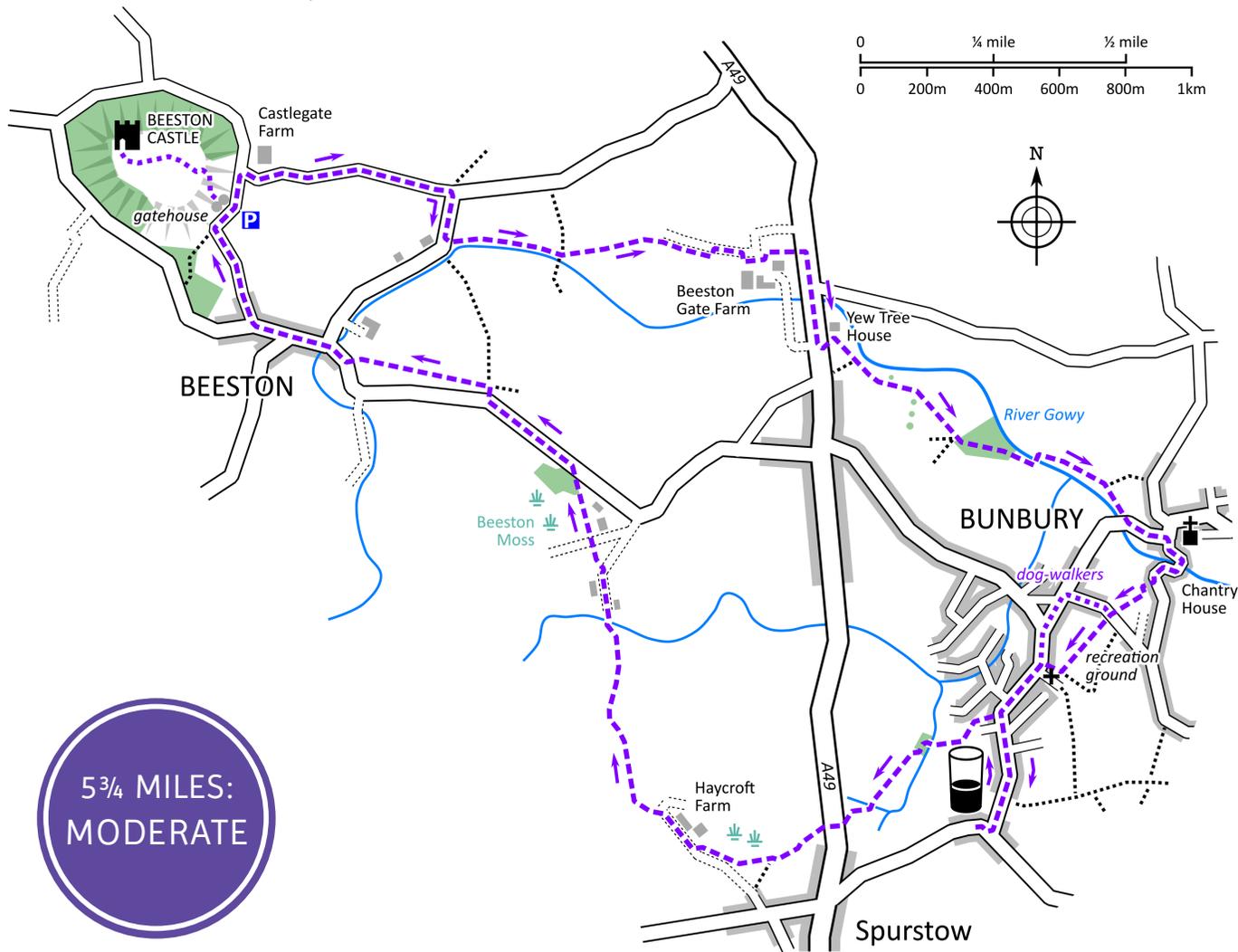


Beeston Castle View

Beeston Castle -
from Beeston Moss

Beeston Castle

Beeston Castle -
distant view



5 3/4 MILES:
MODERATE

MODERATE
5 3/4
MILES



THE YEW TREE INN
COUNTRYSIDE
WALKING
GUIDE

Beeston Castle



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BEESTON CASTLE

(5¾ MILES: MODERATE)

A field walk to the pretty village of Beeston, with views of Peckforton and Beeston Castles (and a chance to visit the latter), returning via Bunbury church and village.

Field paths may be muddy after rain, and may not be reinstated immediately after ploughing. There are numerous stiles between fields. A fee is payable to visit Beeston Castle (£7.50 per adult as of 2019) and there is a fairly short but steep climb to the castle keep. Allow 3 hours plus sightseeing time.

1. From the front door of the pub, turn left and left again into Bunbury Lane.
2. Follow the road for 400 yards. Just after Oak Gardens on the left and Queen Street on the right, when the main village road bends right, turn left along a footpath next to a house called The Croft.
3. Go through a gate into a field and follow the left-hand hedge (ignoring a kissing gate on your left at a path junction) to pass a corrugated-iron barn and reach a stile into a small wood with a stream.
4. Beyond the footbridge, bear left to a stile into a further field. Bear slightly right, crossing the field to a stile and footbridge opposite.
5. Bear half-right to pass a young plantation to a gate with a stile into the main road.
6. Cross carefully and negotiate the stile opposite, bearing left in the field beyond to another stile in the far left-hand corner.
7. Follow the right-hand edge of the next field to a double stile in the corner.
8. Cross the next field, skirting to the left of a marshy hollow in the centre of the field, then bear right as you near the lane on the opposite side. Near the far corner, a stile gives access into the lane.
9. Turn right past Haycroft farmhouse and follow the waymarked footpath through a gate and left of a brick barn.
10. At the end of the farmyard, follow the waymarked track that continues ahead of you as the metalled farm access swings right. This track bends left then right to follow a fence with occasional trees, and views to your left of Peckforton and Beeston Castles.

11. Continue along the edge of the next field to reach a footbridge into a track, which leads to a gravelled carriage drive in front of a house.
12. Beyond the house, bear left along a slightly sunken track to a crossroads of tracks. Go straight ahead, passing below two further houses, the second thatched.
13. The track runs above a couple of ponds (the remnants of Beeston Moss) to a stile by a gate and into a lane.
14. Turn left along the lane for 350 yards, with Beeston Castle ahead of you.
15. On a slight bend, turn right over a stile and take a few steps along the field edge to a second stile. Turn left here, and walk across the field, approximately parallel to the road; if the line of the path is not obvious, aim for a point midway between the road on the left and the brick-built farm on the opposite site of the field, where you will find a stile.
16. Cross the paddock beyond to a stile into the road by the black-and-white Brook Farm Cottage. Turn right along the road.
17. Turn left at the next road junction by Beeston Old Farm (signposted Beeston Castle) and then right at a pretty black-and-white cottage.
18. Take the next right and follow this vergeless road for quarter of a mile past a number of cottages until you reach the entrance to Beeston Castle.
19. Whether or not you visit the Castle itself, continue beyond the gatehouse and past the car park along the road to a junction by the mock-Tudor farmhouse of Castlegate Farm.
20. Turn right here (signposted "Single track toad with passing places") and follow the narrow, hedged lane for a little under half a mile to a junction.
21. Turn right (signposted to Peckforton Castle) and follow the larger road for a further 150 yards.
22. At a right-hand bend by a house, two footpaths head off to the left. Take the first, which runs alongside a ditch (actually the River Gowy) beside a hedge.
23. At the end of the field, cross a stile and leave the ditch, bearing left to the left-hand side of the next field. Follow the field edge to a stile and continue towards the farm ahead.
24. Partway along the approach to the farm, the path crosses a waymarked stile in the hedge on your left and continues in the same direction, with the field boundary now on your right, before shortly reverting to the original side. Close to the farm it again crosses the field boundary at a metal hand-gate, and again runs to the left of the hedge and fence to a similar gate onto the main road.

25. Cross carefully and turn right. Cross the side road signposted to Alpraham and continue along the main road past Yew Tree House. Take a path over a stile on the left (opposite the entrance to Beeston Gate Farm) and turn half-left to a stile in the far left-hand corner, close to the cottage.
26. Follow the left-hand field edge to a kissing gate.
27. The line of the path may be indistinct in the next field. The definitive line starts out parallel to the stream on your left and passes just to the right of the first tree before, approximately in line with a line of isolated trees, swinging half-right to a stile in the far right-hand corner, at the highest point of the field; but if a different line is obvious on the ground you are best advised to follow it.
28. However you get there, cross the stile in the far corner and turn left to a kissing gate on your left. Go through the gate and follow the path through trees.
29. Leave the wood at a kissing gate and shortly afterwards cross a footbridge.
30. Turn right, with the Gowy now on your right, and walk in the direction of the church, meeting a vague track that leads across the field to a wooden kissing gate by the bridge and into Vicarage Lane.
31. Turn left and walk up to the church.
32. Turn right at the memorial gate and walk down Wyche Road, below the churchyard wall, passing the half-timbered Church Bank Cottage on your right.
33. At the bottom, cross the stream to reach the Chantry House on your left.
34. Opposite the Chantry House, turn right up a driveway with cottages on three sides (one of them called Sunny Bank), then follow a footpath left between garden walls and fences to a gate into a field.
35. Cross the field to another gate on the other side, with views behind you over the village back to the church tower.
36. Cross the road into the playing field and follow the path past the bowling club, turning right at the rear of the Methodist Chapel to reach Bunbury Lane (dogs are not permitted in this area: if you have a dog, turn right along the road, then left at Bunbury Lane).
37. Turn left and walk along Bunbury Lane (crossing as necessary when the pavement swaps sides) to return to the Yew Tree.