

Barrow Upon Soar

Maurice Hart

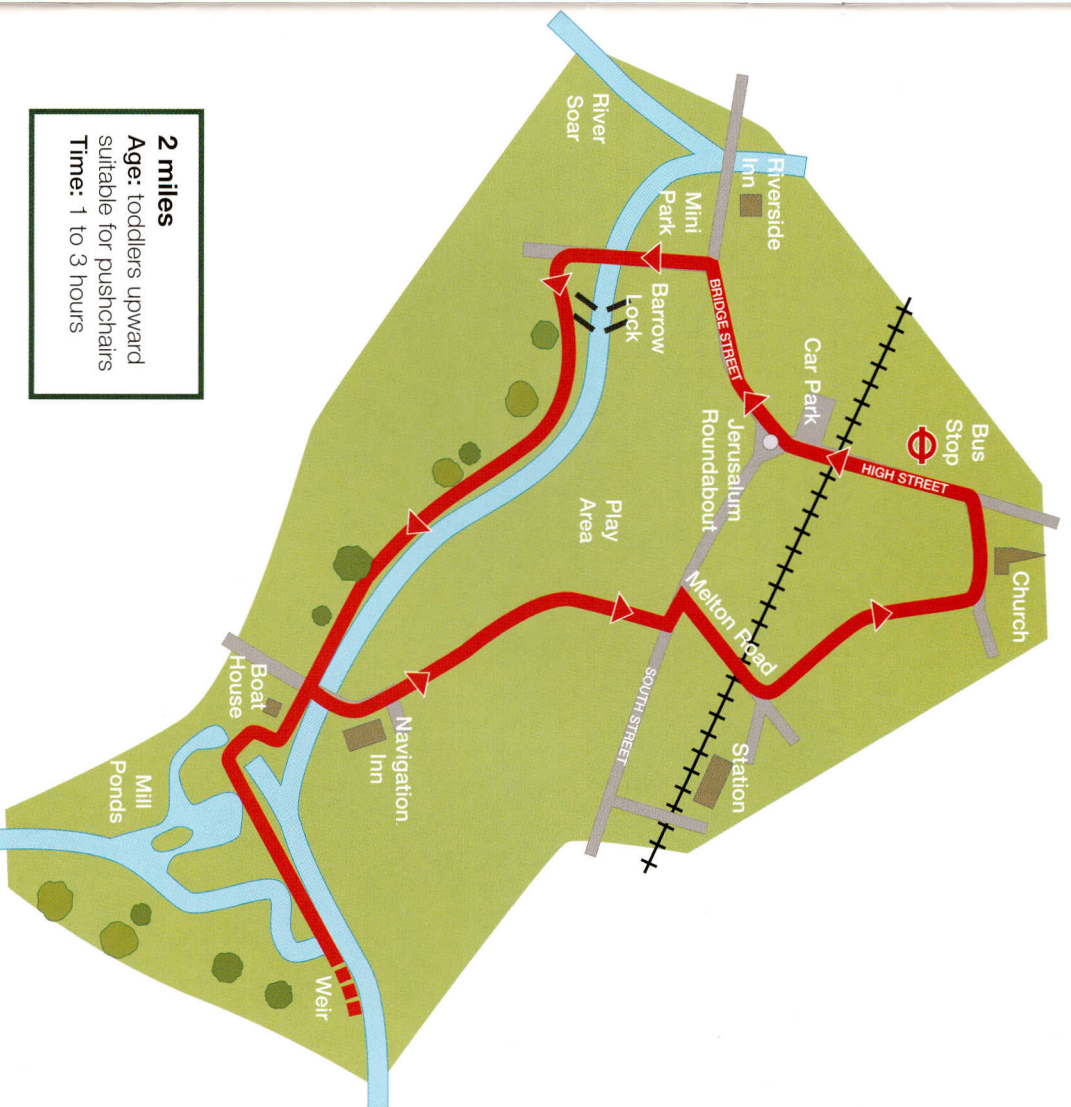
Barrow Upon Soar is an ancient settlement, but the only sign of this now is the church and one house. It makes a good place for a short outing with children because of the river and canal, which run along one side of the village. There are four bridges to cross, several places with mini waterfalls, two riverside pubs, and several places by the water to picnic. There are also lots of things to see related to the water; these include waterfowl, maybe a heron, canal barges, and a canal lock. There may also be farm animals along the suggested route.

If you look at the map, you will see you can arrive by train (Ivanhoe line, not on Sundays) or bus, as well as by car. The walk starts at the Jerusalem roundabout, which is just opposite the car park and can be seen from the bus stop. If you arrive by train, turn right coming out of the station, turn right again and walk along South Street, you will then soon see the Jerusalem roundabout. (1)

From the roundabout walk down the hill along Bridge Street. At the bottom of the hill there is the main road bridge across the river Soar, a mini park that has an information board about old Barrow, and the Riverside Inn, which has a pleasant riverside garden. It is here that a canal navigation section starts while the river goes another way. Another smaller bridge crosses the canal to go into a caravan park. Next to this bridge is a canal lock. On a summer weekend you will almost certainly see boats using this lock. To continue the walk you cross the canal bridge and turn left along the canal path.

This section of the path is well used and has pleasant views. Go underneath the hump-backed bridge and turn right. You are now in an area that used to contain Barrow Mill. Here you can see the millpond, two mill 'races', a boathouse, and mooring places for barges. Children enjoy exploring this area. It is also opposite the Navigation Inn, which is a good traditional pub with an attractive outdoor riverside area. To continue the walk follow the path between the moorings pond and proceed along the river. You then cross the bridge that goes over the weir.

Once over the weir you can walk along the riverbank before turning back to cross the weir once more. Now instead of going under the bridge across the canal, you go over it and past the front entrance of the Navigation Inn. You then turn left to walk up Mill Lane. Here there is another small park, which contains a children's play area. At the top of Mill Lane you cross the road to join the Melton Road, which is a little way to the left. You then shortly come to a small open section with the Barrow war memorial on the left. You turn left here and almost immediately pass Bishop Beveridge House on the left. The house dates from the 16th century. You then come to the church and turn left again. This brings you to the High Street; here there are shops that sell ice creams, sweets etc. At least one of these will be open on a Sunday. At the end of the High Street you can once again see the Jerusalem roundabout, and so the end of the walk.



2 miles
Age: toddlers upward
suitable for pushchairs
Time: 1 to 3 hours

Notes

(1) The name Jerusalem roundabout comes from the time when the roads all went round a house, which was called Jerusalem House. The roundabout now has a village sign with a picture of the skeleton of a 150 million year old reptile. This skeleton was found in a limestone mine in Barrow.

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