

Evesham to Pershore (via Dumbleton & Bredon Hills)			Evesham to Elmley Castle (via Bredon Hill)		
1 <sup>st</sup> walk check	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check	3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check	1 <sup>st</sup> walk check	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check	3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check
19 <sup>th</sup> July 2019			15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2018	07 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	
Current status	Document last updated Sunday, 08 <sup>th</sup> August 2021				
<p>This document and information herein are copyrighted to Saturday Walkers' Club. If you are interested in printing or displaying any of this material, Saturday Walkers' Club grants permission to use, copy, and distribute this document delivered from this World Wide Web server with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The document will not be edited or abridged, and the material will be produced exactly as it appears. Modification of the material or use of it for any other purpose is a violation of our copyright and other proprietary rights.</li> <li>Reproduction of this document is for free distribution and will not be sold.</li> <li>This permission is granted for a one-time distribution.</li> <li>All copies, links, or pages of the documents must carry the following copyright notice and this permission notice:</li> </ul> <p>Saturday Walkers' Club, Copyright © 2018-2021, used with permission. All rights reserved. <a href="http://www.walkingclub.org.uk">www.walkingclub.org.uk</a></p>					
This walk has been checked as noted above, however the publisher cannot accept responsibility for any problems encountered by readers.					

## Evesham to Pershore (via Dumbleton and Bredon Hills)

**Start:** Evesham Station

**Finish:** Pershore Station

Evesham station, map reference SP 036 444, is 21 km south east of Worcester, 141 km north west of Charing Cross and 32m above sea level. Pershore station, map reference SO 951 480, is 9 km west north west of Evesham and 30m above sea level. Both are in **Worcestershire**.

**Length:** 34.5 km (21.4 mi).

**Cumulative ascent/descent:** 589/593m.

For a shorter walk, *see below* **Walk Options**.

**Toughness:** 8 out of 10

**Time:** 8 hours walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 13 hours.

**Transport:** Evesham station is on the Cotswolds and Malvern Hills Line from Oxford to Hereford, with a journey time from 111 mins from London. Pershore is one stop and 7 minutes further towards Hereford.

**Saturday Walkers' Club:** Take a train no later than 8.30 hours.

**OS Landranger Map:** 150 (Worcester & The Malverns)

**OS Explorer Map:** 205 (Stratford-upon-Avon & Evesham), OL 45 (The Cotswolds) & 190 (Malvern Hills & Bredon Hill)

### Walk Notes:

This long walk between two elegant Worcestershire market towns on the banks of the Avon is set in the heart of the Vale of Evesham, famous for its market gardens and fruit growing and Cotswolds views. The towns are surrounded by stunning countryside and set in the shadow of Bredon Hill, a 5 km long outlier of the Cotswolds. The route passes through the Abbey Precinct in Evesham and follows the Avon to pick up a tributary, the Isbourne to follow it through the Vale of Evesham to Sedgeberrow.

You walk through pastures to Dumbleton and rise through a beautiful clump of minor hills past Dumbleton Hall, a large Country Estate and descend through woods back into the valley, heading for the impressive Bredon Hill, a 5 km long range rising above the lunch destination, Ashton under Hill.

The post-lunch ascent is of the tiered kind, revealing ever further views south along the Cotswold Escarpment down the Vale of Gloucester. On a clear day, you'll see the Black Mountains in the Brecon Beacons and eventually, from the Iron Age hillfort site at the top of Bredon Hill, the imposing Malvern Hills range 20 km to the west. Descend through woods and pastures, pick up the Avon for a short stretch and reach Pershore, also graced with an abbey. The station though is some way beyond the far end of town. Various options to shorten the walk – either by bus, by a shortcut or an alternative ending or a combination of those – are described.

### Walk Options:

**Buses X50 and 582** from Evesham (Railway Station or Bus Station) **to Hampton Church** (then walk back about 100m and turn right along the River Isbourne) cut 2.0 km/1.2 mi (2 per hour Mon-Sat).

**Bus Lines 564/565** from Pershore or Evesham (Bus Station or Leisure Centre/Avon Bridge) **to Hinton on the Green, Bevans Lane** cut 5.6 km/3.5 mi (Mon-Sat).

**Bus 540** from Evesham (Bus Station or Leisure Centre/Avon Bridge) **to Sedgeberrow/The Farriers** cuts 7.4 km/4.6 mi or 6.1 km/3.8 mi respectively (hourly Mon-Sat; 07/19 fare: £2,00), this is rated **6/10** [the bus also continues to Ashton under Hill, the lunch destination]. **Note:** every second bus is 'short', i.e. does not loop through Sedgeberrow village but stops only on Cheltenham Road/Hall Farm Drive. Turn south along a public footpath to link up with the described route along Main Street.

**A Shortcut from Sedgeberrow** to Ashton-under-Hill cuts 5.7 km/3.5 mi and 111m ascent (rated **7/10**).

**An Alternative Ending at Elmley Castle's** pub and then a bus (Lines 564/565) from there to Pershore or Evesham cuts 8.4 km/5.2 mi and 72m ascent (Mon-Sat; last to Pershore at 15.05, to Evesham at 16.14). Should you have missed the last bus, an agreeable walk route to Evesham is shown on the route map.

**There are also several bus lines from the centre of Pershore** to the outlying train station (cuts 3.2 km/2.0 mi; Mon-Sat, last at 17.50).

### Lunch (details last updated 22/07/2019)

**The Star Inn** Elmley Road, *Ashton-Under-Hill, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 7SN (01386 881 325, <http://thestar-ashtonunderhill.co.uk/>)*. The Star Inn is a traditional pub, located 17.1 km/10.6 mi into the full walk, and 11.4 km/7.1 mi into it if taking the Shortcut. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-15.00 Mon, 12.00-15.00 and 17.00-21.00 Tue-Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun.

### Tea – Pershore Ending (all options are about 3.0 km from the station; details last updated 22/07/2019)

**Belle House** 5 Bridge Street, *Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1AJ (01386 555 055, <https://belle-house.co.uk/wiki/>)*.

**White Horse Hotel** Church Row, *Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1BH (01386 554 038)*. Open all day.

**Bar 57** 57 High Street, *Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1EU (01386 552 625)*.

**The New Inn** 75 High Street, *Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1EU (01386 550 570)*. Open all day.

**The Pickled Plum** 135 High Street, *Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1EQ (01386 556 645, <http://www.pickledplum.co.uk/>)*. Open all day. Food served 12.00-15.00 & 18.00-21.00 Mon-Fri (from 17.00 Fri), 12.00-21.00 Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun.

### Tea – Elmley Castle, then bus to Pershore or Evesham Ending (details last updated 22/07/2019)

**The Queen Elizabeth Inn** Main Street, *Elmley Castle, Nr. Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3HS (01386 710 251, <https://www.elmleycastle.com/>)*. Open Mon 18.00-21.00, Tue-Wed 11.00-14.30 and 17.30-23.00, else all day (Sun to 20.00 only). Food served 12.00-14.00 and 18.00-21.00 Tue-Sat and 12.00-16.00 Sun. The QE Inn is located at the end of the Alternative Ending.

**Ye Olde Red Horse** 17 Vine Street, *Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4RE (01386 442 784, <http://yeolderedhorsebedandbreakfast.co.uk/>)*.

**Casa** 13 Vine Street, *Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4RE (01386 485 09, <http://www.casa-restaurants.co.uk/map-evesham1>)*.

**The Royal Oak** 5 Vine Street, *Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4RE (01386 442 465, <https://www.theroyaloakevesham.co.uk/en-gb>)*.

**The Red Lion** 6 Market Square, *Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4RW (01386 761 688)*.

**The Old Swanne Inne** 66 High Street, *Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4HG (01386 442 650, <https://www.jdwetherspoon.com/pubs/all-pubs/england/worcestershire/the-old-swanne-inne-evesham>)*.

A Wetherspoon's pub.

**Thai Emerald** 88 High Street, *Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4EU (01386 497 88, <https://www.thai-emerald.co.uk/evesham>)*.

## Notes:

### Evesham/Vale of Evesham

Evesham is a market town in the Wychavon district of Worcestershire. It is located roughly equidistant between Worcester, Cheltenham and Stratford-upon-Avon and lies within the Vale of Evesham, an area comprising the flood plain of The Avon, which has been renowned for market gardening due to its exceptionally fertile soil. The town centre, located on a horse shoe shaped peninsula almost completely surrounded by water in a meander of the river, is regularly flooded, and the 2007 floods – following the heaviest rainfall for 200 years – were the most severe in recorded history.

The town was founded around an 8<sup>th</sup>-century abbey, one of the largest in Europe, which was destroyed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, with only the Bell Tower remaining. In 1265, one of the two main battles of the Second Barons' War (the other being the Battle of Lewes) took place near the town, marking the victory of Prince Edward who later became King Edward I.

Evesham is derived from the Old English *homme* or *ham*, and *Eof*, the name of a swineherd in the service of Egwin, third bishop of Worcester. The second part of the name (ham) typically only signifies a home or dwelling, but in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire was applied to land on the sides of a river, generally in bends of a river, which were liable to flood.

Evesham has a distinctive dialect, which locals call 'Asum Grammar'.

### The (Warwickshire) Avon

The Avon is a 137 km/85 mi long major left-bank tributary of the River Severn, of which it is the easternmost tributary system. Flowing generally southwestwards from Northamptonshire through Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, before joining the Severn at Tewkesbury. From Alveston weir, 3 km upstream of Stratford-upon-Avon, to Tewkesbury and the River Severn, the river has been made navigable by the construction of locks and weirs.

'Avon' derives from the Brythonic 'abona', meaning 'river'.

### Round Evesham Walk

The Round Evesham Walk is an 8 km/5 mi waymarked circular walk around the centre of Evesham, largely along the Avon, created by Evesham Rambling Club. It passes all the town's attractions including the sight of the medieval Battle of Evesham, but must not be attempted if the Avon is in flood.

<https://eveshamramblingclub.org.uk/rew/>

### River Isbourne/Isbourne Way

The River Isbourne is a 22 km (14 mi) long tributary of the Avon flowing through Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, from a series of springs at Washpool on the northern flank of Cleve Hill to the Avon near Hampton, just outside Evesham. Despite its small size, the Isbourne has been an important source of power, exemplified by the mills at Dumbleton and Sedgeberrow, and it also has a history of flooding along its course, especially in Sedgeberrow. The Isbourne Way is a waymarked route along its course, created by Winchcombe Welcomes Walkers. <https://www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com/isbourne-way/>

### Bredon Hill

Bredon Hill is an approximately 5 km long hill south-west of Evesham in the Vale of Evesham and it is one of the 176 classified Marilyn's of England. The summit of the hill is in the parish of Kemerton, and it extends over parts of eight other parishes. The name "Bredon Hill" is unusual in that it combines the name for "hill" in three different languages, "bre" being of Celtic origin, and "don" of Old English usage. It is geologically part of the Cotswolds and lies within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but – as the result of erosion over millions of years – now stands isolated and is the largest outlying hill of the Cotswolds.

Bredon Hill is dotted with standing stones, it has three Iron Age forts, Norman castle remains, a holy well, a disappeared cave and a folly. Of these, the remains of earthworks from an Iron Age hill fort, Kemerton Camp, and a tower, Parson's Folly are passed on the walk route, as it scales the summit in its north western corner. <https://www.discoverworcestershire.co.uk/listing/bredon-hill/>

### Wychavon Way

The Wychavon Way is a 64 km (40 mi) waymarked linear trail in the district of Wychavon, from the Spa town of Droitwich to the traditional Cotswold village of Broadway. It goes through meadows, woodlands, orchards and riverside pastures, and up hilltops with extensive views over the Vale of Evesham and beyond.

### Wynchcombe Way

The Wynchcombe Way is a 68 km (42 mi) waymarked figure-of-eight trail in the northern Cotswolds, centred on the town of Winchcombe, the self-declared 'Walking Capital of the Cotswolds'. The town has 'Walkers Are Welcome'-status. Further information, gpx files and a guidebook are available here:

<https://www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com/winchcombe-way/>

### **Wyche Way**

The Wyche Way is a 121 km (75 mi) waymarked linear Long-Distance Path that links two national trails, Offa's Dyke Path and the Cotswold Way. The trail commences from Kington in Herefordshire (close to the Welsh border) and crosses superb countryside, including the spectacular Malvern Hills, to meet the Cotswold Way at Broadway Tower. The name is best known from an old 'Saltway' crossing of the Malvern Hills known as The Wyche Cutting, used by packhorse transports in the middle ages for salt from Droitwich to South Wales.

### **Kemerton Camp/Banbury Stone/Parsons' Folly (The Tower)**

Kemerton Camp, named after the nearby present-day village, is an Iron Age hill fort site, believed to have been abandoned in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD after a fierce battle. Protected by cliffs on two sides, and by two ramparts & ditches on the others, this promontory fort occupies a north-projecting spur of Bredon Hill. The two sets of defences were built at different times, ca. 300 and 150 BC respectively, and are widely spaced. There are also Roman earthworks and a number of ancient standing stones on the hill. One large stone at the summit is called the Banbury Stone, deriving from 'Baenintesburg', a name for the fort in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Parsons' Folly (known locally as 'the Tower') was built in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century for John Parsons, and intended as a summer house, from which a more extensive view of the surrounding countryside could be seen. Sitting near the 981ft (299m) top of the hill, the final height of the tower reaches 1,000ft (305m), in a fashion similar to Leith Hill in the south east of England. The folly became a well-known county landmark, and was believed to have inspired the building of Broadway Tower on the Cotswold Escarpment.

### **Pershore**

Pershore is a Georgian town famed for the plums and pears grown locally (as even its name suggests) and included in the list of 51 British "Gem Towns" worthy of special consideration for historic preservation for its many listed buildings. Chief among those is the Abbey which stands majestically within the Abbey Park. It was founded in 689AD by St. Oswald with the majority of the building being built during the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The current structure is far smaller than the original building though, which was plundered during the Dissolution.

Pershore Old Bridge over the Avon was the scene of Civil War skirmishes between the Roundheads and the Royalists in 1644. In subsequent years the bridge was maintained by re-using stones from nearby Elmley Castle and from the abbey. It is the only remaining monastic bridge over this stretch of the Avon.

### **Shakespeare's Avon Way**

The Shakespeare's Avon Way is a 148 km (92 mi) waymarked linear Long-Distance Path which follows the course of the Avon as closely as possible using existing public footpaths, bridleways and a few minor roads, from its source at Naseby to its confluence with the Severn at Tewkesbury, en route passing Warwick, Stratford upon Avon and Evesham. <http://shakespearesavonway.org/>

### **Millennium Way**

The Millennium Way is a 161 km (100 mi) waymarked linear Long-Distance Path in the Heart of England, between Pershore (Worcestershire) and Middleton Cheney (Northamptonshire). <http://www.walking.41club.org/>

## WALK DIRECTIONS

After alighting from the train on Platform 1 at **Evesham** Station, you leave into the station forecourt where you *turn up left* along a pavement to a main road. In 100m cross **High Street** (the A 4184) and *turn right* along the opposite pavement. In 100m you pass a **bus stop for Line 582 to Hampton Church**. In another 300m cross **Swan Lane** at a four-way junction, by **The Old Swanne Inne** (Wetherspoon's). In 30m you pass **Evesham Bus Station**. **Line 540 to Sedgeberrow and Ashton under Hill** departs from Stand B, the **X50 to Hampton Church** from Stand A.

In 100m keep to the right of a building along the main road, ignoring a narrow pedestrian passage to the left of it. In another 40m cross a pedestrianised shopping street (Bridge Street) and continue to the right of the magnificent timber-framed **Round House** (which is not round at all), past the **Eof Statue** (representing the town's founding myth: Eof, a swineherd, having an apparition of the Virgin Mary) onto the **pretty market place**, with the Town Hall on your right and the Riverside Shopping Centre in a converted old building on the left. Cross the square diagonally towards a couple of church spires beyond it, to continue between **The Red Lion** on the left and **The Walker Hall** on the right, passing remains of a **Norman Gateway** on the right.

In 30m you emerge in an open space by an info panel on **Evesham Abbey**, with **All Saints Church** on your left, and **St. Laurence Church** on the right (both founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century within the Abbey precinct to be churches for the town's two parishes, while sharing a churchyard). The historic, well-worth-a-look, **Almonry** is away to the right, 100m past St. Laurence. Continue along a tarmac path between the churches which curves to the left (signed 'Abbey Park', 'The River Avon') and in 40m go through the undercroft of the **Old Abbey Bell Tower** (1525-30), the only remaining part of the historic abbey buildings and through a metal gate into **Abbey Park**.

Take any route down to the river and *turn right* along it, **a recommended route** is this: Take the middle of the three tarmac paths in front of you, in 50m passing a **memorial for Simon de Montfort**, Earl of Leicester (the then de facto ruler of England, killed in 1265 at the Battle of Evesham), away in the grass on the right, and in 20m *curve right* around a war memorial. Now follow a zigzagging tarmac path down towards a two-railed bridge over a linear pond 50m away. Pass to the left of a bandstand and cross a grassy area to **The Avon**. *Turn right* either along a tarmac path or one of its grassy margins.

In 50m you pass a **Round Evesham Walk** marker on a post just before **Evesham Rowing Club's** boathouse on the right and in 100m you have an open grassy area on the right (**Crown Meadow**, a flood plain). Continue between rows of mature trees, curving slowly to the right with the river. **In 400m, this side of a road bridge** over the river, steps on the left lead up to the bridge:

- **For a bus stop for services to Sedgeberrow and Ashton under Hill** (cut 6.1 km/3.8 mi), *turn right* past a playground and through the meadow to reach the 'Leisure Centre' bus stop for Line 540 in 200m, on the right-hand side of the road.
- **For a continuation of the walk**, *turn left* up the steps and cross The Avon on the bridge. On the far side, *turn right* at a set of lights at this busy junction and continue along **Pershore Road** (signed 'Worcester' and 'Pershore').

Cross over to the left-hand pavement at a convenient spot and in 350m cross the **River Isbourne** on a road bridge and *turn left* along **Brookside** (a short tarmac lane and signposted footpath ('Hinton 2, Elmley 3')) to the left of some houses and to the right of the river, which you will now broadly follow for 5.5 km/3.4 mi to Sedgeberrow.

In 100m by the last house on the left, *turn left* at a T-junction with the gravel **Mill Road**, by a footpath marker post with an **Isbourne Way** marker. You pass to the right of the houses with first views on the right across an arable field of **Bredon Hill**. In 60m *turn left* at a fence corner on the left, enter a narrow riverside meadow and *turn right* through it. You pass some marker posts en route and in 450m leave the field in its far-left corner (ignore a path veering right just a little earlier) through a gap in the growth and in 15m ignore a left turn towards the disused **Hampton Mill**. In 80m, *turn right* through a metal kissing gate into an arable field and *turn left* along its boundary.

In 100m *turn right* with the boundary and in 25m *turn left* across a ditch and along a clear path along the right-hand boundary of a field. In 110m in the far-right corner cross a two-railed footbridge and *turn right* with the path and in 15m cross a plank bridge and *turn left* to continue in the previous direction with markers. In 180m continue in the same direction along an earthen strip between arable fields. In 75m, just before a bend in a farm track, *turn left* along an easily-missed narrow path, descending towards the river between earth banks. In 75m cross the **Isbourne** on a two-railed footbridge and go through a metal kissing gate. In 10m *turn right* with markers along a wide grassy arable field boundary, with the river now on your right.

In 250m *turn left* in a field corner with a hedge on your right and in 30m *turn right* across a ditch and *turn right* again along the hedge back towards the river and in 30m *turn left* with the boundary. In 150m follow markers into a wooded strip for 40m and *bear right* with the path along the river for a long stretch in a narrow meadow. In 400m the boundary hedge on the left discontinues and you get views of the **Dumbleton Hills** ahead. In 65m at the hedge corner on the right, you *veer right* with a marker post and in 60m pass another marker post. In about 200m you pass the buildings of **Downrip Farm** across the river and **[!]** in another 40m *turn right* over a two-railed metal bridge across the Isbourne. *Turn left* on the other side with a marker post along a field boundary and in 130m pass a **Riverflow Measurement Station**.

In 50m walk through a metal field gate by a footpath signpost, cross a road and *turn right* along the opposite pavement. In 180m *turn left* along **Bevans Lane** or the grassy margin on its right towards **Hinton on the Green** village. In 80m, through a break on the left, you can see **Broadway Tower** on the Cotswolds Escarpment (110°). In 160m a pavement commences on the left. In 100m by a hedge corner on the left, you *turn left* with a footpath signpost along a narrow path between gardens. In 80m *turn right* with a marker on a fence post along a clear grassy strip, with the Isbourne valley down on the left and in 70m *veer left* with the descending grassy boundary towards a couple of electricity poles. In 60m walk between the poles and *bear right* towards a metal field gate. In 40m walk through a metal gate to the left of the metal field gate and *turn left* across the river on a road.

In 30m *turn right* with a footpath signpost through a double car gate into the grounds of the former **Corn Mill**. You follow the clear tarmac lane between the now residential buildings and in 70m walk through a similar gate out of the developed area and across a bridge (across the mill leat) and *bear right* towards another bridge (across the river) and *turn left* in a scenic wide river meadow with many old pollarded trees, towards its far end. In 170m cross a railed footbridge over a ditch with a footpath marker and continue in the same direction along a left-hand field boundary. In about 400m, where the river turns left by the corner of a wood and just before the field boundary turns right along a ditch, **[!]** you *turn left* down some railed steps with a marker and across a plank bridge into the wood. In 35m *turn right* up some steps with markers and *turn left* at the top of the steps, where another footpath joins from the right. You follow the clear path though the wood with the meandering river away to your left for 450m and emerge in a meadow and follow a clear path towards the audible **A 46**.

In 60m by a marker post on the left, *turn left* with the Isbourne Way and in 50m go through a wooden kissing gate and down some steps to *turn right* under a road bridge with the river in a culvert on your left. *Turn right* up some steps on the other side and follow a path to the right of a water treatment plant. In 40m you *turn left* over the left of two stiles into a paddock and cross it to the left of some houses on the fringes of **Sedgeberrow** village. In 200m walk through a wooden gate onto **Cheltenham Road** and cross it to continue along **Winchcombe Road**, the B 4078. In 20m ignore a bus stop on the right and in another 230m – by **The Queens Head of Sedgeberrow** (Indian restaurant) – *turn right* along **Main Street** (the **Wychavon Way** has joined from the left, while the **Isbourne Way** turns away to the left). In 80m *turn right* with the road by **St. Mary's Church** (Grade II\* listed) on the left and in 120m (after a left turn and by the corner of **Moat Path Cottage** on the right) a signposted footpath turns right, and with it the Wychavon Way.

### Here you have a choice:

**For a shortcut**, *turn right* with the footpath along a wide gravel track and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Shortcut**.

**For the Main Walk**, continue in the same direction along the road and in 150m pass a red phone box on the left-hand side. This is the unmarked location of the second bus stop in Sedgeberrow (Farriers), **the recommended alighting point from Evesham**.

\*) Continue along **Main Street** (i.e. in the direction of travel if stepping off the bus) and in 200m, about 50m before the road turns right and by **Ashwin Cottage** on the right, you *turn left* with a footpath signpost along a tarmac drive towards some farm buildings. In 50m continue in the same direction to the left of the farm buildings with a marker post, where the drive turns to the right to a house. In 30m continue in the same direction along an often-overgrown path with a pasture on the left behind a fence. In 75m at the fence corner on the left, you continue in the same direction along a right-hand field boundary with views of the **Cotswolds Escarpment** on the left (with **Broadway Tower** identifiable in most weathers) and **Dumbleton Hills** away on the right, with **Oxenton Hill** to the right behind, as well as **Bredon Hill** to the near right.

In 100m in the far field corner, continue in the same direction 10m to the left through a gap in the boundary growth and in 30m *turn right* along a grassy track. In 25m *turn left* over a stile into a pasture and follow its right-hand boundary. In 130m (20m after passing a second metal field gate) you *turn right* over a stile into the neighbouring large pasture and cross it diagonally, aiming just to the left of a protruding field corner (220°, towards the right-hand edge of the distant hill). You pass a seasonal pond by that field corner and continue in the same direction towards the far-right field corner, where you *turn right* over a set of stiles either side of a plank bridge. Walk along the left-hand field boundary of this arable field and in 50m *turn left* over a squeeze stile and a railed wooden footbridge over a ditch into a large arable field.

**The right-of-way** follows the left-hand boundary for 250m to a marker post and there *turns right* across the field towards a gap in the opposite boundary hedge (the second gap from the right, 260°). **The farmer may have ploughed a diagonal path** across the field though... Leave the field through the gap by a broken marker post over an earth bridge across a ditch into the neighbouring arable field and *turn left* along its boundary. In 200m *turn right* with the field boundary (there is no sign on the ground of the OS-map right-of-way's right fork a little earlier) and in 25m *turn left* with a marker post across a plank bridge and continue gently uphill along a left-hand boundary towards **Cullabine Farm**. In 165m, at a T-junction with a gravel car wide farm track, you *turn right* along the left-hand grassy margin of the track, a bridleway (again, there is no sign on the ground of the OS-map right-of-way's right fork earlier). In 60m, where

the farm track turns right, you *turn left* with markers on a fence corner along a wooden fence on the left, and in 60m leave the arable field through a hedge gap and continue in the same direction along the farm's tarmac drive or its grassy margin.

In 350m *turn right* with the drive where a footpath joins from the left, and in another 150m *curve left* with it, ignoring a footpath on the right. In 75m at a three-way tarmac junction by a triangular green, *veer left* into **Dumbleton village**. Follow the road through the village for 430m to its far side by **St. Peter's Church**, ignoring all ways off, and walk past a memorial fountain and through a gate into the churchyard and keep to the left of the church to leave the churchyard in its far-left corner. You emerge on a right-turning tarmac lane, with the main road to the left and a four-way signpost opposite by a stile in a hedge and the drive leading to **Dumbleton Hall** on the right. *Turn right* along the tarmac cul-de-sac (a bridleway), to the left of the drive to the Hall.

In 250m, **by Keepers Cottage** on the right where the tarmac lane turns left towards Leyfield Farm (on the OS map), you *veer right* along tarmac, signed '**Alderton**'. In 50m walk across a cattle grid or through a wooden field gate to the left of it into the picturesquely landscaped **Dumbleton Estate** (as the sign says: a 'working' – i.e.: shooting – estate) and follow the tarmac drive (a marked footpath and bridleway) or its grassy verge steadily uphill all the way up to the saddle between the wooded **Dumbleton and Alderton Hills**, en route passing **The Warren** (hill) on the left. **Dumbleton Hall** (a hotel, specialising in weddings) is visible at times on the right through some of the magnificent trees and beyond a pond. [In shooting season, you may see low white numbered wooden posts in the grass, these are denoting positions for the 'guns' – i.e.: the shooters – during a shoot.]

In 650m you walk across a cattle grid or through a wooden field gate to the right of it and continue uphill (great views back from here across the **Vale of Evesham** to **Meon Hill**, to the left of the far end of the Cotswolds Escarpment, on 55°, 20 km away). In 310m *bear left* with the gravel track where the tarmac continues ahead to **Hill Farm** (views on the right to **Bredon Hill** and the lunch destination **Ashton under Hill**), and in another 130m cross a cattle grid and follow a '**To Alderton**' sign. In 400m walk through a wooden field gate into a wood and *turn right* immediately along the right-hand upper wood boundary. In 50m and in another 80m you pass bridleway marker posts and in 90m another one by a firebreak on the left, providing for views down into the **Vale of Gloucester** and towards **Oxenton Hill**. You now have the wood steeply dropping away to the left (Washbourne Hill on the OS map), and an arable field to the right (Perretts Hill on the OS map).

In 220m the path curves a little to the left and runs right by the wood's drop, and in 180m it starts to gently descend. In about 300m – not far from the bottom of the wood – the path curves to the right, and in 80m you *turn left* out of it through a wooden field gate and follow a left-hand boundary towards **Didcot Farm**. Briefly on the left, you get first views of parts of **The Malvern Hills** (SWC Walk 324 The Malvern Hills (Great Malvern Circular or from Colwall)). In 230m walk through a metal field gate (crossing the **Wynchcombe Way** in the process, while the **Wyche Way** joins from the right) and through the farmyard and continue in the same direction a little to the right along the farm's tarmac drive (with a grassy strip) towards **Bredon Hill**. In 250m by **Didcot Cottages** on the right, you cross a tarmac lane and continue in the same direction through a metal gate to the right of a double metal field gate and along a car wide grassy strip between arable fields towards the audible **A 46**. In 450m walk through a double metal field gate, cross the A road and *turn right* along the opposite verge. In 30m *turn left* through a metal gate to the right of a garden fence along a grassy path.

In 70m continue in the same direction along a tarmac lane at a bend, passing to the right of a caravan site. In 75m *turn right* with the tarmac drive by a static caravan and

in 15m *turn left* along a fenced grassy path. In 200m you walk through a wooden gate and *turn right* along an arable field's corner, on the course of a **long-dismantled railway line** (part of the Birmingham & Gloucester Loop, from Barnt Green via Redditch and Evesham to Ashchurch). In 120m in the field corner *turn left* along a car wide farm track and in 80m join **Back Lane** to continue in the same direction across a stream and through a few bends to a T-junction with **The Groaten** (road) on the fringes of **Ashton under Hill** village. You have a **bus stop for services from Evesham and Sedgeberrow** 30m away on the right, and *turn left* into the village. In 30m reach a T-junction with **Beckford Road/Elmley Road** by a triangular green with a bench on it (your best picnic spot). The lunch stop **The Star Inn** is 90m away to the right (as per the note by the door: leave any muddy boots in the porch).

The walk continues with a **Wychavon Way** signpost from the triangular green through the lychgate of **St. Barbara's Church** (reputedly the only St. Barbara's church in the land), with a footpath signpost to the right of **Walnut Thatch** along a tarmac path.

**\*\***) Pass the church to its left and leave the churchyard through a set of wooden kissing gates either end of a pond on the left and ignore a left-turning footpath in a sloping pasture to *veer right* uphill to its upper right-hand corner, with fine views opening up behind you towards **Dumbleton and Oxenton Hills**. In 200m leave the field over a stile and through a wooded belt and in 25m *turn right* at a T-junction with a car wide gravel track. In 60m you *turn left* over a stile into a steep pasture and head uphill in the direction of a marker post at the top of the rise, to the left of a clump of low trees (280°). You cross a car wide grassy track on the way to the top of this rise (**Little Hill** on the OS map) and on an interim plateau continue in the same direction past a marker post in 30m towards a stile 40m away. Go over the stile and up a grassy bank to a higher level and continue in the same direction on the level.

In 300m leave the field over a stile about 50m to the right of the left field corner and continue in the same direction uphill through scattered trees and in 50m past a marker post. In another 50m go over a stile in a fence line and *bear up to the left* along a grassy path through **Shaw Green**. In 100m walk through a metal kissing gate in a fence and further ascend **Great Hill** along a clear grassy path. You have **distant views on the left along the Cotswolds Escarpment** to the south beyond Tewkesbury, Cheltenham and Gloucester and in 200m go through a metal gate within a metal field gate to continue uphill through the grassy hillside with some scattered trees. In 40m you cross a car wide farm track and in 10m continue along a sunken path by a bridleway marker post. In 150m walk through a wooden field gate into a large arable field on the top of the rise and *turn right* along its boundary with the Wychavon Way and the Wyche Way. In 40m *turn left* in the field corner with a marker post along a drystone wall on the right.

You now follow the right-hand boundary of several fields along the right-hand scarp of **Bredon Hill** for 4.4 km/2.7 mi steadily uphill to the Iron Age hillfort site at its highest point. **In more detail:** beyond the steep drop on your right you have the **Vale of Evesham** away on the right below, the hills seen earlier in your back and a gently rising plain on your left. In 250m ignore a wooden gate on the right, where the boundary curves to the left. In 300m you leave this field through a missing field gate. In 450m (150m before a hanging wood on the right-hand drop) you get first views (on a very clear day) of a pointy peak far away (74 km to be precise!) on 260°: this is **Sugarloaf/Y Fâl** by Abergavenny, at 596m above sea the southernmost summit of the **Black Mountains** area of the **Brecon Beacons**.

In another 80m (on a clear day), on the left 22 km away you can see **the southerly part of the Malvern Hills** range, including the **Herefordshire Beacon/British Camp** (270°), at 338m above sea. In 70m leave the field through another missing field gate

by the corner of the wood (**Long Plantation** on the OS map) and continue in the same direction along a car wide grassy track. In 250m the terrain levels out for a while. In 330m you cross a bridleway at a four-way junction and *veer right* with the wood boundary. In about 450m you pass a transmission mast away on your left in the middle of another plantation wood. In 240m ignore a left turning bridleway through a wooden gate and a right turn in another 5m (the Wychavon Way turns right along it). In 150m more you go through a metal field gate into a sloping pasture at the corner of the wood and *turn down right* with a bridleway marker along the wood's boundary.

In 75m *fork away from the wood* and in 25m *turn left* along a clear grassy path back up the grassy slope (280° initially) and in 350m, 50m before passing a marker post at the top of the rise, you get first views of **the northerly part of the Malvern Hills** range, including the **Worcestershire Beacon** (285°) 20 km away, at 425m above sea, and the (Malvern Hills) **Sugarloaf** and **North Hill** just to the right of it. Pass the marker post and continue along the steep drop on your right, with rolling hillocks at the base of it, signs of historic landslips. In 125m go through a wooden field gate into the **Access Land** of the **Kemerton Camp** Iron Age hillfort site. Ignore a left turning bridleway and follow the right-hand boundary wall, with **Great and Little Comberton** and **Pershore** visible away to the right in the valley below. In 270m you pass the remains of the outer ditch and bank of the hillfort and ignore a footpath turning right over a standing stone slab and turning hard right back on yourself along the wall.

In another 75m you pass the remains of the inner ditch and bank of the hillfort and in 130m ignore a wooden gate on the right and *bear left* with the wall near the far corner of the hillfort site and in 25m pass a marker post, now on the westerly escarpment of the hill. You have the full extent of the **Malvern Hills** visible **across the Severn Valley**. Rise gently with the path along the wall and in 80m where it levels out and with **Parsons Folly (The Tower)** ahead, **[!]** *turn left* through the grass to a toposcope 50m away at **the highest point of Bredon Hill**, at 299m above sea. **The hills on view** (on a clear day) **encompass** the Clent Hills, Clee Hill, Malvern Hills, Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons, Sugarloaf/Y Fâl, Skirrid Fawr, Mayhill, Cleeve Hill and Meon Hill.

From the toposcope head to the tower and – en route in 50m – skirt left around a deep bowl containing the **Banbury Stone** (the bowl framing a fine view). In 80m pass the tower (these days leased out as a mobile phone base station), drop through the inner ditch and bank and pick up the path along the right-hand wall. In 100m go through the outer bank and ditch and reach the boundary of the Access Land by a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate.

### **Here you have a choice:**

**For the Alternative Ending in Elmley Castle** (pub and bus stop, last departures on the current schedule: Mon-Sat at 15.05 for Pershore and at 16.14 for Evesham; the bus stop is 3.2 km, i.e. about 40 minutes of walking, away), *turn left* along the bank and ditch and pick up the directions below under **Alternative Ending in Elmley Castle**.

**For the Main Walk**, finishing in Pershore, go through the gate and follow the right-hand boundary of an arable field gently descending towards a wood. In 300m enter the wood through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate. You follow the clear bridlepath around to the left in 70m and in another 40m, just before it turns right along the left-hand wood boundary, **[!]** *turn down hard right* along a narrow footpath with a marker post. In 40m walk through a metal field gate or over a step stile in the gate and follow a wide gravel track downhill, initially between high grass banks. In 40m continue through an open grassy area and in 75m between a couple of hillocks (more signs of ancient landslips). In 100m go through a metal kissing gate (in place of a missing field gate) and *veer left* with a marker through the grassy slope.

Plenty of 'Private Estate – No Access' signs and a few marker posts leave you in little doubt about the onwards route, as you enjoy the views up the steep hillside to the hillfort site and the tower and down into the valley and across to the Malvern Hills: in 40m *veer right* with the track, ignoring a less prominent left fork, in 180m at the second marker post, you *bear left* with the marker and in 90m pass another marker post by a wooden bench and in 100m leave the field in its bottom right corner over a stile to the right of a metal field gate. You cross a stream coming down from **St. Catherine's Well** up on the slope, and in 25m *turn left* at a T-junction with a car wide gravel drive. In 120m go over a cattle grid or through a metal field gate to the left of it and in 20m go over a stile to the left of a couple of metal field gates and *veer left* with markers across the grassy slope, away from the gravel track, in 75m passing a marker post.

In 200m leave the slope over a stile by **Woollas Hall** on the left and **[!]** *turn hard right* along the wire fence line, ignoring the tarmac drive from the hall down the hill. You still follow the Wychavon Way, as it contours the hillside through the grass, curving right with the fence, and in 180m cross a car wide gravel track (you were briefly on it higher up the hillside) and continue in the same direction through a metal field gate. In 130m go through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate and in 170m pass a bench and a memorial plaque on the right. In 140m go through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction with **Battens Wood** away on the right and the hillfort site above it. In 70m you pass another marker post and in 250m another one by a cattle trough. In 80m by a fence corner on the left, **[!]** *turn left* with a marker post on the left, still with the Wychavon Way, ignoring the continuation of the car wide grassy track towards a metal field gate.

You now descend through some pastures into the Vale of Evesham **towards Great Comberton village and the Avon**: in 70m walk through a metal kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction along a broad grassy track between fences. In 120m the fence on the left discontinues and in 210m you go through a metal field gate in the bottom right field corner. In 40m *veer right*, away from the left-hand field boundary, towards the far bottom-right corner of this pasture. In 160m walk through a metal field gate onto a tarmac lane and *turn right* with a **Public Road** signpost, uphill into the village. In 150m you continue in the same direction at a three-way road junction along a narrow, signposted footpath between hedges. In 90m enter a churchyard through a metal gate and walk between yew trees and to the left of **St. Michael's Church** (usually open) and *fork right* at the far church corner to pass a notable very old yew tree and leave the churchyard through a metal gate onto a road.

*Turn left* along **Church Street**. In 220m reach the main road through the village and *turn right* along it, using a tarmac footpath to the right of it initially. In 90m *turn left* across the road as the footpath discontinues and continue along the opposite pavement and in 70m – about 60m before the war memorial – *turn left* along **Quay Lane** cul-de-sac with a partly hidden footpath signpost with **Shakespeare's Avon Way** and Wychavon Way markers on it. In 250m the lane bears to the left by a golf course on the right and in 50m it continues as gravel by a last house on the left. In another 90m you reach the banks of the **Avon** by a mooring site with an info panel on **The Avon Navigation** on the left. *Turn right* with a signpost through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate and follow the river upstream (with the river on your left) through grassy meadows with reeds and pollards on the left.

After about 200m it pays to turn around for scenic **views of the Bredon Hill escarpment with the Tower** on it. In 100m you go under an electricity line and in another 100m **[!]** you *bear up to the right* along a grassy path by a marker post on the right, ignoring the continuation towards a wood 30m away with a permissive path running through the wood. Go up to the left corner of this small grassy slope and *turn*

*right* through a metal kissing gate with the **Shakespeare's Avon Way**, ignoring a left turn through a wooden gate (the Wychavon Way). You follow the left-hand boundary of a pasture, with Bredon Hill away up on the right and in 200m leave the field over a stepless stile and continue in the same direction along a left-hand arable field boundary. In 20m ignore a gap (a missing field gate) on the left but in another 10m *turn left* with the field boundary, with the houses of **Pensham** visible ahead in the distance. In 100m ignore a gap on the left and in 50m *turn right* with the boundary in the far corner. In 30m *turn left* over a two-railed wooden bridge over the **Marybrook** and *turn right* on the other side with a marker along a broad grassy arable field boundary (the right-of-way on the OS map across the field has no traces on the ground).

In 110m *turn left* up a rise along a car wide grassy track between fields with a hedge on the right. You still get views on the left of the highest tops in the Malvern Hills, despite trees and farms part-blocking the view. In 120m you continue on gravel to the right of a hedge and in 130m you have free views again where the drive from **Pensham Fields Farm** joins from the left. In 240m the lane continues as tarmac as you go under an electricity line and in 400m you *turn right* at a T-junction through **Pensham Cottages**. In 125m the Wychavon Way footpath re-joins from the left as the pavement runs out. In 350m continue in the same direction (signed 'Pershore', 'Worcester') where a road joins from the right and in another 130m, [!] 20m *before* a T-junction with the busy **B 4084**, you *turn left* past a metal bollard towards the signed **Pershore Bridges Picnic Place** area along a tarmac path through a grassy area.

In 25m pass an info panel on an WWII anti-tank gun emplacement (the site of which is to your left) and an adjacent infantry trench. Continue down to the river and *turn right* along it with the tarmac path, **signed 'Pershore Town & Abbey'**. You go through an underpass under the B road and up some steps and through a car park with a viewing platform and some more info panels on the left towards **Pershore Old Bridge**, site of a battle in the Civil War. *Turn left* across the bridge with a **Millennium Way** marker, ignoring a footpath turning right through a metal kissing gate just before it. At the far end of the bridge you walk through some **WWII tank traps** by an info panel on the various types of tank defences and continue along the right-hand pavement of the B road towards the houses of Pershore.

**The shortest route** through town to the train station far away on the other side, 3.2 km away, would be along this busy road, **but for a quieter route**: in 80m *turn left* to cross the road carefully and go through a squeeze gate into a pasture. Follow its right-hand boundary and in 50m *turn right* at a T-junction with a grassy path and in 20m go over a squeeze stile to continue along an enclosed path between trees then garden fences. In 110m continue in the same direction in a cul-de-sac, a little to the right by a three-way footpath signpost along an interesting 'wavy' brick wall on the right. In 200m by a house ahead, ignore the left turning footpath and *turn right* along a path. In 25m [!] *turn left* into a cul-de-sac and follow the residential road (**Mason's Ryde**) to a main road in 125m and *turn right* along **Defford Road**. In 50m where the two-pronged **Broad Street** turns right (the **bus stop for services to the Railway Station** is along this road), you *veer left* with the narrower **Church Walk**.

You have the **Abbey Park** on your left and in 100m walk between **Pershore Abbey**, the **Church of the Holy Cross**, on the left and **St. Andrew's Church** on the right. In 40m by **The White Horse Hotel**, *turn right* along **Church Street**, signed 'Leisure Centre'. In 125m *turn left* at a T-junction with **High Street**. In 40m pass **Bar 57** on the right and in another 50m **The New Inn**. In another 60m by a set of lights, *turn right* along **Cherry Orchard** (road) with a marker post for both the Wychavon Way and the Shakespeare's Avon Way. In 75m *turn right* with **King George's Way** (signposted 'Leisure Centre') where Cherry Orchard turns left, and in 40m [!] by the last house on

the left, *turn left* along its gravel drive (an unsigned public footpath) and in 30m walk through a metal kissing gate into **Avon Marshes** with a footpath signpost.

In 60m you cross a ditch on a concrete slab and then cross a boardwalk to continue in the same direction through a meadow (35°). In 250m cross a two-railed wooden bridge over a ditch (just to the right of a reedy area) and *veer left a little* along a clear grassy path. In 90m you *curve left* with the path and in 30m *bear right* by a path junction near a wooden bench, again with reeds on the left. In 50m you pass a **bird hide** on the left and *turn right* with the path. In 25m *turn left* across a railed wooden bridge over a ditch and follow the reeds on the left, in 80m *turning left* with the path and reed beds (320°). In 150m cross a ditch on an earth bridge and *veer right* along a clear path through a meadow (5°). In 130m you walk through a metal field gate and *veer left* to the far corner of the marshes and leave the **Northern Meadow** in 100m by an info panel through a metal kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate.

*Turn left* along a tarmac path and in 30m *turn right* in a residential cul-de-sac and *turn right again immediately* across a concrete slab to cross a ditch and go through a metal gate and along a left-hand field boundary with trees on the left and houses behind, in a northerly direction, staying to the left of a new housing development and in 260m you *turn left* along the pavement of the **B 4083 Wyre Road**. In 180m continue in the same direction along the opposite pavement. In 70m *turn right* along a shared cycle- and footpath at a T-junction with the **A 4104 Station Road**. The turnoff for **Pershore Station** is 800m away, and the single platform station 100m down that road.

### **Shortcut (cut 5.7 km/3.5 mi and 111m ascent)**

You now follow the well waymarked Wychavon Way for another 3.5 km/2.2 mi to **Ashton under Hill**. In more detail: in 30m continue in the same direction along a grassy strip and in 100m by the corner of some allotments on the left, *turn left* along a left-hand field boundary. In 200m continue in the same direction along an enclosed path and in 140m walk through a metal gate and *turn right* along a road, further through Sedgeberrow, soon passing the **First School**. In 125m ignore a signposted left-turning footpath and *bear right* with road. A little later you pass a bus shelter and in another 120m cross **Cheltenham Road** and *turn left* along its opposite pavement. You follow the road to its junction with the **A 46** (Evesham – Cheltenham) and cross the A road carefully, using a traffic island.

Follow a tarmac path to the left of **Sandfield Lane** past a marker post and *turn left* with the lane. The lane passes signs for and continues between Cherry Tree (Alpaca) Farm and Longfurrow Farm and in another 50m you *turn left* through a metal kissing gate to the left of a double farm gate along a permissive path **through Longfurrow Farm**. In 80m go through a metal gate and *bear right* across a large pasture on a bearing of 245° to a point just left of the far-right field corner. In 240m go through a wooden gate with markers to leave the field. Cross a ditch on a bridge and in 40m continue in the same direction along a right-hand field boundary. In 300m walk through a thicket with a marker post and in 40m cross the course of a **long-dismantled railway line** (part of the Birmingham & Gloucester Loop, from Barnt Green via Redditch and Evesham to Ashchurch). You *veer left* with a yellow marker across an arable field corner and in 75m by a marker post continue along a left-hand field boundary.

In 530m – in the far field corner – *bear left* with a path through the boundary growth and in 20m go through a metal kissing gate into a large pasture. In 150m *turn left* by a

marker post under a tree into the neighbouring pasture and follow its right-hand boundary towards a low red brick building (ignore animal tracks off to the right). In 80m *turn right* in the field corner and follow a wide grassy strip. In 100m go through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction along a tarmac drive. In 70m cross **Elmley Road** and *turn left* along the opposite pavement and in 140m pass Ashton First School on the left and a war memorial on the right. In 30m ignore a right turning footpath and in another 100m pass **The Star Inn**, the lunch stop on this walk (as per the note by the door: take off any muddy boots).

From the pub continue in the previous direction and in 90m by a triangular green by **St. Barbara's Church** on the right (reputedly the only St. Barbara's church in the land), the walk continues through the lychgate with a footpath signpost to the right of **Walnut Thatch** along a tarmac path.

Pick up the directions above at the double asterisk \*\*).

### **Alternative Ending in Elmley Castle (cut 8.4 km/5.2 mi and 72m ascent)**

The ditch and bank curves to the left in 90m and in 170m you cross a farm track leading into the hillfort site and in 120m walk to the left of a fenced clump of trees on the right. In 60m in the next field *bear right* to the far-right corner (60°, or follow the ditch and bank to the escarpment and *turn right* along it) and leave the **Access Land of Kemerton Camp** where you entered it, through a wooden field gate. Re-trace your steps for 450m along the left-hand drop, down a pasture to its bottom corner. Here *do not* turn back up to the right but continue steeply downhill between trees. In 30m pass a marker post and *bear right* to a four-way bridleway junction by a wooden gate 50m away to the left of a wooden field gate, this side of **Long Plantation**.

*Bear left* this side of the gate, ignoring a left turn, gently downhill a grassy slope on a bearing of 75°, with a barbed wire fence on the right. In 180m you ignore a metal field gate on the right and *bend left* with the clear grassy path on the level along the fence. In 50m the path starts to descend again, initially between earth banks with trees either side. You have **Doctor's Wood** away on the left (on the OS map) and in 120m go through a metal gate and continue in the same direction down a steeper slope.

In 150m your path becomes a more defined car wide grassy track and in 150m this joins another bridleway coming down the hill from the left behind. You cross another farm track and continue with a fence on the left, initially parallel to the track just crossed, but at a lower level. In 60m go through a metal gate and continue down a holloway between deep and steep earth banks. In 140m you emerge by **Hill House Farm** on the left, where the track continues as tarmac. In about 600m by the thatched **Deakins Cottage** on the left, you *turn right* with a signposted footpath up some steps and through a wooden gate into a pasture which you cross diagonally to its far-left corner (95°). In 120m walk through a wooden gate and *bear right* along **Hill Lane**. In 200m at a T-junction, you have **The Queen Elizabeth Inn** on the left and **St. Mary's Church**, Elmley Castle some way away on the right. The **bus stop for services to Pershore or Evesham** is opposite the pub, but there is no shelter, timetable or sign.

**For a walk route from here to Evesham**, consult the route map on the website.