

Footpath Forays 2

Here is the next instalment of Footpath Foray's. With another of my favourites, because it gives, in my opinion, one of the best views of Banwell. This is much flatter but will take between 1hr and 1 hr and a half.

Just a quick reminder of the Countryside code;

- Be safe—plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property **as you find them**
- Keep dogs under close control (where there is any livestock please keep dogs on the lead and be especially careful of cows with calves)
- Protect plants and animals
- Take your litter home
- Consider other people

And two that we have added;

- If a field has crops in it and the path goes through the middle please walk around the outside of the field.
- **Always** pick up after your dog, faeces can cause a variety of complications in children and livestock.

START:

This starts at Eastermead Lane, which is a turning off East Street on the left hand side.

SETTING OFF:

Walk down Eastermead Lane about 1/4 of a mile until you see a wooden bench on the right hand bend. Turn left.

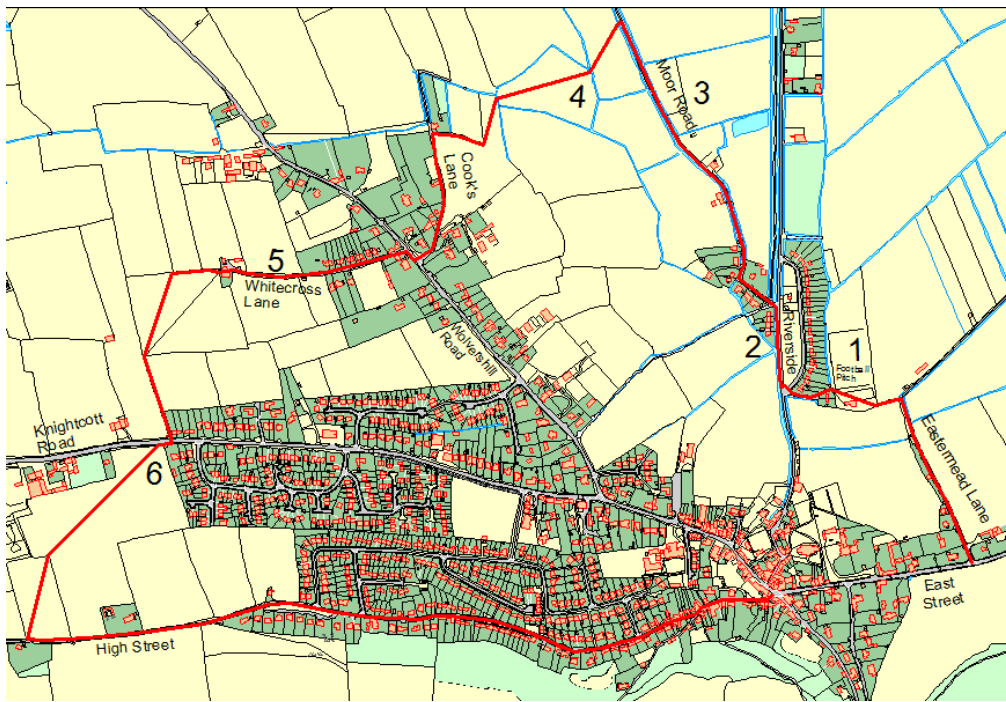
1. BANWELL FOOTBALL CLUB:

This is footpath 3/9 go over the two iron stiles. You have now entered Banwell Football Club which has a thriving junior club from 6—16 and senior club.

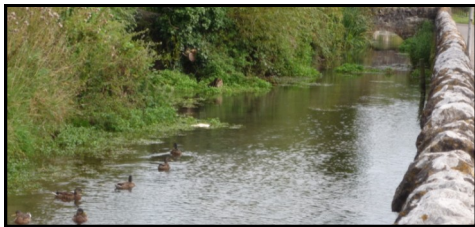
Continue past the clubhouse on you left and down the lane. Cross over the road to the river wall and turn right. This is the Banwell River, which goes from here to the Bristol Channel.

This walk can also be started here at Riverside, instead of starting at Eastermead Lane.





Look out for ducks, Moorhens and the occasional swan. Banwell has a long association with swans on the old pond (which is now below the bowling green). Hence they are present in emblems of many Banwell Clubs, societies and the School.



2. KEECHING STONES

As you follow the river take a look at the bottom of the wall and you may see some of the old keeching stones in the wall they show who was liable to maintain that stretch of the river. The first house you come to on the left was Banwell's old gas works and the three cottages used to be a Banwell Poor House.

3. MOOR ROAD

At the bridge turn left and go down Moor Road. Immediately on your left, on the entrance to Golling Lane, you can see an old gatepost. If you look carefully you can make out the date 1732.

Continue down Moor Road and you are following, what could be, the route of the Old Yeo.

Continue down Moor Road for about 1/2 mile until you come to a bridge on your left over the water with a metal



gate This is footpath 3/6 (footpath sign missing). If you have reached the Y junction, then you have gone too far!

4. VIEWS OF BANWELL

Go through the iron gate and walk across the field to the iron gate on the other side over a ryne.

Pass through the gates and continue diagonally across the field to the middle gate (which you can't see until you get there). It is from this field that you have one of my favourite views of Banwell.



You can see Banwell Castle nestled between the Castle Woods and Banwell Hill with the impressive church tower in the foreground.

See if you can spot the tower of the Abbey (easier when the trees have no leaves) and Bishops Laws Tower, the top just making an appearance above the trees.

Pass through the middle gate and walk diagonally across the first part of the field to the hedge line. Follow the permissive footpath sign to the right which takes you to a metal gate onto Cooks Lane. Once on Cooks Lane turn left. At the end of Cooks Lane cross carefully over Wolverhill Road and head to the right and turn left down Whitecross Lane.



5. WHITECROSS LANE

Continue down Whitecross Lane to the very end across the shingle to the five bar gate.

Go through the gate and the path continues diagonally across the field. At the other end of the field go through the gate and continue up along the edge of the next field to the stile. Go over the stile and continue along the path to Knightcott Road. Carefully cross over

Knightcott Rd. and turn to the right. You will see a footpath sign. Climb over the stile and this is footpath 3 / 12.



6. HIGH STREET

The footpath continues diagonally in a North Westerly direction across this field to the far corner. However there are often crops so we recommend walking to the right and going around the edge of the field.



Follow the hedge line which zig-zags up to a fence, bordering Boulters. Continue along the fence until you reach an opening in the next field. The footpath continues diagonally across this to High Street, opposite 'Orchard Cottage'. Again there are often crops in this field so we suggest you go around the edge of the field.

Go through the open gate and you are on High Street. At High Street turn left and head back into the village. At the end of High Street you can either cross straight over and head back along East Street to Eastermead Lane or you can turn left and then immediately right and go down Church Street towards Riverside.

Liz Shayler