

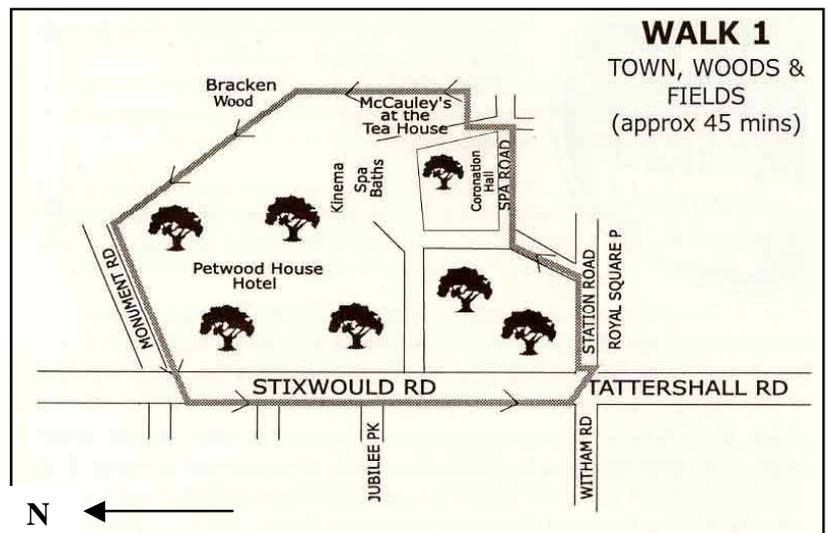
Village, Woods & Fields

Start from Royal Square - Grid Reference: TF 193631

From Royal Square, head east along Station Road, bearing left just after the Mall onto Spa Road, passing the public conveniences on the left, keep to the right.

On the left are some of the woods from which our village gets its name. Look out for squirrels, there are plenty here. Until recently they were our native red, but sadly only grey squirrels are found now. The woods are a mixture of pine, oak, beech, birch, ash and holly, though originally they were specifically pinewoods. There are some lovely paths through these woods if you choose to take them. Listen for the woodpeckers.

On the left you will pass the Coronation Hall, with a large monkey-puzzle tree and sweet chestnut tree beside it. In Woodhall's heyday as a fashionable Edwardian Spa, this was the site of the famous Victoria Hotel, visited by the cream of society. It was destroyed in a fire on Easter Day 1920, and its ruin marked the end of a golden era for the Spa. After passing the Coronation Hall, bear left with the road. You will see McCauley's Restaurant (previously the Tea House in the Woods) on your right and the Spa Baths ahead. The footpath you will take is signposted and on the right hand side, slipping between a newly built house and the restaurant.



This attractive, sheltered right of way bends left behind the restaurant and passes along the wooded boundary of the Spa buildings, the Kinema and the Petwood House Hotel on the left, and the Bracken Golf course on the right

It's a peaceful country walk with glimpses of a wide variety of wildlife for the observant. In the late summer and early autumn, blackberries are abundant.

It may be advisable to take a stout stick as the undergrowth can be vigorous along this stretch ... until it is cleared each year. Soon after the left hand boundary of the walk opens out, the path takes a sharp left turn to run along the woodside on the left and a field on the right. Before turning, pause and glance over the gate up the broad avenue in Bracken Wood, which is private. This avenue is reputed to follow the line of a Roman Road that gave access to a Roman brickworks nearby. Follow the path down to Monument Road, which is reached by a nearby stile. Turn left along this lane, passing what used to be the walled kitchen gardens of the Petwood when it was a private country house, then turn left again onto Stixwould Road. Monument Road has no footpath, but the grassy verges are wide and firm.

The walk down Stixwould Road can be taken down the tree-lined metalled path on the right hand side, or on the wide, grassy verge on the left, bordered by woods. Along Stixwould Road walkers will pass Jubilee Park, created for Woodhall Spa in 1935 by Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall, who built the Petwood, and opened by Princess Marie Louise. Much of the original layout is retained today. It now includes an open-air heated swimming pool, tennis, bowling, putting, croquet and other facilities and is well worth a short detour. About quarter of a mile past the Park, Royal Square is reached.