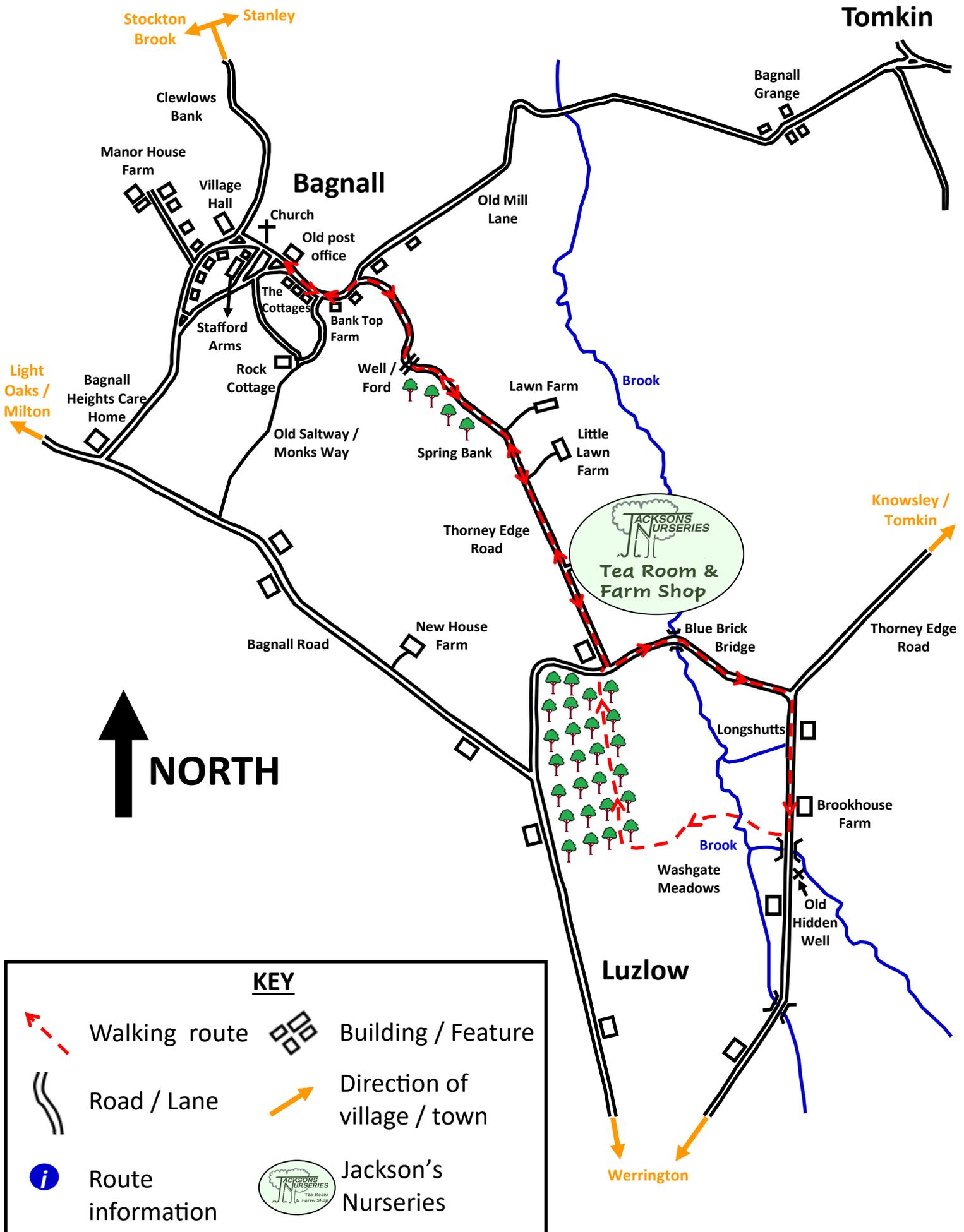


## Walks around Bagnall - Walk 4

- **Distance:** 3 miles
- **Key Waypoints:** Village Green - Bagnall Springs - Thorney Edge Road - Jackson's Nurseries - Blue Brick Bridge - Washgate Meadows - Woodland (previously Matthew's Nurseries) - Village Green



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- **Summary:** 3 mile circular walk from Bagnall Village Green, exiting the village via Springs Bank, past the site of an old quarry and proceeding down to the well at Bagnall Springs. Continuing to follow the road, the route passes Spring Bank wood on the right before continuing along Thorney Edge Road past Jackson's Nurseries, Tea Room and Farm Shop. The route then continues over Blue Brick Bridge, past an old hidden well and through Washgate Meadows. It continues through a wooded area which used to be the site of Matthew's Nurseries before retracing steps past Bagnall Springs & up Spring Bank to return to the village.

### Route Guidance

**1** The starting point for this walk is the Village Green with Buttercross in the centre. Buttercross originally comes from the word "Bartercross", referring to the place where livestock used to be sold. This particular cross was erected by the monks of the nearby Hulton Abbey. The cross which stands in the church yard over the road is probably the original, since trading often took place in church grounds.



**2** From the village green, walk down the hill in the opposite direction to the Stafford Arms, passing a horse trough (now used as a planter) on your left and "The Cottages" on your right. The first finger post walking route sign on your right leads down the old Saltway / Monk's Way (a good route for another day that goes all the way to Abbey Hulton) but for this walk, continue down the road. The large building on your right shortly, immediately adjacent to the road, is Bank Top Farm with Bank House below.

**Bank Top Farm** was formerly a long house where animals were kept in the lower quarters and people in the upper. This was a good form of central heating in those days, since the heat rising above from the animals would keep the upper occupants warm! It was occupied from 1794 - 1810 by William Adams who had a Flint Mill by Stanley Pool. He was the Church Warden and loved to play the flute. His friend, Josiah Spode, the famous potter, shared his interest in music, and often visited him at Bagnall. He liked to play the violin. (*Information from "On the Fringe of the Moorlands" edited by Robert Speake*)



## Walks around Bagnall - Walk 4

### Route Guidance

**Bank House** It is said that it was here that Adams the potter started his business and that there may be a kiln somewhere about. Clay pipes and some pieces of salt glaze found in the garden date back to 1760 according to Arnold Mountford of the City Museum. *(Information from "On the Fringe of the Moorlands" edited by Robert Speake)*

**3** Continue down the road, passing a grassed area on the left which was once an old quarry. Keep to the right when the road forks to pass St Chads Lodge, formerly known as Bagnall Cottage, dating from 1831, and continue on down the road.



**4** You will shortly reach Bagnall Springs with a ford running over the road and old well on the right. Take a moment to enjoy this beautiful spot with Spring Bank wood up ahead to the right. The route continues over a footpath over the ford on the left side of the road and up the bank on the other side to join Thorney Edge Road.

Take a moment to enjoy the beautiful old well, dating back to 1816, and views from the bridge down the brook from Bagnall Springs.



**5** Continue up Thorney Edge Road, passing Big Lawn Farm on your left and Thorney Edge House. The next farm on your left is Little Lawn Farm. Continue on up the road to Jackson's Nurseries, Tea Room and Farm Shop. Be tempted by the opportunity to grab a drink in Jackson's Tea Room (take out option available) and a bite to eat with delicious cakes baked fresh each day, plus a great selection of farm shop goodies.



## Walks around Bagnall - Walk 4

### Route Guidance

- 6** Look out for reindeers in the field to your left after passing Jackson's Nurseries and spot the squirrels in the trees. Continue on to the end of Thorney Edge Road, passing a farm on your right.



- 7** On reaching the junction, turn left to walk down the bank to the old blue brick bridge. Note the old carvings on top of the walls.

- 8** Continue up the road to the next junction. Here turn right, sign posted Werrington.



- 9** Continue straight ahead. On reaching a dip in the road between 2 stone wall, look to the left to a hidden well from 1879. Now retrace your steps back for 30 metres to a way marked stile on your left.

- 10** Pass over the stile and continue on down the field, in the direction of woodland in the distance.



## Walks around Bagnall - Walk 4

### Route Guidance

- 11** Continue down the field to a stone wall stile next to a metal gate. Pass over to meet the brook, getting closer to the woodland where Matthew's Nurseries used to be in the distance. Keep a look out for buzzards, which often circle above in this area.



- 12** Take a moment to appreciate the beautiful scenery before crossing a bridge over the brook. After crossing the foot bridge, bear left to walk up the embankment with a derelict wall on your right.



- 13** This area is called Washgate Meadows. The two large buttress pillars were used to support the house which once stood here. Bear right to seek a stile in the corner of the wood and pass over the stile.



- 14** Pass to the right of a derelict wall to enter a wooded area (previously Matthew's Nurseries). Bear right to follow a wide trail between trees on the edge of the wood. Continue straight to re-join Thorney Edge Road.



## Walks around Bagnall - Walk 4

### Route Guidance

- 15** Retrace your earlier steps at this point, proceeding down Thorney Edge Road to pass Jackson's Nurseries, Tea Room & Farm Shop on the right. This provides a second opportunity to stop for refreshments (take out option available) and for garden lovers to spend a while in the nurseries and purchase some plants. There is also a children's' play area and reindeer.



- 16** Continue down the road with nursery on your right, following down the hill as the road bears to the left. You will go back past Bagnall Springs with the well on your left and up Springs Bank for a final steep climb.



- 17** Look out for some lovely rockery plants cascading over stone walls that line some sections of Spring Bank in the spring and summer time. As you near the top of the hill, pass The Cottages again on your left. You are nearing the village green again as the traditional red telephone box comes into view on the right.

