This route can be found on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 243, Market Drayton. You are advised to use this map in conjunction with the instructions.

WALK NO. 4 - CROXTON – HIGHLANES – CHATCULL - CROXTON







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The full walk is about 5 miles along country lanes, across fields and through woodland. There can be many variations, using other lanes shown on the map. All walks start and finish at Croxton Church - where you can park your car. Croxton Church is on the B5026 Eccleshall to Loggerheads Road approximately 4 miles from Eccleshall. Please note some of the stiles on these walks are on the high side. **Please do not park in the church car park on a Sunday** 

Each paragraph number relates to a point marked on the map and is followed by its map reference, found on Ordnance Survey Map 243.

## For walk 4 and 4a start here.

1. (784 325) Starting at the church car park cross over the busy road and carry on past 'Glenwood' (B&B), which was once a coaching Inn called 'The Swan with Two Necks', until you reach the cross roads. (2)

2. (789 319) Turn left towards Chatcull. After about 50 yards, take a grassy lane to your right. After a short distance (where the lane bears left) you will see a gate and a footpath signed straight ahead across a field to a stile. This stile is hidden from view behind a thicket, aim for a corner of the field. Once over the stile follow the marked way through a small wood to a stile in the far corner. Walk diagonally across the next field towards a large oak tree. Follow the hedgerow to the copse. Cross over the stile into the copse and past a pool on your right to a stile. Cross this stile into a field, keeping the hedge on your right, cross the next stile into an open field. Walk straight across this field to a stile on the other side (3).

3. (799 318) Once over the stile, turn left and along the lane for half a mile until you reach Highlanes, a small group of houses. Turn left

along the metalled road for about 100 yds and turn right into a grassy lane, just past the white house. (4)

4. (798 326) Go through the field gate and carry straight on, with the hedgerow on your left. The field narrows to another grassy lane. Walk along the lane until you reach a gate. Once through the gate follow a fence line to the open part of this field and then turn slightly left to a stile and gate on the far side of the field. Cross over this stile and head diagonally across the field to stile and gate by an oak tree in the far corner of the field (5).

5. (799 331) Turn slightly right across the next field towards a hedgerow. Then left along the hedgerow to a stile and gate at the end of the field. Turn right along the lane to the next road junction. (6)

## For walk 4a go to paragraph 11on the last page.

6. (795 337) Take the road towards Chatcull for about 80 yds, then over a stile / gate on the left, just before the cottage. Bear right to a stile/footbridge at the bottom of the field. Go straight across the next field towards the right of the white house, to a stile. Go over the stile into the lane and turn right past the pool into Chatcull. At the road junction turn left through the village. (You will see the 800 year old Chatcull Old Hall on your right). Bear left and just as the road starts to turn right, take the marked path on your left along a farm lane to a field stile / gate (7).

7. (794 346) Cross the field to a stile in the far corner (beneath the electricity wires). Walk across the next field, aiming at the left end of the three barns, to a stile/footbridge. Then walk straight on to a stile leading into a lane. Turn right towards Charnes Old Hall, once the moated home of the Yonge family, to the first track on your left. (Opposite the barns) (8).

8. (786 339) Go up the track, over a stile to the right of a double gate which crosses the track, and on until you meet three field gates ahead of you. Cross the stile on the left and continue on towards a pylon. Pass the pylon following the hedge, to a stile sighted just as the hedgerow bears right (9). 9. (785 334) When across the stile turn left and walk with the hedgerow on your left to a stile in the corner of a field. Drop down into the next field and straight across the field to a stile. Cross the stile and turn down a lane. At the main road turn left to The Vernon Yonge Arms (10).

The Vernon Yonge is, incidentally, named after a member of the Yonge family who lived at nearby Charnes Hall since before the Domesday Book.

10. (782 328) Take the lane immediately to the right of the Vernon Yonge Arms (as you face it). Continue along this lane until you join a track, turn left past the church and back to your start point.

## Walk 4a continued from point 6.

11. (795 337) Turn left at junction and take the first field gate on your left. Walk with the hedgeline on your left to a double stile, then down in the same manner to another stile. Cross into the field and aim for a stile / footbridge, approximately 100 yds to the right of the gate. Cross the next field diagonally to a stile which is to the right of the copse ahead (12).

12. (788 332) When over the stile, turn left and then immediately over another stile. Continue with the copse on your left, then straight on across the field and straight on down the lane. At the main road cross and turn left to the Vernon Yonge Arms.

From this point go to paragraph 10