

Walking with Edward Elgar

Walk Three - Above Pencombe

- 3.75 miles. Sloping, more easy than moderate
- Inviting bridleway, stony in places, field paths, streams
- OS Map - Leominster and Bromyard. (Explorer 202)

The Route

1. Pencombe. HR7 4SH. Park just on the Bromyard (east) side of Pencombe church near Townsend Cottage, school and village hall, at start of signed public bridleway opposite "Little Pencombe Meadow". Head north up the wide aggregate bridle path. (You will follow it up, right, down, right and up for $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles altogether). Pass sign for Durstone Cottages, descend across brook, and bear L over cattle grid to ascend gently along R edge/hedge and over 2nd grid. (Malverns are to R. Wave to May Hill behind). Pass to L of Durstone Cottages up to Durstone farm, with its hop kiln. You've come one mile.
2. Durstone Farm. Savour views, bear R over grid in front of the farm, through farmyard just to L of kiln, and then bear R to leave and descend across another grid. Stay on wide bridleway, bending down to L then R below the grass bank. Pass "Grendon Lair", with stream coming in from L, and keep on ahead at bridle junction next to grid. Cross stream, grid, bend R towards (Hawkhurst) Farm buildings. Cross last grid and bend R to find stile below to your R just before the crest and the farm buildings.
3. Below Hawkhurst Farm. So now leave bridleway by turning right down faint steps over stile into field. Go ahead across 2nd stile just below metal gate. Now bear L up bank just below buildings to cross 3rd stile in front of an enclosure. TR, cross stile, go down steps, another stile and TL fairly steeply down pasture. Bear slightly R beyond elbow of trees towards bottom near (R) edge. Cross stiled footbridge, adjacent stile and climb up big pasture, slightly L away from trees to crest. Now target gate just above bottom L corner of field.
4. Metal gate. Pass through gate and TL along L edge/hedge of long pasture to next stream at bottom L corner. TR in front of stream for 60m, then TL to cross stream and go through gate. Bear L up next field over slight crest and head for hedge and oak tree trunk (with cemetery other side). TR in front of hedge and exit field via gate on to country lane. TR for Pencombe church tower. There's a plaque to one Richard Jordan in the church, a parishioner who joined Lander's party in the quest for the source and course of the river Niger. The walk won't exactly exhaust you, but the slopes make it rank just a bit harder than easy in grade.

