



Church Stretton Short Circular Walks

Walk 2: Helmeth Wood

Route: Snatchfield – Gaerstones Farm - Helmeth - Watling Street North

- **Start:** Market Square, High Street Church Stretton
- **Length:** Approximately 4 miles
- **Time:** 2 hours
- **Difficulty:** Easy. A few stiles and gentle slopes. Can be muddy in the winter.
- **Public Toilets:** Easthope Road & Lutwyche Road in Church Stretton
- **Eating Places:** Cafés and pubs in Church Stretton, Vending Hut at Gaerstones Farm (card payment only)

Walk description: Gentle circular walk around Helmeth Wood, famous for its April/May bluebells, with nice views of Caer Caradoc and the Long Mynd.

The full series of eight short circular walks starting from Church Stretton are available in the Visitor Information Centre and can be downloaded from the **Visit Church Stretton website** at <https://churchstretton.co.uk/>

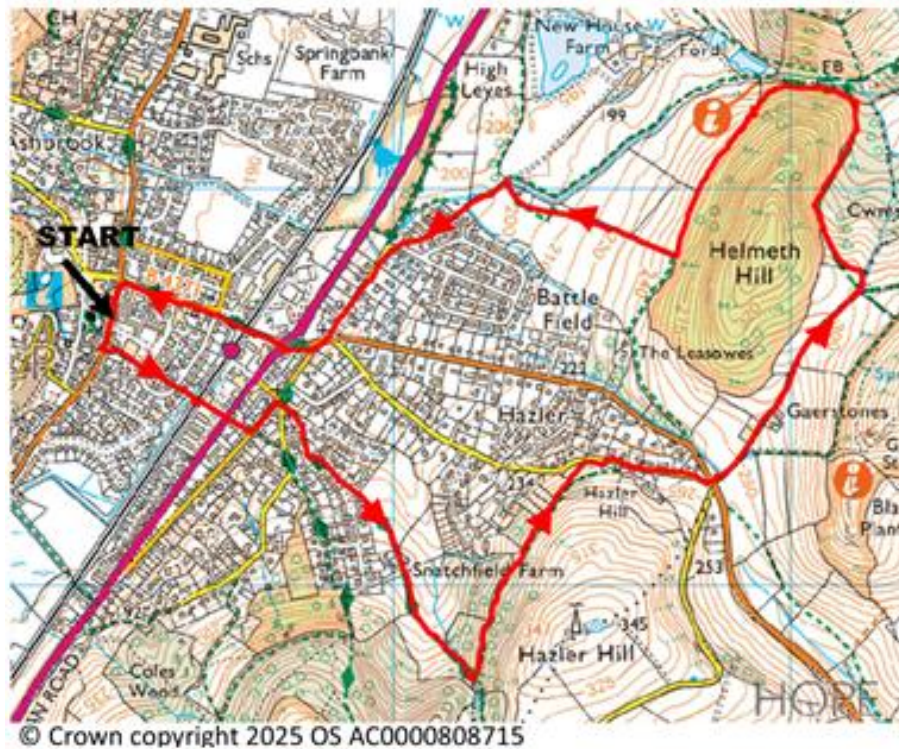
Walk Directions

Step 1) Start at **Market Square**. Walk south along High Street, passing the Bucks Head pub on right. Just before the Kings Arms turn left into a passageway which runs beside it. Follow this passageway which crosses two roads, a railway bridge, the A49 and continue straight ahead to reach Watling Street South.

Step 2) Turn left onto Watling Street South, take the first right into Clive Ave just before the Sandford Nursing Home. Almost immediately bear left onto Snatchfield Lane and follow the Bridleway sign **right** up a pathway and out onto a road. Go straight across to continue on the Bridleway which takes you up a farm track.

Step 3) Soon after passing Snatchfield Farmhouse, go through a gate into a field. Follow the path across the field which then bears left towards the far corner of the field, diagonally opposite. At the top of the field the path becomes narrower and leads to a metal gate. Go through the gate, then cross a small bridge. Turn left immediately after the bridge and follow the path through the trees, keeping generally close to the fence on the left.

Step 4) After a while go through a farmgate on your left where the path joins Hazler Road. **To shorten the walk**, turn **left** onto Hazler Road and walk downhill **back into town**. **To continue on the walk**, turn right onto Hazler Road and walk to the end of the road.



Step 5) Cross over and take farm track opposite signposted Gaerstones Farm. Go up the farm track and through a gate which opens into a field.

Step 6) As you enter the field **stop**. On the left there is a farm gate into a field. Look for another gate a little further ahead on the left which has a stile with a footpath sign. Cross this stile and follow path which initially bends left, then to the right so Helmeth Wood is now on the left. Pause here to enjoy the stunning view of Caer Caradoc before following the path which gently goes downhill.

Step 7) **Don't go through** the metal gate at end of the path but look up to the left and go over the stile which goes into Helmeth Wood. Follow the path around the wood (anticlockwise) which goes uphill with steps at the steepest bit. There are two benches on the path to rest and take in lovely views. Shortly after the second bench, look for a stile on the right. Climb over this stile out of Helmeth Wood into a field.

Step 8) Walk downhill to the bottom of the field, keeping the hedge on the right. Cross over the stile at the bottom corner of the field onto a metalled road. Turn left and continue on the single-track road to reach Watling Street North. At end of Watling Street North turn right onto Sandford Avenue. At traffic lights cross over A49 and return to town.

Thank you to Friends of Church Stretton Library for their help in developing these short walks

