THE MALVERN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Discovery Walk No. 1

View of Herefordshire Beacon
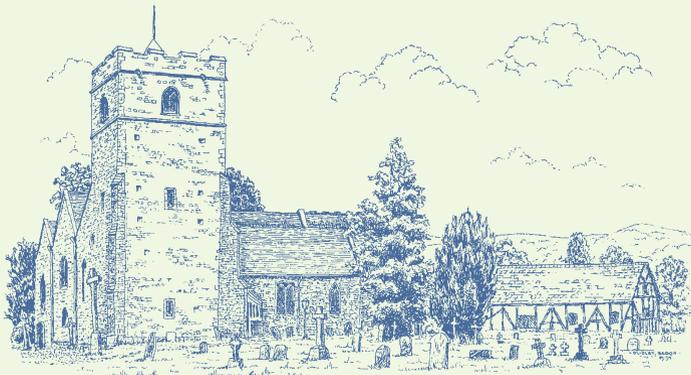
The
Martin Brent Walk

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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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Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

MALVERN HILLS

The Countryside Agency

Landscape
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