

6 – Apperknowle to Eckington

3.8 miles

1. *On exiting the checkpoint, retrace your steps to the junction and turn right heading back towards the village. Walk along the road until you meet the bridlepath on the right, opposite the cricket field signposted “Blackamoor Inn”. Turn right onto this track which has hedges on both sides. After about 200 yards the track turns left and narrows. Continue along the track, passing a small private airstrip on your left. When you reach a road you are virtually opposite the car park of the Blackamoor Inn.*
2. *At the road turn right and walk on the grass verge. Just before the road bends to the right, on the opposite side of the road, is a walled bridge, to the left of which is a stile. Cross the road and climb over the stile, then turn sharp right and downhill to a small stream.*
3. *Cross over the stream via two stepping stones and follow the path round to the left to a stile. Cross over the stile and carry straight on ahead with the hedgerow marking the stream on your left. The path starts to head downhill and to your right is the Snowden Farm Riding School. When you reach another stile, cross over and continue downhill, hugging the bank of the stream. When you reach another stile, cross over and continue straight on to a small footbridge over the stream. Crossing this bridge takes you to a narrow path with cottages on your left a hedgerow on your right. At the end of this small path you come to a gate – go through and head straight on down what appears to be a driveway. Continue along until you reach a metalised road.*
4. *Turn right and head downhill. After about 100 yards you will see a public footpath sign on your left – take this path. DO NOT GO THROUGH THE GATE AS THIS LEADS TO A PRIVATE FISHERY – TAKE THE FOOTPATH TO THE RIGHT OF THE GATE.*
5. *About 50 yards down the path is a stile on your right – cross over this and bear 45° left, heading for a stile in the middle of a fence halfway up a field. Go through this and continue slightly left to a stile in the corner of the next field. Cross over this into the next field and walk diagonally right downhill to an open gate. Go through the gate and head diagonally left to a stile about a third of the way up the field. Cross over this (slightly awkward) then bear right, crossing the field, heading uphill through the middle of some gorse.*
6. *In the top corner of the field is a stile, cross over this and turn left onto a lane for a few yards. On your right is a small bridge which leads to a stile – cross over this and bear slightly left, heading towards some telegraph poles.*
7. *Once across the field, cross over another stile and bear 45° right heading for a squeezer stile in the hedge on the opposite side of the track. Pass through this and bear slightly left, heading uphill following the line of the telegraph poles to reach a stile in a hedge. Cross over this and bear slightly left, across a field to a stile next to a gate. Having crossed the stile next to the gate, bear left to a squeezer stile, and then go straight on to a stile in the fence opposite. Cross over this and head for another stile beside a garage. Cross over this stile and walk down the road. You have now reached the village of Marsh Lane.*

8. *At the road, **cross over and turn left** and after about 50 yards **turn right** into a farm drive. Pass through the farm heading for a wooden gate. **Pass through the gate onto a track** with hedges on both sides. At the top of a small rise, the track becomes hedged on the left and fenced on the right. At the end of the fence you reach a stile to the right of a gate. **Cross over this and cross the field with a hedge to your right.** When you reach a metal gate, **go through.** Now you start slowly descending, keeping the hedge to your right. When you reach a gap in the hedge, **go through continuing downhill**, the hedge now on your left. The path turns into a track called "Back Lane".*
9. *After about half a mile at the end of this lane you reach a housing estate. **Turn left along another track**, with the housing estate on your right and open country on your left. The track swings round to the right, skirting round the estate to meet a road opposite an old school building.*
10. ***Turn left and walk down the road (Stead Street) to a road junction. Cross over the road to the car park of the Co-op supermarket.***

This is Checkpoint 6.