

Raw Head from Bickerton Hill

WALKERS' TREAT

Two nights. Two pubs. Stunning scenery.

Explore The Sandstone Trail.

Choose whether you'd like to start at The Lion in Malpas or The Swan in Tarporley and enjoy dinner, bed and breakfast at your choice before heading out to explore the beauty of The Sandstone Trail. A packed lunch can be provided (additional cost applies). Don't worry about your bags, we'll transport them to your next cosy pub for you, so that everything is ready for you as soon as you arrive. Night two includes dinner, bed and breakfast too. Plus one dog stays for free!

Prices from £179 per person.

Call us on 01829 733838 to book.

The Swan, 50 High Street, Tarporley CW6 0AG
theswantarporley.co.uk

The Lion, 1 Old Hall St, Malpas SY14 8NE
thelionatmalpas.co.uk

Malpas to Tarporley (south–north) *continued*

then, at a junction between cottages, turn right. **53** When the lane bends left, continue straight ahead through a wooden kissing gate onto a fieldside path. **54** Follow the path to a gate into woodland and continue to a bench. **55** Ignoring a path through a gate on the right, turn left and descend the wooded slope over rocky ground with intermittent steps. **56** When you meet a track, turn right. **57** Go through a gate at a crossing path near an isolated cottage and continue along the track. **58** The track descends steadily to a gate into Horsley Lane by some houses. **59** Turn right along the lane for 200m then, beyond the entrance to the Moathouse, turn left through a kissing gate with a Sandstone Trail waymark into a field (ignoring the track to the left). **60** Cross the field diagonally to another kissing gate and field gate. **61** Turn left along the hedge to a valley. Go through a kissing gate, down steps to a footbridge, and up the other side. **62** Cross the field straight ahead, aiming just to the right of a house. **63** Descend to the road. **64** Turn left past Tabernacle Cottage then cross and follow a footpath opposite into trees. **65** Climb a winding path through conifers then bear left to a wall. **66** Follow the wall right to the Sandstone Café. **67** Continue along the road ahead, passing the gatehouse and car park of Beeston Castle. **68** Pass a road junction and walk past Castlegate Farm on your right. **69** Beyond the farm entrance, look out for a kissing gate on your right. **70** Turn left down the farm track and follow it as it swings right across the fields. **71** Go through a kissing gate on your right and turn left to another pair of kissing gates either side of a farm track. **72** Follow the fence ahead along a line of trees to another kissing gate, then head half-left down railway arch. **73** After another kissing gate, walk down to a bridge over the River Gowy. **74** Bear left at the next gate and cross the canal bridge. **75** Go through a kissing gate and cross the field beyond, staying parallel to the hedge on your left, to a projecting corner. **76** Follow the hedge to the road, passing farm buildings on your left. **77** Cross straight over through a kissing gate, and follow a fenced path round the right-hand side of a field. **78** Go through a kissing gate into the next field and continue along the right-hand hedge. **79** After another kissing gate and footbridge continue in the same direction to reach Pudding Lane at a final kissing gate. The remainder of the route is along roads. **80** Turn left along Pudding Lane, passing Ferney Lees Farm on your right after about 200m. **81** At the junction with Crib Lane, turn right (finally leaving the Sandstone Trail). **82** Follow the road for ½ mile to Redhill Cottages and continue uphill to Birch Heath Farm. **83** Join the pavement on the right-hand side and continue past houses to the bridge over the bypass. **84** Ignore various turnings on either side and pass the fire station, until you reach Tarporley High Street. **85** Turn left and continue to the village centre, passing the manor house (left) and old police station (right). **86** Continue past the entrance to St Helen's Church to the Swan Hotel.

Tarporley to Malpas (north–south) *continued*

a track (ignoring the entrance to Bulkeley Hill Woods by the National Trust sign on your left). **35** After 150m, turn left up off the track onto rough stone steps that ascend through the trees, then swing right. **36** Follow the path over stony ground and along the eastern side of Bulkeley Hill. **37** Pass a covered reservoir on your right and descend through conifers to the end of green lane between fields. **38** Follow the path to the right, signposted 'Rawhead', diagonally across a field to the end of Coppermines Lane. **39** Take the track opposite, past a Sandstone Trail noticeboard and litter bin. **40** Pass a house entrance on the right then, at the end of the drive to Rawhead Farm, take the track to the right. **41** Turn left off the track past a waymarked hand-gate onto a path that runs through trees and then below some low sandstone cliffs. **42** Pass a bench and then bear left up the slope, with intermittent steps, and past some overhanging outcrops. **43** Continue along the top of the wood, passing above the steps down to the Droppingstone Well. **44** Continue above intermittent sandstone cliffs with fields to your left to the trig point at Raw Head. **45** Bear left and continue along the top of the wood past an interpretation panel headed 'Beneath the Hills'. **46** Follow the path as it swings left and descends steeply over uneven stone steps. **47** Proceed to a viewpoint overlooking the cliffs of Musket Hole. **48** Follow the path left through heather and birch. **49** After a short climb, the path winds round the head of Coomb Dale then along the edge of a field before descending to Chiflik Farm. **50** Follow the drive past the farmhouse and then round to the right. **51** Follow the lane past houses down to the A534. **52** Cross and take a few steps to the left, then turn right, signposted to Bickerton, Egerton Green and Cholmondeley. **53** Walk down the road, ignoring the entrance to Clay Lane (left) and a footpath (right). **54** After the houses of Gallantry Bank you reach a road junction by Bickerton Church. **55** Cross carefully and pass between the church and war memorial. **56** By a layby, turn right past a Sandstone Trail board and pass the entrance to Bickerton Croft. Go through a wooden kissing gate and past the signs for Bickerton Hill. **57** Pass fields on the right to another wooden gate then continue up intermittent shallow steps until you see the heathland of Bickerton Hill on your left. **58** Continue uphill through the trees. **59** The undulating path continues past rocky outcrops (and various turnings on the left) to Kitty's Stone. **60** Continue along the Sandstone Trail through heathland then bear left to a waymark post near an information board set into a boulder. **61** Turn right down a sunken path to PNFS sign no. 600. **62** Take the path ahead, signposted 'Whitchurch (S.S.T.)'. **63** At a waymark post, climb stone steps to the right and continue along the brow of the hill with heathland to your left. **64** Pass the ramparts of Maiden Castle. **65** By the information panel, set into a boulder, turn right, along the Sandstone Trail, now on a narrower descending path through the heather. **66** Bear right at a waymark post onto a rough path that drops down through the trees over stony ground with occasional steps. **67** Beyond a waymark post at a junction of paths, continue ahead down a wooded valley, still following the Sandstone Trail roundels. **68** Beyond a gate, follow a path on the right down the valley to a Sandstone Trail notice. Here you finally part ways the Sandstone Trail, continuing straight on as the Trail heads left. **69** The path emerges by a car park entrance; turn left and follow the lane to a road junction. The remainder of the route is on roads. **70** Turn left and pass the end of Meadow Lane (signposted to Tilston) by a thatched cottage. **71** After ¼ mile, go straight on at a crossroads. **72** Continue past a layby and between two low hills. After ¾ mile, pass Larkton House on your left. **73** At a triangular junction, turn right ('Malpas') past a postbox, then bear right by Ashtons Cross House. **74** Pass Astons Cross and continue for a further ¼ mile to the triangular junction with Edge Lane, where you keep to the larger road. **75** Ignore a no-through road on the left ('Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles') and continue past a former chapel on your right. **76** After another ¼ mile you reach the A41. **77** Cross into the B5069, signposted to Malpas and Bangor-is-y-coed. **78** Follow the right-hand pavement past a bus stop and the junction with Market Place. **79** Beyond a farm shop, cross the entrance to an industrial estate and pass the old Station Mills. **80** Stay on the B5069 past the end of Post Office Lane (left) to the hamlet of Ebnal. **81** Pass the junctions with Mates Lane (right) and the two ends of Ebnal Lane (left). **82** Beyond a farm and telecommunications mast, after a further ¼ mile, pass Bishop Heber High School on your right, then the entrances to Greenway Lane (left) and Hollowood Road, Oathills and Malpas Cemetery (all on the right). **83** After a further 600m, beyond the fire station, you reach Malpas High Street. **84** Turn left to the village cross in the centre of Malpas. **85** Continue ahead to The Lion.



Beeston Castle and The Moathouse

EXPLORE THE

SANDSTONE TRAIL

a one-day walk between two cosy Cheshire pubs

mapped and described in both directions



THE LION
AT MALPAS

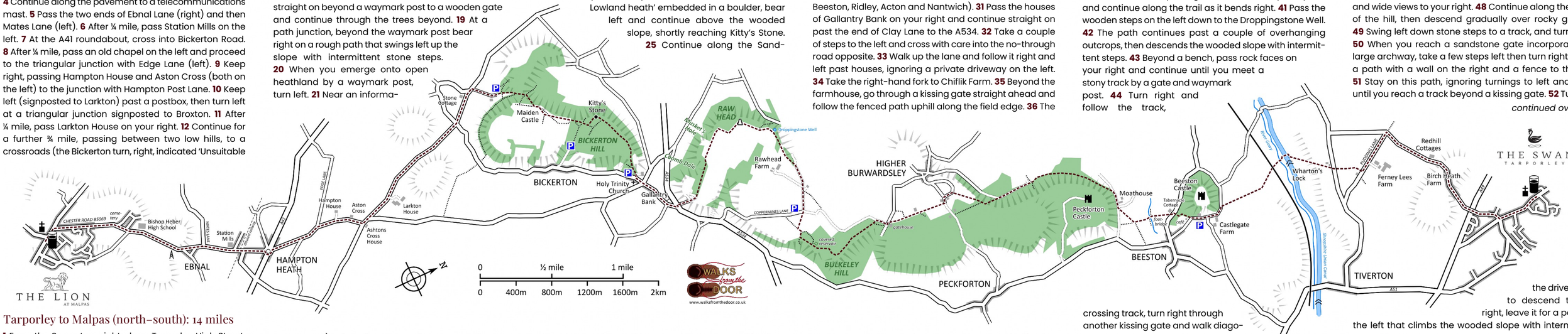


THE SWAN
TARPORLEY

Malpas to Tarporley (south–north): 14 miles

1 From the front door of the Lion, turn right and continue up the High Street beyond the village cross. **2** At the junction with Chester Road (B5069), turn right. **3** Continue past the fire station (right) to the outskirts of Malpas, passing the cemetery on the left and continuing past Oathills and Hollowood Road to Bishop Heber High School. **4** Continue along the pavement to a telecommunications mast. **5** Pass the two ends of Ebnal Lane (right) and then Mates Lane (left). **6** After ¼ mile, pass Station Mills on the left. **7** At the A41 roundabout, cross into Bickerton Road. **8** After ¼ mile, pass an old chapel on the left and proceed to the triangular junction with Edge Lane (left). **9** Keep right, passing Hampton House and Aston Cross (both on the left) to the junction with Hampton Post Lane. **10** Keep left (signposted to Larkton) past a postbox, then turn left at a triangular junction signposted to Broxton. **11** After ¼ mile, pass Larkton House on your right. **12** Continue for a further ¾ mile, passing between two low hills, to a crossroads (the Bickerton turn, right, indicated 'Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles'). **13** Carry straight on (signposted Brown Knoll and Barnhill) for ¼ mile. **14** Beyond a cottage at the end of Meadow Lane (signposted Tilston) carry straight on, then turn right into a no-through road. **15** Bear left at the entrance to a house, to a small car park. **16** Take the path right of the car park. **17** Join the Sandstone Trail (left), which you will follow for the next 9 miles, and head up the left-hand side of a valley. **18** Carry straight on beyond a waymark post to a wooden gate and continue through the trees beyond. **19** At a path junction, beyond the waymark post bear right on a rough path that swings left up the slope with intermittent stone steps. **20** When you emerge onto open heathland by a waymark post, turn left. **21** Near an information board for Maiden Castle (embedded in a large boulder), follow the Sandstone Trail waymark (left), passing the ramparts of the hillfort. **22** Continue along the brow of the hill then descend stone steps to a waymark post by another track. Keep left along the woodland edge. **23** At PNFS sign no. 600, taken the sunken track opposite, signposted 'Frodsham (S.S.T.)'. **24** By an interpretation panel headed 'Bickerton Hill: Lowland heath' embedded in a boulder, bear left and continue above the wooded slope, shortly reaching Kitty's Stone. **25** Continue along the Sandstone Trail, ignoring various paths to your right and passing a couple of sandstone outcrops. **26** Staying within the trees, descend a rocky section and then some shallow steps. **27** Beyond a wooden kissing gate, continue past a field containing a building to a further gate. **28** Continue past Bickerton Croft (left) to the road. **29** Turn left past the war memorial (left) and church (right) to a road junction. **30** Cross into Brunty Bank (signposted to Beeston, Ridley, Acton and Nantwich). **31** Pass the houses of Gallantry Bank on your right and continue straight on past the end of Clay Lane to the A534. **32** Take a couple of steps to the left and cross with care into the no-through road opposite. **33** Walk up the lane and follow it right and left past houses, ignoring a private driveway on the left. **34** Take the right-hand fork to Chiflik Farm. **35** Beyond the farmhouse, go through a kissing gate straight ahead and follow the fenced path uphill along the field edge. **36** The path enters the trees and winds around the head of Coomb Dale before climbing to a fenced viewpoint overlooking the cliffs of Musket Hole. **37** Bear right round the head of the valley then climb stone steps to the right. **38** Bear left at the top, passing an interpretation panel headed 'Beneath the Hills'. **39** At the Raw Head trig point, bear right past a waymark post. **40** Continue along the fence with fields to your right to another rocky viewpoint and continue along the trail as it bends right. **41** Pass the wooden steps on the left down to the Droppingstone Well. **42** The path continues past a couple of overhanging outcrops, then descends the wooded slope with intermittent steps. **43** Beyond a bench, pass rock faces on your right and continue until you meet a stony track by a gate and waymark post. **44** Turn right and follow the track, crossing track, turn right through another kissing gate and walk diagonally to the far corner of the field, left of the buildings of Moathouse Farm. **24** Go through a kissing gate onto a metalled road and turn right (ignoring the track to the right). **25** Pass a series of houses then turn left through a metal gate into woodland. **26** Follow the path uphill. The partly sunken path eventually levels off then contours along the hillside. **27** Half a mile from the road, after a gate and crossing footpath, the Trail joins the drive to an isolated cottage. **28** When the drive starts to descend to the right, leave it for a path on the left that climbs the wooded slope with intermittent steps. **29** At the top, by a bench, turn right, ignoring a gate on the left. **30** Follow the path to a gate and above a couple of fields to a road. **31** Go straight on (left) to a junction by a pair of cottages. **32** Turn left then, after 70m, right through a kissing gate. **33** Follow the fenced path for ½ mile, ignoring turnings to left and right, until it reaches a road by a sandstone gatehouse incorporating an archway. **34** Take a few steps left then turn right along passing the entrance to Rawhead Farm on your right and a house entrance on the left. **45** At the end of Coppermines Lane, between a Sandstone Trail board and a parking area go straight on across the field ahead. **46** Re-enter woodland by a sign pointing back to Rawhead and follow the central path ahead through the conifers. **47** Climb to pass to the right of a covered reservoir and continue over Bulkeley Hill with a steep drop and wide views to your right. **48** Continue along the edge of the hill, then descend gradually over rocky ground. **49** Swing left down stone steps to a track, and turn right. **50** When you reach a sandstone gate incorporating a large archway, take a few steps left then turn right along a path with a wall on the right and a fence to the left. **51** Stay on this path, ignoring turnings to left and right, until you reach a track beyond a kissing gate. **52** Turn left

continued overleaf



Tarporley to Malpas (north–south): 14 miles

1 From the Swan, turn right along Tarporley High Street, passing St Helen's Church on your right. **2** Continue past the Manor House (right) and old Police Station (left). **3** After 500m, turn right into Birch Heath Road. **4** Follow the road out of Tarporley, past the fire station on your left, and across the bridge over the bypass. **5** Climb to Birch Heath Farm then descend past Redhill Cottages to a junction after ¾ mile. **6** Turn left into Pudding Lane, joining the Sandstone Trail (which you will follow faithfully for the next 9 miles). **7** Pass Ferney Lees Farm after 300m then, after a further 200m, turn right through a kissing gate into a field. **8** Follow the left-hand hedge through three fields then turn right onto Huxley Lane. **9** Cross straight over through another kissing gate and follow the right-hand hedge. When the hedge bends right, strike out across the field, parallel to the field edge away to your right. **10** At the bottom of the field, go through a kissing gate and cross the canal bridge. **11** Go through another kissing gate and bear left to a farm bridge over the River Gowy. **12** Follow the path to a railway arch. **13** Beyond the railway, the path curves left to a kissing gate then runs parallel to a line of trees. **14** Go through two kissing gates either side of a concrete farm track, then right through another onto a track. **15** Turn left, uphill, towards the farm. **16** Follow the track round to the left initially, then turn right through a kissing gate into the road. **17** Turn left, past Castlegate Farm and the end of a lane. **18** Continue past the castle gatehouse and car park to the Sandstone Café. **19** Take the path to the right of the entrance, along the wall of the castle grounds. **20** At the end of the wall, the path winds indistinctly leftwards down through conifers. **21** Emerging onto the road, turn left past Tabernacle Cottage then immediately right up steps to a kissing gate into a field . **22** Cross to a footbridge with kissing gates before and after (ignoring paths to right and left). **23** Follow the hedge ahead beyond the stream then, just beyond a

continued overleaf

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