



Lightfoot Lane is an old quarryman's path that runs through a disused stone quarry above the pretty village of Eaton on the slopes of Luddington Hill.



Utkinton Hall, once a large manor house but now a private farmhouse, is a Grade I listed building with a medieval core. James I visited in 1617.



Little Budworth Common is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, with a mosaic of heathland and woodland habitats.



Oak Tree Farmhouse is one of numerous half-timbered farmhouses and cottages in the rewarding village of Eaton. A Grade II listed building, it dates from the late 16th and early 17th century with later additions. The village is centred on a rebuilt wayside cross on a stepped sandstone base near the former smithy, which sits above the village well.

FOX & BARREL

FOOD
Sun–Thu
12pm–9pm
Fri–Sat
12pm–9.30pm

DRINKS
Mon–Sat
12pm–11pm
Sunday & BH
12pm–10.30pm

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three circular walks from the

FOX & BARREL

Cotebrook, Cheshire



Little Budworth Common

2½ miles: Easy

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

Utkinton Hall

4¼ miles: Moderate

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

Eaton and Luddington Hill

5½ miles: Moderate

Walk to pretty Eaton, returning via a sunken quarryman's way and a placid millpond.

Little Budworth Common

2½ miles: Easy

Allow 1½ hours. Muddy in places after rain. No stiles.

- 1 From the car park entrance, turn right for a few yards then turn right into a track. At a path junction by a house, follow the track to the left.
- 2 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.
- 3 Turn left into the Country Park. After ¼ mile, turn left on a crossing riding track marked with a horseshoe waymark.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 At the end of the open area, bear left through the trees to a track by a sign for Smithy Lane.
- 7 Turn right and left onto a sandy track with the open lawns of a polo ground on your right. Follow the track to a crossroads; from this point on you are retracing your earlier steps.
- 8 Go straight on, passing Hunters Cottage on your right. When the track bends right, follow it back to the A49 and turn left to return to the Fox & Barrel.

Utkinton Hall

4¼ miles: Moderate

Allow 2–2½ hours. Numerous stiles; some paths may be muddy after rain, or overgrown in places. Some road walking.

- 1 From the car park entrance, turn right for a few yards then turn right into a track. At a path junction by a house, turn right onto a footpath. Follow the path downhill, crossing a stream to return to the A49.
- 2 Follow the left-hand pavement to a crossroads, where you cross the A49 into Utkinton Lane. Walk up past the church and cross Stable Lane.
- 3 Follow the road for ½ mile, passing Briar Lane on your left and Hollins Hill and then thatched 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 before the pond, 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 track with a footpath sign 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 and walk past Rowley Cottage (left) and Farm (right).

16 About 200 yards beyond Rowley Farm, take a footpath over a stile on the right.

17 Cross to a second stile, then bear left to a third in the projecting corner of a hedge.

18 Follow the right-hand field edge to a footbridge and double stile.

19 In the next field, follow the contour approximately, to a stile at the end of the field.

20 Cut across the corner of the next field to a stile on the right, leading down wooden steps to a path alongside a garden.

21 Turn left between the properties before existing to a driveway, and turning left.

22 Turn right at Bush Cottage and walk down to a road junction.

23 Keep right and follow the road downhill for a third of a mile to return to Utkinton Lane.

24 Turn left and follow the lane back past Cotebrook church to the A49. Cross and turn left along the pavement back to the Fox & Barrel.

Eaton and Luddington Hill

5½ miles: Moderate

Allow 2–3 hours. Several stiles. Some paths may be muddy after rain, under crops or overgrown. Some road walking.

1 From the car park entrance, turn right for a few yards then turn right into a track. At a path junction by a house, turn right onto a footpath. Follow the path downhill, crossing a stream to return to the A49.

2 Follow the pavement left to a crossroads, where you turn left into Oulton Mill Lane.

3 Follow the road for ½ mile to a grassy triangle, where you keep right to pass a picnic area on the left. At the next crossroads, turn right (Beech Lane) and follow the road for ¼ mile.

4 Shortly after a 40mph sign, cross a stile on the left.

5 Pass to the left of a small copse, then turn left into a field. Follow the right-hand edge of the field (which may be boggy underfoot).

6 Cross a stile in the far corner.

7 Walk straight on down the middle of the next field towards a farm.

8 Pass between the farm buildings and exit by the farmhouse into a winding lane.

9 At a T-junction, turn right then immediately right over a stile.

10 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.

11 In the far left-hand corner, cross a stile and drop down a bank.

12 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.

13 Turn right and follow the road into Eaton, passing the listed Lower House Farm on your right.

14 Beyond the school entrance, turn left into Winterford Lane.

15 At the bottom, turn right and follow Edgewell Lane, firstly through modern housing but latterly past a couple of rewarding half-timbered buildings.

16 Turn right at the end of the road, passing the church to reach the village cross.

17 Turn right then immediately left into Lightfoot Lane.

18 Beyond the houses this develops into a hollow way and passes through a small disused stone quarry.

19 At an oak tree bearing a sign for the 9th tee, turn right along the byway through the golf course.

20 At the top end of the course, turn left through a metal kissing gate and follow the hedge along the side of the course down to the A49.

21 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.

22 Go down wooden steps to a second stile and walk down the side of the field beyond.

23 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.

24 Bear right to the bottom of the valley and cross a stile beneath a tree.

25 Turn right and follow a path alongside a narrow millpond.

26 Towards the end of the water, turn right through a couple of gates and cross a footbridge to emerge on a narrow lane.

27 Turn left and walk up the road to a T-junction.

28 Turn right and walk along Utkinton Lane for about quarter of a mile, passing the thatched Mosley Brook Cottage on your left.

29 Carry on along the lane past Hollins Hill on your left and Briar Lane on the right.

30 When you reach Stable Lane, cross straight over and walk past the church down to the A49.

31 Cross with care and turn left along the pavement to return to the Fox & Barrel.