

Step Out at SWFC

The Wednesday Walk on Thursdays

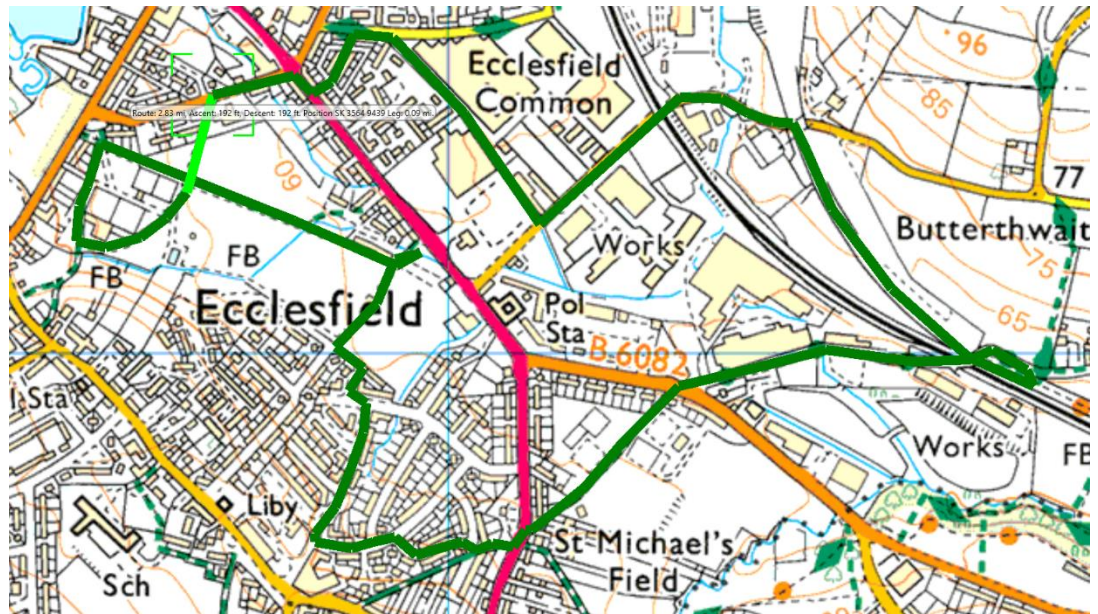


144 – Ecclesfield Park (for the crocuses and daffodils) – 2.8 miles (Grade 1)

A wet weather route, entirely on hard surfaces (unless you choose to walk across the grass). And we may have missed the snowdrops, but the crocuses (crocii?) and daffs should be in full bloom even if it's raining. Park in Ecclesfield Park car park (opposite Morrisons).

Clockwise (mainly):

From the car park go into the park and turn right down the avenue. On the left is a bank of soil and a stream which is an overflow to prevent flooding to the houses on the right. In summer this stream disappears and the bank is covered with weeds (or wildflowers as Sheffield Council likes to call them!). Cross the bridge and carry on to the



end of the avenue then turn left behind the bowling greens. Here there is a bank covered in crocus and daffs, and as you keep left round the community gardens you will see more crocuses near the children's playground.

Cross the outbound path and pass the community orchard on the left to leave the park and come out on Dog Leg Lane (which is now known as Mill Lane, rather boringly). Turn right, down to the lights then right again, cross over and turn left down Washington Road. At the end turn right onto Johnson Lane then bear right onto the footpath before the factory. This takes us behind Morrisons and comes out on Station Road; turn left, go under the first bridge then up the slope on the right just before the second bridge onto the Blackburn Valley Trail. Head straight on at the top till you go under the next bridge then turn back left and go over the bridge on Butterthwaite Lane. Follow this down to Green Lane, cross over with care and bear slightly right to find a ginnel which takes you up between the sports pitches out to Cross Hill. Cross the road and bear slightly left to find a ginnel through to Town Fields Avenue, then turn right, left onto Anvil Crescent, left onto Floodgate Drive and second right on Primrose Drive. Then left, right, left and right across the Park back to the cars.

Risks:

- A couple of busy roads, be specially careful crossing near junctions.
- Watch out for bikes.
- There shouldn't be much mud but watch out for it. Dog dirt is likely.
- Most of the route is tarmac or hard packed gravel, but there are a couple of places which may be muddy.

