



The numbers on this map show the starting point for each walk

## PLEASE

- Leave gates as you find them
- Keep your dog under close control
- Take extra care in fields of cows and calves
- Keep to the waymarked paths
- Take your litter home
- Try to use public transport
- Wear suitable footwear and clothing



# Drayton Walks

A series of 10 short walks  
in the Market Drayton area  
compiled by Andrew D. Boden

## Walk 5

Norton in Hales and Betton  
by Oakley Hall and Brand Hall  
(4 miles - 6½ km)

The walk is described in sufficient detail to follow it successfully just by using this sheet. However, you are encouraged to use the Ordnance Survey® Explorer™ 1:25 000 map no. 243 - Market Drayton, Loggerheads & Eccleshall - where the route can be seen in the context of the surrounding countryside.

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## Walk 5

Starting from Norton in Hales, a small village to the north-east of Market Drayton, this varied walk includes a river valley, field paths and country lanes, with views of 3 stately homes (4 miles - 6½ km).



### 1. SJ 7030 3860

Start at the centre of Norton in Hales village, next to St. Chad's Church and the Bradling Stone (a large lump of glacial granite). Head south west along the road towards Market Drayton, passing the Hind's Head public house, then a half-

timbered house and the village school and nursery on the right. On reaching Forge House on the left, the road turns 90 degrees to the right, but you need to carry on straight ahead along Forge Lane, marked as a 'no through road'. This soon becomes unmetalled and a footpath sign points along it. At the end of the farm buildings follow the track sharp left. You now begin a gentle descent towards the River Tern. The track sweeps right, then do not follow it around the next sharp left, but carry straight on along the narrower track.

### 2. SJ 7033 3865

Continue along this rising track to a gateway (notice the small tombstone with a cross inscribed on it at the base of a tree on the left). Go through the gate then follow the track along the edge of the field, past the copse on the left, to the next gateway. Continue to follow the field edge (you may glimpse Oakley Hall through the trees over to the left) until it turns to the left alongside a tree-lined stream running down to the Tern. As the river comes into full view you will find a stile in the right hand fence. Cross the stile, then the sleeper bridge over the stream. The path now climbs up between a fence on the right and an ornamental wildfowl pool on the left until it reaches a stile. Cross and turn immediately left to the stile at the bottom of the slope. Cross this (into the lower stretch of the garden belonging to the house on the right) and carry on ahead and upward to the end of the fir trees where a stile leads onto a lane (the stile and footpath opposite are part of Walk 4, section 3).

### 3. SJ 6972 3678

Turn right and follow the lane until you reach the main Market Drayton to Norton in Hales road opposite Betton Hall which can be seen through the trees directly ahead. Turn right and walk up the road to the junction. Notice the old metal fence and gateway to the hall on the left, now smothered in ivy.

### 4. SJ 6930 3714

The walk can now be shortened by following the main road (right fork) for 1.3 miles back to Norton in Hales. To continue with the full walk, take the left fork, signed to Ridgwardine and Adderley. Pass Betton Hall Farm and Greenhill Farm (both on the right), cross the old railway bridge then, after about 275 paces, cross the stile on the right into a field.

### 5. SJ 6825 3804

Follow the right hand hedge; the path leads round to the right then reaches another stile and gate. Cross into a wide, sweeping field and bear right to the next stile. This leads into another large field where you need to aim for the far right corner (where the power lines are leading). However, first head for the centre of the field to find the crossing over the large ditch which divides it, then turn and go to the gates in the right corner. Exit onto the lane and turn right, past the remains of the railway bridge.

### 6. SJ 6925 3859

Continue along the lane towards Norton in Hales. On the right you can see Brand Hall. Just after you pass the village name sign, turn left along the short lane signed to Audlem and Woore. Finally turn right to return to your starting point at the village centre.

