



Little Mill Pond, one of several attractive ponds in the area that once supplied a head of water to local watermills.



The Bailiff's House is a Grade II listed building, which possibly acted as the forest courthouse or as the home of an officer of Delamere Forest.



Little Budworth Common is an SSSI, described as "one of the best surviving examples of lowland heath in Cheshire".



Photo: Jeff Buck cc-by-sa/2.0



Eaton is an attractive village centred on this village cross. The cross itself is modern, but the stepped base is at least 300 years old. The village has several delightful half-timbered buildings. Look out for some sandstone cylinders in a wall of a farm entrance in Edgewell Lane – these are the cores from boreholes drilled at the start of the Second World War.



three circular walks from

THE ALVANLEY ARMS COTEBROOK



Little Budworth Common

3¼ miles: Easy

Gentle green lanes to an attractive area of lowland heath and woodland, designated an SSSI.

Utkinton Hall

3¾ miles: Moderate

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

Eaton and Luddington Hill

4½ miles: Moderate

Skirt the Shire Horse Centre to pretty Eaton, returning via a sunken quarryman's way.

Little Budworth Common

3¼ miles: Easy

Allow 2 hours. Muddy in places. Awkward road crossing at the start and finish.

1 From the front door, turn right for a few yards and cross the main road with extreme care to a hand-gate into the field opposite. **2** Cross the field, following a line of trees, to Utkinton Lane. **3** Turn right past Utkinton Lodge Farm at the bottom of Hollins Hill. **4** Carry straight on at the junction with Briar Lane. **5** Cross the B5351 Stable Lane and walk past the church to the A49. **6** Cross carefully and turn left. **7** At a layby, take a restricted byway over the stream beyond the telephone booth. **8** The byway starts as a narrow path then becomes a sunken way before meeting a wider track. **9** Follow the track ahead; beyond Hunters Cottage it becomes a grassy green lane. **10** 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. **11** Turn left into the Country Park. **12** After ¼ mile, turn left on a crossing riding track marked with a horseshoe waymark. **13** 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. **14** 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. **15** At the end of the open area, bear left through the trees to a track by a sign for Smithy Lane. **16** Turn right and left onto a sandy track with the open lawns of a polo ground on your right. **17** Follow the track to a crossroads; from this point on you are retracing your earlier steps. **18** Go straight on, passing Hunters Cottage on your right. **19** When the track bends right, take the path ahead, which leads down to the phonebox by the A49. **20** Bear left along the pavement and cross at the road junction into Utkinton Lane. **21** Cross Stable Lane beyond the church. **22** Pass the end of Briar Lane on the left and Hollins Hill on the right. **23** Beyond Utkinton Lodge Farm, turn left over the stile and follow the path back to the A49 and the Alvanley Arms.

Utkinton Hall

3¾ miles: Moderate

Allow 2–2½ hours. Numerous stiles; some paths may be muddy, or overgrown in places. Awkward road crossings at start and finish.

1 From the front door, turn right for a few yards and cross the main road with extreme care to a gate into the field opposite. **2** Cross the field, following a line of trees, to Utkinton Lane. **3** Turn left for a little over ¼ mile, passing 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, 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 the Hall, follow Smithy Lane to a bend and follow a signposted track on the right. **12** When the hedge on your right bends right, bear left and walk below a grassy bank to a stile. **13** 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. **16** Walk past Rowley Cottage (left) and Farm (right). **17** About 200 yards beyond Rowley Farm, take a footpath over a stile on the right. **18** Cross to a second stile, then bear left to a third in the projecting corner of a hedge. **19** Follow the right-hand field edge to a footbridge and double stile. **20** In the next field, follow the contour approximately, to a stile at the end of the field. **21** Cut across the corner of the next field to a stile on the right, leading down wooden steps to a path alongside a garden. **22** Turn left between the properties. **23** Exit to a driveway, and turn left. **24** Turn right at Bush Cottage and walk down to a road junction. **25** Keep right and follow the road downhill for a third of a mile to return to Utkinton Lane. **26** Turn right past Utkinton Lodge Farm and take the footpath over the stile on your left. **27** Return to the A49 and cross with care to the Alvanley Arms.

Eaton and Luddington Hill

4½ miles: Moderate

Allow 2–3 hours. Several stiles. Some paths may be muddy, under crops or overgrown. Awkward road crossing at finish.

1 From the front of the pub, turn left past the Shire Horse Centre and left again into Eaton Lane. **2** Follow the road for 500 yards. **3** Shortly after a track on the right leading up to a reservoir, cross a stile on your left. **4** Drop down a steep bank alongside a high-fenced paddock that may contain a small herd of Red Deer. **5** Go through the gate at the bottom and turn right. **6** Follow the grassy path round a left-hand corner by a pond then turn right over a stile in the overgrown hedge. **7** Walk up the field, parallel to the left-hand edge, to a stile into the road. **8** Turn right for a short distance, then cross a stile on the left. **9** Pass to the left of a small copse, then turn left into a field. **10** Follow the right-hand edge of the field (which may be boggy underfoot). **11** Cross a stile in the far corner. **12** Walk straight on down the middle of the next field towards a farm. **13** Pass between the farm buildings and exit by the farmhouse into a winding lane. **14** At a T-junction, turn right then almost immediately right over a stile. **15** 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. **16** In the far left-hand corner, cross a stile and drop down a bank. **17** 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. **18** Turn right and follow the road into Eaton, passing the listed Lower

House Farm on your right. **19** Beyond the school entrance, turn left into Winterford Lane. **20** At the bottom, turn right and follow Edgewell Lane, firstly through modern housing but latterly past a couple of rewarding half-timbered buildings. **21** Turn right at the end of the road, passing the church to reach the village cross. **22** Turn right then immediately left into Lightfoot Lane. **23** Beyond the houses this develops into a hollow way and passes through a small disused stone quarry. **24** At an oak tree bearing a sign for the 9th tee, turn right along the byway through the golf course. **25** At the top end of the course, turn left through a metal kissing gate and follow the hedge down to the A49. **26** 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. **27** Go down wooden steps to a second stile and walk down the side of the field beyond. **28** 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. **29** Bear right to the bottom of the valley and cross a stile beneath a tree. **30** Turn right and follow an attractive path alongside a narrow millpond. **31** Towards the end of the water, turn right through a couple of gates and cross a footbridge to emerge on a narrow lane. **32** Turn left and walk up the road to a T-junction. **33** Turn right and walk along Utkinton Lane for about quarter of a mile, passing the thatched Mosley Brook Cottage on your left. **34** Just before a brick-built farm at a road junction, turn right over a stile. **35** Follow a line of mature trees across the field to a gate into the A49. **36** Cross with extreme care and turn right to return to the Alvanley Arms.

The Alvanley Arms

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open	food
Monday–Sunday 12pm–11pm	Monday–Saturday 12pm–9pm
	Sunday 12pm–8pm

Over 400 years old, the Alvanley Arms is a traditional country pub in the small village of Cotebrook near Tarporley, Cheshire. Warm, welcoming and with a personal touch, the Alvanley Arms is the ideal place to stay for both business and pleasure. Open all year around, this quintessential English inn offers an attractive beer garden overlooking the duck pond and trout lake in summer and, in winter, a cosy bar with a glowing log fire. Set amidst the beautiful Cheshire countryside with scenic views and walks to enjoy, and boasting six luxurious en-suite bedrooms, the Alvanley Arms is the perfect base for visitors looking to explore Cheshire's many tourist attractions such as Oulton Park, Blakemere Craft Centre, Chester or Tatton Park.