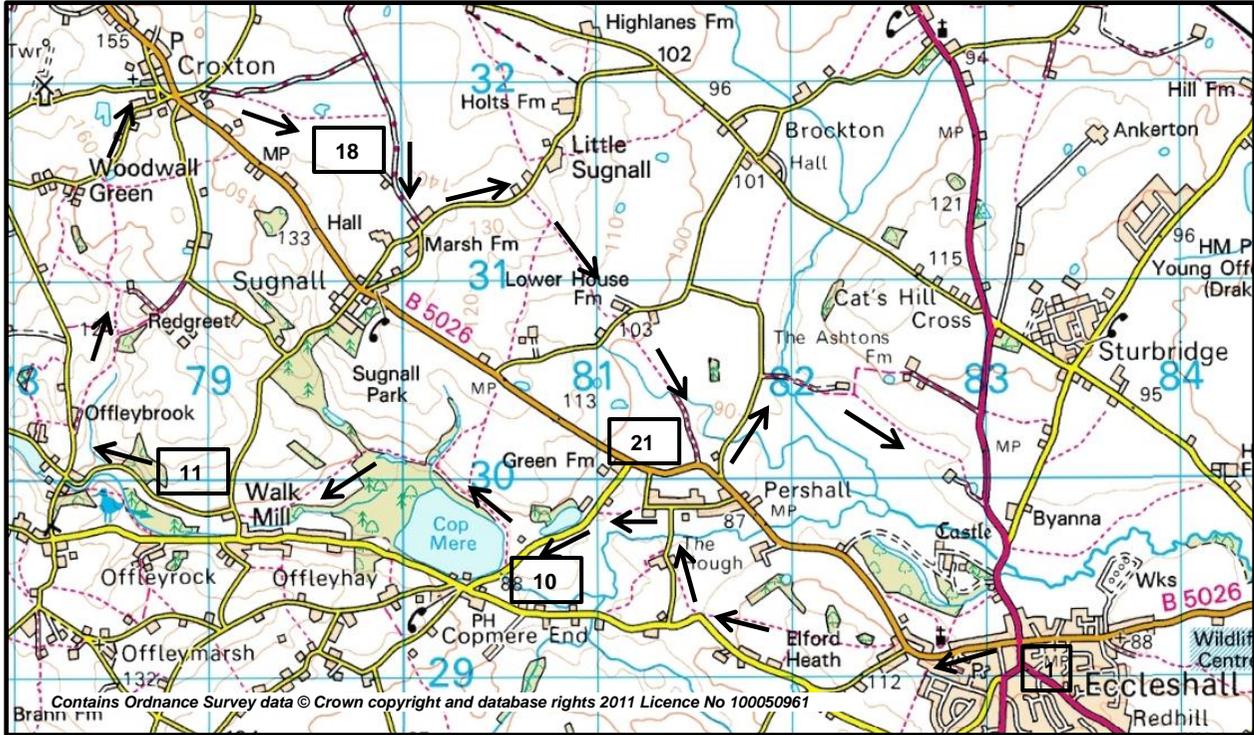


WALK NO. 10 - ECCLESHALL TO CROXTON AND RETURN VIA SUGNALL

WALKS IN
ECCLESHALL
PARISH



Enjoy your walk and remember the
Country Code.

Produced by Eccleshall Parish Council with support
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The walk takes in some very attractive corners of the parish. The full walk is quite long at approx. 13 miles. It is, however, well worth undertaking for the beauty of the green lane near to Croxton (**) and the extensive views of Hanchurch Hills, Cannock Chase, The Wrekin and the Welsh Hills that can be enjoyed on a clear day from the Leys (*) and from Sugnall (***). The route can easily be split into two separate walks or can be amended to your requirements. In this regard please see walks 1, 2, 4 and 6. Good quality bar snacks are available in Eccleshall and Copmere.

1. Park on the Stone Road car park. Limited parking is available in the High Street but beware the time limits in some areas

2. Walk along the High Street on the B5026 towards Loggerheads. Pass the church on your right. Immediately after Kerry Lane a footpath is signposted to the left. The house on your right was the town's National School.

3. Two pedestrian gates several yards apart lead into the field. Follow the path to a kissing gate, which is clearly visible in the hedge at the top of the field.

4. Turn right and follow the line of the hedge. The hedge swings right after 100 yards but the line of the path is clearly defined and arrives at a five bar gate and kissing gate at the far end of the field (*). Do not turn left, go through the kissing gate.

5. With the gate behind you, you will see another wicket gate in the middle of the next fence and thence veer slightly left to a farm gate and kissing gate in the bottom corner of the field. Turn right onto the Bishops Offley Road for just a few paces and then turn right into the adjacent gateway and over the stile.

6. Follow the hedge on your LHS to the wire fence halfway across the field, then turn right and head for the right hand corner of the field.

Leave by the stile. Turn right onto the lane and head for Pershall.

7. After about 800 yards turn left at the 'T' Junction. The lane turns through a right angle to the right after about 200 yards. Ignore this and go over the stile immediately in front of you.

8. The path goes slightly left at about 10.00 o'clock over a stile, then right and over another stile onto the lane.

9. Turn left and walk towards Copmere End. Turn right over a stepped stile at GR 805925.

10. Follow the path anticlockwise around Copmere and then through the fields and over stiles to Walk Mill. Do not turn right towards Sugnall at GR 802302.

11. The path leaves the field opposite Walk Mill Villa at GR 793298. Turn right onto the lane and after 30 yards turn left towards Jackson's Coppice and Offley Brook. At the cross-roads GR 783300, turn right and walk up the hill to GR 784304. Turn right onto a track and through the cattle gate into the valley. Follow the path to the RH corner of the field by a rock outcrop (**).

12. Cross a stile, the farm lane and a second stile into a narrow copse of trees, bushes and bracken. Keep the sheep fence on your left. Towards the far end of the copse climb up slightly to a stile. After walking through undergrowth you will see another stile on your left, which goes into the field.

13. Walk to the RH corner of the field and over a stile.

14. Walk across the field, keeping two small clumps of thorn on your left. Two stiles lead through the fence on your left at GR 786313.

15. Follow the RH fence and hedge to a stile towards the RH end of the field. Turn left onto the unsurfaced track, which leads to the Stone Private Fishing Club pool.

16. Turn right onto the road and follow it down to Croxton. Bear right at the first junction and carry onto the cross-roads.

17. Cross the B5026 WITH CAUTION and follow the lane (SP Chatcull and Standon) for 100 yards then turn right along a farm track marked by a FP sign. The track turns sharp left after 100 yards or so. Bear right at this point in the direction indicated by the FP sign towards

the RH end of a copse. At present there is rabbit netting but no stile. Stride over this and bear right through dense undergrowth to a wooden bridge and stile. The path crosses a large field to the furthest corner and passes through a small copse and a small field by a series of stiles. When you emerge follow the RHS hedge (***) and cross another field to a hedged lane.

18. Turn right and walk to the 'T' junction at Marsh Farm, Sugnall.

19. Turn left onto the lane and walk as far as the entrance to Hill Top Farm, Little Sugnall. Turn right and follow the RHS hedge, crossing two stiles. Where the field opens out walk straight ahead ignoring a path to the right (***). Keep the pit on your left and go downhill to a large oak tree. Cross the stile and head to the RH corner of the garden/sheep paddock facing you. Follow the garden hedge almost parallel. The exit stile is about 30 yards from the LH corner of the field.

20. Cross the lane and a high stile into the next field. The path crosses the field diagonally right to a stile by an oak tree and thence across the next field. You leave through a gate and join Spring Lane. Both Spring Lane and the bottom corner of the field tend to hold the water in bad weather.

21. Follow Spring Lane to the B5026 and turn left towards Eccleshall. At the football ground turn left onto Smithy Lane. Walk about half a mile along the lane and then turn right (FP sign) along the farm track. Just before Springfields Farm turn right through a galvanised gate. Follow more or less parallel to the LH hedge onto a short cattle lane thence along a lane and through a kissing gate into a field.

22. Go through a second kissing gate and follow the FP sign across a grass field to a gate way (maybe electric fence) by a ditch. Follow up the field and veer slightly to the right, going through a kissing gate, to emerge onto the drive of Pool House. Turn left onto the drive and follow it down to the A519. Turn right and follow the road into Eccleshall. If you wish, it is possible to turn right by the Lower Lodge and walk across the Town Meadow into the church yard.