



## ACCESS TO YOUR COUNTRYSIDE

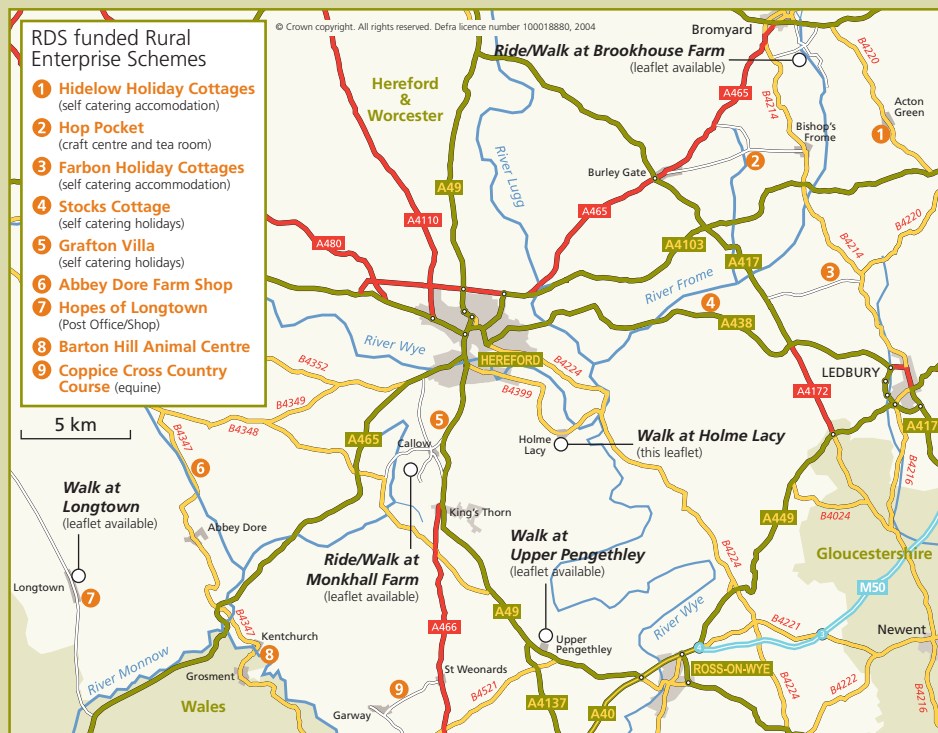
This walk is part of a series of walks and rides which link permissive paths, offered through Defra's agri - environment schemes, with public rights of way over farmland and countryside in Herefordshire. They offer the chance to witness first hand the conservation measures being undertaken to maintain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



### 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

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:enquiries.westmidlands@defra.gsi.gov.uk)  
Website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/rds/wm/>

# Access to Your Countryside

## Walks Around Herefordshire



## Holme Lacy

Produced by the RDS Graphics Team, Leeds



Printed on recycled paper containing 80% post consumer waste and 25% totally chlorine free virgin pulp

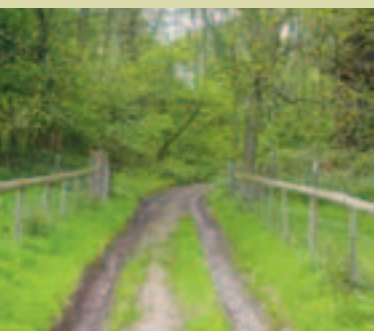
Rural Development Service



## Holme Lacy Walk

This is a long walk linking a number of permissive routes and public footpaths across farmland close to Holme Lacy with spectacular views across the Wye Valley. The walk takes you through a medieval deer park, along the dismantled Hereford to Ross railway and through Upper Bolstone Wood, which is known for its diverse wildlife.

**1** The start of the walk begins opposite Holme Lacy College and the Rural Crafts Centre. Take the farm track up the hill past the farm cottages on the right.



**2** Turn right onto the public footpath, which is the track through the wood. Continue for about 1 km and walk along the top of the gently sloping ridge and then across open farmland along the edge of cultivated fields.

**3** Eventually you will reach a cottage in the corner of the field. Follow the

permissive footpath on the field margin, which takes you across several fields to a small dingle on the edge of Upper Bolstone Wood.

**4** At the edge of Upper Bolstone Wood join the public footpath following the line of the brook then head off to the left, up a small footpath, just before reaching the edge of the woodland. Continue straight ahead through the woodland, staying on this path. This deciduous wood is designated a County Wildlife Site and managed by rotational coppicing. Enjoy the colourful woodland flora in the spring and keep a look out for other wildlife such as deer. On reaching the edge of the wood, climb over the stile and head through the copse of old oaks, silver birch and ash, and out into an open field. Take in views across to Haugh Wood and the Marcle Ridge as you head towards Gannah Farm.

**5** Go through the gate and turn right, in front of the farmhouse. Head along the track for a few metres before joining the public footpath which goes off to the left. Cut through the hedge and follow with this on your left. The path then continues

over the top of the fields and skirts around lower Bolstone Wood.



**6** After approximately 300 m turn left where this path crosses one from the wood. Walk down towards the valley bottom and the stream. Cross the footbridge over the stream and continue alongside the hedgerow.

**7** On reaching the large pond follow the footpath through the new woodland planting until you reach the permissive access route. Follow this through the parkland of the Holme Lacy Estate. Skirt along the edge of the field and enjoy the views of veteran trees. Cross into a further field towards the edge of the woodland.

**8** Take the path to the left, down through the woodland until it opens out into a traditional orchard. Here a number of new trees have been planted to maintain the orchard.

**9** Exit the orchard and turn left onto the road for 30 m before crossing over to a stile onto farmland. Follow the fence across the field to the right of the farm buildings. Go through the farmyard onto Church Road. Continue straight ahead towards the River Wye.

**10** Turn off the road and take a path on your left down to the river across the floodplain of the River Wye.

**11** Continue along the bank of the river until reaching the permissive path. Follow this across the field towards the old railway embankment.

**12** Take a right turn up onto the disused railway embankment back into the village of Holme Lacy.



**Distance** 11 km (6 miles)

**Start point/Finish point** Holme Lacy College, Holme Lacy Village

**Nearest town** Hereford approx. 6 miles away

**Grade** **Hike** Ramble Stroll

**Maps** OS Explorer 189, Hereford & Ross-on-Wye

**Public transport** Bus 454 or 453 Hereford to

Woolhope

**Parking** In the college car park (weekends only, until dusk)

**Nearest pub/shop** Holme Lacy Post Office, The

Moon at Mordiford and the pub at Fownhope.

