

Eccleshall Parish Council

Circular Walks

10 Circular walks around Eccleshall
using footpaths and country lanes





Eccleshall Parish Council have put together these Circular Walks for residents and visitors that would like to see more of the beautiful countryside around Eccleshall. They complement the Bench to Bench Walks booklet that has walks that link the many benches located in Eccleshall.

The walks were chosen to pass through some of the most interesting and attractive areas of the Parish and to range from the short and easy to long and challenging! Some walks have extensions, marked with black arrows on the maps to provide an even greater experience.

We hope that you will enjoy exploring our countryside, but please take all litter home or to a bin. Our team of litter pickers do their best to keep the lanes litter free, but your help will be appreciated.

Our team of Footpath Marshals endeavour to keep the footpaths in good order, but if anything is seen that needs attention, please inform the Parish Council.

These walks range from 2.4Km to 7Km using the extensive network of footpaths and country lanes.

The approximate time for the walks is indicated, although this will vary with the speed of the walker!

The notes give an indication of those hazards that may be encountered. These will include stiles, rough or steep paths, livestock, and fencing.

Please observe the Country Code when on the walks, a summary is on the back of this booklet.

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Circular Walk 1 Copmere Ramble



The walk goes round Copmere, which is a haven for wildlife, and continues through fields and lanes which once connected the early settlements of 'Offeleia' (meaning Offa's clearing in the wood). The complete walk described below is 3.1 miles with a 275 ft ascent. The walk is beautiful in the winter, as the bare trees afford good views of the mere, but it can be very muddy, so wellies or stout boots are essential

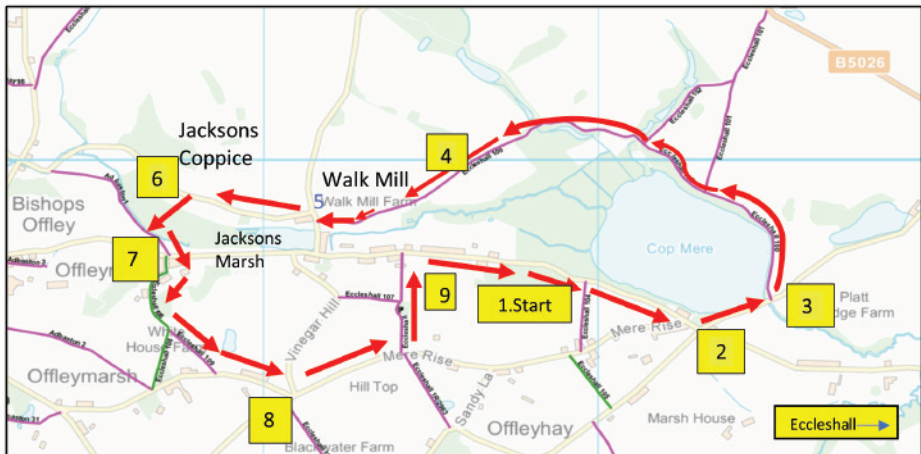
Total distance approximately 5 KM / 3.1 miles



Notes:

Jacobs Ladder Stile, stiles, muddy paths, time for walk has been estimated at 2 miles/hr

Parking:

There is some parking at the site, but other parking places along the circular route include a limited amount of parking on the road opposite the mere, a small car park at Jackson's Marsh Nature Reserve or, for patrons, the Star Inn car park (but ask permission of the licensee). Just off the route there is some on-road parking near Jackson's Coppice and a small car park at Offley Hay Village Hall on Mere Rise



Circular Walk 
Footpaths 
Bridle way 

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1. The walk starts at Copmere Picnic Site east of Walk Mill. This is best approached from the B5026, about a mile and a half northwest of Eccleshall. From the picnic site, turn right and walk along the road with Copmere on your left. The road is fairly wide, but can be busy and there is no pavement, so take care.
2. As you approach Mere Rise, Copmere Pump is on your right - this grassed area has been restored and the pump, which provided a source of water locally, repaired. A seat has been located on the site and regular



maintenance is carried out by the Parish Council. As you approach The Star Inn, turn left towards Pershall Green and Eccleshall, heading back towards the B5026. Immediately after crossing the river (805295), go left over the large stile, known locally as Jacob's Ladder (the original ladder stile was replaced in 2021).



3. Follow the hedge, with Copmere on your left, to an open gateway next to a stile. Pass through the gate and continue keeping Copmere on your left.



Ignore all tracks and footpaths to the right. There is a series of stiles taking you to the road at Walk Mill. You will pass a small pool on your right-hand side. A wood is to your left and a dovecote is visible alongside a hedge line to your right, after which there is a permanently waterlogged field, but there are stepping stones near the fence-line on your left. The path through the wood is also muddy, but there are wooden planks down the centre which may help.

4. As you emerge from the wood over a stile into a field, keep the fence to your right and follow the well-trodden path into a second field, passing the tree and across to a stile and field gate onto the lane at Walk Mill. You will see the derelict water mill on your left. (The name 'Walkmill' derives from the practice of 'fulling' or 'walking' woollen cloth to squeeze out excess natural oils. The mill was also used for grinding corn at a later stage).

5. Turn right up the lane for a few metres, then turn left round the corner of Walk Mill House. About 200 metres along the lane, you will see a small car park and the entrance to the Jackson's Marsh Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (the field to the right of the car park has several benches).



6. Go down the slope to the gate entering Jackson's Marsh. The boardwalk is a circuit and can be followed clockwise or anticlockwise. There are a couple of seats and detailed information boards tell you about the conservation work that is being undertaken by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Roughly half-way around the boardwalk there is a branch leading to a field boundary (on your left if walking clockwise, your right if anticlockwise); take this branch to a kissing gate that leaves the Marsh Reserve.

7. Head across the field, uphill and bearing left, to a stile onto the road near a large conifer. Turn right and immediately left along the brick surfaced bridleway. After 80 metres turn right past a few houses. The rough brick paving veers to the right and the track narrows - keep ahead along the track. After around 100m the track bears right, you will see a footpath sign and a pair of stiles to your left. Cross the stiles and pass through the fields (well-insulated electric fence sometimes erected) crossing more stiles (slippery when wet – take care) until you reach the lane by White House Farm. Turn left along the lane until you reach the road junction.



8. Turn left (not sharp left down Vinegar Hill) and continue down the lane for around 300m. You will see a stile on your left, by a gate (the footpath sign has been broken off). Cross the stile and continue, with the hedge on your right, down the slope towards the houses of Walk Mill. You will emerge down the drive of Field House, onto the road in Walk Mill.

9. Turn right towards Cul Mor B&B and continue along the road. The starting point is about 400m on your right. *The brook feeding the pools that you have passed is the River Sow which flows through Copmere, past Eccleshall and on to Stafford, eventually joining the River Trent at Shugborough.*

Circular Walk No. 2

Follow the footpaths around Eccleshall



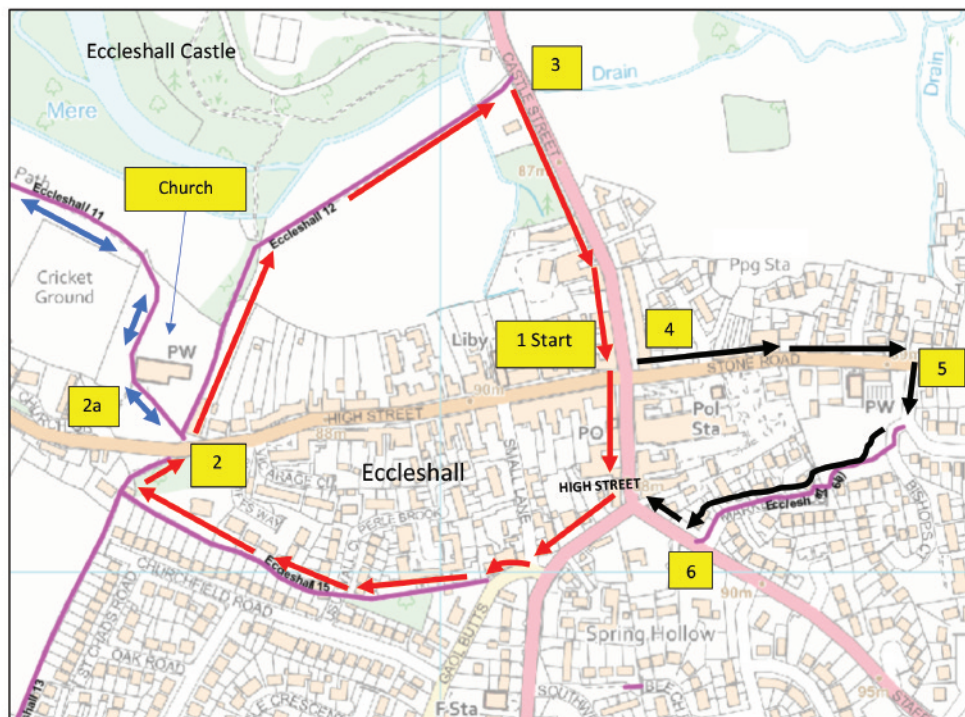
Footpaths and country roads taking in the Parish Church, fields that surround Eccleshall Castle, the Washpits and the Jubilee Field



Approximately 2.4 km / 1½ miles, including the optional extension

Note: Kissing gate, footpath behind the Church can be muddy and slippery. Possible livestock in field. Time for walk has been estimated at 2 miles/hr including time to visit the Church.

Parking: Co-op carpark (2hr limit), High Street (2 hr limit along part of the High Street, see signage)



- Circular Walk
- Extension
- Linear Walk
- Footpaths

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Commencing at the Little George roundabout at the junction of the High Street, Stone Road, Castle Street and Stafford Street.

1. Take Stafford Street walking on the righthand side pavement passing the Post Office and The Garage. At the next mini roundabout bear right into Horsefair. Cross the end of Small Lane, pass in front of the Eagle Pub along Gaol Butts. The entrance to footpath 15 can be found immediately before the gatepost marked 'Croft'. Footpath 15 goes through the Eyeswell and runs parallel with the High Street. Follow the path though Eyeswell to where it is intersected by Usulwall Close, about halfway along. Cross the road and carry straight on. At the end of the footpath turn right passing the Washpits information board on your left. You will see Holy Trinity Parish Church on the opposite side of the road. Cross the road to the Lychgate.



- 2a. Optional linear walk.

After crossing Church Street take the left-hand gate into the churchyard, passing the Parish Room on your left. Continue along the path with the Church on your right to the end of the cemetery to a kissing gate. This leads to fields with the cricket ground to your left. Follow footpath 11 alongside the cricket ground and across the field to another kissing gate that leads to the main road. Here you can either turn left and return to the Church along the pavement or retrace your steps on footpath 11 to the churchyard. Then follow paragraph 2 below to re-join the circular walk.



2. Walk through the Lychgate and follow the righthand path with the church on your left. Leave the churchyard through the kissing gate at the end of the cemetery. Walk straight ahead through the spinney until you reach a metal gate on your right ^{+#} (The gate in front of you leads into private property). Take the righthand gate and follow footpath 12 that takes you straight across the middle of the field to a kissing gate on the other side.
3. Pass through this gate to a short driveway, with a bungalow on your left, and emerge onto Castle Street. Turn right to return to the Little George roundabout, passing The Smithy on your right.

Extending the walk



4. From the Little George Roundabout walk on the right-hand pavement east along the Stone Road, passing the public conveniences and the entrance to the Co-op car park, both on the right.
5. Reach the entrance to Hartlands Road and turn right making your way to the Jubilee Field on your right. You may either walk diagonally to your right, across the grassed area or around on the pavements to the right, in front of the houses, to the exit into Marketfields. Turn right and walk to the end of Marketfields to the Stafford Road.
6. Turn right and walk down to the mini roundabout. Turn right, past Perrys of Eccleshall, to return to the Little George roundabout.

+ please be aware that there are often cattle in this area.

The field for Footpath 12 can be very muddy especially around the spinney and gate areas.

Circular Walk No. 3

Through the Dells back via Johnson Hall to the Parish Church



Country Lanes with views of Johnson Hall and the Parish Church



Approximately 4.9 km / 2.9 miles

Notes: Stiles and a slippery path through the Dells, time for walk has been estimated at 2 miles/hr

Parking: Spaces in front of the Community Centre, opposite Bishop Lonsdale Academy School



Circular Walk	
Extension to Church	
Footpaths	
Bridleway	

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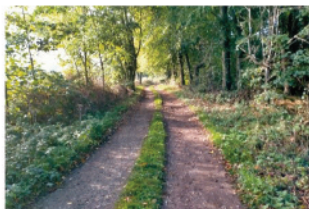
1. The walk starts from the car park outside Eccleshall Community Centre. From the car park turn right down Shaws Lane to the mini roundabout, then left into a small lane, by the school, opposite Overton Close. Follow the lane then bear right at Johnson Hall Farm and continue until you see the signed footpath (footpath 149), to The Dells on the left.



2. Head down the path and then uphill through the beautiful, wooded valley, the Dells, through a kissing gate to another kissing gate at the top. Then go straight on keeping the hedge on your right until the lane bends left. Don't miss the beautiful views to the southeast!



3. Go right, through the kissing gate in the corner of the field, then straight along the track to Wincote Lane.



4. Turn left onto Wincote Lane and follow the lane past Wincote Farm until the junction with the A519.

5. Turn left along the main road until the footpath sign on your left. This is Footpath 119.

6. Turn left, through the kissing gate and follow Footpath 119 diagonally across the field toward Johnson Hall which you will see in front of you. At the end of the field, keep the pond to your right continue straight ahead until you reach a small lane. Turn right and follow the lane, passing Bishops Lonsdale School on your right until you reach the junction with Shaws Lane and the start of the walk.



Extension



7. Turn left onto Shaws Lane and then turn right through the kissing gate onto footpath 13. This will lead down to the Washpit and Eccleshall Parish Church, a beautiful and large 13th Century church with an impressive bell tower. The Wash Pit, or Sheep Pool, on Church Street was a pond fed by a spring. After a fire at the church in 1868 the need for a water supply became apparent. In 1890 the Wash Pit was cleaned out and deepened for holding water; railings were added for safety. It was used by the fire service, who also washed their engine there.

8. After visiting the church, go back across the main road to the Washpits beside the Rectory. Go through the metal gate and up footpath 13 turning left when you reach Shaws Lane at the top, to return to the start.

Circular Walk 4

Walk through country lanes and footpaths, passing Johnson Hall



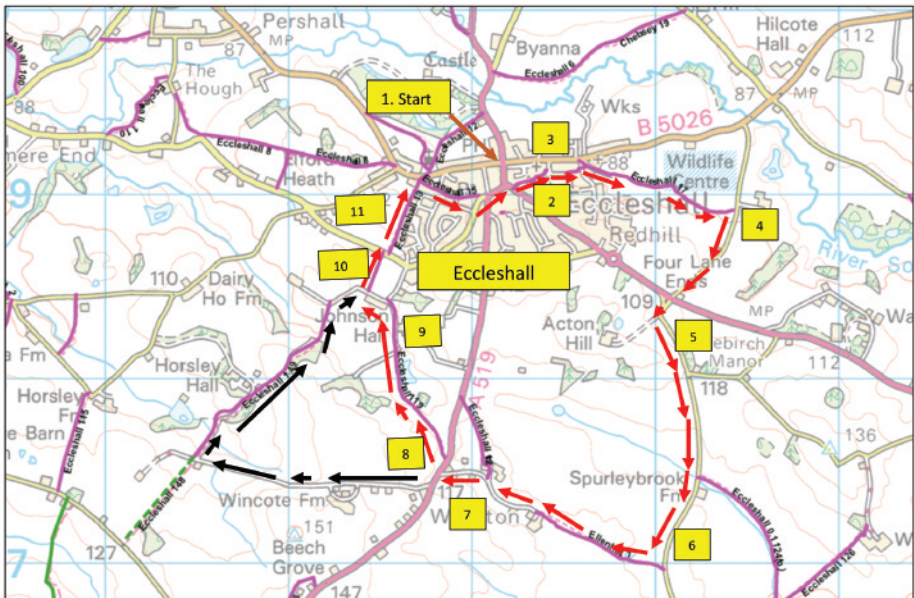
This walk begins and ends in Eccleshall, with optional start and finish points, using Eccleshall FP17, Ellenhall footpath 1, and Eccleshall footpaths 119,13,16A,16B and 15 as a basic route







Approximately 7.5 Km / 4.7 Miles, extension adds 2.8 Km / 1.74 miles

Notes: Stiles, livestock in fields, time for walk has been estimated at 2 miles/hr

Parking: Co-op car park (2 hour limit), High Street (also 2 hour limit)



Circular Walk 4.  →
Extension  →
Footpaths  →
Bridleway  →

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1. Start at the Kings Arms on Stafford Street. Go south on Stafford Street until the mini roundabout then bear left into Stafford Road. Take the first left turning into Marketfields. Follow Marketfields, at the end bear left to an open gate leading into Jubilee Field. Cross the field diagonally and cross Hartlands Road.



2. Continue along Hartlands Road, until a righthand bend. At the bend go straight on following finger post signs to a short passage between two houses, foot path 16a. Cross Badgers Croft diagonally to the left, to a further passage, footpath 16b which leads to an unmade road, which is footpath 17. Turn right onto this road.

3. Alternative starting point. At the Junction of Stone Road and Badgers Croft. Go west down the Stone Road for a few metres and immediately turn right onto footpath 17, the same unmade road, as in Starting point 1.

4. Continue along the unmade road, which narrows down to a path at the rear of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and follow footpath 17 using finger posts as a guide (do not turn right as that leads to the large housing estate). Go through wooded areas and farmland through a copse between two fields, to a stile on Blurtons Lane opposite Fieldhouse Farm, this is the end of footpath 17.



5. Turn right, and walk along Blurtons Lane, (note this is a derestricted road with no pavement). When you reach the Stafford Road, A5013, at Four Lane Ends, cross with care past the copse, and continue towards Ellenhall for approximately 1.2m/2km, passing Spurley Brook Farm on the left. (This too is a derestricted road with no pavement).



6. The entrance to Ellenhall footpath 1, on your right, is via a steel gate on a sweeping left-hand bend. Please close gate after use and note this field may have livestock grazing. Follow the footpath beside a hedge, pass a copse and pond using a stile and a gateway beside a further stile for 0.75m/1.2km, until you reach Wootton Lane, which has a sealed surface. This is the end of Ellenhall footpath 1.



7. Follow Wootton Lane for approximately ¼ mile until you reach the Newport Road, A519. Cross the A519 with extreme care, it is busy and has a 50mph speed limit. An extension to circular walk 4 can be followed from the end of Wootton Lane, see paragraph 13.



8. To access footpath 119, turn right using the pavement; there is a steel kissing gate a few yards on your left, which leads into a meadow, you will now clearly see Johnson Hall on the right.

9. Follow this path through a rusty kissing gate, past a small lake, (taking in the lovely Johnson Hall with two 'Ha Ha' walls on the lawns below!) Please note it is a landowner's requirement to keep on the path and be aware of grazing livestock!



10. The path continues uphill through a kissing gate, and a steel gate beside a wall, (which must be closed after use), until you reach an unmade road, that brings footpath 119 to an end at Home Farm, distance 0.7mile/1.1km. To access footpath 14, turn left and follow the road for a short distance. There is a steel gate on the right; go through this gate and please close after use, it is possible there will be sheep grazing! The footpath is straight ahead along the hedge, until you reach Shaws Lane and a stile.



11. Cross Shaws Lane and turn right- there is a kissing gate a few yards along on the left, leading to footpath 13. If you choose not to enter the field for footpath 14, there is an option to turn right at the end of footpath 119, and follow the road to a mini roundabout, turn left and the kissing gate is just past the housing development on your right.) Follow footpath 13 to its end at a hinged gate.



12. You now have the option of completing your walk via Eccleshall High Street by going straight ahead on to Church Street opposite Holy Trinity Church and turning right. Alternatively, turn right at the end of footpath 13 into footpath 15 (Eyeswell) and continue for ¼ mile/0.4km crossing Usulwall Close, through Eyeswell open space and finally a narrow passage into Gaol Butts. Follow the road passing the Eagle pub into Horsefair and turn left into Stafford Street where your circular walk is complete.

Extension to circular walk 4

13. Follow Walk 4 until the end of Wootton Lane (see paragraph 7 on previous page), cross the A519 and turn left, then turn right up Wincote Lane, following the footpath signs (footpath 149). Follow footpath 149 through the Dells, until you reach the lane that runs past the entrance to footpath 14, opposite Home Farm. Cross the stile and follow footpath 14 until you reach Shaws Lane. Turn right, and FP13 will be on the left. Go through the gate onto footpath 13 then follow route in paragraph 11 & 12 above.

Please remember to respect the countryside by following the Country Code. A summary is on the back page of this booklet.

Circular Walk No 5

Croxtan Well Trail and countryside



The first part of the walk starts at Croxtan St Paul's Church, then follows the Croxtan Heritage Well Trail (<https://croxtanwelltrailing.weebly.com>). The walk goes down to Walk Mill with its soon to be renovated Mill and Mill Pond. On the way back Jackson's Coppice and the Nature Reserve on the opposite side of the lane are well worth a visit

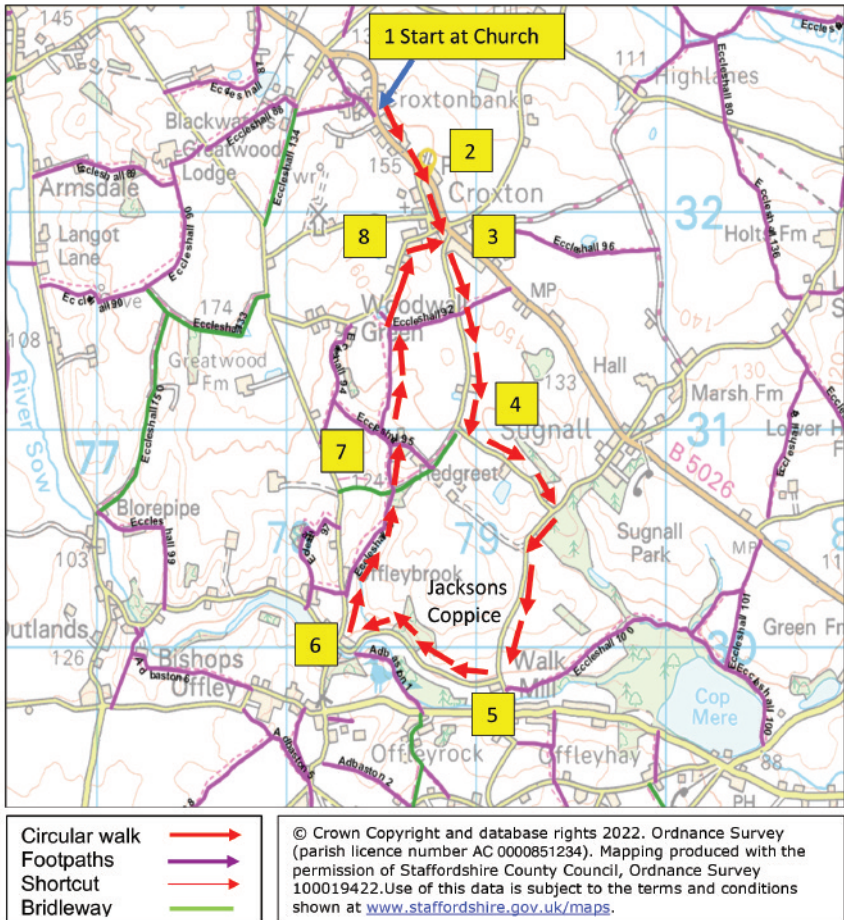


Approximately 7 km / 4 miles

Note:

Stiles, country lanes and slippery sections of paths in wet weather. The time indicated does not allow for any time spent in the Nature reserve or Coppice. This walk requires sturdy footwear, as it can be uneven in places

Parking: Roadside beside the Church car park



Croton Wells

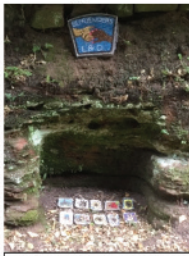
Croton was on the main coaching road from Stafford to Chester, in the 18th and 19th centuries, when relays of horses and refreshments for the passengers would have been obtained here. The wells in the village would have a vital part to play in this as well as supplying the village with water.

The blessing of the water supply, in the form of a well, is an ancient ceremony dating back to the Celts or even earlier. Croton revived this ceremony in 2012 with a well dressing event. Boughey's Well used to supply the drinking water to the village and is the site of the biennial Croton Well Dressing.



Boughey's Well, depicting the history of Croton

Well 1 : Boughey's Well, also known as Croton Well is a spring fed village well at the junction of the B5026 and Back Lane



Well 3 Loggerheads & District Befrienders

Well 2 : The next on the Well Dressing trail near the junction of Windmill Lane and Back Lane.

Well 3 : A sloping well carved into the sandstone rock face

Well 4 : Another sloping well, used to water passing coach horses and farm animals.

Well 5 : Cattery Well, a deep spring fed well, providing plentiful water for local residents.

Well 6: The last on the Well Dressing trail, a spring fed well alongside the fishing pool and the remains of Woodwall Green Manor.



Well 2 Water-Aid



Well 4 Coronation of Charles 111



Well 6 Rain feeding the streams and rivers



Well 5 Cattery Well Climate change

1. Start at the Church car park (ST21 6PF). Leave the church and turn right down the Eccleshall Road (B5026), crossing over to the left. Continue past the Highfields to Boughey's Well. . Turn right into a lane passing the well on your left.

2. Continue past Oaktrees and Mount Pleasant Farm, bearing left at Corner Cottage, passing two further wells on either side of the road. Well 4 is carved into a rock face to provide water for horse drawn vehicles and passing farm animals.



3. Keep bearing left and continue until you reach the junction with the Eccleshall Road (B5026) again. This time turn right onto the main road and almost immediately turn right into Ginger Lane. Continue down Ginger Lane, pass Croxton Low (Pumping Station) and Russia Tree Farm on the left. Keep on Ginger Lane past a track on a sharp lefthand bend until the junction with Sugnall Road.

4. Turn right and continue along Sugnall Road until the junction with Jacksons Lane on your right. Walk Mill, a disused, but planned to be renovated, mill, is on your left.

5. Turn right into Jackson's Lane and continue until you reach the boardwalk in the nature reserve on your left and Jackson's Coppice on your right. The boardwalk enables visitors to view the marsh land among the woods with its varied plant and wildlife. Jacksons Coppice has steep, but interesting paths and is a favourite picnic place.



6. Continue along Jacksons Lane until Offleybrook, then turn right up Offleybrook Lane up the hill. After approximately 250m bear right onto a track along footpath 93, passing a house until a metal field gate is reached.

There are some difficult stiles ahead so, if you prefer turn right here up the bridleway (shown in green) and continue back up to Croxton, you will find it is much easier.

Walk through the gate into a field and follow the hedge on your left, bearing slightly right to a stile. Go over the stile and cross the track (footpath 95) to a stile opposite a gate, near a small wood.

7. Climb over the stile opposite and continue keeping the fence on your left until you reach a stile in the fence, cross over into a wooded area and continue downhill with the fence on your left to another stile where two footpaths meet (92 and 93).

After crossing the stile bear right (waymarked on the stile post) following the curve of the mound on your right to a stile in the corner of the field. Climb over the stile and continue uphill with the fence on your left. Where the fence turns left (by a large oak tree) continue straight ahead across the field to a double stile in the fence.

Go over the stile and continue ahead through the field, following the hedge on your right to reach a stile located in the tall holly hedge.

8. Cross this stile onto a track and turn left, continuing past a fishing pool on the right until you meet Croxton Lane. Turn right onto Croxton Lane and continue past Rose Cottage on the right and, a little further down the lane, a well on your left. Follow Croxton Lane until the Eccleshall Road. There is a well No. 4, known as a 'stopping well' on the corner of Croxton Lane at the junction with Back Lane. Turn left along Eccleshall Road to return to the Church.

Circular Walk 6

Lanes and footpaths passing Horsley Hall and Johnson Hall



Notes:

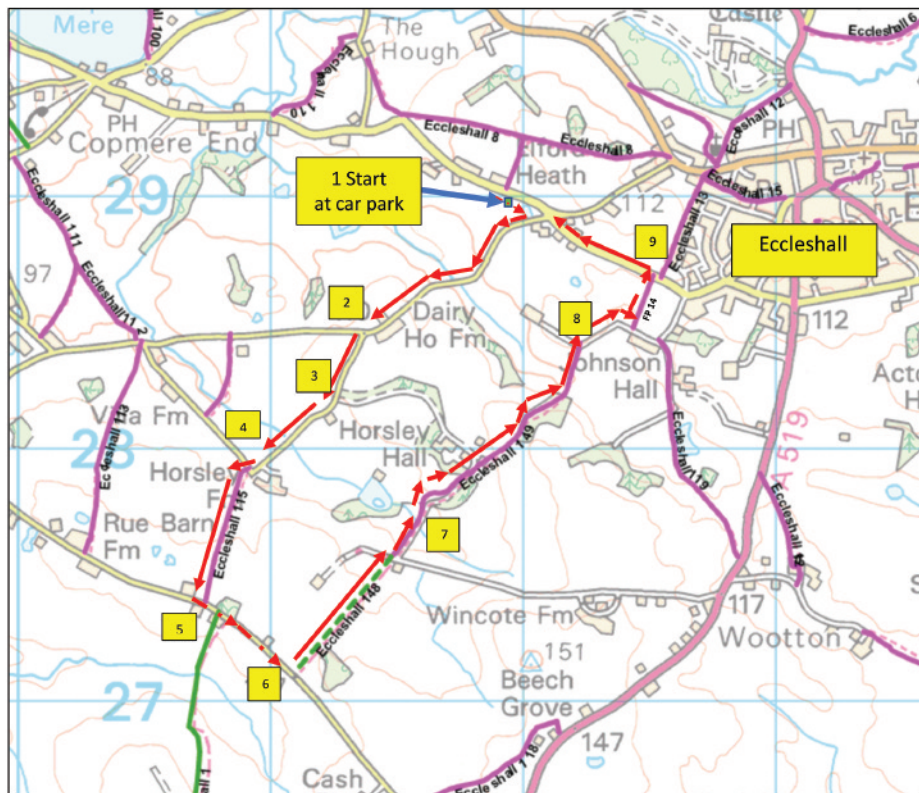
Walk using both country lanes and footpaths starting and finishing at Elford Heath. There is one hill on Horsley Road leading to Butterley Heyes Farm and barn conversions. You will pass the entrance to Horsley Hall and see Johnson Hall across the fields. The path through the Dells can be slippery and is steep in places

Total Distance approximately 5.6 Km / 3.5 miles

Stiles, slippery section, short rough slope, moderate hill

Parking:

Elford Heath car park which is a few metres down the road to Copmere from the junction of Shaws Lane and Kerry Lane. Lanes are too narrow for parking



Circular Walk 
Footpaths 
Bridleway 

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1. From Elford Heath car park cross over the small bridge and walk across the grass, keeping the pond to your left. At the exit turn right and proceed in a southerly direction down Horsley Road, passing fields housing sheep, up a moderate hill to Butterley Heyes farm and barn conversions on your left. There is an excellent view across the fields towards Copmere.



2. At the junction with Horsley Lane turn left and walk for 280m, to the entrance to Horsley Hall (built in 1833 and the home of Rev. John Clegg in the 1890's, used by the RAF during the war, it then became a boarding school before being converted to apartments in the 1970's).
3. Continue past Horsley Hall, down past Horsley Park Farm, with its barns usually housing bullocks and cows.

4. The lane gradually descends between fields, to the left is a small pond and barn conversions, Horsley Farm Court. Go past the entrance to where the lane takes a sharp right turn. Turn right, but immediately look left for a field gate, with a footpath sign pointing into the field, alongside the farmhouse. Go through the gate, carefully closing it and follow

footpath 115, past an electricity transformer on telegraph poles. Keep straight on through the field, taking care to keep close to the hedge on your right. At the end of the path is a field gate.



5. Turn left into Cash Lane and follow the lane for 0.5 km, past some cottages, watching for a footpath sign on your left. This is footpath 148.

6. Turn left through the field gate (sheep are usually in the field so be sure to close the gate). Follow footpath 148 for 600m, straight ahead across the fields until you reach Wincote Lane.



7. Go straight across Wincote Lane and follow the footpath sign, straight ahead, on footpath 149, for 0.5 km, past the entrance to Horsley Hall, on your left. Bear right to enter a field. Follow the path straight ahead for 200m, keeping close to the hedge on your left, passing the entrance to a farm on your left, to a track. Ahead you will see a kissing gate, that leads into The Dells, go downhill following the path through trees. This path can be slippery and uneven. After passing the trees follow the narrow path between hedges until you reach a paved lane.
8. Turn right and follow the lane for 250m until you find a farm entrance on your right. On the left is a stile and footpath sign. Climb over the stile onto footpath 14 straight ahead. This field is usually populated with sheep so please keep dogs on a lead (if you do not care to walk through this field continue to follow the lane around to the left until you reach Shaws Lane). At the end of the field is another stile and the junction with Shaws Lane.
9. Turn left onto Shaws Lane and proceed along the lane for 0.5 km, passing the Eccleshall allotments on your left. Note Shaws Lane does not have pavements. This will take you back to Elford Heath and its welcoming picnic benches!

Circular Walk 7

Walk from Sytch Lane in Slindon to Eastfields through Country Lanes and Footpaths



This walk takes you past St. Chads Church, on to Eastfields and back via footpaths with a short cut along a country lane. Part of the walk runs parallel to the railway line across some rough ground so appropriate footwear is advised

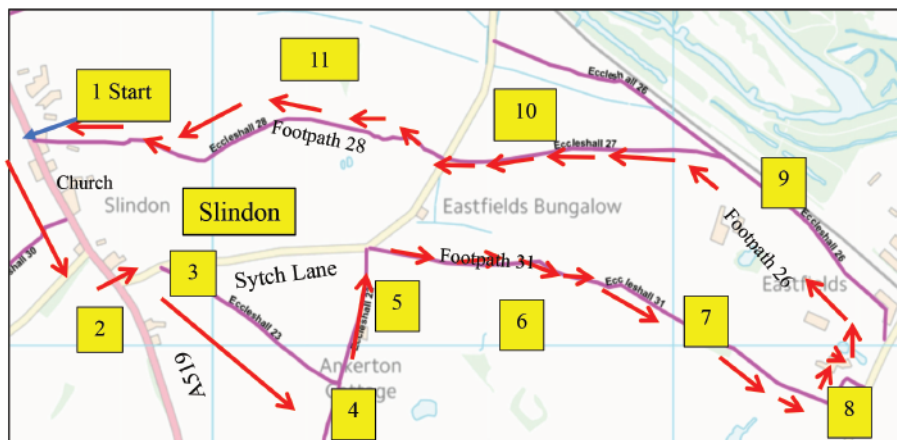
4.6 km / 2.8 miles

Note:

Stiles, muddy paths, rough ground, standing water after rain. Many of these fields will have either cows, sheep or horses in them and all dogs must be on leads. Time assumes walking at 2 miles/hour. Footpath 26 is uneven

Parking:

A 519 in Slindon. Sytch Lane is very narrow, unsuitable for parking



Circular Walk



Footpaths



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1. Start at Sytch Lane which is approximately 100 metres from St. Chad's church in Slindon and on the same side. Walk south along the A519 past St Chads Church, on your left.
2. Turn left after the church into Sytch Lane (it is clearly signed). Sytch Lane suffers from lying water when there has been heavy rain and can prove a challenge in places.
3. Almost immediately turn right onto footpath 23. Head towards the large farm buildings on the hill.
4. Footpath 22 is way-marked at a hedge and a path. Turn left towards the white cottage, keeping the hedge to your right. Pass through a gate after 100 metres into a track. Continue until the junction with Sytch Lane.



5. At the junction with Sytch Lane, take the path to the right, footpath 31, to the left of the gate across the field. The fence is electrified but insulated.

6. This path takes you across the field at approx. 45°, keeping the tree and the telegraph pole on your right, and brings you to a stile marked by blue insulated



piping. Cross over and onto the lane leading to Eastfields Farm. Turn right up the drive and on the first bend cross the stile. Continue ahead keeping the hedge on your right.

Cross the next stile and continue on footpath 31. Take care at the next stile – wobbly

upright and stepping board. Continue across to the opposite right-hand corner of the field. Just before the stile there is a string line across the corner which is easily detachable.



7. Climb two stiles into paddock then over the stile by the telegraph pole. Walk diagonally



to the top corner of the field to a stile by the leylandii hedge, then cross onto a drive.

8. Turn right to the main road. Now turn left. Before the rise to the railway bridge there is a tarmacked road to the train line. Where this road leaves the main road, there is a grassy path to the left, between the buildings. This is footpath 26. Continue along the path and through the gate.

9. The path itself is fairly clear but watch your footing. It is uneven and prone to brambles that will easily trip you up if you do not take care. At the end of this path cross the stile into a field with the railway fencing on your right, cross to the next stile.



10. Turn left diagonally in the direction of the way marker onto footpath 27. Keep the hillock on your left, then pass a small pond, head across the field to a pair of gates in the opposite corner. This brings you out at the bottom of gates in Eastfields Farm and on to Sytch Lane.

11. Cross over Sytch Lane onto footpath 28. Keep the

field boundary to your right, crossing a stile (beware the electric fences), then cross to the corner of the field and over another stile. Cross the field heading towards a stile just to the left of two trees. Keep the field boundary to your right, cross another stile and head for the gate, then across to the final stile and onto the A519. Turn left to return to your car.



Shorter walk

12. You can shorten the walk by omitting steps 3 and 4 and continuing along Sytch Lane, and by returning along Sytch Lane at step 11.

Circular Walk 8

A walk through the countryside to the west of Croxton



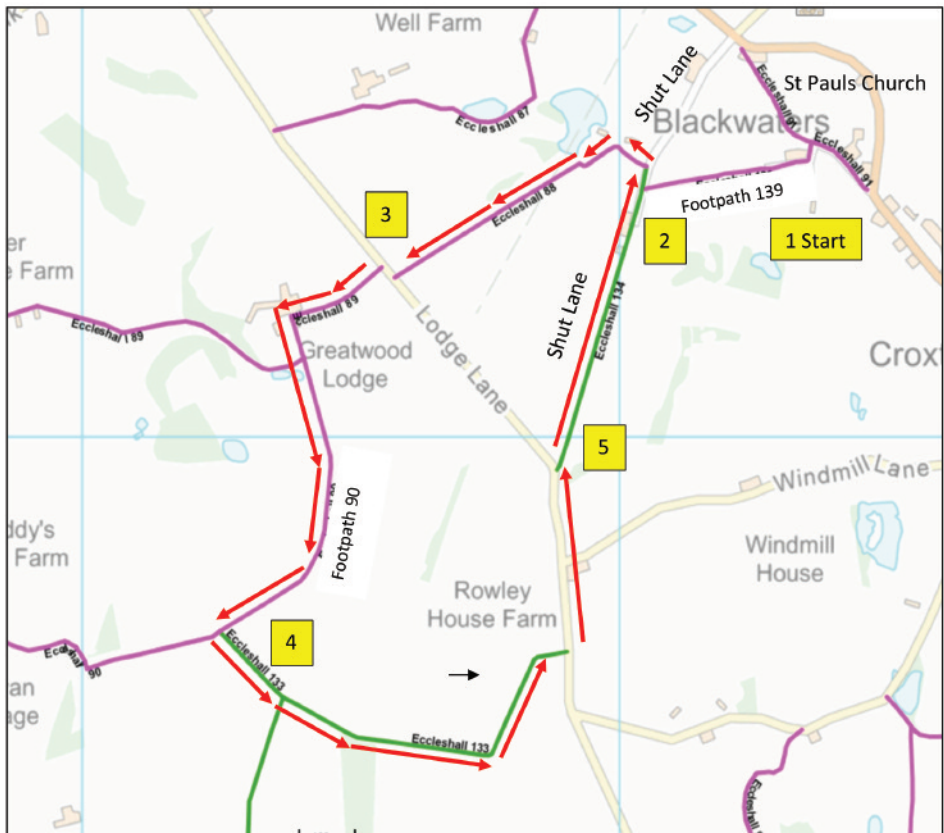
Approximately 1 1/4 hours



Approximately 4 km / 2 1/2 miles

Note: Stiles, livestock in fields, country lanes. Time for walk has been estimated at 2 miles/hr

Parking: By Croxton Church, where safe



Circular Walk	
Extension	
Footpaths	
Bridleway	

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1. Start at Church Lane in Croxton, which runs behind St. Paul's Church. Proceed down Church Lane (footpath 91), keeping St. Paul's Church on your right, follow sharp turn to left and then bear sharp right up the hill on footpath 139, going over the hill and down on to Shut Lane.

2. Turn right up Shut Lane for 43m, then turn left down a track (footpath 88) for 72m then bear left uphill at the gate/stile, past the electricity pylon on your right. Keep to the edge of the field and follow the footpath for approximately 450m until the junction with Lodge Lane.



3. Climb over the high stile and turn right. After 30m turn left onto the drive leading to Greatwood Lodge (footpath 89).

4. At the farm buildings turn left, opposite the double-bay barn on to footpath 90 and follow the path across fields for about 460m. Then turn left over a double stile, through a gap in the hedge and across another field for approximately 222m until the junction with a lane, footpath 133, which has some interesting rock cuttings. Turn left onto footpath 133, bearing slightly left, between fields for about 573m, until you reach a farm track.



5. Turn left onto this track and follow to the junction with Lodge Lane (250m). Turn left up Lodge Lane and follow the lane for about 324m until the junction with Shut Lane.



Turn right into Shut Lane and follow for approximately 524m until the junction with footpath 139 on the right where you began the circular walk. Proceed back up footpath 139 to your start.

Circular Walk 9

Eccleshall Parish Church to Copmere via footpaths, returning by Horsley Road and Elford Heath



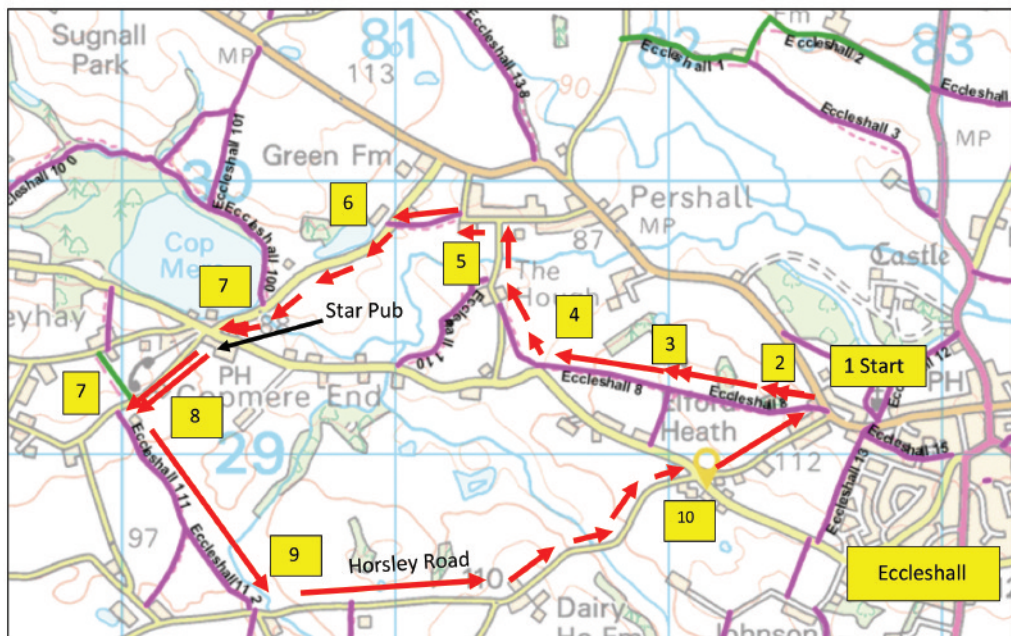
This walk starts at the 12th Century Parish Church, Holy Trinity and takes you via footpaths to Blest Barns, near Pershall, on to Copmere and back via footpaths, and Horsley Road to Elford Heath with its pond and picnic benches



Total distance approximately 6.4 km / 4 miles

Note: Moderately steep hill, stiles, livestock in fields, moveable electric fencing (marked with blue or orange plastic insulation) can be very muddy after rain.

Parking: Church Street or High Street, Eccleshall or car park at Elford Heath



Circular Walk →
Footpaths —
Bridleway —

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1. The walk starts at the 12th Century Holy Trinity Parish Church. Walk west along Church Street to the junction with Kerry Lane where you will find the signpost for the footpath – note the Old School House to your right. Follow the footpath between the hedges and through two kissing gates to the open field. Look diagonally uphill for the gate in the hedge and remember to admire the views of the countryside! Go through the gate and turn right, following the hedge and past the woods.

2. You are now in The Leys. Watch out for the springy gates in the electric fences here. The correct moveable portions of the electric fence have blue or orange plastic hand grips and a metal hook. When you get to the farm track with fencing on both sides, follow the track until it becomes concrete, past the water trough, and the turn off at telegraph pole 7.



3. See Cotesfield, below in the distance. Head diagonally across the field, crossing another fence by the water trough (with footpath disc), and head for the corner of the field where the road has a sharp bend. You will find a kissing gate next to the track gate.

4. Go through the gate and immediately right to find a stile with a footpath sign. Now head towards The Hough and Pershall.

5. Keep to your left to cross the drain then head diagonally, towards the gate in the far hedge where we will meet the concrete track again! Cross the two electric fences and continue a few more metres to find the stile and access to Hough Lane. Climb over the stile into Hough Lane.



6. Turn right down the lane, past The Hough farmhouses. Immediately after the old farmhouse is a footpath sign on the left pointing west. Follow this footpath, 103, along the boundary of the farmhouse bearing left, and then head across fields. Note that this field is prone to getting boggy, so stick to the left if you need to. Follow the hedge until you find the stile, and cross over onto the road to Copmere Lane.



reach a stile on the left, just

7. Turn left and follow Copmere Lane back towards The Star public house at the crossroads. The Star is a real country inn and an ideal refreshment stop. Go past the Star on to Blackwaters Road and follow the lane until you past The Lodge Bungalow. The stile is just before a metal farmgate. Climb over the stile onto footpath 111/112.



8. Bear a little to the right to a stile across the field ahead. Then keep the hedge to your right to another stile. Straight ahead is a stile and an open farm gate. Pass through the gate and keep straight on alongside the hedge until a stile is reached into Horsley Road.



9. Turn left and keeping left follow Horsley Road, past the Barn Conversions at Butterley Farm until you reach the crossroads with Shaws Lane and Kerry lane. Elford Heath is on your left, with several picnic benches, and an attractive pond.



10. From Elford Heath go straight ahead down Kerry Lane to the start of your walk at the Parish Church on Church Street.



Circular Walk 10

Explore Bishops Wood



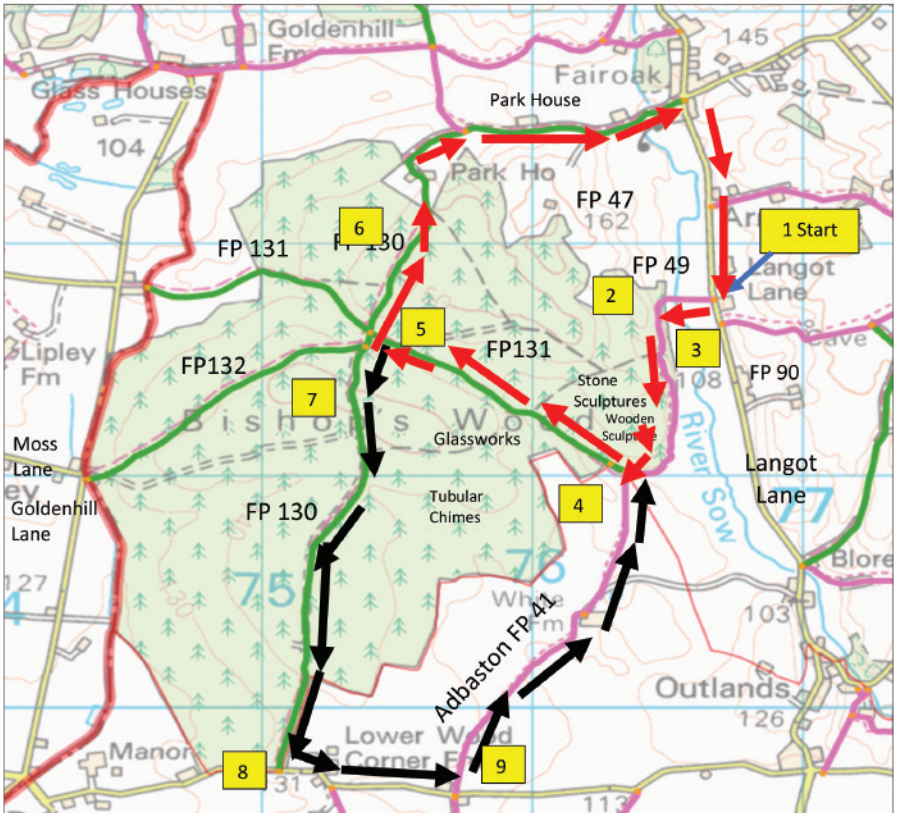
This walk is through Bishops Wood with an optional extension. The Glassworks, Tubular bells and Sculptures are not on the public rights of way, but only accessible via Forestry Commission tracks. Including the extension the walk takes approximately 2 1/2 hours



Distance approximately 5 km / 3.1 Miles. Extension 8.3 km / 5.2 Miles

Note: Few signposts (at the time of printing), slippery, muddy and steep paths, time has been estimated at 2 miles/hr

Parking: There are no car parks, but there are places near Bishops Wood where cars can be safely parked but have limited space. 1) on the side of Langot Lane, near the East Gate, 2) between Bishops Offley and Doley, near the South Gate, 3) Goldenhill Lane near the West Gate, just south of Moss Lane. Alternatively parking in the village of Fairoak is possible



Circular walk 10	
Extension	
Footpaths	
Bridleway	

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William Overton, Bishop of Lichfield (1580-1609) was probably responsible, in 1580, for bringing glass making families from Lorraine, (Tyzack and Henzey) to Bishops Wood near Eccleshall, where there was an ample supply of wood to fuel the glass furnaces. During the Elizabethan period there was great demand for the large windows in many mansions and smaller manor houses, as well as for glass vessels. By 1615 however, legislation against the use of wood for glass manufacture forced the glass furnaces to close and the workers moved to Newcastle-on-Tyne where coal was available. Bishops Wood has been in the ownership of the Church for centuries but was leased to the Government for 999 years and is managed by the Forestry Commission. There are many tracks for the use of the Forestry commission, but walkers should stay on the footpaths shown on the map, the others are not rights of way.

1. The walk starts at the East Gate just off Langot Lane. Either park in Fair oak and walk south down Langot Lane to footpath 49, marked by a post on the right-hand side, or park on Langot Lane just south of footpath 49, where there is a small lay-by. Then walk north up Langot Lane to the entrance to footpath 49, on your left, marked by a wooden footpath sign.



2. Follow the footpath sign west on footpath 49. There are fields on both sides and to the right is a menage with jumps for horses. After 150 metres enter Bishops Wood via the East Gate.

3. On entering the Wood turn immediately left, along footpath 49, following the wood boundary, for 750m, passing between a mixture of deciduous and pine trees.



During the autumn and winter, the path can be covered in a carpet of leaves and quite slippery, but the colours can be spectacular. Do not take a path to your right. Carry on until a farm gate on your left. There is a wooden sculpture on your right. The footpath bears right, following the wood boundary.



4. After a few metres the footpath turns to the right (there are stone sculptures hidden in the woods to your right, the sculptures are of various animals, but still recognisable) This is now footpath 131 and travels northwest. The footpath continues through the woods but does not pass the medieval glassworks or tubular chimes which are down tracks to the left, that are not rights of way. At a Y junction keep to the path on the right.



5. After 1 km the footpath crosses footpath 130. Turn right onto footpath 130 walking north for 600 metres until you reach the North Gate on the boundary of Bishops Wood.

6. Continue on footpath 47, passing Park House on the right. The footpath, now a farm track, then bears right past Moss Farm and Lower Farm, becoming a lane, until Langot Lane is reached. Turn right onto Langot Lane and proceed south until you return to the start of Footpath 49.



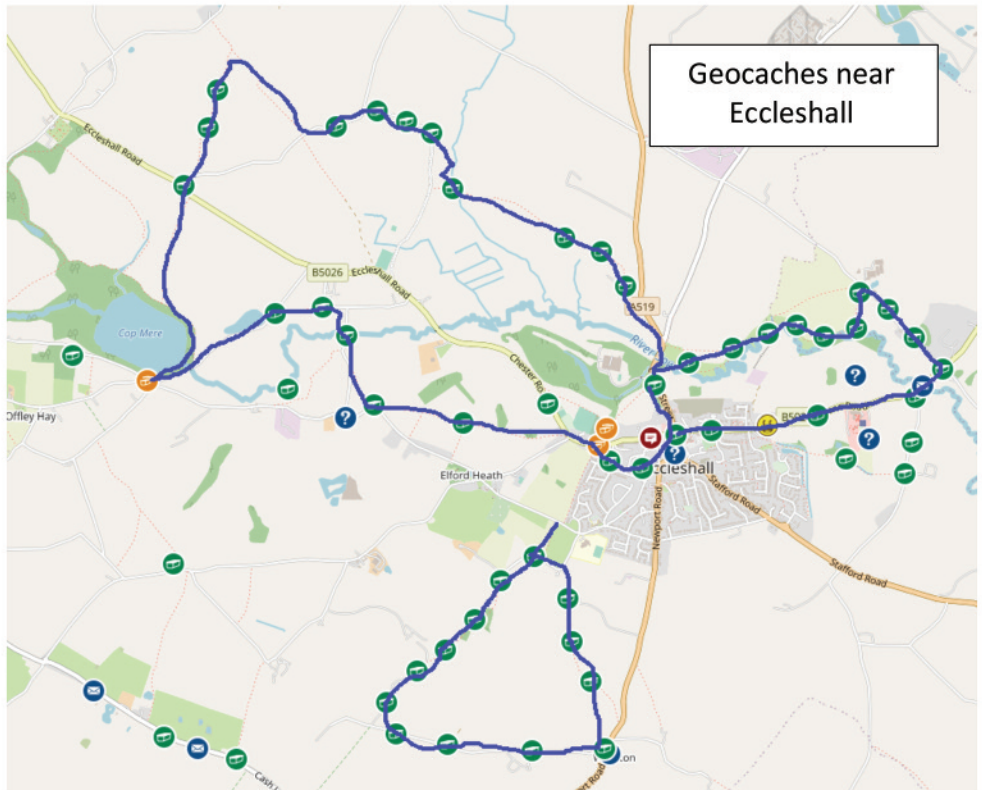
Extension Follow instructions 1 to 4 above.

7. After 1 km the footpath crosses footpath 130. Turn left going south on footpath 130 for 1.5 km, when the South Gate is reached at the boundary of the woods.
8. Turn left onto the road to Bishops Offley until you reach the footpath sign on your left. This is Adbaston footpath 41. Follow this footpath past White Farm until you reach the edge of Bishops Wood and footpath 49.
9. Turn right and return back up footpath 49 to Langot Lane.

A suggestion for further adventures when walking in the Eccleshall area is to take part in Geocaching.

What is geocaching and why do people do it?

Geocaching is a type of global treasure hunt where people look for caches, or hidden objects. Geocaches are hidden all over the world. At the location, they will hide a small waterproof container, a logbook and a pen or pencil. The location is logged on a website.



Then the geocache is listed online or within a geocaching app, for people to search for it. When they find it, the finder may take something from the geocache and leave something in return of equal value. Then leave the geocache as it was found. Enter in the logbook to record your find.

Free **Geocaching**® app on smartphone

Website: **Geocaching.com**.

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Thanks to the team of volunteer Footpath Marshals, who ensure the network of footpaths in and around Eccleshall are kept in good order, also made a valuable contribution with their advice and trial walking of the Circular Walks.

The maps in the booklet use the Stafford County Council footpath map.

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Please follow the Countryside Code

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do
- care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory



www.gov.uk/countryside-code



This booklet was published by Eccleshall Parish Council

All routes were accurate at the time of printing (Summer 2023)

A selection of other walks can be downloaded from
<https://eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk/local-information/footpaths-and-walks/>