

# Footpath Forays

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 about 1hr 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 one 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:**

Rocky Lane (Footpath 3/18). If you go up High Street from 'The Square' turn left just past the old school (No. 14), it is in front of you before you go up Hill Path.

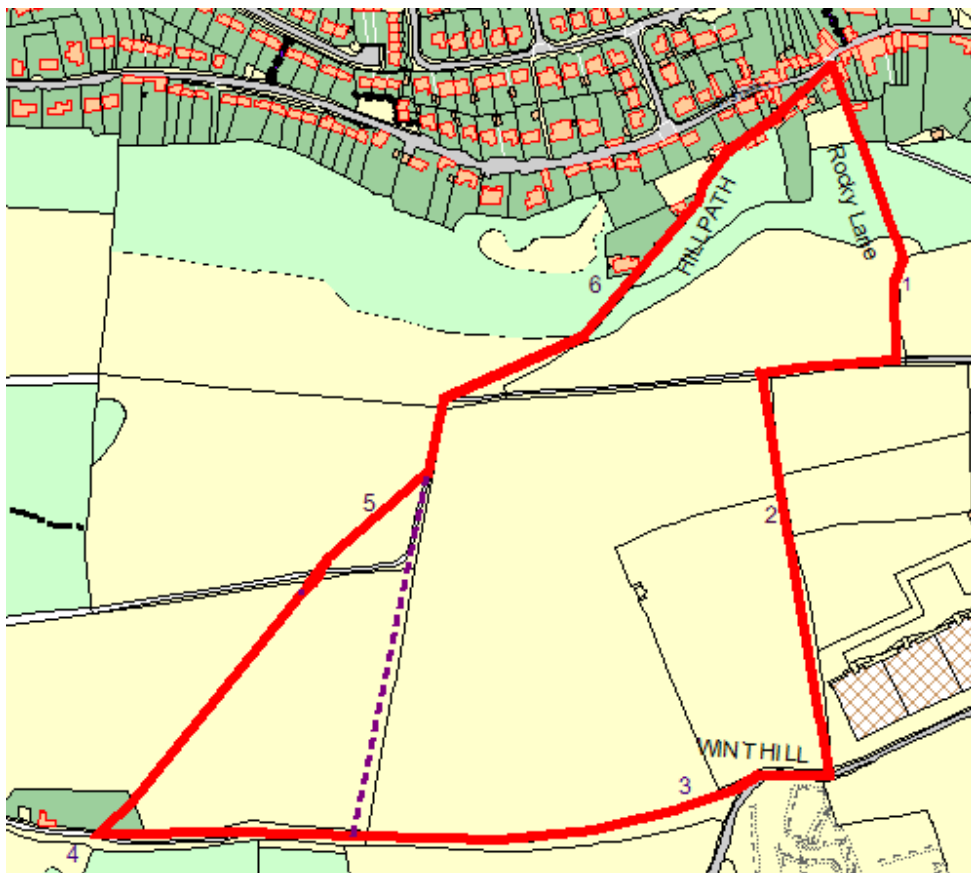
We have chosen to start here as it is easier to go up Rocky Lane, rather than to attempt to come down it!

## **SETTING OFF:**

Walk up the steps, but by Pear Tree House be careful as the steps give way to loose earth and rocks before becoming steps again.

On reaching the stone stile which you can go around follow the line of the wooden fence on your left. At the end of the fence continue up the hillside.





### 1. BANWELL QUARRY

The path winds up the hillside. When you arrive at the clearing head towards the barbed wire fence and walk along it to the top of the hill. Don't try to follow the line of the footpath at this point as you will encounter a barrier of thistles and a dung heap.

The fence is the perimeter of the Old Quarry Site which was filled in during the 70s. It is owned by the Parish Council and there is a pleasant seat that you can sit on and enjoy the view of the Bristol channel. On a good day you can see Cardiff, Newport and the Brecon Beacons.

At the top of the hill turn right and walk along the brow of the hill for about 100 yards. On your left you should see a footpath sign and stile.

### 2. HOCKEY FIELD

This is footpath 3/18. Go over the stile and follow the stone wall along the side of the field. If you look over the wall you can see where Banwell used to play football. Now it is used for horses.

All along here is blackberry heaven, when walking with the children this section always takes a lot longer.

At the bottom of the hill is a stone stile be careful, the other side is Winthill. On the road turn right and head for the metal gate.

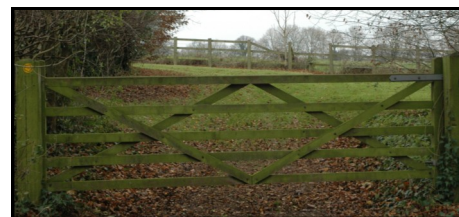


### 3. WAVERING DOWN & CROOK PEAK

Go through the Gate and this is footpath 3/46. The top of this field was the old Hockey Pitch. A successful team played here from before World War II. As you enter the field, immediately on your left, is a water sump which was used to water cattle. Follow the track and if you look to your left through the gaps in the trees you can see the Hamlet of Barton nestling under Wavering Down and Crook Peak.

### 4. WARREN COTTAGE

Continue along the track through the next iron gate (at this point you can detour, see purple broken line, go over the stile immediately on your right, this I recommend if you have a dog and don't want to lift them over a stile. Go over this stile and head along the track and this takes you to 5. BEARD'S STONE). Alternatively continue along the track towards Warren Cottage. Before you reach Warren Cottage there is a wooden five bar gate on your right, go through this,



into the back garden, straight through and over the stile and across the field to the hedge.

### 5. BEARD'S STONE

Continue over the stile and follow the edge of the field. You will pass Beard's stone on your left after about 50 yards. A skeleton was found around the area of the Bishop's Cottage up at Banwell Caves. The skeleton was reburied here in 1842 by William Beard. The inscription reads;



*Beard with his kindness brought me to  
this spot*

*As one unknown and long forgot  
He made my grave and buried me here  
When there was no kind friend to shed a  
tear.*

*My bones are here my spirit is fled  
And for years unknown numbered with the  
dead*

*Reader as I am so shall you be  
Prepare for death and follow me.*

### 6. HILL PATH

At the end of the field there is a rather rickety stile but I have never seen the gate closed. At this point don't follow the track to the right, go straight ahead and down the hill towards Hill Path.

As you reach the trees be careful going down as there are exposed tree roots and loose stones. Follow the path down and it turns into a road. Continue down the road and you end up back at High Street and Rocky Lane where you began.