

Length of walk

Longer than most circular walks, this route involves the negotiation of a number of gates and stiles. It is clearly way marked, and offers a cop-out should you wish to shorten your walk.

Total walk: 7.50 miles (approx. 4 hours)

Cop out: 4.50 miles (approx. 2.5 hours)

Cop-out: 4.50 miles (approx. 2.5 hours)



Starting Point

Coleshill Church (A) is the starting point of the walk, within the vicinity of which there is ample car parking. Please park carefully, however, as you will be away for some time.

Further Information

For further information on other circular walks in North Warwickshire, Countryside Events & Activities, and Cycleways, please contact North Warwickshire Borough Council, Community Development Division, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone, CV9 1BG, telephone (01827) 719207. More information about activities and events in Northern Warwickshire can be obtained by visiting the Northern Warwickshire Information Centre, Kingsbury Water Park, Bodymoor Heath Lane, Sutton Coldfield, Telephone (01827) 872660. If you find any problems on public footpaths, please contact Warwickshire County Council's Countryside Access Team on (01926) 410410.

For **HAPPY** walking follow the country code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work

Keep all dogs under control

Keep to public paths across farmland

Fasten all gates

Guard against the risk of fire

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone

Help to keep all water clean

Take your litter home

Protect wildlife, plants and trees

Make no unnecessary noise

Take special care on country roads

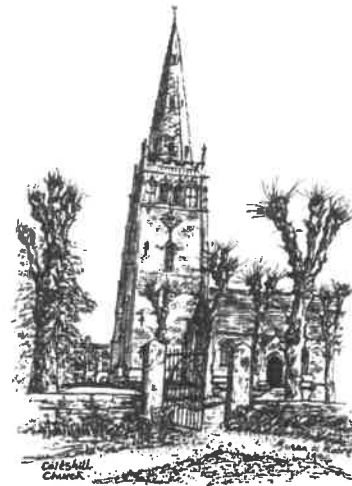
Follow the waymarkers which indicate the route of the walk

Wear strong water-proof footwear



Illustrations: Coleshill Church by Susan K. Moore, Maxstoke Castle by J.P. Neale & etched by W Radclyffe (1830)

Coleshill Walk



A pleasant mix of rural charm and an historic past will reward everyone who completes this four hour circular walk. Scenic landscapes and characterful heritage clamour for attention on this picturesque walk, at the heart of which is the small market town of Coleshill



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL



COMMUNITY LEISURE

COLESHILL CIRCULAR WALK

Main Route ▲

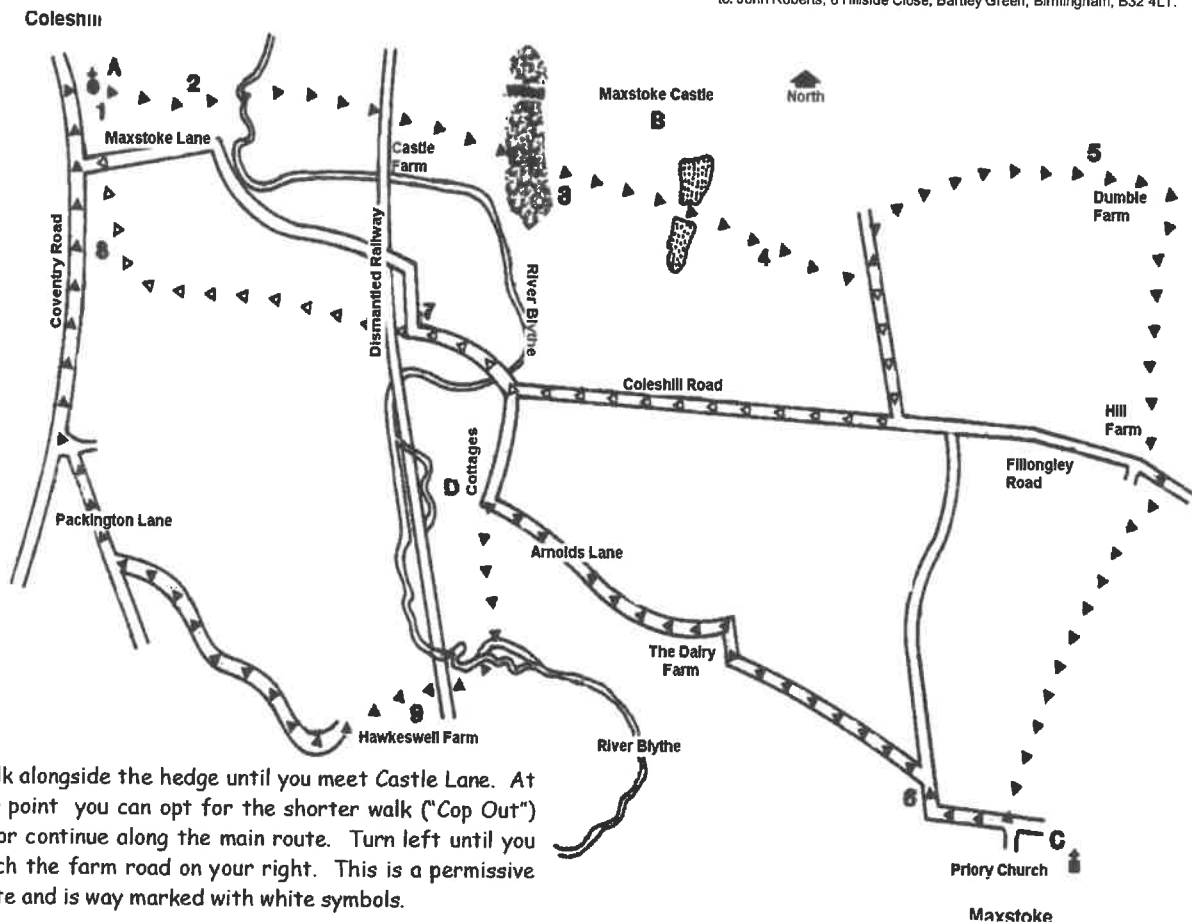
The walk starts at Coleshill Parish Church (A), where you leave the churchyard and cross the grassed area, known as "The Croft". Walk around the edge of the graveyard and onto the road. Keeping to the road, turn right and then left, and pass through the kissing gate.

1). Follow the path across the field and over the stile (2). Continue over the River Blythe until the footpath reaches a road. Walk straight ahead, past Castle Farm on your right. Head towards the wood and enter Maxstoke Golf Course at the stile.

(3). Keep to the perimeter path, taking in views of historic Maxstoke Castle.(B). Pass between two pools and leave the golf course at the stile (4).

on to the road. Walk along this country lane until you reach a road junction. Take the left hand fork, Arnolds Lane (6) and continue for a mile, past Maxstoke Farm, until you reach a group of cottages with a frog pond before them. Turn left at Frogpond Cottage (D), following the track through the woods. Turn right at the junction with a footpath. Cross the backwater and River Blythe and bear right towards a dismantled railway line. Cross the stile (9) and proceed to Hawkeswell Farm. Follow the way marks around the farm, on to Packington Lane and into Coleshill.

(**) For further details on The Heart of England Way long distance footpath, write to: John Roberts, 8 Hillside Close, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 4LT.



Walk alongside the hedge until you meet Castle Lane. At this point you can opt for the shorter walk ("Cop Out") (*) or continue along the main route. Turn left until you reach the farm road on your right. This is a permissive route and is way marked with white symbols.

Continue along the road towards Dumble farm. Just before the farm buildings turn left over the stile (5) and follow the footpath across the field. Cross the next stile and walk along the field's edge towards two further stiles. Do not cross these stiles, which are part of the Heart of England Way (**). Instead, turn right and continue across the top of the field, taking in the views on your right over the Midland Plain towards Coleshill and Birmingham. Cross the next two stiles and the protected electric fence. Proceed along the path, over the stile and on to Fillongley Road. Turn left. 40 yards past Hill Farm cross the stile to your right and walk straight ahead through the gate. Turn right and follow the line of the field. At the next gate, turn left, cross the stiles and proceed towards Maxstoke Priory (C) and Maxstoke Church. At the Church Hall, turn right

COP OUT ▲

When you reach Castle Lane, marked (*) in the description of the complete route, turn right. At the next junction turn right into Coleshill Road. After crossing Duke Bridge and walking around the right hand bend, turn left through the gate and into the field (7). Walk along the path and cross the dismantled railway line and stile. Turn right, walk alongside the fence, crossing the next two stiles, and proceed to the corner of the field. Turn right and cross the stile. Continue, turning left over the next stile and walk diagonally left across the field. Turn right over the next stile and follow the gravel track onto Maxstoke Lane. Turn left and walk 100 yards to High Street, Coleshill. Coleshill Church is on your right and to the rear of the High Street shops.

Points of Interest

(A) The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul:

This lovely building dates back to the 14th century, from which it has stood sentinel over Coleshill. Coleshill, itself, was formerly a royal demesne. The town was once inherited from the De Montfords by Simon Digby, whose descendants lie in the church vaults, and who was notable for changing sides in the War of the Roses.

(B) Maxstoke Castle:

Dating from the 14th century, this moat surrounded castle was constructed by William de Clinton, Earl of Huntingdon. It was remodelled after 1440 by the First Duke of Buckingham. In 1589, it passed to Sir Thomas Dilke, whose family still owns Maxstoke Castle today.

Right, an engraving by W. Radclyffe etched in 1830, of Maxstoke Castle, much of which remains the same today.

(C) Maxstoke Priory: Founded in 1336 for Augustinian Canons by William de Clinton.

(D) Frogpond Cottage: A typical old country picture-postcard dwelling, which stands beside the pond which gives it its name.

