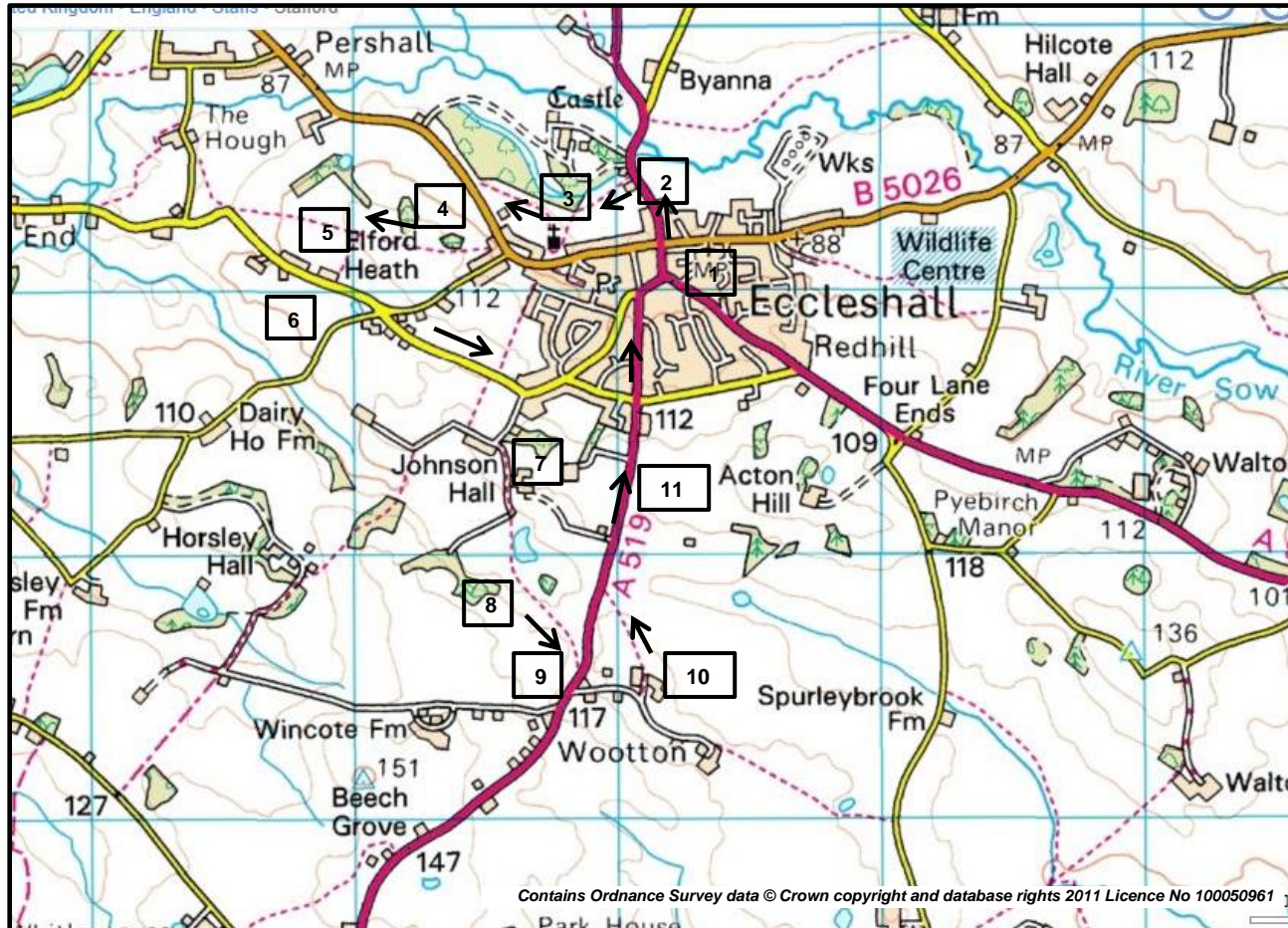


This route can be found on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 243, Market Drayton. You are advised to use this map in conjunction with the instructions.

WALK NO. 3 - ECCLESHALL – ELFORD-
WOOTTON - ECCLESHALL

WALKS IN ECCLESHALL PARISH



Enjoy your walk and remember the
Country Code.

Produced by Eccleshall Parish Council with support
and financial assistance from
Staffordshire County Council. Rev. 2018

WALK NO. 3.
ECCLESHALL - ELFORD -
WOOTTON - ECCLESHALL

WALK NO 3 - ECCLESHALL – ELFORD –
WOOTTON - ECCLESHALL

The walk is approximately 4.25 miles across gently undulating countryside, with a small amount of roadwork. It should take about 1 hour 45 minutes. An ideal walk for those not certain of their capabilities as at no time are you further than one mile from the start. There are plenty of places where you can alter course and 'head for home'. The walk starts and finishes at the Kings Arms Hotel, Stafford Street, Eccleshall. (1)

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

1. (832 291) Turn right towards the cross roads and go straight across and along the Newcastle Road A519 (Castle Street) for about 300 yds. Take the first path on your left between Lower Lodge and Castle Lodge. (2)
2. (831 294) Go through the kissing gate, and walk straight across the meadow towards the church. The woods to your right are part of the grounds of Eccleshall castle, a residence of the Bishops of Lichfield for over 700 years. It is now a private home. Go through the iron field gate and turn left and through the wicket gate into the churchyard. You will see on your right, the tomb of Bishop Lonsdale (the last Bishop to live in Eccleshall). Carry on along the path to the Lychgate. (3)
3. (828 292) The Holy Trinity Church was founded in 1190, and was built in the transitional Norman Style. There have been many changes and additions since. Don't go through the lychgate, but turn back towards the church porch and continue on the path past the west side of the tower. Follow the path down to the wicket gate at the bottom left-hand corner of the Churchyard. Walk past the cricket ground and tennis courts towards a clump of trees. The Castle Mere Nature Reserve is on your right.

Carry straight on to a wooden wicket gate in the hedgerow on your left. (4)

4. (824 294) Turn left, back towards Eccleshall along the road (B5026) until you get just past the Old National School on your right. (This is now a private house called 'Twin Oaks') Take the Public Footpath that passes immediately behind the old school. Go through the kissing gates and up across the field to another kissing gate to the left of a tall clump of pine trees. (5)
5. (824 292) Go through the gate, turn right and walk past the trees, then diagonally across the field to the brow of the hill. You get a magnificent panoramic view of the surrounding countryside from this point. Aim for the iron gate with a yellow marker. Turn left before the gate and walk with the hedgerow on your right to a kissing gate in the corner of the field. Cross over the road, and into Elford Heath Common. (6)
6. (819 290) Walk over the Common, past the pool on your left, to an opening along the road. Turn left, and at the cross roads, turn right along Shaws Lane. You will see the Town's Allotments on your right. Just before reaching the 30 m.p.h. signs turn right over a wooden stile into a field. Bear right and walk along the hedgerow on your right until you reach a wooden stile adjacent to a field gate at the end of the field. Cross the stile and into a lane, turning left, past a farm to the white ornamental gateposts of Johnson Court. (7)
7. (825 284) Go through the gate, along the lane until you reach the lodge on your left. At this point carry straight on down a grassy lane and through a kissing gate. Keep straight ahead with the row of trees on your right, past the pool on your left to a kissing gate adjacent to a metal field gate. (8)
8. (826 279) Once through the gate, look back to get a magnificent view of Johnson Hall. Bear left across the field to a kissing gate in a wooden fence. Go over the next field towards the bungalow on a hill and skirt around the base of the hill on your right, to a kissing gate and footpath sign. Turn right and cross the A519

Eccleshall – Newport Road to the first lane on your left, Wootton Lane (9).

9. (828 274) The cottage on your left was originally built as four cottages for Johnson Hall hands. Walk up the lane, past the deep pool on your left, to a right hand bend opposite the gated entrance to Yew Tree Barn, Dairy Cottage and The Studio (10).
10. (830 274) Turn left down the driveway and soon enter an enclosed pathway through a small wicket gate on the left. Exit this path through a second wicket gate and cross a farm driveway into a fenced enclosure. Turn right crossing stile set in the wooden fence into a small meadow. Then continue by crossing a further stile into a large field. From this point you get another good view of Johnson Hall. Once through the gate, bear right again to walk down the hedgerow towards a stile in the bottom corner of the field. (11)
11. (829 279) Cross the main road to the footpath on the other side. Turn right and walk back along the footpath to Eccleshall. Over the brow of the hill you will be back in a built up area. On your left, about half way down the hill, you will see Eccleshall Fire Station displaying its original horse drawn Fire Engine. Keep to the main road at the bottom of the hill, along Horsefair to your starting point, The Kings Arms Hotel. (1)