



## CIRCULAR WALK 5

ST JOHN'S CHURCH: Takes approx 1 hr 45 mins

Parking/Start - St John's Church, Barrow Lane

Terrain - Quiet lane, uphill and downhill forest tracks, fields. Dog accessible stiles (one difficult). Can be wet through forest track and fields.

### COUNTRYSIDE CODE

#### Respect other people:

Consider the local community, farming practices & other people enjoying the outdoors

Leave gates and property as you find them and keep to the paths

Give farm animals/horses plenty of space

#### Protect the natural environment:

Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home

Keep dogs under effective control and wormed regularly. Clear up after them

#### Enjoy the outdoors:

Plan ahead and be prepared

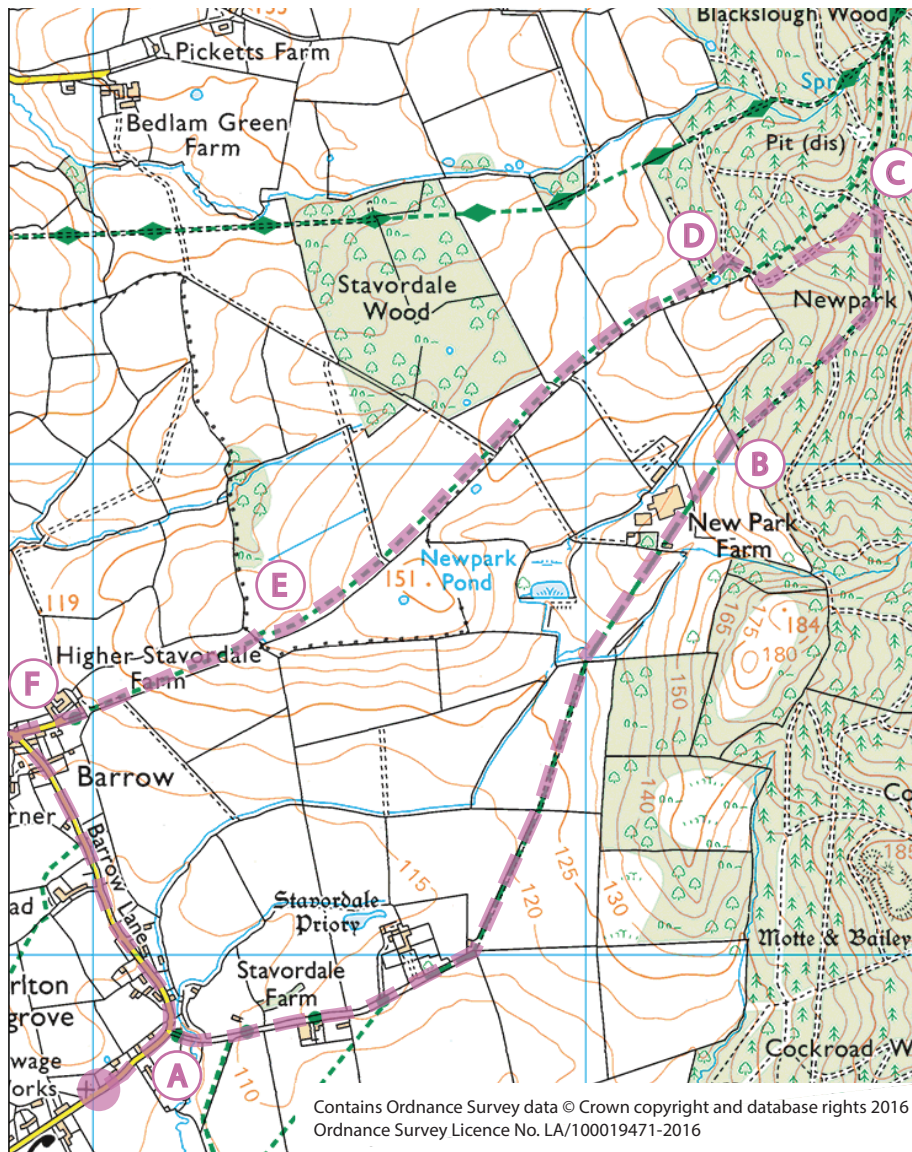
Follow advice and local signs

Produced by 'The Walkers, Riders and Cyclists Group' - a working group of the Parish Council

People walk at their own risk. The Parish cannot be held responsible. No Liability can be accepted in the event of any loss or accident and/or injury however caused. The representation on this map of any road, track or path is no evidence of the existence of a right of way

If there are any problems on Stavordale Estate rights of way please contact the Estate Manager Kenny Howell on 07970 297038

Funded by grants from SCC's Health and Wellbeing grant and Charlton Musgrove Parish Council



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**A** With the church on your left, go down Barrow Lane for approximately 150-200 metres. On a corner, turn right down another narrow lane, (on the left is the site of a late 11th century mill). Follow this lane up and past Stavordale Priory on your left. This is now Stavordale Estate. Please keep dogs under close control and please keep to the road. Once past the Priory turn left and follow the private farm road to New Park Farm (please have dogs on leads here).

Stavordale Priory - a small Augustinian Priory, built circa. 1243, and is one of the oldest buildings standing in the Parish today. It is now a private residence. A fair was held at Stavordale from around 1663 until 1792 when it moved to Wincanton.

**B** After New Park Farm step over a low gate and bear right onto a marked bridleway and follow this up to the forest and through a bridleway gate. You are now in Stourhead (Western) Estate, a privately owned (open to the public) wood. Please observe and respect signs regarding forestry work for your own safety.

**C** Follow the track uphill through the forest until you get to a clearing where several tracks come together. Take the first track on your left and follow this downhill. It bends to the right at the bottom, before the fields ahead, and then bends to the left. Very shortly after this there is a post and arrow marking the path down to the left which you take.

**D** Cross the stile ahead out into the field, back into Stavordale Estate and follow the left hand hedge (which is the Parish Boundary) with fine views ahead of you.

Alfreds Tower stands in what used to be Selwood Forest and is now owned by the National Trust and part of the Stourton Estate. It was built on or near the site where Alfred erected his standard after he secured one of his victories against the Danes. During WWII a plane crashed and smashed one of the turrets in 1944.

**E** Cross several stiles always keeping to the left hand hedge. When crossing the second field, watch out for several badger set holes on the path. (The area formed part of the Selwood hunting forest which was deforested in 1629). At the double stile and footbridge above Higher Stavordale Farm you cross back over into the Parish. Carry on down, keeping by the left hand hedge and cross another stile onto the track. Please keep dogs on leads. Follow the track down, with the farmhouse on your right, to the road and then on down to the corner of Barrow Lane.

Higher Stavordale Farm used to be part of the Stourton Estate and was probably built in the early 17th century.

**F** Turn left along Barrow Lane (in 1838 a Methodist Chapel used to stand on this corner) and walk back to St John's church.

St John's church was built in 1878 and presented by Mrs Davies (nee Feir) as a memorial to her husband the Rev I C Davies who was Rector 1864 - 1876. She was also the sister of the Rev. Feir who was Rector from 1845 to 1864. Stone tiles originally from the Priory were used for the roof.