



Shropshire Union Canal



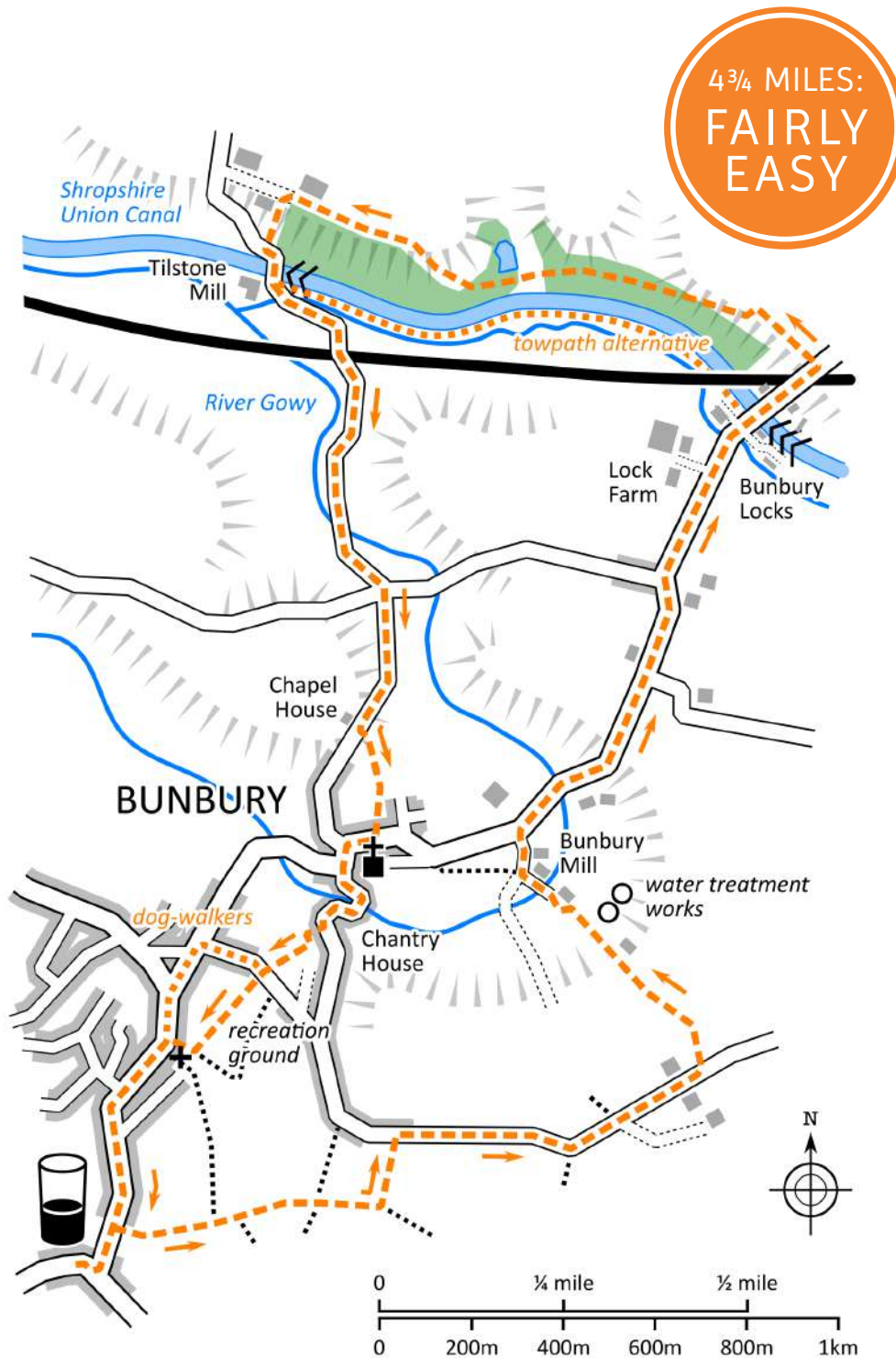
Bunbury - Chantry House



Bunbury Locks



Bunbury Mill



4³/₄ MILES:
FAIRLY
EASY

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EASY
4³/₄
MILES



THE YEW TREE INN
**COUNTRYSIDE
WALKING
GUIDE**

Bunbury Mill & the
Shropshire Union Canal



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The Yew Tree, Long Lane, Bunbury, Cheshire, CW6 9RD



BUNBURY MILL & THE SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL

(4¾ MILES: FAIRLY EASY)

A pleasant walk through Cheshire farmland, much of it on country lanes, passing two watermills (one open to the public), with canal architecture to admire and a chance to explore the pretty and historic village of Bunbury.

Several stiles and one short but steep descent with a flight of uneven steps; this can be avoided by following the canal towpath from step 14 as described below. Although a considerable part of the route is along roads, they are mostly quiet lanes and the hard surfaces may prove a blessing after wet weather (though some of the field paths could be muddy in places).

1. From the front door of the pub, turn left and left again into Bunbury Lane.
2. Pass the 30mph signs then turn right just before a stone cottage into a signposted path between hedges.
3. After 250 yards, ignore a path on the left, and then shortly afterwards another on the right.
4. Go through a metal hand-gate and continue through newly planted trees. At another metal gate, ignore the stile on the right and continue through the gate ahead into a field.
5. Follow the left-hand field edge. In the far corner, don't climb the stile ahead of you but instead turn left along a track to emerge on Wyche Lane.

6. Turn right past the houses and follow the narrow lane beyond the delimit signs for 400 yards. Stay on the road at a left-hand bend, ignoring a footpath on the right.
7. Pass a track on the right and follow the road between two houses; immediately afterwards, turn left over a stile into a field.
8. Follow the left-hand field edge then bear half-left to a gappy hedge on the left. The line of the path is marked by a stile by a lone tree.
9. Pass through the hedge then aim across the field towards the water treatment works.
10. Walk down the slope with the perimeter fence on your right, to a stile and boardwalk. Pass to the left of the tearoom then cross the river below the millpond to reach Bunbury Mill.
11. Beyond the car park, follow the entrance drive up to the road.
12. Turn right and follow the road down to the bridge over the River Gowy. Continue past two handsome half-timbered houses, and ignore a driveway with a footpath sign to the right.
13. At the junction with Birds Lane, continue along the larger road, and again go straight on at the junction with the road to Bunbury Common.
14. Beyond Lock Farm the road descends to the canal at Bunbury Locks. (For a level alternative, take the towpath: turn right to the locks, then turn left under the road bridge and follow the canal to Tilstone Lock, rejoining the described route at step 19.)
15. Otherwise, continue up the hill to cross the railway, then turn left over a stile onto a field path running along the field edge above the railway cutting.
16. The path climbs a little and runs pleasantly along the top of the bank before dropping down steps to a stile. Turn left towards the canal and then bear right to descend gently below a wooded bank.

17. At the bottom of the hill, turn left through a kissing gate and below a large pond. Beyond, the path climbs a little to a kissing gate and resumes its way along the top of the valley side with the steep wooded embankment dropping down to the canal on your left.
18. Eventually a metal kissing gate leads past a cottage to a metalled driveway. Immediately, before a barn, turn left down a set of uneven steps and walk steeply down to the canal.
19. Cross the canal bridge above the lock and the River Gowy, then follow the narrow lane beyond Tilstone Mill.
20. Cross the railway and pass a couple of houses, continuing along the lane with an arm of the River Gowy accompanying the road to your right. Eventually you cross the stream and climb to a crossroads.
21. Go straight on (signposted to Bunbury) and follow the lane for a further 300 yards.
22. Opposite a former chapel, turn left onto a footpath. Cross half-right to a stile in the far right-hand corner and walk out through the cemetery to the church. Turn right.
23. Beyond the church, turn left and walk down Wyche Road below the churchyard wall, passing the half-timbered Church Bank Cottage on your right.
24. At the bottom, cross the stream to reach the Chantry House on your left.
25. 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.
26. Cross the field to another gate on the other side, with views behind you back over the village to the church tower.
27. 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 – see map).
28. Turn left and walk along Bunbury Lane (crossing as necessary when the pavement swaps sides) to return to the Yew Tree.