

The Fox and Woodcote Hill, Newport, Shropshire



Moderate Terrain

4 miles
Circular
1.5 to 2
hours

200114



Access Notes



1. The walk has several gentle climbs and descents and there are no stiles on route, just one single gate.
2. The paths are wide and well-made for the most part, but a few sections pass along the edge of fields and these paths can be quite muddy in winter and after periods of rain so good boots are recommended.
3. The footpaths are not particularly well signed, so be sure to follow the directions carefully to ensure you stay on the public rights of way.

The Fox is a lovely big Edwardian-style pub all wrapped around a busy bar, with a large south-facing terrace to enjoy in the summer months.

A 4 mile circular pub walk from the Fox in Chetwynd Aston, Shropshire. The walking route explores the surrounding gently rolling countryside following tracks and paths through arable farmland and woodland, a peaceful journey with lovely views throughout.

Getting there

Chetwynd Aston is a small village located between Telford and Newport in Shropshire. The walk starts and finishes at the Fox pub which is on Pave Lane and has its own large car park.

Approximate post code **TF10 9LQ**.

Walk Sections



Start to Track Fork



Leave the pub car park back onto Pave Lane, and turn right along the pavement. Keep ahead along the road for some distance. Immediately before a left-hand bend with a boundary sign for Woodcote, turn right into Pitchcroft Lane. Take care of any traffic here as this quiet lane has no pavements.

Beyond a handful of properties, follow the lane as it swings left and narrows between high grass verges. When the lane swings hard right, fork left down a wide farm track. The hill sloping up to your left is known as Muster Hill. You're likely to come across lots of pheasant and other game birds as the area is used to rear them. During the pheasant shooting season (October to January) you may hear the guns in action, the only sound that is likely to disturb your peace here.

Eventually you will see another track turning off to the left. Do NOT take this, instead keep ahead for a few more

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paces to reach a fork in the main track.

1 → 2 Track Fork to Metal Gate



Keep left at the fork and follow the main track as it winds between a couple of sections of woodland and then continues out between arable fields. Take time to enjoy the views as they open up each side. Some distance later, where a hedge on the right ends, you'll come to a minor crossroads at the edge of a large open crop field. Turn left here, heading for a small woodland.

As you reach the edge of the woodland, swing right along the field edge. In the field corner keep ahead to join a short section of grass track which leads you to a wide wooden gate. As you come up to this gate, you'll see a smaller metal gate to the left.

2 → 3 Metal Gate to Heath Hill Lodge



Go through this metal gate, turn right for a few paces and then swing left onto the obvious track heading for the large woodland ahead, Woodcote Hill. As you reach the edge of the woodland, swing right to join the slightly raised track which runs alongside the woodland boundary. The woodland once formed part of the Woodcote Hall estate which, in the mid 19th century, comprised lavish formal pleasure gardens, walled kitchen gardens, fishing pods and tree-lined avenues.

Finally the track emerges to a T-junction with the B4379 road. Cross over with care to reach the wide grass verge on the opposite side and turn right along this. Continue for just 100 yards and then, immediately before the white stone cottage (Heath Hill Lodge), cross back over the road to turn right along the track which runs to the right of the lodge.

3 → 4 Heath Hill Lodge to Child Pit Farm



Follow this stone/gravle drive for some distance and eventually you will come to the gated entrance to a private property. Immediately before the gates, pass right through a gap in the hedge and then turn left along the left-hand boundary of a crop field. Follow this as it swings right. The large copse of trees in the centre of the field to your right (which you have now walked all the way round) is known as Barbers Gorse. After about 100 yards you'll see a wooden marker post. Swing left through the gap in the hedge here, and then turn right along the right-hand edge of this next crop field.

Take time to enjoy the views that have now opened up to the left, stretching for miles across the hills and valleys to the west. As you reach the field corner, follow the boundary path as it swings left. As the path steadily descends, you'll get a true sense of the scale of this vast crop field. Across to the left you can see the edge of the Lilleshall Hall Golf Club.

The Lilleshall Estate extends to 30,000 acres to the west and south of this point. It contains the remains of Lilleshall Abbey (a 12th century Augustine monastery) and a large former country house, Lilleshall Hall. The estate is now one of five Sport England National Sports Centres. The Lilleshall Centre is home to the British Gymnastics and Archery GB teams.

The path continues through an open section between crop fields and then passes Child Pit Farm on the left, to reach a T-junction with another track.

4 → 5 Child Pit Farm to End



Turn right onto this track which heads steadily downhill and passes between open crop fields. Beyond the open fields continue on the track with a hedge running to the left. You will emerge to a T-junction with another track. (Note: from this point you will be re-tracing your steps back to the pub). Turn left along this track and follow it passing Muster Hill now to the right.

At the end you'll reach a T-junction with Pitchcroft Lane. Turn right along this and follow it to its end where you'll come to a T-junction with Pave Lane. Turn left (signed to Newport) and follow the left-hand pavement for a little distance to reach the Fox for some well-deserved hospitality.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

