

DISCOVER  
**ASHBOURNE**

Country Walk 4:  
Sturston Hall and Bradley Wood

An easy walk in the Henmore Valley, visiting Sturston Hall and Bradley Wood with optional diversion to the Shrovetide goal. 6 kms. Allow 1.5 hours.

DIRECTIONS

1. Start from Shawcroft car park. Note the brick plinth where the annual Shrovetide Football is "turned up" (starts). Cross the road by the pedestrian crossing and follow the path left then right over the flood defence bank into the park. Cross over a wooden footbridge alongside the pond (originally one of the fishponds for Ashbourne Hall).

2. Follow the path ahead to another footbridge but do not cross it. Turn right to follow the river bank along the edge of the sports field.

3. At the end of the sports field cross a step stile on a wooden fence (ignore the stile on the right). Continue to follow the river bank. At a weir and sluice gate go across a small stream and pass through a hedge. After one more hedge go diagonally across the field to the edge of the new housing estate. Go through the gate into the estate and proceed straight ahead, slightly uphill. Where the road turns right go ahead through the gate into the field. Turn left and follow the track alongside the hedge for about 100 metres.

4. Go through the narrow squeeze stile and walk alongside the hedge to reach another stile by a cottage. Walk straight ahead along Mill Lane for about 800 metres to reach Sturston Hall. There was a moated hall near here in the 14th Century and the present Hall was built in about 1650. (If you want to see the Sturston goal for the Shrovetide Football match, turn left and walk through Sturston Mill Farm to reach a footbridge over the Henmore Brook. The goal is on the left bank just upstream of the bridge. Then retrace your steps to Sturston Hall).

5. Facing Sturston Hall, turn right through a field gate to follow a rough track, initially uphill. Go right across a cattle grid and a second one just before the A517. Cross the road carefully (beware of fast moving traffic) to enter Bradley Wood (given to the people of Ashbourne in 1935 by Captain Fitzherbert

Wright). Walk 50m into the wood on a narrow path to reach a crossing track. Turn right to follow this track to the corner of the Wood where there are two commemorative benches. Alternatively you can pick your own route through the wood using one of the many other paths to reach the same corner.

6. Cross the road (again with care) and turn left to walk along the grass verge to reach a lane on the right (Mill Lane). Turn right and follow the lane past an electricity substation. Where the lane turns right you go left alongside the cottage. You are now retracing your steps from the way out.

7. At the end of the cottage cross a stile alongside a field gate and follow the hedge line straight ahead. At the end of the field squeeze through a narrow stile and turn left to proceed for 100 metres. Go through the gate into the estate and go straight ahead slightly downhill. Go through the gate out of the estate and proceed diagonally across the field towards Henmore Brook.

8. Turn left and follow the brook back to the park sports fields. Cross the wooden footbridge by the pond, the flood protection bank and the pedestrian crossing to return to Shawcroft car park.

This walk was last edited in March 2021 – note that paths and buildings can change from year to year.

Please leave all gates as you find them, keep dogs on leads and take all litter home with you. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear and remember that paths become muddy after rain and that roads may have fast-moving traffic.