche Lane. Immediately after Roxby Cottage, turn left through a kissing gate and cross this field diagonally to reach the white gable end on the far side. Across to the left you'll have a lovely view of the church above the tree tops. Go through the kissing gate (which is just to the left of the gable end) and keep left down the narrow fenced path.

You'll emerge to a quiet village lane. Turn left along this and follow it (taking care to listen for any traffic) as it winds steadily uphill towards the church. Just beyond the church you'll come to the Dysart Arms on the left for some well-earned hospitality.

#### **Disclaimer**

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

#### **Walking Safety**

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

