

Access to Your Countryside

Useful Information

For accommodation in the Hereford area call:
Hereford Tourist Information Centre (TIC)
Tel: +44 (0) 1432 268 430

For further information on walking events in
Herefordshire County visit
www.walkingfestival.com or call
Queenswood Tourist Information Centre
Tel: 01568 797842.

Public Rights of Way (PROW) please contact:
Hereford County Council email:
rightsofway@herefordshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01432 260572

Should you experience any problems with permissive
footpaths or require further details of agri - environment
schemes please contact;

Rural Development Service,
Block B, Government Buildings,
Whittington Road,
Worcester, WR5 2YJ

Tel: 01905 763355
Email: enquiries.westmidlands@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/rds/wm/>

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Access to Your Countryside

Walks Around Herefordshire



Longtown

Rural
Development
Service





Esley Brook

ACCESS TO YOUR COUNTRYSIDE

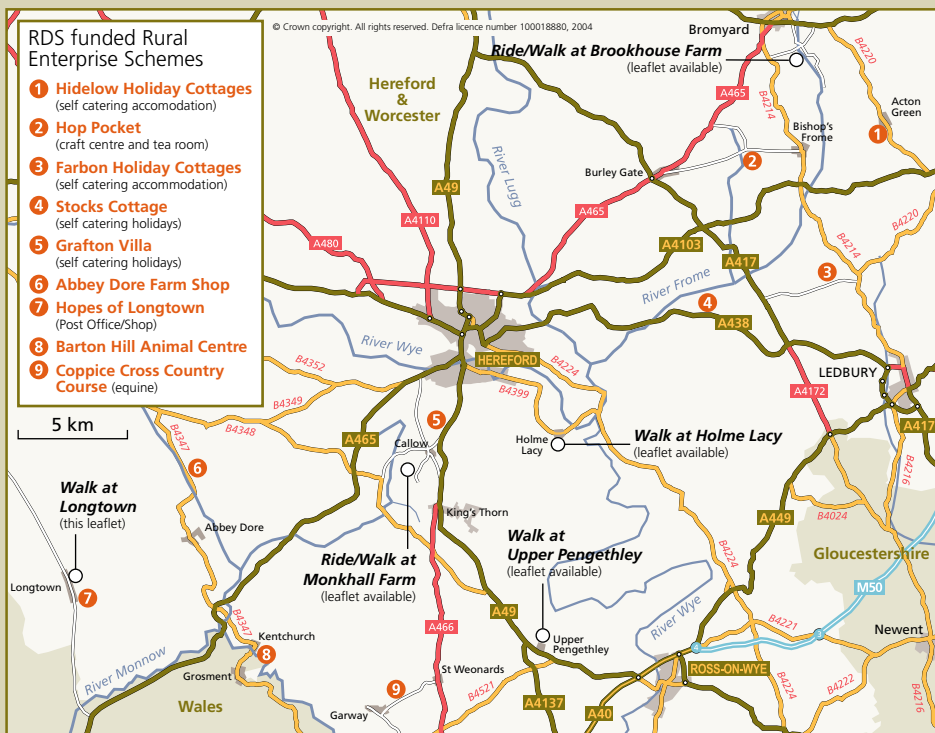
This walk is part of a series of walks and rides which link permissive paths, offered through Defra's agri - environment schemes, with public rights of way over farmland and countryside in Herefordshire. They offer the chance to witness first hand the conservation measures being undertaken to maintain and enhance the rich and varied landscape of the county.

Agri – Environment Schemes

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) offers a range of agri – environment schemes designed to conserve and enhance the countryside. These schemes make payments to farmers and land managers to improve the beauty and diversity of the countryside, to protect and extend wildlife habitats, to conserve archaeological and historical sites and improve opportunities for people to enjoy the countryside.

Under the scheme, farmers and land managers enter a 10 year agreement to manage land in an environmentally beneficial way. In return for annual payments the agreement holders undertake works such as; restoration of old traditional orchards, extensive management of hay meadows to increase the diversity of flowering plants and the establishment of un-cropped grass margins in arable fields to provide additional habitat.

Contributions are also available towards undertaking works such as rebuilding a dry stone wall, regenerating a hedgerow or planting trees.



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Permissive Access

The provision of new access opportunities can also be incorporated in our agri-environment schemes where appropriate. This will allow people to enjoy the countryside through the creation of linear routes to make new circular walks or rides; bridging gaps in the existing rights of way network; providing open access to new parts of the countryside and improving opportunities for disabled access.

All walks require good, sensible waterproof & windproof clothing and walking-boots or wellies. It's advisable to take your own refreshments as shops or conveniences are limited along the routes.

Please also be aware of the Countryside Code:

- Fasten all gates**
- Keep your dogs under close control**
- Keep to public paths across farmland**
- Take your litter home**
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees**
- Take special care on country roads**

Longtown Walk

Sandwiched between the Black Mountains and the Golden Valley, this 4 mile walk offers you spectacular views of the countryside. It will take you through wooded valleys, dingles, along streams and rivers, and across open hill-tops. This walk does require an average to good fitness level as the first part of the walk is uphill and the gradient is quite steep.

Start at the village shop and post office and walk down the road to the bridge over the River Monnow.



1 Just before the bridge climb over the stile and follow the river around until you reach a footbridge. Cross it and continue up the track and into a wooded dingle.

2 Keep the stream on your left and the sunken lane on your right through the dingle. Upon exiting the dingle, walk straight ahead across the field.

3 Leave the field through a gate in the top right corner opposite Brook Farm. Continue up the track, putting the farm behind you. At the top of this field bear left and follow the fence. This first stretch of the walk is just over one mile long but the gradient increases rapidly taking you from the bottom of the valley to the very top of Mynydd Merddin, giving you breathtaking views of the Black Mountains opposite. Upon reaching Upper Brook Farm, cross the top of Mynydd Merddin.

4 On the top of Mynydd Merddin the walk is a gentle stroll across open fields before the descent down.

5 Follow the line of pine trees on your left down towards the road, upon reaching the lane turn left and then immediately right.

6 After a short distance of about 300 m you will reach a stile on your left taking you into a field and woodland. On exiting the woodland you follow the 'Conservation Walks' way-markers through the farmer's fields, and on through the enclosed woodland. The path then dips down appearing to head for the tree-lined stream in front, before a sharp left takes you back up to a gate.



7 After the gate, the footpath then continues along a newly planted hedge. Keep this on your right, and follow the path to a gate and stile. Head for the corner of the field where a stile takes you along a wooded path, down some steps, over a short wooden walkway and along the edge of the Escley Brook.

8 Following the path you need to climb a stone stile and cross a little stream which brings you back into a field. From here follow the path across the field, over a stile, then through a gap in the hedge and into a small field where you pass through a gate onto a track. Follow the track to your right which takes you into a large field.

9 With the large out-buildings on your right, follow the path diagonally across the field heading for the lane. Once on the road turn right, over the bridge, turn left at the T-junction and over the bridge bringing you back to where you started.



Distance 6.5 km (4 miles)

Start/finish point Longtown (SO 327 286)

Nearest town Abergavenny

Grade Hike **Ramble** Stroll

Maps OS Explorer OL13, Brecon Beacons (East)

Public transport Unfortunately not a viable option

Parking is available at the village hall(?)

Nearest pub/shop Longtown Village Shop and

Post Office. This was recently relocated to

Tanhouse Farm using grant money from the Rural

Enterprise Scheme (RES). This is just yards from

the Crown pub.

