

THE SHADY



TIVERTON

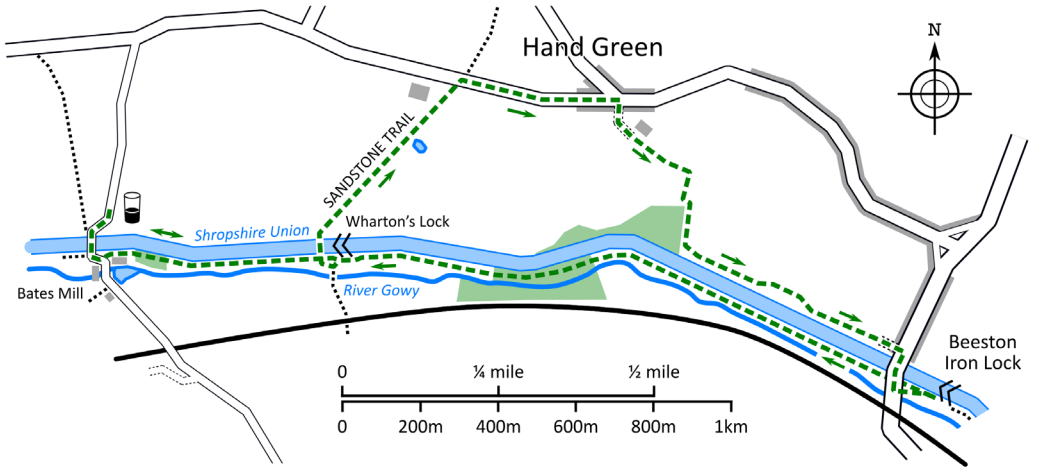
LOCAL WALKS

Around Tiverton



BEESTON IRON LOCK

3 ¼ miles: Easy



BEESTON IRON LOCK

3 ¼ miles: Easy

A taste of the Shropshire Union towpath and the Sandstone Trail, and a unique piece of canal engineering.

Allow 1½-2 hours. Field paths may be muddy in places.

1 From the front of the pub, turn left and cross the canal bridge.

2 Turn left onto the canal towpath and follow it right, away from the bridge and past the pub garden on the opposite bank.

3 After 600 metres, you reach Wharton's Bridge and Lock.

4 Cross the canal via the footbridge by the first set of lock gates and go through a kissing gate into a cultivated field, joining the Sandstone Trail.

5 Follow the Trail across the field, passing to the left of a pond surrounded by trees. At the far side, follow the field edge to a kissing gate into the road.

6 Turn right and follow the road for 400 metres.

7 Just beyond the junction with Pudding Lane, turn right into a driveway. Bear left between the ends of two driveways along a hedged track.

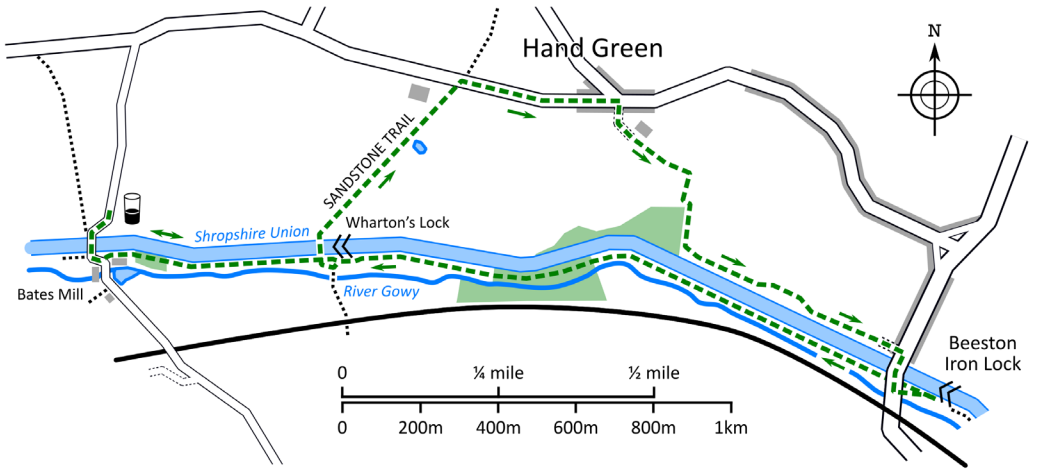
8 At the end, either go through the gate (if open) or cross the footbridge and stile into a field. Walk along the top (left-hand) edge of the field. At the far end, swing right and walk down hill along the far field edge.

9 In the bottom corner, go left through a kissing gate and turn right along the woodland edge, through a tree-shaded kissing gate, down towards the Shropshire Union Canal.

10 At the bottom of the slope, turn left and walk parallel to the canal through two fields separated by a kissing gate.

BEESTON IRON LOCK

3 ¼ miles: Easy



11 Pass above the outbuildings of a boatyard to a kissing gate and a short, hedged path out to the A49 road.

12 Turn right over the canal bridge and immediately left through the barriers onto a path that leads to Beeston Iron Lock. The lock was built by Thomas Telford in 1828 and was one of his last works. Uniquely on the British canal network, it was constructed in cast iron as the surrounding soil was too unstable to support a normal stone lock.

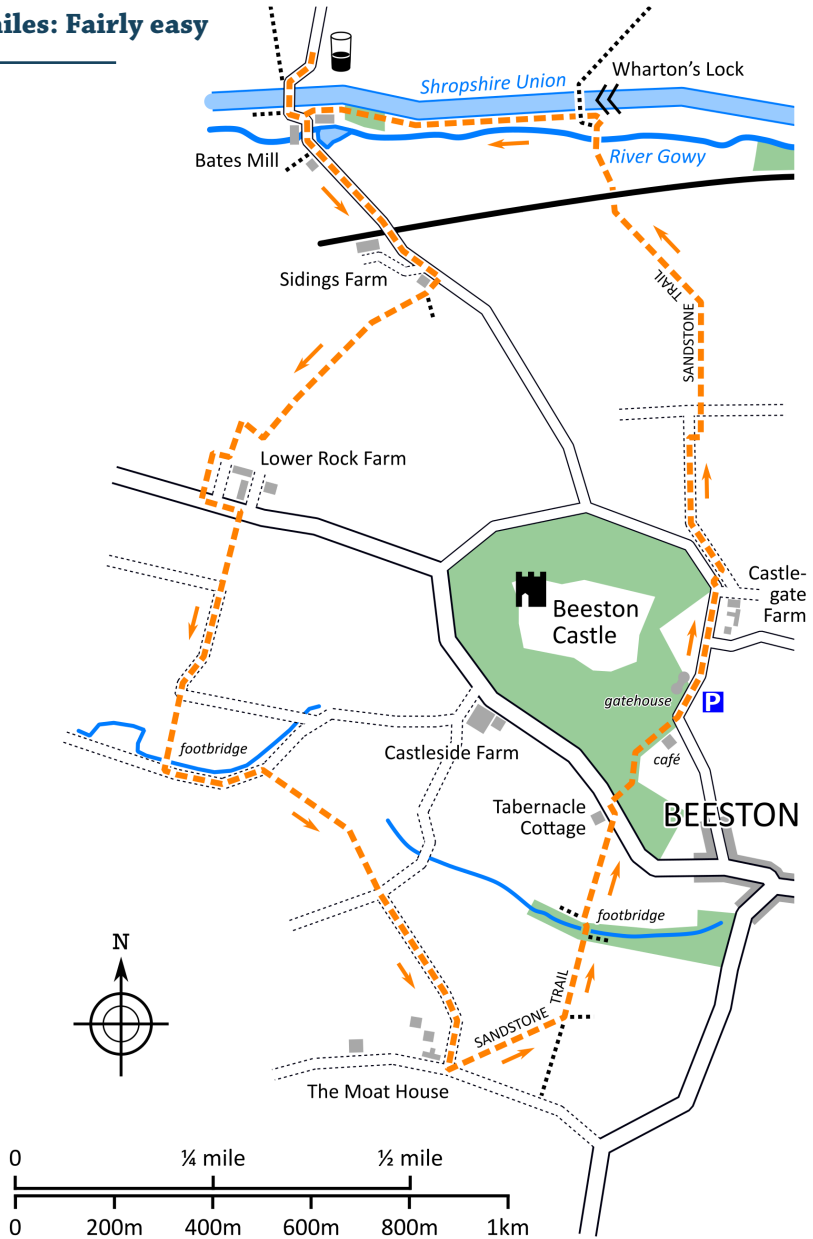
13 Having examined the lock, follow the towpath back west, passing under bridge 109 carrying the main road.

14 Follow the canal towpath for a mile to Wharton's Lock.

15 Go under the canal bridge and continue along the towpath, retracing your steps to Bates Mill Bridge and the Shady.

BEESTON CASTLE

3 1/2 miles: Fairly easy



BEESTON CASTLE

3 1/2 miles: Fairly easy

A farmland circuit of dramatic Beeston Castle on its sandstone crag.

Allow 2 hours. Field paths may be muddy, and cattle are likely. One stile, and several steps. This route is free, but payment is required to visit the castle ruins (via the castle gatehouse, passed on this route).

1 From the front of the pub, turn left and cross the canal.

2 Follow the road between Bates Mill and the cottages opposite, noting the millpond on your left. Continue along the road and over the railway, with views of the castle and crag.

3 Just after the semi-detached houses at the entrance to Sidings Farm, turn right onto a footpath through a belt of woodland.

4 Beyond the trees, follow the path across three fields separated by kissing gates.

5 As you approach Lower Rock Farm, cross a stile and turn right, following a fenced path that skirts the farm buildings out to a road.

6 When you reach the road, turn left briefly.

7 Opposite a farm building, turn right through a kissing gate onto a footpath and follow the left-hand edge of the field ahead. This meets a track made of concrete sleepers, which you follow straight on.

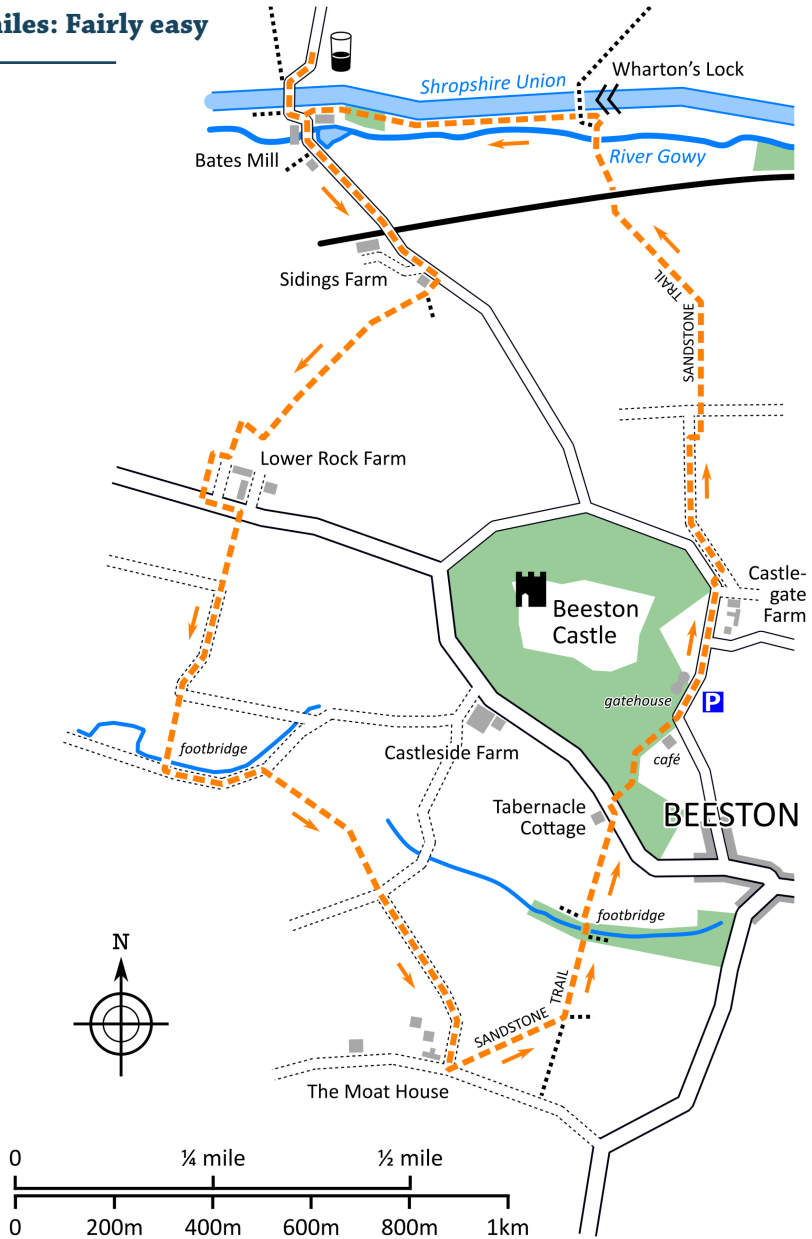
8 When the track swings left, join a footpath through a gate ahead, still continuing in broadly the same direction.

9 In the bottom corner, the path crosses a footbridge and joins another concrete track, where you turn left.

10 Look out for a kissing gate on the right after 200 metres, where you leave the track and head across the field, gradually approaching the hedge on the right.

BEESTON CASTLE

3 1/2 miles: Fairly easy



11 In a corner, you will find a kissing gate beneath an oak tree; go through it and cross the field ahead, aiming left of distant Peckforton Castle. Peckforton Castle is a Victorian house built in the style of a medieval castle to echo Beeston. It was designed and built by Anthony Salvin in the 1840s and is now a hotel and wedding venue.

12 Go through a kissing gate into a track and follow the track opposite. This leads slightly uphill to a gate and thence to a surfaced driveway by the Moat House.

13 Turn left through a kissing gate in the angle between track and drive, joining the Sandstone Trail, and cross the field diagonally to the far left-hand corner. The Sandstone Trail runs from Frodsham to Whitchurch, a distance of 34 miles.

14 Go through another kissing gate and turn left along the field edge, heading towards Beeston Castle. At the end of the field, cross a stream via footbridge with steps and kissing gates to either side.

15 Cross the last field to a kissing gate next to a cottage, where you drop down steps to the road.

16 Turn left for a few steps then, opposite the building, turn right into woodland, still following the Sandstone Trail.

17 The Trail climbs through trees then bears left at the top of the wood to meet the stone wall that encircles the grounds of Beeston Castle. Follow it right, to emerge on a road by the Sandstone Café.

18 Continue ahead along the road between the castle gatehouse and car park. Beeston Castle was built by the Earl of Chester in the 1220s and extended by Henry III. It saw action during the Civil War, when it was 'slighted' to prevent its subsequent reuse. The views from the top are spectacular.

19 Descend past Castlegate Farm, ignoring the lane off to the right.

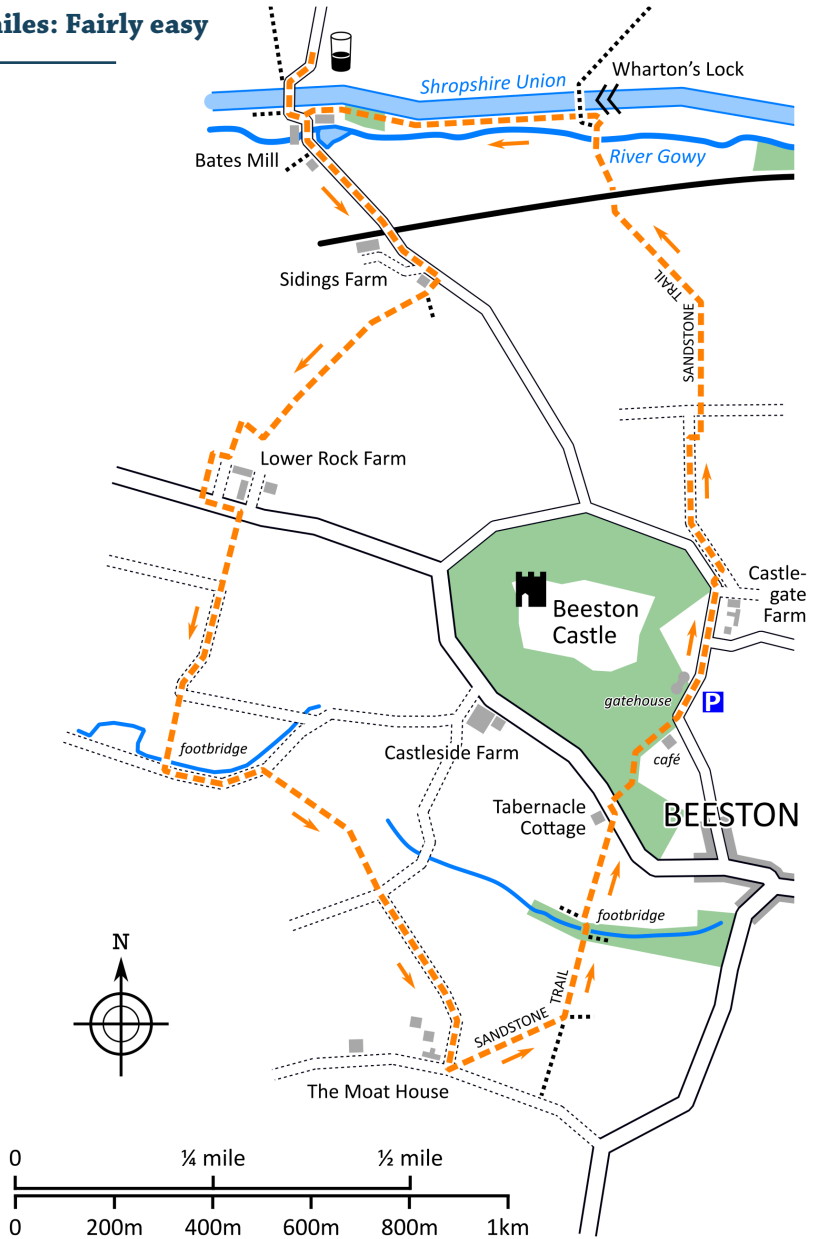
20 Just beyond the last of the farm entrances, turn right through a kissing gate (with a Sandstone Trail waymark) onto a track leading out from the farm.

21 Turn left and follow the track downhill and round a right-hand bend.

22 Leave the track through a kissing gate beneath an oak tree on the right and turn left to walk parallel to the track.

BEESTON CASTLE

3 1/2 miles: Fairly easy



23 Cross a perpendicular track via two more gates and continue gently downhill.

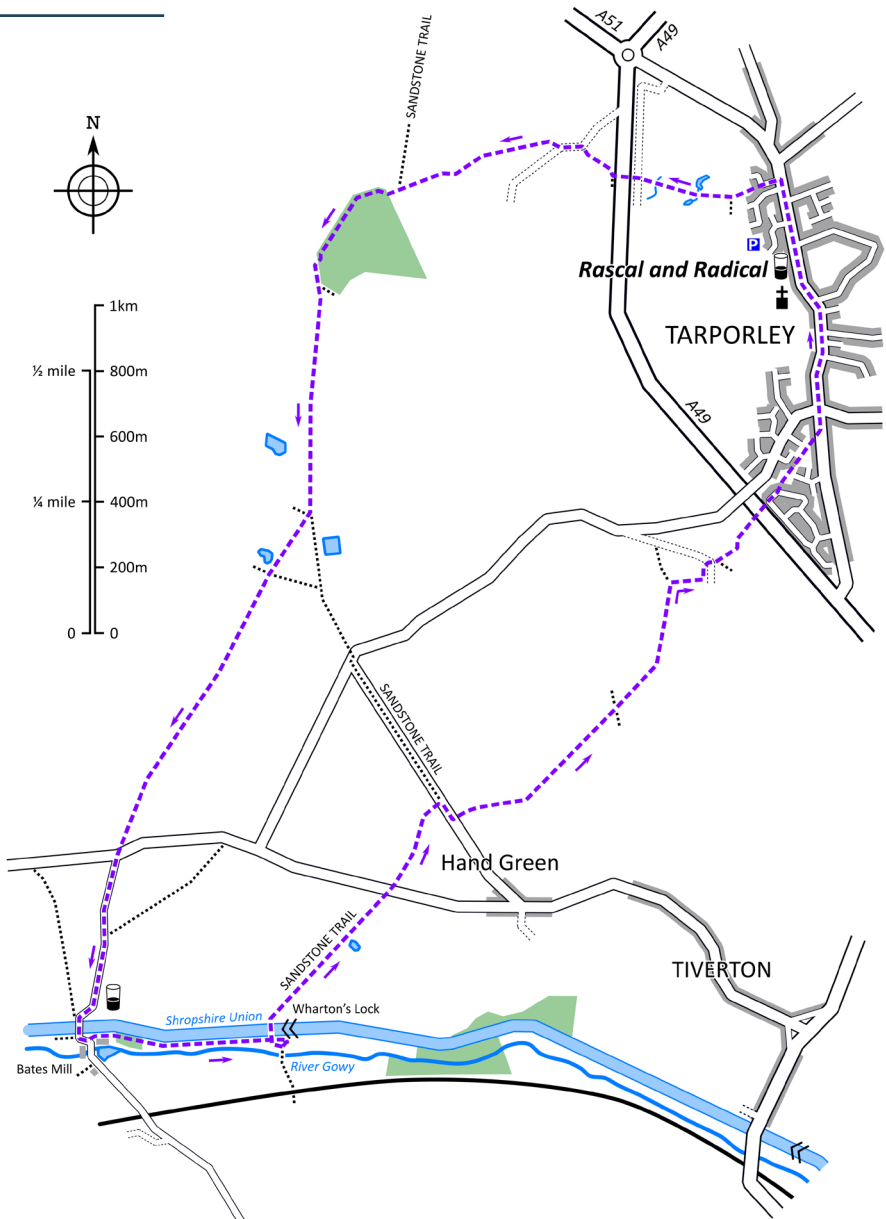
24 After another kissing gate, the Sandstone Trail heads half-left to a bridge under the railway, then continues to cross the River Gowy.

25 As you approach the canal, take the first kissing gate to reach Wharton's Lock.

26 Turn left under the canal bridge and follow the towpath for 600 metres back to the Shady.

TARPORLEY AND THE RASCAL & RADICAL

5¼ miles: Moderate



TARPORLEY AND THE RASCAL & RADICAL

5¼ miles: Moderate

Explore the Sandstone Trail and the handsome high street of Tarporley village.

Allow 3 hours. Field paths may be muddy or, at certain times of year, through crops, and there are several stiles.

Follow steps 1–5 of the Beeston Iron Lock walk, as far as the road above Wharton Lock.

6 Cross the road and follow the Sandstone Trail through a kissing gate opposite. The Trail skirts round the right-hand edge of a field and through a kissing gate into the next field.

7 Continue to another kissing gate and cross a footbridge, then follow the right-hand field edge past a pond to a final kissing gate into a road.

8 Turn right then, opposite a house, cross a stile on the left onto a footpath.

9 Follow it along the left-hand edge of the field to a double stile, then cross the next field to a further stile and footbridge.

10 Cross the subsequent field to a projecting corner in the left-hand hedge (where another path crosses) and continue straight ahead to another stile and footbridge.

11 At the far side of the next field, the path joins the hedge on the right and follows it to a gap into the next field.

12 Here, ignore the obvious path heading half-left in front of you, instead turning right along the right-hand edge of the fairly narrow field. Bear left round the head of the field to meet a farm track in the far corner.

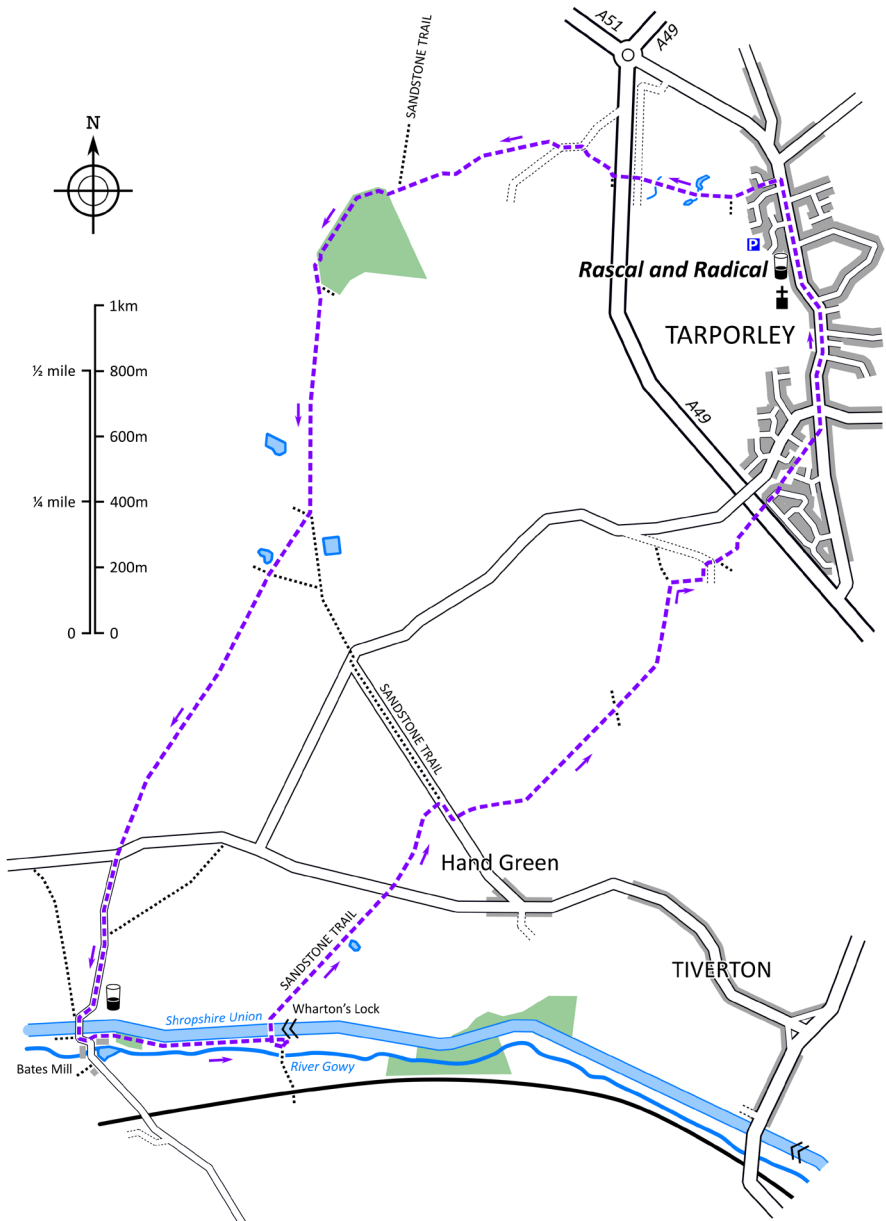
13 Cross straight over onto a footpath, then keep left along the hedge.

14 At the end of the hedge the path kinks left then right then crosses a field towards the A49 Tarporley bypass and the houses beyond.

15 Descend the steps after the gate and cross the main road carefully, climbing the similar steps on the other side into a new housing development.

TARPORLEY AND THE RASCAL & RADICAL

5¼ miles: Moderate



16 Follow the street ahead of you (Hazelhurst Way) then, when it bends right, follow a tarmac path on the left, which leads past a parking area and litter bin into a shady path between garden fences.

17 Follow the path out to Tarporley High Street.

18 Turn left and carry straight on at the junction with Birch Heath Road, passing the Foresters Arms (left) and a Texaco petrol station (right). Continue past the Baptist Chapel (dated 1866, left) and continue towards the centre of Tarporley past the old police station (right) and manor house (left).

Just before the entrance to the church on the left is the Rascal & Radical, also operated by the Cheshire Pub Company.

19 Continuing past the church entrance, pass the Swan Hotel and the Market Hall. Beyond the Rising Sun pub continue along the High Street past the entrance to Daffodil Lane then, just after a postbox, turn left into The Close.

20 When the road bends right, follow the path ahead, which leads to a wooden kissing gate into fields.

21 Ignoring the path off to the left, continue ahead along the field edge in front of you to a gated footbridge by a pond.

22 Cross the next field to a similar footbridge, then continue to a kissing leading into a track parallel to the bypass.

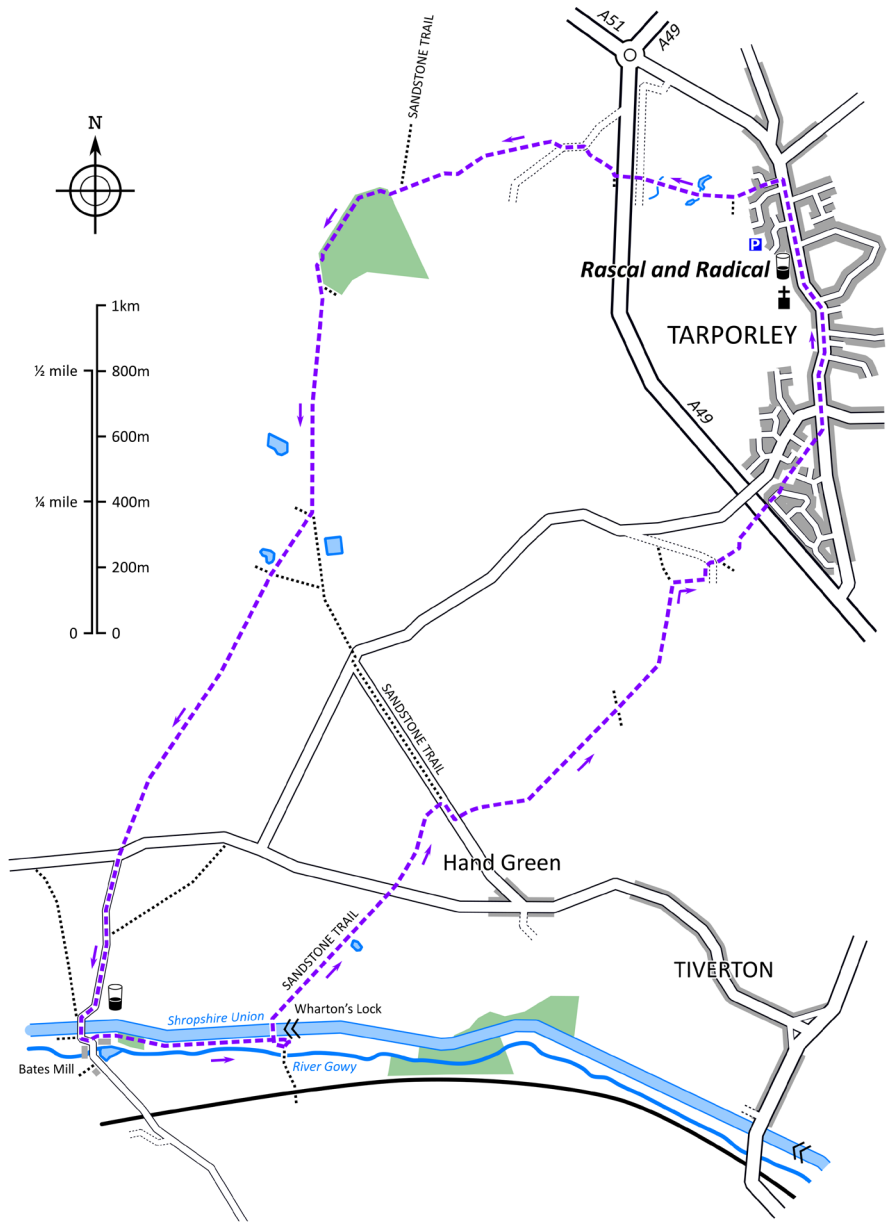
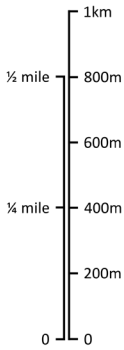
23 Cross straight over to a gap into the fence and cross the main road with care.

24 A few steps to the right on the other side, a path leads through trees to another gap in a fence into a hedged path, where you turn right.

25 Follow the path alongside a garden to emerge in a track to the left of a house.

26 Turn left, ignoring a stile on the right and the entrance to Castle View Farm and Stables on the left, and follow the track for 70 metres.

27 Just before a no-entry sign, turn right onto a waymarked footpath between hedges. Follow this path as it curves left and continues as a slightly sunken way between overgrown hedges.



28 After about 500 metres, the Sandstone Trail joins from the right; continue straight ahead beyond the Sandstone Trail waymark (signposted 'Beeston Castle'), with woodland on your left.

29 Shortly after a bench on the right, cross a couple of footbridges and leave the wood.

30 Turn left along the woodland edge as far as a footpath sign then, ignoring the crossing path to Tarporley and Clotton, strike out across the field ahead to a gateway on the far side of the field.

31 Cross a further field (with a pond to your right) to a gated footbridge, then continue across the next field, aiming roughly towards the distant Beeston Castle.

32 After a kissing gate and footbridge, the Sandstone Trail follows the left-hand field edge, but our path leaves it to head straight across the field on a less-used path.

33 Pass to the left of a large pond at the far side of the field to a wooden stile in the hedge.

34 In the next field, the path leads slightly right, gradually heading away from the fence on the left, to a footbridge and stile, and then crosses another field in the same direction to a double stile and plank footbridge in the far hedge.

35 Cross the next field in the same direction, again heading gradually away from the left-hand field edge, to another stile.

36 Cross a final field to a kissing gate into a road.

37 Take a few steps to the right, then turn left into Bates Mill Lane (signposted to Beeston and Beeston Castle) before a postbox.

38 Walk down the lane back to the Shady.



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