

# Banwell and the Lox Yeo

Distance: 4 miles  
Walking Time: 2 hours  
GRADE: Easy/Moderate 3

# 24

A neglected corner of the Mendips, Banwell and the Lox Yeo Valley are very worthy of exploration. Banwell village has many quiet corners that are revealed on this walk. In spite of the proximity of the nearby motorway, the Lox Yeo Valley is a rural backwater, its boggy ground having always discouraged development. Even now, Max Mills Lane is sometimes filled with floodwater in winter.

## Maps:

**Explorer 153** Weston-super-Mare  
1:25 000 scale

**Landranger 182** Weston-super-Mare  
1:50 000 scale

**Grid Ref:** ST 396 594



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Catch the 121 First service from Bristol Bus Station and get off at Banwell School, ask the driver if you are unsure of the location.

This bus operates hourly Monday to Saturday daytime, and every two hours on Sundays and Bank Holidays every. The approximate length of the journey is 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Please check the above timetables by logging on to [www.firstgroup.com](http://www.firstgroup.com) or by telephoning Traveline on 0870 608 2608.

## PUBLIC HOUSES/CAFES EN ROUTE

Brewers Arms, Church Street, Banwell (01934 822188).

Bell Inn, The Square, Banwell (01934 822330).

Teas are often available at Banwell Castle (01934 822263) and there is a Chinese takeaway near the school.

## PUBLIC TOILETS

Banwell, opposite school.

## CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The Woodspring Group of the Ramblers Association has provided the information for this walk card.

## PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

### Banwell

The heart of Banwell has a good variety of old buildings. The best are around the church and the High Street. As you enter Banwell from Sandford on the bus, you can just glimpse the attractive former manor house, Banwell Abbey. The village grew up around several springs; the pure waters from these were used in a mill manufacturing writing paper and bank notes.



### Banwell Hill

Banwell Hill, the eastern end of which you walk across, was a racecourse until 1796. At the western end of the hill are the limestone caves that contained the bones of bears, wolves, reindeer and bison (the caves and grounds are open a few days a year). At Winthill, the walk crosses a green lane that was an ancient route from the Mendip lead mines to the port of Uphill. Near Winthill Farm is the site of a Roman settlement, where many finds of Roman burials and artefacts have been made.

The bowling green of today was formerly the village pond, serving a mill. A kook, ducking stool, was once used as a punishment. ('kook' - defined a crazy or eccentric person).

### Max Mills

Max Mills dates back to at least 1290, being ideally positioned to draw upon surrounding watercourses. The mill building has gone, but the millpond and wheel remain.



View of Banwell

After descending Dark Lane from the Castle, cross the road to a gateway and a path down to the church-yard. Walk around the church and out the other side of the church yard. Shortly after, cross the road to the steps up to the path round the bowling green.

