

## THREE WALKS FROM

# The Stamford Bridge



### Great Barrow circular

2¾ miles: Fairly easy

*Stroll through watermeadows and along a hollow way to a ridge-top village, returning via Watling Street.*

### Tarvin and the Roman Bridges

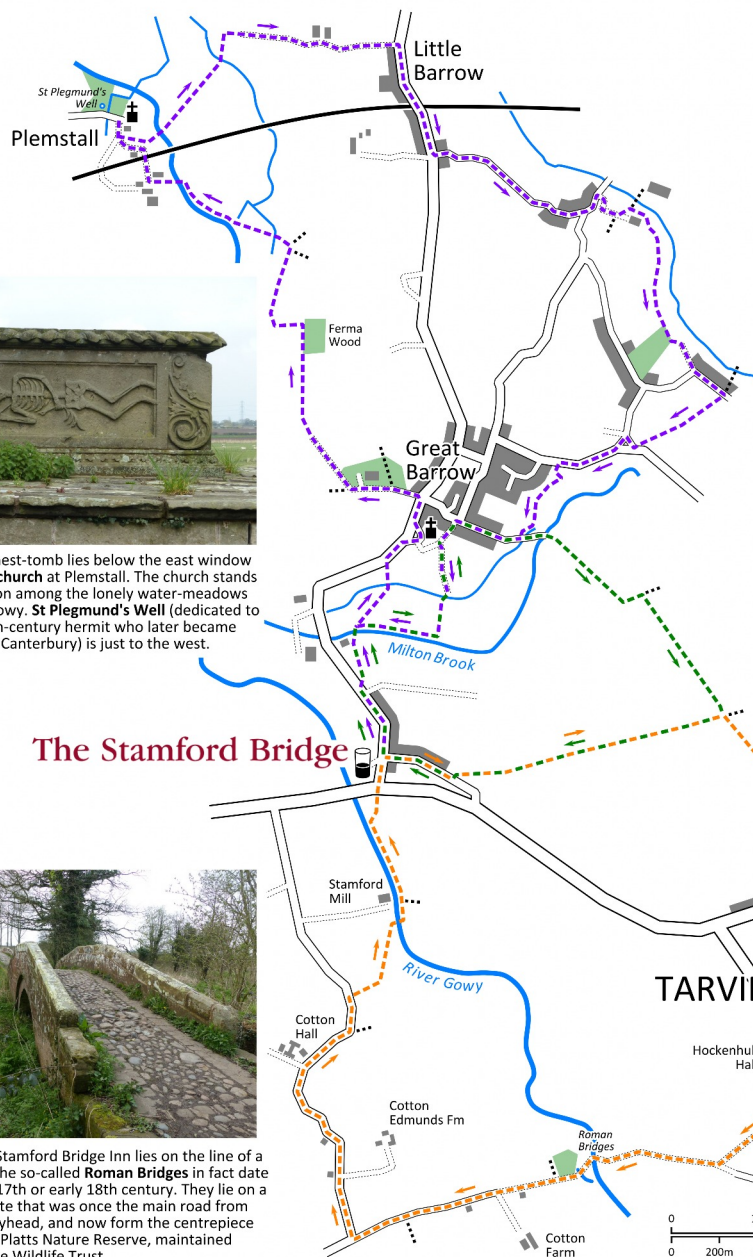
5½ miles: Moderate

*Historic features and old buildings abound on this meadow and riverside walk.*

### Great Barrow and Plemstall

6½ miles: Moderate

*Two contrasting villages, one on a hilltop and the other in the lonely valley of the River Gowy.*



**St Bartholomew's church, Great Barrow**, stands on a low sandstone ridge overlooking the Gowy valley. It contains some late medieval stonework but the chancel was built in 1671 and the tower in 1744. A delightful hollow way, part of a permissive path, leads up to the church from Milton Brook.



**Church House** in Tarvin is a former farmhouse dating from the mid- to late 1500s. The adjacent Church of St Andrew is a Grade I listed building with a Perpendicular tower and a hammerbeam roof dating from 1650. Also in the churchyard are the old grammar school, dated 1666, a hearse house and two former cottages. The Georgian buildings to the north of Church House are described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as "the two best houses in Tarvin" and date from 1756. A fire in the village in 1752 destroyed many of its older buildings.



This spooky chest-tomb lies below the east window of **St Peter's church** at Plemstall. The church stands in near isolation among the lonely water-meadows of the River Gowy. **St Plegmund's Well** (dedicated to an obscure 9th-century hermit who later became Archbishop of Canterbury) is just to the west.



Although the Stamford Bridge Inn lies on the line of a Roman road, the so-called **Roman Bridges** in fact date from the late 17th or early 18th century. They lie on a packhorse route that was once the main road from London to Holyhead, and now form the centrepiece of Hockenhull Platts Nature Reserve, maintained by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

**HYDES 1863**

**THE STAMFORD BRIDGE INN**  
**Tarvin Road, Chester, Cheshire CH3 7HN**  
 Tel 01829 740229  
 Website [www.stamfordbridgeinn.co.uk](http://www.stamfordbridgeinn.co.uk)

**OPEN: Mon to Sat 12 noon–11pm**  
**Sun 12 noon–10.30pm**

**FOOD SERVED: Mon to Sat 12 noon–9.30pm**  
**Sun 12 noon–9pm**

## Great Barrow circular (2¾ miles: Easy)

Allow 2 hours. Wet grass and muddy/boggy sections after rain.

**1** From the front door of the Stamford Bridge, turn left and walk out to the Barrow Road. **2** Turn left along the pavement, past the sign for Barrow. When the pavement ends, cross over and continue along the narrow-verged road for a further 200 yards, before turning onto a signposted footpath through a kissing gate on the right. **3** Follow the hedge down to a footbridge over Milton Brook. **4** Beyond the bridge, turn right and follow the stream to the far end of the field (*if this permissive path is no longer available, use the purple route to reach Great Barrow church*). At the end (marked by an owl box on a pole), turn left and walk away from the stream, along the end of the field towards the church. **5** In the corner, go through a kissing gate and over a footbridge to join a sunken track between hedges. **6** At the top of this attractive section, turn left if visiting Great Barrow church, otherwise turn right through a wooden barrier and follow the path beyond out to the road. **7** Turn right past the village hall into Mill Lane. **8** Follow the road to its end at the gates of Barrow Mill, and walk up the gravel drive to the right of the building. **9** Behind the mill house a signposted footpath leads up some steps and along the edge of the field beyond. **10** Cross a stile and footbridge in the corner and turn left to a similar bridge and stile. **11** Beyond the hedge, turn right and walk down to another stile. Cross and continue in the same direction along a fence and then a hedge with trees. **12** Negotiate another stile and bridge at the bottom, and turn right. You are now following the line of Watling Street, a Roman road. **13** Continue in an appropriately straight line for four fields, then after a stile pass to the right of a farm building, with a ditch on your right. **14** This leads to a kissing gate into Lansdowne Road. **15** Turn right to return to the Stamford Bridge Inn.

## Tarvin and the Roman Bridges

5½ miles: Moderate

Allow 2½–3 hours. A few paths may be under crops, or muddy after rain. Includes some road walking.

**1** From the front door, turn left and cross into Lansdowne Road. **2** Beyond the last house, turn left through a kissing gate and follow the left-hand edge of the field. **3** In the far corner, pass to the left of an animal shelter. **4** Cross a stile and follow the hedge on your left for the next four fields. **5** At a crossing path by a stile and footbridge, turn right and cross the field diagonally, aiming approximately for Tarvin church tower. **6** In the far corner, cross a footbridge with double stile and walk up the left-hand edge of the next field. **7** Just before some farm buildings, turn left over a similar footbridge and walk along the top of the next field and along a short drive to the main road. **8** Cross carefully into the road opposite. **9** Turn left at the end and walk down Tarvin High Street. **10** Bear right by the Georgian houses at the bottom and walk past the church (well worth a visit).

**11** Continue down Church Street for a third of a mile, passing the end of Hockenhull Avenue, then turn right into Broomheath Lane. **12** Cross Brereton Close (on the left) then turn left (signposted “Woodlands Walk”). **13** Just before the main road, turn right through a gate and follow a well-surfaced path along a narrow belt of woodland, passing the rear of the primary school. **14** On reaching another road, turn left and cross the main road carefully. **15** Walk up the lane beyond to the triangle by the entrance to Hockenhall Hall. **16** Keep straight on past a metal gate and some buildings on the left to join a farm track. **17** At the bottom, turn right along the bridleway to the Roman Bridges. **18** Continue beyond the three bridges to meet a quiet lane. (*Unfortunately, a useful concessionary path on the right here, which bypassed the road walking between this point and Cotton Hall, is no longer officially available.*) Follow the lane for a further half-mile, passing a couple of cottages either side of the entrance to Cotton Farm. **19** At the end of the lane turn right and follow this wider, winding road for a further half-mile, passing Cotton Edmunds Farm away to the right. **20** Beyond Cotton Hall Farm on your left, ignore a former “Conservation Path” on the right over a stile by a concrete trough. **21** Instead continue along the road for a further 150 yards, then turn right onto a footpath across a field. **22** Bear left by a ditch, cross a footbridge over another ditch, then head right on a permitted path to a footbridge over the River Gowy. **23** Turn left once over the river and follow it downstream past Stamford Mill on the opposite bank. **24** Beyond the mill continue until the last gate before the main road, where the path leaves the river to a bridge over a sidestream. **25** Turn left to cross another bridge, then aim for some steps that lead up to the A51 and the Stamford Bridge Inn beyond.

## Great Barrow and Plemstall

6½ miles: Moderate

Allow 3–4 hours. Wet grass and muddy sections, and after prolonged rain some of the low-lying meadows may be impassably flooded.

**1** From the front door of the Stamford Bridge, turn left and walk out to the Barrow Road. **2** Turn left along the pavement, past the sign for Barrow. When the pavement ends, cross over and continue along the narrow-verged road for a further 200 yards, before turning right onto a signposted footpath through a kissing gate. **3** Follow the hedge down to a footbridge over Milton Brook. **4** Beyond the stream cross the boggy field ahead of you, aiming a little left of Great Barrow church tower, to a kissing gate beside a field gate. **5** Walk out to the road and turn right (*if you intend to visit the church, don't cross over*). **6** For a short diversion to view Great Barrow church, take the first right, signposted “St Bartholomew’s Church”, and turn left at the church to return to the main road through the village. **7** Turn left into Ferma Lane between a bus stop and the primary school. **8** Ignore a turning on the right, and continue straight on along a track beyond the entrance to Greyfields, a large mock-Tudor house. **9** When this track bends right, signposted to Plemstall and Little Barrow, follow it

round (ignoring the footpath straight ahead). **10** Follow this descending hedged track, which narrows to a footpath, for half a mile to Ferma Wood. **11** At the end of the wood, the path bends left, then right. **12** Before the path begins to ascend slightly, turn left through a kissing gate and cross a farm bridge. **13** Walk across the field ahead, aiming towards a distant long low farm building, until you reach the River Gowy. **14** Turn right and follow the river to a bridge, where you cross and pass between paddocks into a farm. **15** Turn right along the farm drive, and cross the railway at a level crossing. **16** Bear left to reach Plemstall Church (St Plegmund’s Well is a short distance along the road to the left, on the right-hand side). **17** From the church, retrace your steps for a short distance then, at the point where the track divides, take a footpath over a stile on the left. **18** Follow the hedge then bear left to a footbridge over the Gowy. **19** Follow the drainage ditch ahead of you until you reach a second footbridge, which leads in turn to a stile and a grassy track. **20** Turn right and walk out to the road, passing farm buildings on your left partway along. **21** Turn right and follow the road uphill and over the railway to the former Foxcote Inn at the top. **22** Turn left here and follow Broomhill Lane for a little under half a mile and past some houses to a T-junction. **23** Turn left, then right into a driveway (with a footpath sign). A permitted path leads round to the left of the buildings, then regains the original line at a stile beyond them. **24** Follow the hedge and then fence to a further stile, then cross a field to a footbridge and stile. Keep on through a series of kissing gates until you join a grassy track and subsequent driveway leading out to a road. **25** Follow the road ahead (left), past some houses on your left, then turn right through a kissing gate onto a path along a field edge. Cross a stile and walk along another field edge to a footbridge and double stile, then aim diagonally right across the final field to emerge on the road alongside a garden. **26** Turn right up the narrow lane, then turn left to a T-junction. **27** Turn right and walk up the road, past a small water treatment works on the left. **28** After 300 yards, turn left through a kissing gate and follow a path that winds left and right to a second kissing gate. **29** Walk along the top of a slight bank until you meet a stream, which you follow right to Mill Lane. **30** Turn right and walk up the lane to a triangular junction. **31** Beyond the village hall, turn left into a driveway, which in turn leads to a footpath. **32** Beyond a wooden barrier, turn left along a path signposted “Permissive Path to Stamford Bridge” (*if unavailable, continue to the church and return the way you came*). **33** At the end of a hedged hollow way, cross a footbridge and go through a kissing gate. **34** Turn left and walk down the side of a field to an owl nestbox by Milton Brook. **35** Turn right and follow the stream for 400 yards to a footbridge (ignoring a farm bridge partway along). **36** Turn left to cross the footbridge and follow the path along the hedge beyond. **37** On reaching the road, turn left to return to the Stamford Bridge.



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