

THE MALVERN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Discovery Walk No. 1

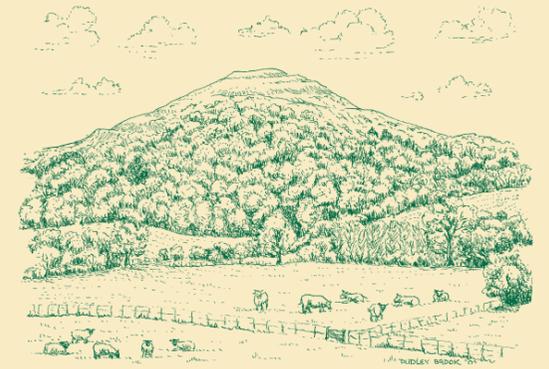
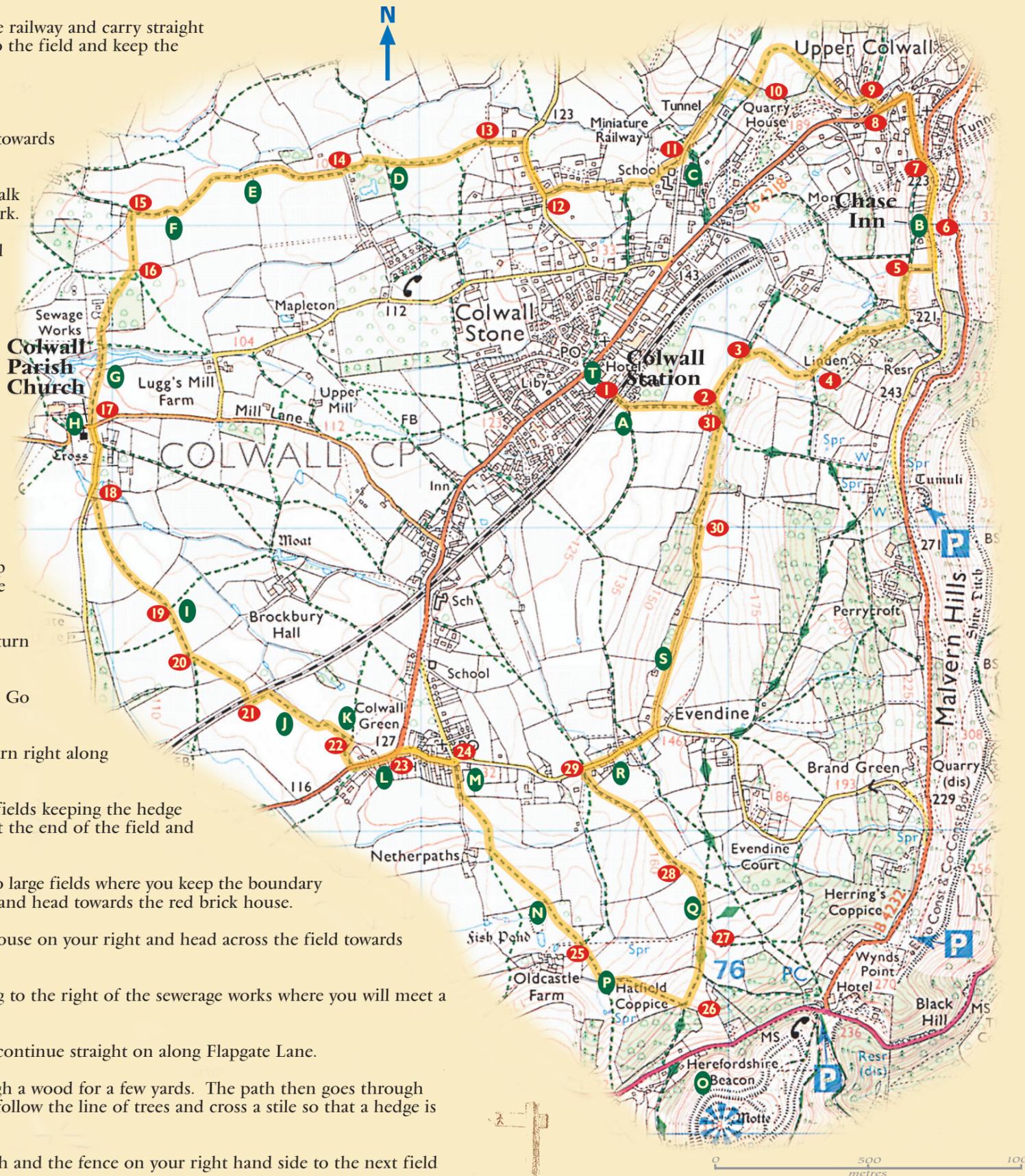


View of Herefordshire Beacon

The Martin Brent Walk

Route Directions

- 1 One start is at the station. Take the footbridge over the railway and carry straight on past the small nature reserve on your right. Go into the field and keep the hedge on your left until you meet a path junction.
- 2 Turn left and keep the hedge on your left.
- 3 After 400m, do not go through the gate but turn right towards the Hills keeping the hedge on your left.
- 4 After a further 300m go left over a stile by a gate and walk along a broad track for 140m and then take the right fork. When you meet a small tarmac road turn left and walk along this for 350m, past the first path by a house, until
- 5 You meet a second path going to the right. A short climb through two hedges brings you to Chase Road, turn left and the Chase Inn is on your left after 220m. There is a small car park close to the pub.
- 6 Continue walking north along Chase Road through Upper Colwall, the highest of the three villages on Walwyn Road that runs all the way through the Parish.
- 7 We meet Walwyn Road at a hairpin bend and take the lower road and follow this round another hairpin bend.
- 8 50m after the bus stop, cross Walwyn Road and take a tarmac drive down a hill.
- 9 At the footpath sign, turn left towards Ryelands and drop down to the left just before the cattle grid following the way markings.
- 10 After a second stile take the right hand path and then turn left on to a broad track after 100 metres.
- 11 After 300 metres, turn right just after the tarmac pitch. Go straight on following the signs, avoiding a left turn.
- 12 Mathon Road is reached just after the cricket pitch. Turn right along the road and after 250m turn left on to a footpath.
- 13 After 100m, pass through a gate and then through two fields keeping the hedge on your left. Having passed the small wood turn left at the end of the field and cross a bridge. After 50m follow the path to the right.
- 14 Ignore the track to your left and cross two stiles into two large fields where you keep the boundary to your right. Before you reach the third field veer left and head towards the red brick house.
- 15 At the house, turn 90 degrees to your left to have the house on your right and head across the field towards the left side of the sewerage works.
- 16 Cross the stile and bridge and bear to the right heading to the right of the sewerage works where you will meet a vehicle track. Follow this until you meet a road.
- 17 Cross the road with the churchyard on your right and continue straight on along Flapgate Lane.
- 18 After 200m, go over a stile on your left and then through a wood for a few yards. The path then goes through the gap in the hedge 150m ahead. In the second field follow the line of trees and cross a stile so that a hedge is on your right.
- 19 After a while another stile enables you to cross the ditch and the fence on your right hand side to the next field so that the fence is now on your left.
- 20 After another 200m, go through a gate on your left and then cross the field diagonally towards the Iron Age hill fort called British Camp now referred to as the Herefordshire Beacon.

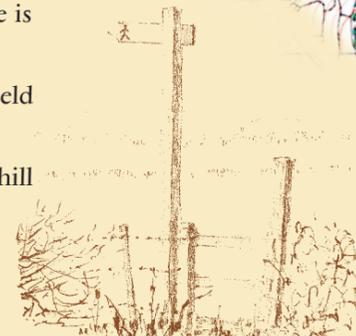


Herefordshire Beacon

- 21 At this point you cross the railway, so proceed with caution, looking and listening for trains. The path then follows the railway line to the corner of the field where you turn right and follow the edge of the field towards the Herefordshire Beacon
- 22 When you meet a garden hedge keep it on your left until you meet Walwyn Road, where you turn left.
- 23 After the Yew Tree pub, head right up Evendine Lane for 250m.
- 24 Immediately after the telephone box turn right along the lane marked Netherpaths. After 150m go over the stile in the hedge to your left and cross three fields once again heading directly for the Herefordshire Beacon.
- 25 Turn left along the fenced lane that leads to Oldcastle and then immediately right and pass through the next two fields before turning left for 70m up a wide strip. Just before the trees, turn diagonally right over a stile and go uphill to the bottom left corner of the wood, keeping the Herefordshire Beacon on your right.
- 26 Cross the stile before the wood and carry on for 50m. After a prominent ditch turn left downhill. After a further 150m you reach a field.
- 27 Staying on this footpath, keep the field on your right and carry on downhill, ignoring further paths to the right, and after the next stile leave the path bearing left for 300m.
- 28 Before the rise, cross a stile on your left and keep the hedge on your right. Carry on down through a small metal gate to keep a fence on your left and the hedge on your right. By the red roofed building ahead re-enter Evendine Lane.
- 29 Turn right and carry straight on for 300m. Where the road veers right turn left (by a house called the Ridings) up an unmade road. When you reach the fields keep to the left.
- 30 Pass through a swing gate into an old wood.
- 31 When the path emerges from the wood, drop down to the left, go over the stile and follow the path, which brings you back to the nature reserve and station.



A view of Oldcastle



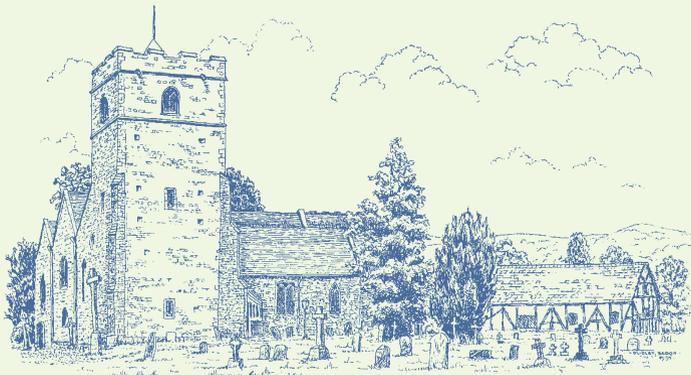
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The Martin Brent Walk

Martin Brent was the clerk of Colwall Parish, who died tragically young whilst still in office. He loved to walk in the Parish and this walk brings together many of his favourite views and favourite places. The circular walk can be started at a number of car parks as well as at the only station within the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty. Please observe all the normal courtesies when walking on farmland. The Colwall Footpaths Map is recommended for additional footpath information.

Points of Interest

- A** The nature reserve, one of Martin's initiatives, contains a stream fed pond, an amphibian pond and a fine example of an alder copse.
- B** The Chase Inn was Martin's favourite pub and it provides excellent beer and food.
- C** The Downs is one of two well-known preparatory schools within the parish. The poet W. H. Auden taught at The Downs in the 1930's. A working narrow-gauge railway runs around the grounds.
- D** This is the site of a former brickworks. The bricks were of high quality but were expensive to make and the works were closed at the start of the 20th century.
- E** On the horizon to your left is the characteristic shape of the ramparted Iron Age fort called British Camp or the Herefordshire Beacon.
- F** From this point you can see an impressive view of the Malvern Hills including both the Worcestershire and Herefordshire Beacons.
- G** On your right are some of the many fish ponds in the Parish; sadly from here rapidly growing conifers have obscured what was a splendid view of the church.
- H** The church of St James is 13th century with later additions. Within the churchyard can be seen the interesting stump of a 15th century Preaching Cross. The half-timbered 16th century Alehouse is still used for meetings. To the northwest is Park Farm, developed from the hunting lodge of the Bishops of Hereford, a mix of many architectural styles.



Colwall Church and Ale House

- I** The view of the 17th century Brockbury Hall with the Malvern Hills behind is very attractive.
- J** To the right, across the fields, is the 18th century manor, Barton Court.
- K** The views towards the Worcestershire Beacon to the left are worth pausing for.
- L** You are now in Colwall Green where there are a number of old and interesting half-timbered houses, one of which is the 16th century Yew Tree Inn, with an interesting and welcoming interior. Food is only served by prior arrangement. The large unique triangular village green is just to the north of the bungalows on your left as you go up Evendine Lane.



Caves Folly

- M** The building just after Netherpaths is Caves folly. It was built as a stables for Colwall racecourse by R. Cave-Browne-Cave in the early years of the 20th century.
- N** In the third field the medieval fishpond of Oldcastle is on your right and beyond that, the only surviving Oldcastle building. The castle keep, built on an island, has disappeared.
- O** The Herefordshire Beacon (British Camp) is an Iron Age fort from the 4th century BC and is where Edward Elgar assumed that Caradoc (Caractacus) made his first stand against the Roman invaders.
- P** The track ahead is known locally as both the 'Roman Road' and 'The Pyx Path'. At **26** pause and look back to Oldcastle and Oyster Hill behind. It could well have been from this spot that Piers Ploughman had his vision of a 'fair field full of folk'. Half right is Colwall Stone and further right still, the Worcester Beacon, the highest of the Malvern Hills.
- Q** At this point there is an ancient lime kiln just to the left of the path, used to convert limestone from the adjacent quarry to lime for use in agriculture and construction. You are also walking on part of the Golf Course that existed in the early twentieth century and the red roofed building at point **29** was the club house.
- R** On your right, as you go up Evendine Lane, are Lower House Farm and Hartlands, an old house with two very old barns in the garden. On the left, after Hartlands, there is a stratified outcrop in an old limestone quarry.
- S** On your left was the site of the old racecourse, but few traces of it remain today.
- T** At the end of Station Road (150m) can be seen the Stone after which the central village, Colwall Stone, is named. Nearby are the Crown Inn and the Colwall Park Hotel where walkers can find refreshments.

Essential Information

- Starting Point: Colwall Station. (Grid Ref SO 756424)
- Alternative Starting Points: The Chase Inn (SO 766430), and Colwall Parish Church (SO 737423).
- Ordnance Survey Map used: Explorer 190.
- Other maps referred to in the text: Colwall Footpath Map (obtainable from Colwall Post Office and Ledbury TIC).
- Distance: 7 miles (11.5 kilometres).
- Terrain: Mostly flat with two short hill climbs - parts can be muddy in winter.
- Short Cut: Continue up Evendine Lane ignoring the turn to Netherpaths and rejoin route at point **29**.
- Car Parking: Cars can be parked at the rear of the church, and near the Chase Inn.

Part of this walk and other walks are available on an Audio CD from www.walkingaudio.com

When out walking, please follow the COUNTRYSIDE CODE.

Use alternatives to your car whenever possible.

Keep to the public rights of way and designated areas of public access when crossing farmland.

Use appropriate gates and stiles to cross field boundaries.

Close all gates that you have opened.

Avoid damaging or disturbing wildlife, including plants and trees.

Keep dogs under close control and always clean up after them.

Guard against all risk of fire.

Take your litter home and dispose of it responsibly.

Public Transport Information

To check details and timetables of bus services contact County Bus Line. Tel: 0845 7125436.

For train information telephone 0845 7484950.

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