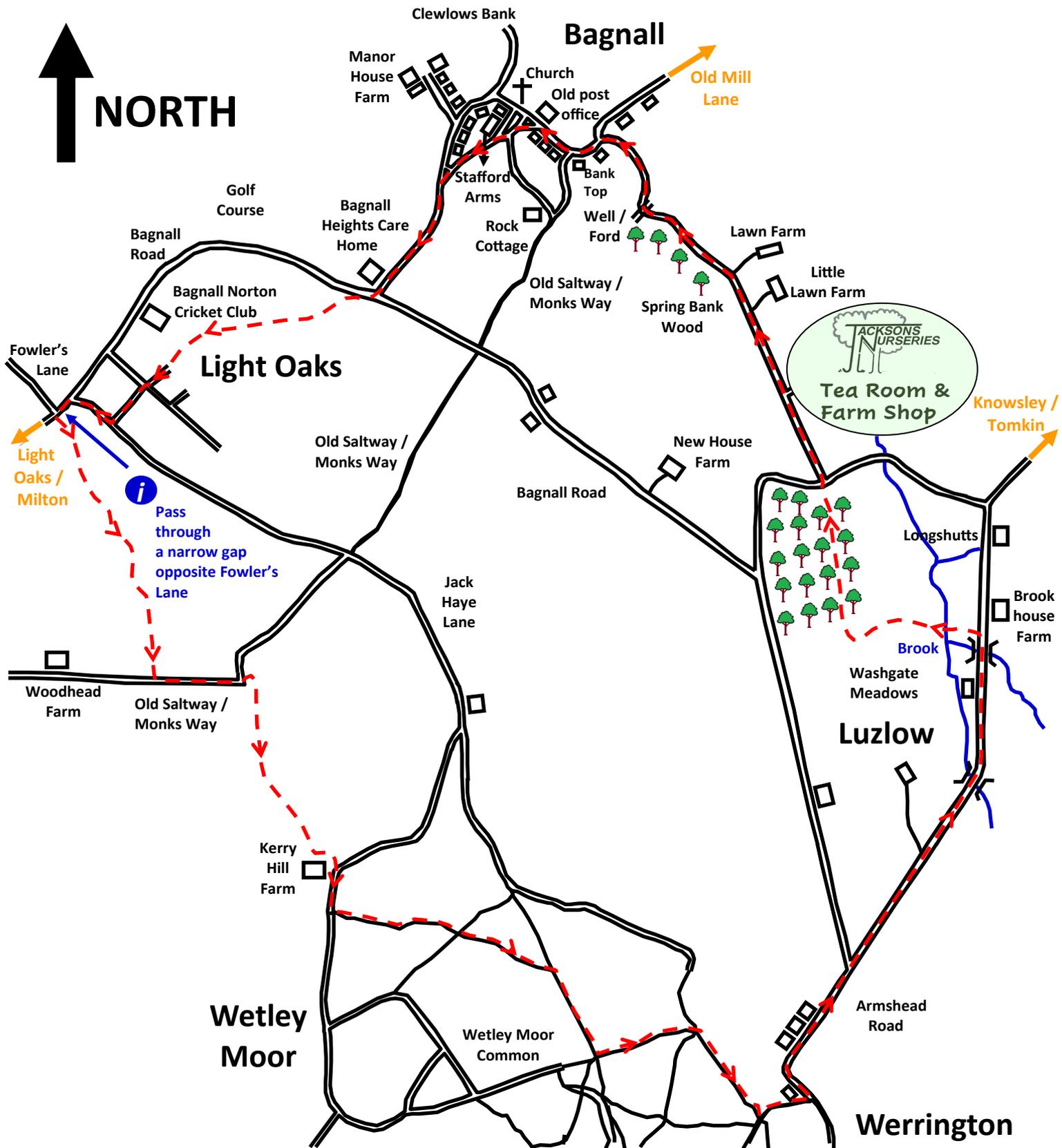


Walks around Bagnall - Walk 5

- **Distance:** 5 miles
- **Key Waypoints:** Village Green - Bagnall Heights - Light Oaks - Wetley Moor Common - Armshead Road - Washgate Meadows - Jackson's Nurseries - Bagnall Springs - Village Green



KEY

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Walking route | Building / Feature | Route information |
| Road / Lane | Direction of village / town | Jackson's Nurseries |

Walks around Bagnall - Walk 5

- **Distance:** 5 miles
- **Key Waypoints:** Village Green - Bagnall Heights - Light Oaks - Wetley Moor Common - Armshead Road - Washgate Meadows - Jackson's Nurseries - Bagnall Springs - Village Green
- **Summary:** 5 mile circular walk from Bagnall Village Green, existing the village past Bagnall Heights care home, proceeding along the footpath through Light Oaks and turning off through a narrow gap opposite Fowler's Lane. The route then takes in a couple of miles of country fields, passing the Old Saltway / Monk's Way, proceeding up past Kerry Hill Farm and through the beautiful Wetley Common. You will then pass through Washgate Meadows, before an opportunity to stop at Jackson's Nurseries, Tea Room and Farm Shop then follow the road next to Spring Bank Wood & pass Bagnall Springs before returning 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 **St Chad's Church, Bagnall** The Village Green is opposite St Chad's Church, built in the 19th Century of stone and restored in 1879. The nave and the tower were erected in 1834 to replace the previous wooden one. The chancel was added in 1880. Inside the tower over the door are written the Ten Commandments. On the opposite wall are the Lord's Prayer and Creed. The Church boasts just one bell dating back to the 16th Century. The East window is of French glass from Amens, placed in the Church in 1883 by Rev Owen who is buried in the Church yard. The Ministry was served by the Curate from Newcastle under Lyme in 1751. It has been run by a team ministry since 1980.

- 3 From the village green, walk back to St Chad's Church. Enter the church yard through the lynch gate and on approaching the church note the old Buttercross on your left. Now retrace your footsteps back to the road. Cross over and continue ahead, passing the Stafford Arms on your right. The car park on your left used to be the old bowling green. What a magnificent sight this village green must have been in its day!



Walks around Bagnall - Walk 5

Route Guidance

4 Continue ahead up to the tee junction and the memorial cross. Here turn left to walk up to the next junction. Here on the right is Bagnall Heights care home, previously the site of Bagnall Hospital.



5 Cross over the road to a stile next to a driveway and adjacent to a stone wall. Walk to the right of the field, passing a house of your left as the field narrows. This house is a converted barn, which was originally used to store bark used in the leather tanning industry.

6 Cross a stile as you pass the house and continue along, keeping the wall/fence on your right. Pass through a metal gate in the corner of the field and along a narrow path. You will shortly pass through another metal gate, into the corner of Bagnall cricket pitch.



7 Continue ahead through the cricket pitch with the hedge on your left to a track which will soon cross Light Oaks Avenue.

Walks around Bagnall - Walk 5

Route Guidance

- 8** Continue straight across Light Oaks Avenue, following the direction of the green metal footpath sign down a narrow tarmacked path. Continue ahead when this meets the road (this is Yew Tree Close) and turn right at the junction onto Jack Haye Lane.



- 9** Turn left at the junction at the end of Jack Haye Lane, heading down Bagnall Road for just 30 metres or so, looking for a narrow gap in the stone on the left opposite Fowler's Lane. Take the steps up through this narrow gap and along a path, passing a house of your left.



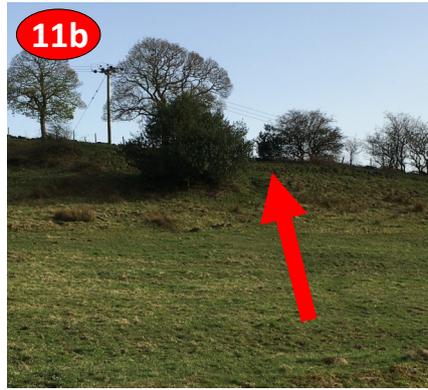
- 10** In about 100 metres you will pass through a stone squeezer stile. Continue ahead, keeping the hedge on your left, to reach another stile. Continue straight ahead down the field, passing over a brook.



Walks around Bagnall - Walk 5

Route Guidance

- 11** After crossing the brook, continue on straight up the field on the other side. You are aiming for a large holly bush straight ahead next to an electricity pylon. After a slightly steeper section, cross a stile into next field.



- 12** Continue straight ahead, across the field to another wooden stile opposite. Pass over the stile and turn left up the farmers track. This is the Old Saltway / Monks Way. The house to your right as you cross the stile is Woodhead Farm. Continue ahead to pass over a stile by a hedge just before the track bends to the left.



- 13** Bear to the right after a short stretch of wooden fencing to cross another wooden stile into the adjacent field. Continue straight down the field, aiming for a concrete section of farmers track next to a metal gate at the bottom. Continue straight ahead again, up the field on the other side in the direction of a large electricity pylon up ahead.



- 14** Pass between the buildings of Kerry Hill farm yard back onto the road. Turn right and walk along the road for around 80 metres, looking for a wooden finger footpath sign on the left at the entrance to Wetley Moor Common.



Walks around Bagnall - Walk 5

Route Guidance

- 15** Turn left into Wetley Moor Common, following the finger post walking sign and past a reference map of the area. Wetley Moor is a 118 hectare open public access area of common land and lowland heath land in Werrington. Seventy hectares of the site is a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of the lowland heath land. There is a long history of mining and quarrying dating from 1698 up to more recent bell pits dug during the 1920's. Wetley Common Moor is jointly owned & managed by Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffs Moorlands District Council.



- 16** There are a web of many paths throughout Wetley Common and it is important to pick the correct ones to end up at the right place for this route. You are aiming to come out at Armshead Road after about 1km of walking through the Common. Refer to the bottom section of the map (map is to scale) on pg. 1 for guidance. All of the well established paths through the Common are detailed on the map.

Follow the path (pictures 16a and 16b) then, at the first point where paths cross (16c), go straight ahead.



- 17** Turn right when you hit a wider track (picture 17a), continuing straight along this track for around 150 metres (17b) then, when the path opens out to 3 options (left, right, straight on), take the left turn with a wooden bridge around 150 metres ahead.



- 18** Pass across the bridge as a large electricity pylon starts to come into view in the distance ahead.

Walks around Bagnall - Walk 5

Route Guidance

- 19** Follow the path as it curves around to the right, past the large electricity pylon (picture 19a). Continue on following the gently winding path, past a wooden bench on your left (19b). When you meet the rough vehicle track next to a small electricity pylon, turn left and follow the track to the main road (19c).



- 20** Turn left when you meet Armshead Road, before following the bend of the road around to the right. Continue straight ahead when the road splits, down a gentle bank, passing a house on your left.



- 21** Continue on down the road, past Grove Farm on your left, then bending to the left and down another bank.



- 22** After the dip in the road, between 2 stone walls, look to the right to a hidden well from 1879. Continue along the road in the same direction 30 metres beyond the well to a stile marked with a finger post on your left.



Walks around Bagnall - Walk 5

Route Guidance

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



- 24** 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.



- 25** 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.



- 26** 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 it.



Walks around Bagnall - Walk 5

Route Guidance

- 27** 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.



- 28** 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 options 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.



- 29** 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.



- 30** 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 as the traditional red telephone box comes into view on the right side of the road up ahead.

