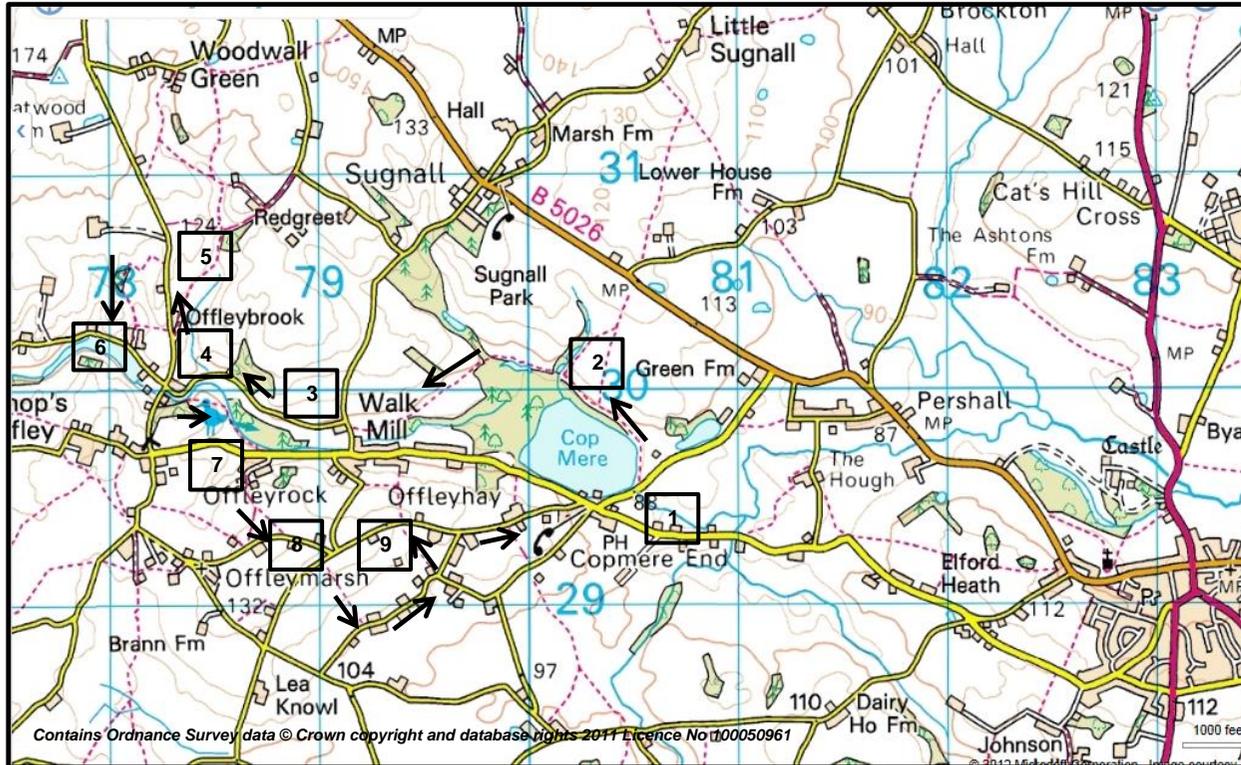


This route can be found on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 243, Market Drayton. You are advised to use this map in conjunction with the instructions.

WALK NO. 1 – COPMERE RAMBLE AND BEYOND TO THE OFFLEYS

## WALKS IN ECCLESHALL PARISH



Enjoy your walk and remember the  
Country Code.

Produced by Eccleshall Parish Council with support  
and financial assistance from  
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WALK NO. 1.  
COPMERE RAMBLE AND  
BEYOND TO THE OFFLEYS

WALK NO. 1 – COPMERE RAMBLE AND  
BEYOND TO THE OFFLEYS

The walk starts 150 metres North West of the Star Inn at Copmere End. This is best approached from the B5026, about a mile and a half North West of Eccleshall. There is a limited amount of parking on the road opposite the Mere. *The walk rounds 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 which is described below is 5.3 miles (8.5 kms), however there are numerous options for shortening your journey.

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. (805295) Start back towards the B5026. Immediately after crossing the river by the car park, go left over the large ladder stile, known locally as Jacob's Ladder. Follow the hedge with Copmere on your left to a stile by a gateway. Cross this and a series of stiles to pass a small pool on your right hand side to another stile (2).

2. (801301) Cross into the field and bear left with the wood on your left. Go over a stile in a fence and continue to cross a stile by a gate into the wood ahead. Follow the fence on your left, cross a track and keep straight on to a stile by a gate into the field. When in the field, keep the fence on your right to another stile by a gate. Continue over the stile with the hedge on your right to a stile and field gate into the lane at Walk Mill. (3)

*This spot is known as Walkmill. You will see the old water mill on your left. The name 'Walkmill' derives from the practice of 'fulling' or 'walking' woollen cloth in order to squeeze out excess natural oils. The mill was also used for grinding corn at a later stage.*

3. (792298) Turn right up the lane for a few metres, then turn left round the corner of Walk Mill Villa. About 200 yards 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. Detailed information boards tell you about the conservation work that is being undertaken by The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. The boardwalk around the reserve is well worth a short diversion. From the car park follow the sign-posted permissive path to Jackson's Coppice. This is another part of the nature reserve managed by The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Re-join the lane through a kissing gate. Jackson's Coppice is on your right in about 75 metres. Shortly after the Coppice, you will reach the cross-roads at Offleybrook.(4)

4. (783300) Turn right up the hill and walk up the lane for about 400 metres past Greatwood Farm Cottage on your left. Very shortly after this there is a gate on your left, set back and angled from the road. Just past this is a stile. Cross the stile into the field. (5)

5. (783306) Follow the hedge line on the left until it ends, then continue in the same direction to the hedge at the far side of the field. Turn left with the hedge line on your right. Go through a gap in the corner of a field then turn right along the hedge line and through a field gate in the corner. Turn left down a green lane, past Mill Farm House to the lane. (6)

6. (781302) Turn left along the lane past Offleybrook Mill, still in use as a corn mill, until you reach the cross roads.

*You will recognise the cross roads as point 4 on your outward journey. You may wish to be briefly side-tracked at this point. If you turn right, towards Bishops Offley, you will soon enter a deep gorge cut through the sandstone to make a more gentle gradient for the road. The sides are almost vertical and are over 30 feet high in places. Come back down the road and turn right at the cross roads.*

Go straight across the cross roads and after a few metres (where the road turns left) go through the field gate on your right. Walk up the track across the field to

the far corner. Go through the opening and along the narrow field to a stile. Continue with the brook on your left to a wicket gate and stile. On your left you will see a gate into the Marsh Reserve. Bear right across the field (towards a tall conifer) to a stile into the road. (7)

7. (787297) Turn right and immediately left along the brick surfaced bridleway. After 80 metres turn right past a few houses. The track narrows, keep ahead until you reach the lane end. Turn left along the lane until you reach the road junction. (8)

8. (791292) At this point, if you are feeling weary, you can turn left along the lane to point 9. Otherwise, turn right, and almost immediately left over a stile by an ash tree. Walk down the field with the hedgerow on your right. Over another stile, and continue towards the farm at the bottom of the field. Cross a stile, a gate and another stile (to the right of the farm buildings) into the lane. Turn left along the lane until just before a T junction, where you will see a stile on your left. Cross the stile and walk up the field with the hedgerow on your left. Pass to the left of the pond towards another stile. Cross the next field to a stile into the lane. (9)

9. (794293) Turn right down the lane to the Village Hall on your left. Cross the old school playground to a small wicket gate in the far left-hand corner. Walk down the field with the hedgerow on your left to a wicket gate into the lane, turn right and walk towards the Star Inn with Copmere on your left. You may wish to stop at The Star for refreshment, before turning left down the lane to the start point.

*The brook feeding the three main 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.*