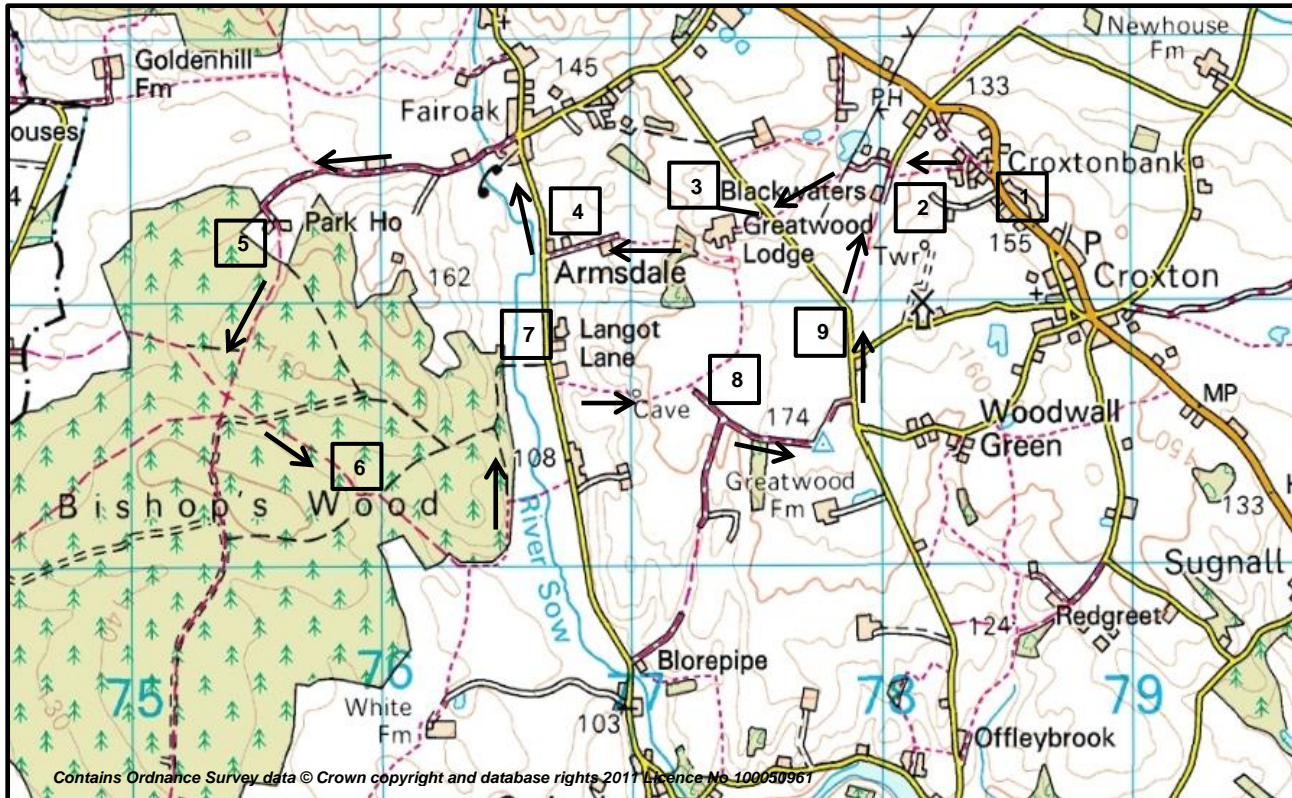


This route can be found on Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 243, Market Drayton. You are advised to use this map in conjunction with the instructions.

WALK NO. 6 – CROXTON – FAIROAK –
BISHOP'S WOOD - CROXTON

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. 6.
CROXTON - FAIROAK -
BISHOP'S WOOD -
CROXTON

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The walk is about 6 miles across fields, through woods and along country lanes. There is a shorter option, missing out Bishop's Wood, which reduces the walk to about 3 miles. The walk starts and finishes at Croxton church car park (Point 1).

Please do not park in the church car park on a Sunday. If you do use the car park you may like to make a small donation to the church by leaving an envelope in the porch.

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. (784 324) From the church car park, Take the track to the left of the church. After about 100 yards, with a white house on your left, turn left up a way-marked track. Fork almost immediately right. After passing the cottage on the left, continue along a tree-lined path, turn and go over a stile. Walk down the undulating field, with the hedgerow on your left, and over the stile by the field gate at the bottom.

2. (781 324) Turn right down the lane for a few yards, then turn left and carry on to a gate at the end of the lane. Through the gate, bear left uphill to the left of the electricity pylon. Continue over the stile and along the field with the hedgerow on your left. Head towards the stile in the corner of the field and cross into the road.

3. (776 323) Turn right then almost immediately left down a farm drive. As you approach the farmyard look for a yellow arrow on a small metal sign indicating left. Take the gate to the

left of the sign and through a small enclosure. Turn right before the ponds to a stile by a gate. Walk down the valley to a gate at the right of the white house at the bottom of the field. Turn left and walk down the lane to Langot Lane.

If you wish to take the short route, turn left here along Langot Lane to Point 7.

4. (767 322) Turn right along Langot Lane to Fair oak. When you reach the cross-roads turn left down the lane and follow it until you reach a cattle grid, ignoring a left fork. Carry on along the track in the field, bearing left uphill to a gate at 758 324. Walk up the lane through two gates, past Park House. The name of the house is not visible, but the sunken track then leads you into Bishop's Wood.

5. (756 321) Go through the gate and straight along the track. Ignore the first cross road of tracks but turn left at the finger post at the next crossing of tracks (754 316). Keep straight on across the forest road. You may see large anthills on either side of the track. A few yards to the right of a grassy triangle you will see a partially restored late 16th century glass furnace. (760 312)

6. Continue down the track in the same direction. You will see a gate into a field on your right. Bear left at this point and remain in the wood. Ignore two stiles on your right. At the 'T' junction on the path turn right. The path is narrow and you will see the Langot Valley to your right. The diversion post (765 315) sends you to the right and downhill across a bridge over a small stream then through a gate onto Langot Lane. (767 318) Turn right for 100 yards and go through the gate on your left by the finger post.

Bishop's Wood is so called because it has been part of the Bishops of Lichfield Estate since the twelfth century. The Bishops owned nearby Eccleshall Castle for several hundred years and were resident there for varying periods until the castle was sold into private ownership in 1871. In 1580 Bishop Overton established a glass making industry in the wood, and

for a short period this was an important centre for the process. In 1615 the use of charcoal and wood in glass making was banned because of the shortage of wood for ship building. The glass makers then moved away to areas where coal was readily available.

7. (767 316) Take the track up across the field. Go through the right hand of two gateways at the top. Walk up the next field, with the hedgerow on your left, until you reach a cattle trough. At this point, bear diagonally right up the hill to a stile at the top right hand corner of the field. Continue up the field, with the hedgerow on your right, and over another stile. Go straight across the field. From here you will have a good view of the Croxton Windmill and the surrounding countryside. Cross the stile into a grassy track.

8. (772 316) Turn right up the track and on through a cutting in the rock. Where the track turns left, you can get a magnificent view over the gate on your right. In the distance you may be able to see the Wrekin, which is 18 miles away. When you reach the road, turn left past Rowley House Farm. Where the road turns to the left, take the grassy bridleway to your right.

9. (779 320) Walk down the bridleway for about half a mile until you find a footpath on your right. You are now back at point 2 (781 324). With the hedgerow on your right, retrace your steps back to your starting point.