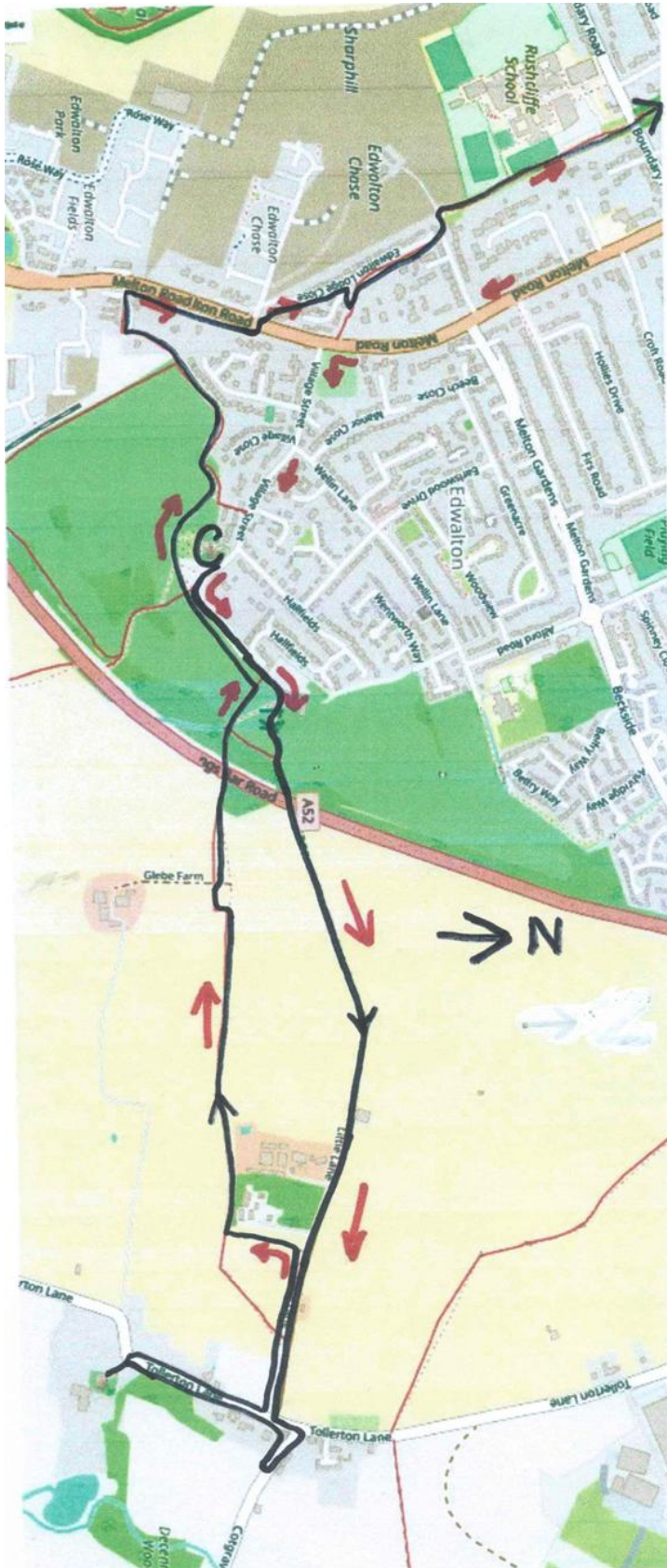


Walk No 8.2: Edwalton & Tollerton Villages, Part 2 – Tollerton.

Walk/Photos taken 23rd June 2020

This is the second part of the walk, starting at Edwalton Church. So those who have been camping out in the churchyard, you can take down your tent, put on your walking boots – the waiting is over.



Leave the church (marked C) through the lychgate, turn right and through the gate and then turn left along the shaded path...



...out onto the golf course.



Keep to the left edge and then ahead through trees to the A52 Gamston-Lings Bar Road – which has to be crossed with care!

On the other side of the road, follow the path along the edge of a large wheat field. As you walk along, there are long panoramic views all around...

...to the south-east...



...north-west, with Green's Windmill (Oliver Hind – Walk 8.1 – would be pleased)



...and a bit further west, the city, with the NTU's Newton Building on the far left.



A full panorama from the city centre on the left, to the Tollerton airfield buildings on the right...



...and ahead (east) towards Hoylands Farm and Jubilee Wood



It is not all panoramas....it is also important to look down as there are other things to see..



And, on the subject of flying things, the airfield at Tollerton was created by T Shipsides Ltd in 1928 to serve as Nottingham's aerodrome, leased from Nottingham City Council. The site has had many names: Nottingham Aerodrome and later Nottingham Air Port, RAF Tollerton in WW2 and later still Nottingham City Airport and also Nottingham Tollerton Airport.



At the onset of the Second World War, all civilian flying was banned and the airfield was taken over by the RAF Rescue School and the National Air Services as a satellite for RAF Newton. In 1941 the airfield became a training base for Polish airmen. At the end of hostilities the airfield reverted to private flying but in 1949 the RAF returned and used it in conjunction with RAF Syerston. It was finally derequisitioned in 1956. It was once considered as the place for the East Midlands Airport, an idea later scrapped. The airfield has continued to be a place for private flying but in 2006 Nottingham City Council announced it proposed selling the airfield and in Rushcliffe Borough Council's Adopted Policies Map, 2019, the airfield is allocated for future housing and employment development, in addition to the Spire Healthcare private hospital opened in 2017.

As we are in close proximity to Tollerton airfield, I have the excuse to tell a tale of 'a Prince and his Mistress'...



Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII), often flew into Tollerton Aerodrome in the 1920s and 1930s when attending both official and social events. He owned Grove Farm, by the Trent at Lenton, and joined both the Quorn and Belvoir hunts. But these were not the only things that drew him to this area!

Winifred May, Marquesa de Casa Maury (née Birkin; 1894 – 1983), universally known by her first married name as Freda Dudley Ward, was an English socialite best known for being the mistress of the Prince of Wales from 1918 until 1934 (when he fell in love with Wallis Simpson). Tollerton residents may have been totally oblivious to many of his arrivals and departures at the aerodrome, but the relationship between the Prince and the married Ward was common knowledge – their families, local residents in Radcliffe where Ward's sister lived, aristocrats and politicians were, apparently, all well aware of this liaison.

Moving on..... approaching Hoylands Farm. Looking up to the right, close to the main farm buildings, is the unexpected sight of a double-decker Routemaster bus!

Apparently, this is, or was, a mobile venue, which, according to its website, *“whether it's for weddings, parties or corporate hospitality and events, **Silvano's mobile Italian Prosecco Bar and Patisserie** has been designed and styled to give your event a sensational and luxurious edge that will wow your guests”.*

I will leave it to you to wonder...



At this point, the field path becomes a track – Little Lane – which leads down to Tollerton village.

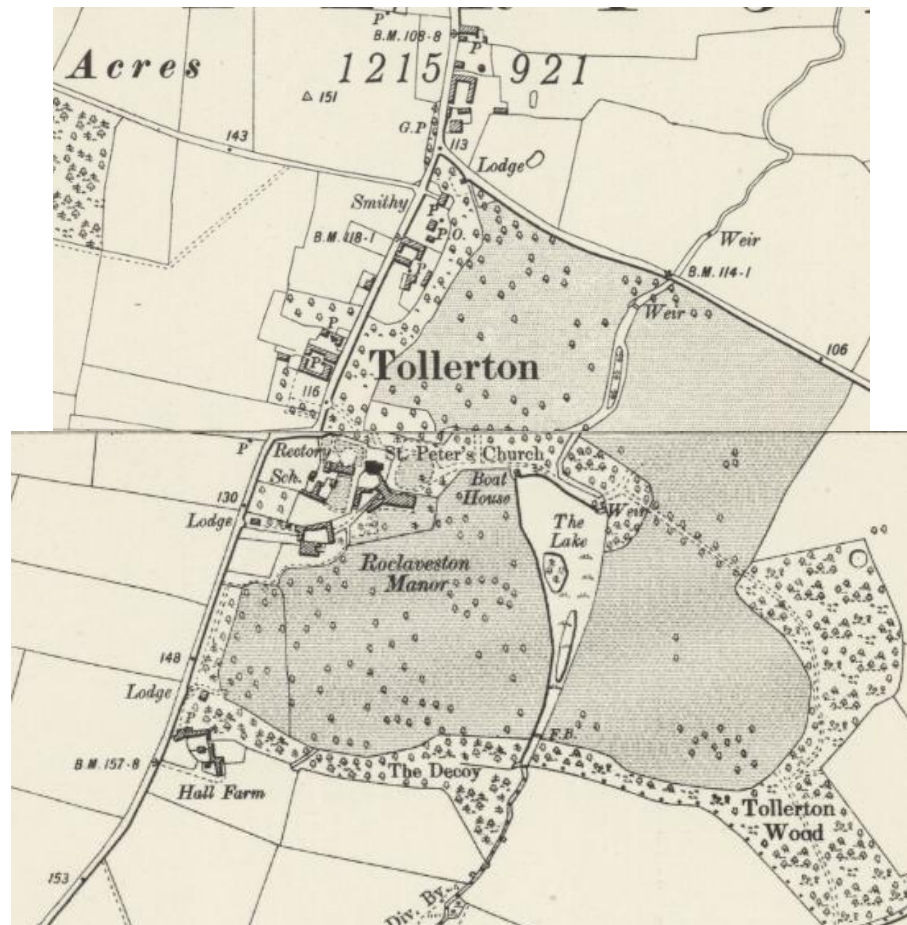
The village name has changed over time – Troclaveston, Turlaveston, Torlagheston, Thorlaton – the original meaning being Thorlagh's, Thorlaf's or Thorleif's Farm.

In the Domesday survey of 1086, it is described as a settlement valued at 16 shillings, with a manor house, two watermills and a church.

Between 1801 (the first census) and 2010 the population has grown from 176 to 1875.

However, almost all of this increase has been in the developments closer to Melton Road. Most of the older part of the village is still very much that depicted in this 1901 map.

We approach down Little Lane, which is top left of the map.



This leads to Tollerton Lane opposite what is labeled 'Smithy' on the map – it was once the village blacksmiths. It is now two private dwellings called Tollgate Lodge and The Smithy. The archway between the towers was once where the horses were taken through to be shod. On the gate posts are gargoyles.



Some of what I have discovered about Tollerton has come from the Tollerton Village History Group website (tollertonvillagehistory.co.uk) and one of their pieces is connected to The Smithy. It has a newspaper cutting from 1874 concerning the blacksmith:

In brief, it involves the apprentice of the village blacksmith having an affair and eloping with the blacksmith's wife. He was charged with "unlawfully absenting himself from the employ of his master" – such different times!

AN ELOPEMENT CASE.

At Bingham, on Thursday, Thomas Hickling was charged with unlawfully absenting himself from the employ of his master, Mr. John Parker, at Tollerton, on the 30th ult. Defendant is an apprentice to complainant, who is "the village blacksmith." He entered his master's service at the beginning of the present year. Thomas had not been long in the service of the blacksmith when he and Mrs. Parker, early in the spring, began to imitate the sparrows by chirruping, and otherwise showing symptoms of pairing. The affectionate overtures at length reached the ears of the husband, who, by means of a little stratagem, succeeded in catching the couple in the chamber in the act of packing up clothes, evidently for taking flight. Unable to suppress his feelings any longer the husband made an attack upon the pair; a row succeeded, the upshot being that Thomas was requested to make himself scarce, and his clothes sent after him from the chamber window. The wife, forgetting her vow to love, honour, and obey her husband, bade him good-bye, and decamped to the apprentice. The pair made their way off, and in a short time the police were sent on the track, and finally Sergeant Stevenson caught them at Derby, and brought Thomas back again. The faithless wife, however, proved a more faithful lover in this instance, as she turned up in court on Thursday, and stood by her friend while he appeared before the bench as bold as brass. The husband now sought to have the apprentice back again, and eventually the bench imposed a fine of £1 1s. and costs, at the same time ordering Thomas to go back and behave better. As soon as the case had been disposed of the three held council, the result being that the wife resolutely determined on not letting her lover go back to the complainant unless she went also.

After perhaps imagining the 'goings on' in The Smithy – and admiring the gargoyles – go a few yards to the left where there is a village Millennium sign and a **pinfold** - a pound for stray animals. Pinfolds have been used since the medieval period, with most villages and townships having one by the C16th. The strays' owners would have to pay a fine to the 'pinder' to reclaim their livestock.



The sign, erected by the parish council in celebration of 2000, captures aspects of the village's heritage – farming, the church, the hall and the airport.



Inside the pinfold is a helpful description of some of the village's history.

The pinfold has moved around over the years as changes were made to the road layout. Potter's History of Tollerton (1929) states that ... 'when the second pinfold was built the old squire who bore the cost gave the workmen such liberal potions that a drunken orgy at the smithy marked the completion of the new building' – more 'goings on' at the Smithy!

The grassy bank on the west side of Tollerton Lane, opposite the pinfold, was named Pinfold Bank to remind parishioners of the village's pinfold. The village stocks were also situated here. The last recorded use of these stocks was in 1845 when drunks (at the Smithy perhaps?) were tied here to sober up.

On the opposite corner of Tollerton Lane/Cotgrave Lane is Chestnut Farm, which was built in 1872 for the Wild family. Henry Wild (born in Tollerton in 1855) and Louisa Lizzie Wild lived at Chestnut Farm until around 1924. The farm had a number of out buildings, for example a granary and pig houses, which have now been converted into a house forming part of the development in Chestnut Mews, behind the farm. A coach house is now used as a garage and to the rear of the coach house is a small room which would have been the living quarters for the coachman.



In the early 1950s, Nottingham City Council gave Chestnut Farm to the Gadd family as compensation when they were evicted from Clifton Pastures to enable the large council estate to be built there.

Just down Cotgrave Lane is The Lodge, which was built in c.1824 as one of the carriage entrance ways to the nearby Tollerton Hall. The Lodge, with attached gateway and wall, is Grade II Listed and has distinct features including an interesting conical slate roof and rendered stacks with pepperpot finials, either side of the gated entrance with a large crest above.



The Lodge from the road...



..and from the back

The Lodge was the Post Office during WW2 and sold sweets and tobacco from the room that is near the Lodge Gates. Prior to that, the PO was situated in a house opposite Bassingfield farm.

Walk back to Tollerton Lane and turn left, passing The Smithy and a few more houses, before reaching No 198, Bassingfield House.

Bassingfield House is a Grade II listed building that used to be a farmhouse. Built in the C18th, Bassingfield Farm was the home of the Plowright family in the 1890s and into the 1900s. They had moved from Ruddington where most of the males in the family had been framework knitters, like many residents in Ruddington in the first half of the C19th.



Apparently, a prior resident of this property was a Miss Shipstone of the brewery family but long before this it may also have been the location of the local inn or pub or brewery (or all three) and was supposed to have had a brick building to the rear where the brewing took place. To the right of the house is a tennis court; there used to be a row of workers' cottages here.



A bit further along Tollerton Lane, on the right, is another farm conversion – Manor Farm and Barn End. The farm was once described as *'suitable for a gentleman farmer'*. The larger house (just out of the photo on the left) was once owned by the Farnsworth family who owned 'Pork Farms'.



Then, on the left, pass the entrance to Tollerton Hall – the gateway recently set back and made rather more 'grand' than its predecessor (below)...



I will say more about the Hall shortly, but first, continue a few yards further along and turn into the path to the church. To the right of the path is the entrance to the Old Rectory (previously the Parsonage), which is a Grade II Listed building, now a private house (the replacement rectory is a modest building further along Tollerton Lane). The original part of the building was built around 1611 and was later extended in 1697 and again in 1702. As was seen in Wilford (Walk No5), clergy lived well in those days! The building was used as a military hospital during the Second World War.

St Peter's Church is believed to have origins in C12th, although there was a church in the village at the time of Domesday. The Norman foundations were laid towards the end of the C12th and the plan was that of the present Church. The Church building was altered during the C19th by the then owner of Tollerton Hall, Pendock Neale Barry.

The tower used to be surmounted with eight pinnacles with vanes, as shown in this photo from the early 1900s.



Inside the church is a mausoleum, built by Pendock Barry Barry (d.1847) to commemorate his mother and also other members of his family.

Cross the graveyard on the north side of the church to look past its eastern end and Tollerton Hall can be seen (also known as Roclaveston Manor).

Tollerton was once divided into two manors, the north Manor House is believed to have been built close to what is now Chestnut Farm. The south Manor House was built near to the church by the Barry family. Over the years, for various reasons, there were a number of changes to the family name involving combinations of the names Pendock, Barry and Neale. From the Middle Ages to 1847 they all were either Lords of the Manor or rectors in the case of younger sons.

The Hall dates from c1675 and has been reconstructed on a number of occasions since. In 1792, it was a large house with an estate of several hundred acres, as shown in this picture from Throsby's edition of Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire. At the beginning of C19th it was considerably altered by its then owner Pendock Barry Neale (who later became Pendock Barry Barry). He added several towers, turrets, pinnacles and battlements imitating Gothic architecture and also linked house and church by means of an embattled arcade.



The Hall in 1792

And in 1900



Below – the hall today

Today this Grade II Listed building has changed somewhat as some of the gothic additions have been removed for safety reasons because of stonework decay.

The central tower is flying the Nottinghamshire flag



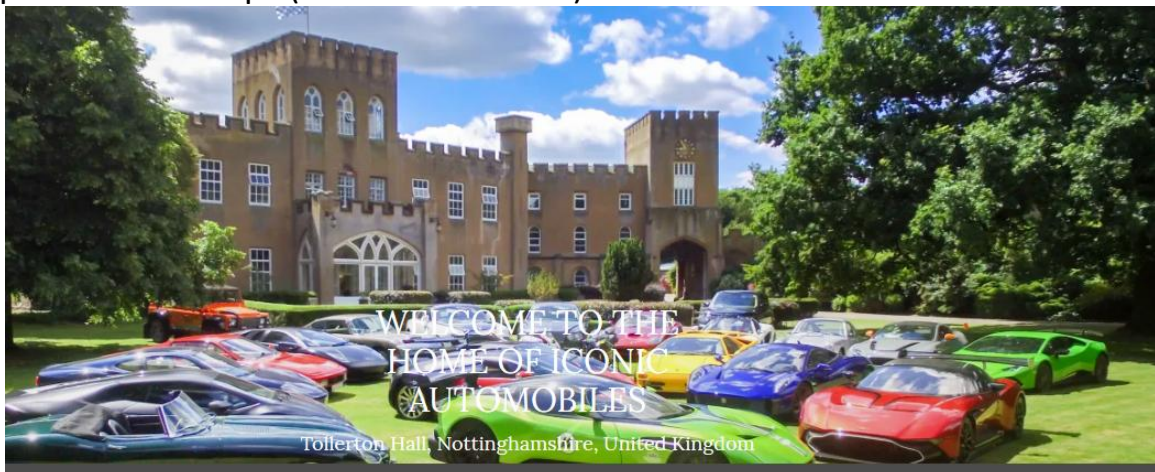
In 1908 the Hall was bought by William Elliott Burnside and his wife Alice Mary Burnside. When he died in 1911 his wife remained at Tollerton for some years before her death. After 1929 the Hall ceased to be a private house and became a residential sports club and hotel. The aim of its investors was to make it the centre of social life in the Midlands but this venture was short lived.

In 1930 the Hall became the Headquarters for the Paton Congregational Institute, a theological training college for Congregational Ministers.

At the onset of World War II it was requisitioned by the government and used by the Army, the RAF and 1100 American paratroopers training for the D-Day landings and later as a prisoner of war camp where German and Italian prisoners were guarded by the Polish Army.

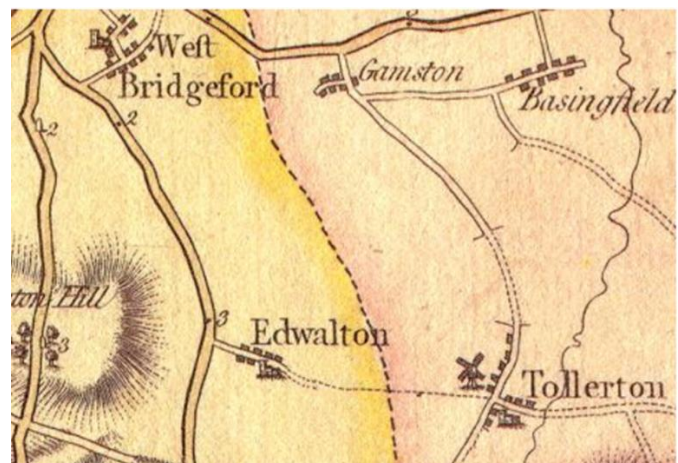
By 1946 the Hall was derelict and decaying rapidly but fortunately it was bought on behalf of the Roman Catholic diocese by the Bishop of Nottingham to open a junior seminary, St Hugh's College, where boys might begin their studies for the priesthood. It was opened in 1946 by Cardinal Archbishop Griffin of Westminster. In 1969, it allowed non-Roman Catholic boys to start at the school. It was staffed by a mixture of diocesan priests, Franciscan nuns and lay teachers. Former students of the school refer to themselves as 'Old Hugonians'. It remained a college until 1987 when Bankarts Insurance, now part of the Oval group, took it over as their offices for the next 30 years.

In 2017 it was bought by Ian Kershaw and converted back into a private home. An avid car collector, and owner of many of the world's most sought after cars, Kershaw converted the original Orangery into a garage for some of his very special cars. This then morphed into the current showroom for Kaaimans International as Kershaw sought to combine living at the Hall with a passion for creating "the world's most prestigious classic and supercar dealership" (Kaaimans website).



Now we leave Tollerton – return along Tollerton Lane and turn left up Little Lane, which, according to this 1774 map, used to link directly back to Village Street in Edwalton.

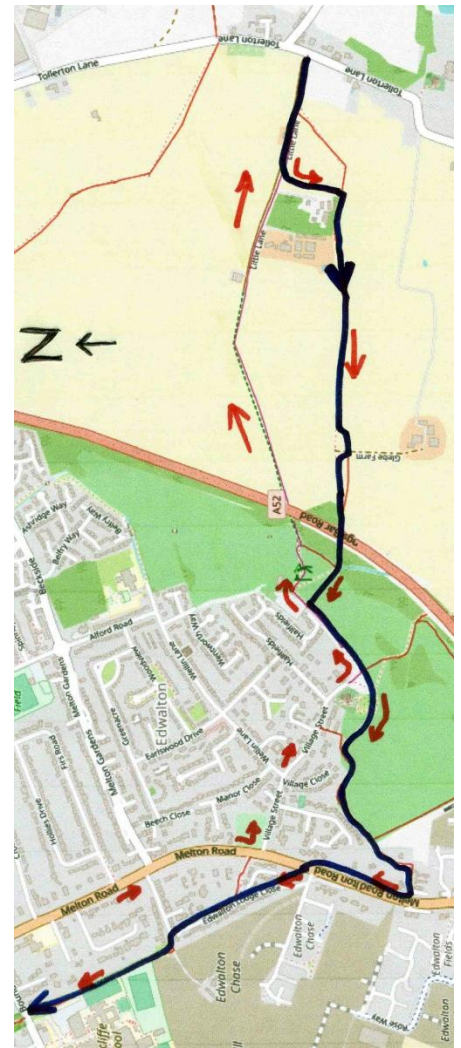
It is suggested that there was once a mill built on land near Little Lane but its exact location is not known, although it is indicated on this map. Apparently the mill was burnt down when the miller carelessly discarded a match on lighting his pipe.



A short way along Little Lane a footpath sign (and the OS map) indicates a path diagonally across the field on the left. Unfortunately, the farmer doesn't agree – the field is fully planted.

So, either walk along the narrow edge of the field

or stay on the lane until just before Jubilee Wood where there is a gap in the hedge to get into the top of the field.



Walk around the field, keeping to the right hand edge, and turn right to reach the top corner and then go through the gap, over the top and cross into the next field, remaining on the right side.



Head for the haystack.



Again, the path is not obvious – but it is the right way. Go to the left of the stack and then follow the signed path



You reach the track going across your direction (it leads to Glebe Farm to the left); go right and then left down the path on the right side of the next field, heading for the woods.

This takes you to the A52 – cross carefully – and continue onto the golf course.



Cross to the right-hand side and, keeping to the edge, continue along the path through the trees.

Following the same route as Walk No4 (The Green Line to Edwalton) and Walk No 8.1 (Edwalton), continue to Hall Farm Court, right on Melton Road, left into Edwalton Lodge Close, Machins Lane and on to Boundary Road and back to the start.



Happy Walking!