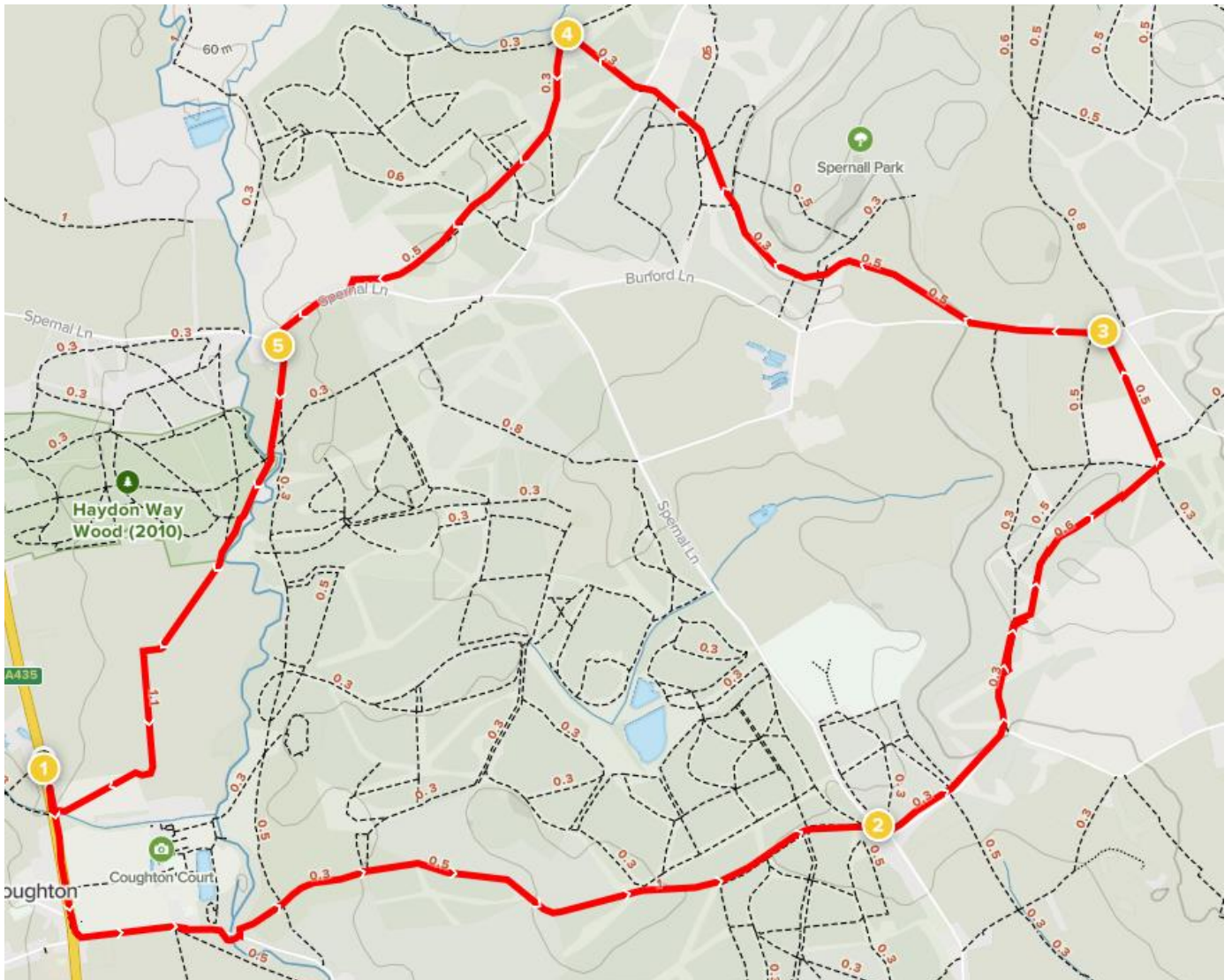


THROCKMORTON WALK 2

Coughton & Sperrall Millennium Way

Distance 7 Miles (11.3km)



Coughton and Sperrall is a 11.3 kilometer loop trail located near Alcester, Warwickshire, England that features a river and is rated as moderate. The trail is primarily used for hiking and walking.

1 - Start to Sperrall Lane

Turn right out of the Throckmorton Arms car park and walk down the main road pavement for approximately quarter of a mile, passing a footpath on left and the entrance to Coughton Court. Continue further down the main road, enjoying fine views of Coughton Court on your left, to reach the crossroads (just a few yards past the pedestrian crossing). Turn left down Coughton Fields Lane to pass the coach entrance to Coughton Court and Throckmorton Catholic Church on your left. Coughton Court has been the home of the Throckmorton family since 1409. They were a Catholic family who refused to give up their faith and suffered as a consequence, with fines and imprisonment. The house holds a unique place in English history with its close connections to the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, a plot designed to blow up Parliament and kill the King. Although the house is now in the hands of the National Trust, the family still live in the house and the gardens (which were designed and created by the present Throckmorton generation) are still maintained by them. Continue along the lane to cross the ford via a footbridge. Once across the footbridge, cross over the lane and take the wide track (there is a sign that says farm access no parking) on the left. You are now on The Arden Way. Continue ahead on this wide track for just over a mile.

The track rises gently towards an old barn on your left. Ignore the side track to the barn, instead stay ahead on the main track with a hedge on your right to continue gently uphill. Keep ahead along the track until you reach the road, Spernal Lane.

52.24576, -1.88525

2 - Spernal Lane to Burford Lane

Turn right at the road and, after 40 paces, turn left down the side lane signposted Shelfield Green. Continue along the lane for just over quarter of a mile and, at a sharp right-hand bend, take the footpath left through a metal gate, signed as a bridleway and the Heart of England Way. The track rises gently to pass the southern tip of Alne Wood on your left. Near the top of the track, ignore a footpath left and keep ahead to pass in front of a house named Mutton Barn. Go through the gated gap immediately ahead, keeping close to a hedge on your right, and pass under power lines. Bear slightly right through a gated gap to enter a woodland path, then follow the Heart of England Way to continue along a woodland track. Emerging from the woodland, stay ahead on a path with a woodland on your left. Soon you will reach a solitary waymarker post. Go 20 paces past the post, then take a metal kissing gate left signed as the Arden Way and Heart of England Way. Entering the large field, go diagonally left towards the top left-hand corner near dwellings and exit via a metal kissing gate to a lane, Burford Lane. Here we leave the Heart of England Way and go left down the lane.

52.244173, -1.846998

3 - Burford Lane to Millennium Way

Continue past a small thatched cottage on your right to eventually walk downhill. After 200 yards, take a hidden footpath right, up some steps and through a gap. Turn left to walk with a hedge on your left, parallel with the road, to reach the field corner. NOTE: There may be an electric fence here. Ignore the gate to the road on your left in the field corner, instead stay in same field, turn right and go with the hedge on your left to find and take a waymarked path left through a metal kissing gate. Go ahead towards the wood. Go through a metal kissing gate ahead and over a small footbridge, maintaining a line ahead on a central path towards the edge of the wood, to find a track. Follow the track round to the right, keeping the wood on your right, and continue along the track to reach a gap (where a gate has been removed). Go through the gap then head diagonally left across the field, keeping to the edge of the young plantation. As you get closer to the hedge, stay along with the hedge on your left to take a hidden footbridge and metal gate in the left-hand field corner. Continue ahead with a wood on your left and, on reaching the road, cross over taking the footpath directly ahead to cross a small stone footbridge over stream. Go left to continue under power lines, keeping a hedge on your left. Continue to the far-left corner to find a metal gate. Here we join the Millennium Way and you will be guided from here by the distinctive black Millennium Way markers.

52.258017, -1.83667

4 - Millennium Way to Spernal Church

Go left through the gate and, following the Millennium Way waymarker, keep the hedge on your left continuing around the edge of the field then under power lines to exit by a wooden gate. Go ahead into the garden of a house and stay ahead (with a hedge on your left and a pond on your right) to exit the garden by a gate (just to the left of the main entrance gate). Emerge from this gate at a junction of several tracks. With your back to the gate, go ahead veering slightly right to go up the steepest of the grassy tracks (keeping a tall hedge with oak trees on your right and a young plantation left). Continue up with the hedge on your right (ignoring two wide gaps right) to a narrow corner gap at the top of the field. Take this gap and go forward, gently uphill, for 40 paces where you will see twin electricity poles in the mid field ahead. Continue to the summit, passing just to the right of these twin poles, and stay forward to take a gate in the corner near to two large trees. Go ahead with a wire fence on your right to walk gently downhill and take a metal gate ahead. Continue downhill, with a hedge on your right, to take another metal gate then follow down between a wooden fence and hedge, passing to the rear of cottages to reach a corner metal gate. Take the gate then go forward a few yards to take the next metal kissing gate and turn right down the road. Follow the road to take the first surfaced lane on your left. Pass a house on your right to reach the

former Church of St. Leonard's in Spernall, also on your right. For almost thirty years the church has been used by the highly talented artist, Nicholas Jones, as his studio.

52.266343, -1.861249

5 - Spernall Church to End

Pass the church on your right and, immediately after the church gate, go through a wooden kissing gate. Go ahead with a fence on your right, eventually reaching a metal gate giving access to a metal footbridge over the River Arrow. Cross this bridge and continue ahead, close to the riverbank on your left, following the path as it leads you into the narrowing end of the field. Take a kissing gate ahead. Go diagonally right across the next field to the corner, where there are a number of hedgerow oaks, to find a gate. Take the gate and turn immediately right (with a hedge on your right and a fence on your left). Go to the field corner, stay in the field but turn left in front of the gate and continue with the hedge on your right, walking towards Coughton Court ahead. On reaching the next corner, take the kissing gate and turn right into the next field. Walk along a short distance with a metal rail fence on your right to take another kissing gate then go diagonally left across the field (towards the cottages on the far side). Exit by a kissing gate to emerge onto the main road where we leave the Millennium Way. Turn right at the road to bring you back to your start point at the Throckmorton Arms for some welcome refreshment.