

Weobley, Garnstone, Fenhampton, and The Ley

An easier than moderate 4½ mile folklorist walk. Lots of well-maintained field paths.

The Route

1 - Start at free car park off Bell Square, near to church. TL out of the vehicle entrance opposite the Manor House, probably the village's oldest surviving house. TL again at Bellbeck House along the lane to the church. Visit? Circle to other side of spire to go past Parkfields and Dell Cottage back up to Red Lion corner. Ascend ahead past floral bus shelter on site of Old Market Hall, destroyed by fire in 1943. TL along High Street and TR at the Unicorn for "The Pyons and Wormsley". Find "The Throne" on L side, then after 50m cross road for Ella Mary Leather's "Castle House". Retrace direction past old grammar school, TL, TL again up public footpath just beyond No 1 (High Street).

2 - Castle Green. Pass telephone box, through gate, beyond information board over the old castle moat and down through the tree-lined gate, or k-gate. Bear slightly R across large field, through k-gate up wide track and over stony crosspath to next k-gate. Rise gently towards trees of Burton Hill to a third k-gate. Pause at seat to look back to Croft Ambrey and Bircher Common on skyline. Follow L edge for 50m and TR in front of gated entrance to wood. Go through gate to R of buildings just beyond end of old wall. TL through kissing-gate, past "Defra" board, over footbridge and gently half-left up crop field to gate/stile.

3 - Upper Garnstone Park. Do not cross stile at this junction of paths above "Snuff-Box" Pool (which can be seen lower L by crossing stile and coming back), but, instead, T sharp R to follow straight path ahead. Take stile by horse chestnut with views opening up and Black Mixen tower on the two o'clock skyline pinpointing Radnor Forest. Head for single tree and follow R edge/ hedge over two stiles. Bear slightly R down field above Fields End Farm. Take stile in fenced dip and bear R over slight crest in next field. In front of gate take stile, bear R again to double stile and road. TR for 350m along road to a slight R bend.

4 - Fenhampton. TL along public footpath to splendid black and white farm. Pass on L down track between hedges and bend R at bottom, following Defra Permissive Path over stony bit. TL in corner and after 150m TR over footbridge, brook, and stile. Follow R edge of very long field, with Black Mountains directly behind you, to reach a drive. Go straight ahead to pass to the L of waymarked farm buildings, pass to L also of cider press with church spire in front.

5 - The Ley in "Wibba-Ley". After enjoying the "wow" factor of the eight-gabled private farmhouse, take the gate through the L edge of the paddock, over two more stiles. Follow R edge of field up to foot-gripping stile, and then down and up, leaving hedge up steps to next stile. Enjoy view over Weobley, and to Clee Hills. Descend and TL across stile and TR in corner down to last stile and sunken lane. TR through gate, and cross the road that led to Weobley Workhouse (which was up to the L beyond "Primasil" now) to the opposite pavement - a few paces back to the car park.

TL = turn left. TR = turn right. Some stiles may be replaced by gates.

WEOBLEY "LEATHERBOUND" EASY 4 1/2 MILE FOLKLORE TRAIL

