Edge Hill circular

Start: Ratley
Finish: Ratley



From Town Hill, Ratley you want to head up Old road past the houses to meet the B4086.



Cross the road and take the path opposite. Take the steps down, sign posted the Centenary / Macmillan Way.





At the bottom of the steps, turn left, ignoring the kissing gate in front of you. Very shortly, again, take the rocky left hand path, following the Macmillan Way / public bridleway.

Keep on in this direction until you emerge at a road. Turn left here and very shortly cross the road to take the wide track. After a short while, you will come to a track between paddocks on your right. Take this and then continue straight ahead following the wooded path.

This is a pleasant stretch of the walk which brings you to Spring Hill, where you can enjoy some wonderful views on a clear day. If you've timed it just right and the weather is fair, this is a great spot for a lunch break.

The patchwork of fields are quite stunning and if you've a creative bent, it would make for a great place to do some sketching or watercolouring. It also happens to look out over what is reported to be the site of the Battle of Edge Hill, where King Charles' forces (the Cavaliers) met the parliamentarians (Roundheads) in battle.



Ignore the stile leading into the field to your left and continue straight for a short while longer until you see a multi-signed gate left into a field. Go through this gate and walk diagonally through the middle of this long field.

Cross the lane into another field and continue in this same direction through two more fields past Sugarswell cottages heading toward Home farm.

Bear right following the path and then left through a gate where you will see some old brick buildings and a rather interesting looking buttressed wall to your right.

Keep ahead now until you reach Upton House parking. With the car park to your left, follow the drive to the road. Turn right here, cross the road and take the lane on your left.

There is no pedestrian path on this lane, so take care here although it is not a busy road. Continue on the lane until you arrive at a junction, turn left here and continue until you meet the B4086. Turn right here to arrive at the Castle Inn, a great spot for lunch or a refreshment break.





Having replenished your energy, you have a choice or routes at this point.

Option 1: turn left out of the pub and then take the path immediately left and then right to retrace your steps to emerge at Ratley.

Option 2: turn left out of the pub, cross the road and take the waymarked path behind the cottage to the left of the pub car park. The initial path is enclosed with a fence to the right and emerges onto a road.

Turn right here, cross the road and take the path left. Follow this until you meet an opening to a large field.



The path you want is just before this field to the left. At the time of writing, the stile here was in pretty bad shape, but cross this and with the hedge to your right head to the corner and following this, then head left towards the gate with the farm in view beyond this.



The path here is not clear and also overgrown. You don't want to go through the farm, so instead, if the path remains overgrown, scramble slightly left of this and you will soon see a step in the corner wall, which will bring you to a drive.

Take this and follow it up to the road, where you want to turn left walking a short way to arrive back at your starting point, Town Hill to your right.