

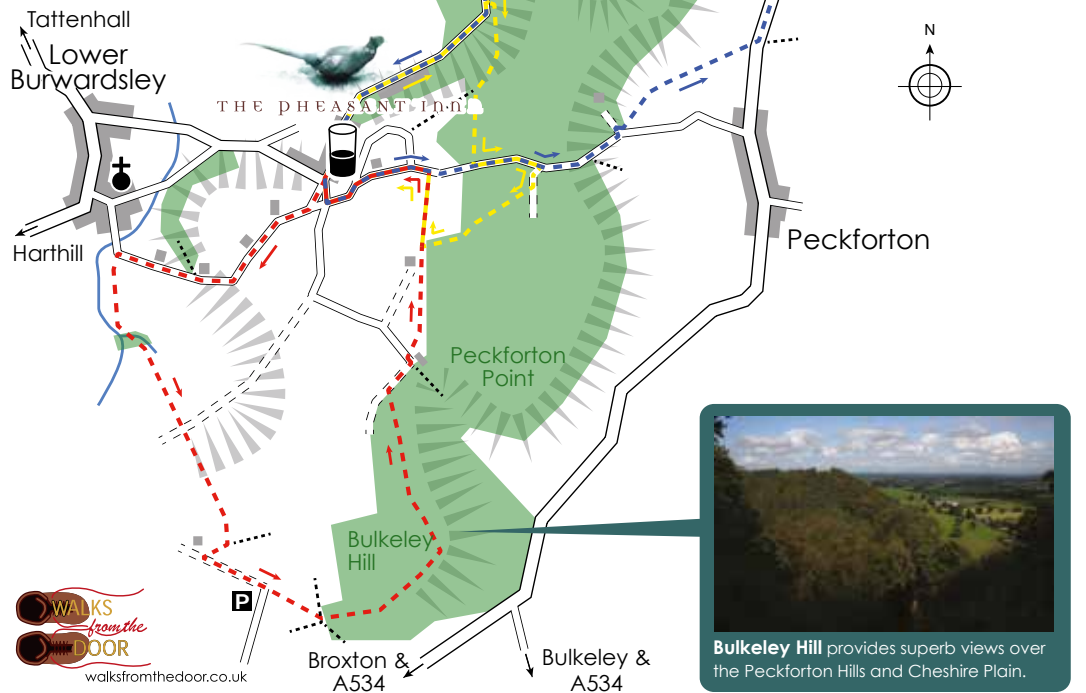


Beeston Castle was built in the 1220s by Ranulf, Earl of Chester, on a rocky sandstone crag 250m above the surrounding Cheshire Plain. Its well, over 100m deep, is one of the deepest in any English castle and is said to contain treasure hidden by Richard II.



Peckforton Mere is passed on a footpath from the gatehouse to Peckforton Castle.

Peckforton Castle is a mansion built in the style of a medieval castle by John Tollemache, a local landowner and MP, between 1844 and 1850. It is now used as a hotel and wedding venue.



Bulkeley Hill provides superb views over the Peckforton Hills and Cheshire Plain.



Three walks from



THE PHEASANT INN



- 1 Waste Hill
- 2 Bulkeley Hill
- 3 Beeston Castle

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1

WASTE HILL

A short but satisfying walk featuring good views, quiet lanes and tracks, and sunlight-dappled woodland.

2 miles. No major difficulties, but one steep climb and some sections may be muddy after rain. Allow 1–1½ hours.

1. From the entrance to the Pheasant Inn, with the pub behind you, turn right and walk down the no-through road (Barracks Lane). **2.** After a series of white-painted cottages on the right, go through a gate beyond which the lane becomes a track. **3.** At the top of a rise, where the track emerges from a hollow way, take the path on the right (with a Sandstone Trail signpost to Bulkeley Hill). **4.** Follow the path, stepped at times, uphill through woodland to a bench and kissing gate at the brow of the hill. **5.** Go through the kissing gate ahead of you (leaving the Sandstone Trail) into cleared and replanted woodland. **6.** Follow the path until you emerge onto a track (Hill Lane). Turn left. **7.** When the track widens, take a track on the right. Shortly afterwards, just before a gate, turn right onto a signposted footpath. **8.** Follow the path through bracken woodland, skirting to the left of open pasture when you reach it, until you drop over a stone wall into a crossing path. **9.** Turn right through a wooden kissing gate and into a field. **10.** Continue along the right-hand edge of the field until you reach Hill Lane again. Turn left (signposted Pheasant Inn and Beeston). **11.** Walk downhill, ignoring two turnings to the right. **12.** At the crossroads at the end of Rock Lane, turn right to return to the Pheasant Inn.



Bulkeley Hill

8. Keep on uphill, parallel to the fence on your left, to pass through a kissing gate before crossing a farm track and negotiating a stile in the hedge beyond. **9.** Follow the field edge, still uphill,

ahead of you. Beyond a further kissing gate and stile you reach the top of the hill at a crossing path. Turn right towards the buildings. **10.** Pass through a belt of trees and cross a stile into a farm lane at the entrance to The Bungalow. Turn left.

11. After a short while you reach the end of Coppermines Lane. Go straight on, across the field ahead of you on the Sandstone Trail. **12.** On entering the woodland, follow the Sandstone Trail uphill through the trees to reach a covered reservoir, which you pass on your left. Beyond that views open up through the trees on your right over the Cheshire Plain. **13.** Keep to the path along the edge, passing an interpretative panel near the summit shortly before a viewpoint to the wooded slopes of Peckforton Point. **14.** Keep on in similar fashion; the path starts to head downhill and then veers left down to a farm track, where you turn right. **15.** At a sandstone house divided in two by a large archway, turn left then immediately right up some steps and through a kissing gate into fields. **16.** Follow the field edge, passing through a series of kissing gates and then along a section enclosed between gardens on the left and the forest wall on your right. **17.** When you emerge again into an open field, continue in the same direction until you reach Hill Lane. **18.** Turn left (signposted Pheasant Inn and Beeston) and walk downhill, ignoring two turnings to the right. **19.** At the crossroads at the end of Rock Lane, turn right to return to the Pheasant Inn.

2

BULKELEY HILL

Enjoyable farmland and woodland walking with superb views over the Peckforton Hills and the surrounding Cheshire Plain.

3¼ miles. One long climb and occasional muddy sections. Allow 2–2½ hours.

1. From the entrance of the Pheasant Inn, with the pub at your back, turn left and walk to the road junction. **2.** Cross straight over into Barracks Lane. At the next junction, keep right, past the car park and then the Craft Centre on your right. **3.** Pass the "Unsuitable for motor vehicles" sign and a cottage on the right and follow the narrow lane downhill. **4.** Keep on the road along the bottom of a valley, ignoring a footpath on the left. **5.** Pass another house on the right, ignoring the path to Willow Hill, and then a further cottage on the right. **6.** When the road bends right, turn left at a footpath sign over a stile into a field. Cross the field parallel to a stream on your right, passing close to a telegraph pole, before crossing a footbridge into woodland. **7.** Walk through the wood to a kissing gate into a further field and head straight on, uphill, to a stile in a crossing fence.

3

BEESTON CASTLE

A fine scenic walk with views of two castles, one an authentic medieval fortification, the other a Victorian country house now used for weddings and conferences. Much of the walk is wooded. The walk can be extended to include the climb up to Beeston Castle (English Heritage: admission charge).

4¾ miles. No major difficulties but may be muddy in parts. Allow 2½–3 hours.

1. From the entrance of the Pheasant Inn, with the pub at your back, turn left, and then left again at the crossroads (into Fowlers Bench Lane). **2.** At the next crossroads, turn left into Rock Lane. **3.** At a fork, keep right (Hill Lane), shortly afterwards passing Rock House Farm on your left. **4.** Keep straight ahead at the next junction (indicated by a Sandstone Trail sign to Bulkeley Hill). **5.** When the road becomes a track, keep straight on. The track descends under a stone archway and becomes



Peckforton Gatehouse



Beeston Castle in the distance

cobbled. **6.** Beyond a barrier, at a junction of tracks turn left for a few steps to find a concealed footpath that doubles back on itself to the right before entering a field via a stile (if you miss this and reach the road, simply turn left and go straight to step 8). **7.** Walk down the field to a second stile through a hedge, and cross a second field beyond to meet the road. Turn left. **8.** Just before the gatehouse to Peckforton Castle on your left, turn right to leave the road along a footpath on the opposite side. **9.** Follow this path along the field edge with views over Peckforton Mere to the right and to Peckforton Castle to the left. The dotted line on the Ordnance Survey map may suggest that the path goes across the middle of the field, but in practice it skirts along its right-hand edge. **10.** Ignore a path that leaves via a kissing gate on the right then follow the field edge along the near side of the woodland beyond, before turning right into the wood at a stile. **11.** At the far end of the wood turn right over a stile, then immediately left, passing a pond on your left. Beyond this, head to the right of the farm buildings ahead of you. **12.** You emerge into a farm drive and then into the road on the edge of Beeston village. Turn left. **13.** Turn left at the next road junction by Beeston Old Farm (signposted Beeston Castle) and then right at a pretty black-and-white cottage. **14.** Take the next right and follow this vergeless road for quarter of a mile past a number of cottages until you reach the entrance of Beeston Castle. **15.** Whether or not you visit the Castle itself, continue by following the Sandstone Trail behind the English Heritage café and through woodland to emerge in a road by a house. **16.** Turn left then immediately right through a kissing gate and cross the field beyond, with Peckforton Castle on the hilltop ahead of you. **17.** The path drops down to cross a stream via a footbridge then climbs some steps and continues in the same direction along a field edge on the other side. **18.** Look out for a kissing gate on the right that leads to a diagonal path across a further field. **19.** When you reach a lane at the foot of the wooded slope of the Peckforton Hills, turn right along the lane, once again following the Sandstone Trail. **20.** After passing a number of houses on your right, leave the road through a metal gate to enter the wood on your left, again indicated by a Sandstone Trail sign. **21.** Follow the Trail as it climbs gradually, mostly enclosed by woodland, but sometimes with open areas and views to the right. A path crosses at right angles above a house. **22.** Beyond this path the track continues in similar vein until the Sandstone Trail departs up the slope to the left; keep to the track, which descends between high banks to a gate. **23.** Beyond the gate follow the metalled lane beyond, with a series of cottages on the left and some final views to the right, until you reach the Pheasant Inn.

