

Walk E - Pipers Hill and Two Tree Hill (5½ miles)

A more energetic walk with some magnificent views over Worcestershire. Boots are advisable except in driest weather. Please keep to the rights of way within the Foster's Green Meadow National Nature Reserve. The walk is best done anti-clockwise to ease the uphill stretches.

Parking is available in Woodgate Road at the start of the walk. There is also parking at Pipers Hill woods, Hanbury Church (donation) and the Jinney Ring Craft Centre. There are eight Geocaches on this walk.

1. Woodgate – The route starts at the crossroads. Head along Woodgate Road in the direction of Moorgate Road and after 300 yards turn left over a ditch crossing and stile (F/P sign) just past bungalow. Go diagonally across field aiming for an oak tree close to the far hedge. Follow hedge line uphill crossing a stile, a kissing gate and a field gate just beyond electricity lines. Head across field for the kissing gate on the left. In next field go diagonally left to kissing gate alongside field gate. Continue on farm track alongside hedge then straight on through a pair of kissing gates. Keep hedge on right to reach stile with F/P sign at road.

2. Country Girl Cottages – Cross the Hanbury Road and turn left up the hill for 250 yards. Just before houses turn right across stile with F/P sign. Follow field edge to a stile and go left to another stile opposite Sharpway Cottage (F/P sign). The Hanbury Road can be busy at peak times and there is no footpath. Point 3 can also be reached by carrying straight on at Country Girl cottages (signed Sharpway Gate) and taking the left turn after 260 yards.

3. Sharpway Gate – Turn left up the lane and cross green to enter the Common to left of last house by following the right hand F/P sign.

4. Dodderhill Common/Pipers Hill/Hanbury Woods - Managed by Worcester Wildlife Trust. Keep to the path through wood using the overhead telephone lines as a waymarker. Join the drive from the car park, running alongside the pond to Knotts Farm. Continue straight along the path which leads into another drive and towards a kissing gate. Continue along enclosed path straight up the hill to enter the churchyard through a gate

5. Hanbury Church – In a marvellous setting with rectory below in the vale. The church has been used for weddings in the “Archers”. There are various memorials to the Vernon family. Cross the churchyard and bear left passing the entrance to the church. Head to far corner of churchyard with its Millennium Viewing Point. Leave through metal kissing gate, going down steep hill to a kissing gate and stone steps (F/P sign).

6. Hanbury School – Cross School Road, go through kissing gate and then a second gate. Go half left across school playing field to a gate. Go straight on across field and through kissing gate then half right uphill to gate. Take left path to next gate with plank ditch crossing. Take path across field to a gate in fence by small wood. Go through gate and turn left through wood to car park.

7. Jinney Ring Craft Centre – A group of lovingly restored farm buildings, galley restaurant and gift shop (open daily except for Christmas Day and Boxing Day). Note the ‘jinney ring’ (early farm machine) outside main gift shop. Turn left into Hanbury Road (B4091) and left again into School Road. After 370 yards turn right by F/P sign just past Rectory Gate Cottage. There is a fine view of Hanbury church. Go uphill following enclosed path, through old metal kissing gate to two wooden double gates back on to Hanbury Road.

8. Valley Farm – Cross road and go down drive by F/P sign, past Valley Farm on the left and keeping straight on to the end of the drive. Cross the field to a stile and ditch crossing and then another field to a kissing gate. Cross bridleway and the stile opposite. After a few yards cross stile on right and go up slope, keeping about 20 yards to the right of the dead tree stump. Go through the gate or stile at top of hill and take the path across the field, aiming for the oak tree in the middle of the field. At end of field leave by gate. Cross farm track/bridleway and go through gate virtually opposite and straight along field edge to stile and ditch crossing into Ash Plantation. Follow path slightly left through wood to footbridge into field. Keep to a line equidistant between pylons to opposite hedge, where there is a metal 'sun gate' (currently behind two posts). Go through gate and straight on along bridleway.

9. Foster's Green Meadows National Nature Reserve – administered by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust has over 180 species of flowering plants and is one of the finest examples of ancient lowland grassland in Great Britain. Continue to a gate and then alongside an old timber framed building to reach a metalled lane. Turn left after 100 yards through a field gate opposite Foster's Green Farmhouse (F/P sign). Cross field to double stile/footbridge opposite. Cross the next field and through a field gate into another field. Keep alongside hedge to gate (currently unhung) on far side. Continue alongside hedge for 200 yards and turn right through gate by F/P sign, then half left to gate by cattle trough. Do not go through gate but turn left to metal gate in corner of field and keep straight on up the hill to woods.

10. Two Tree Hill Woods– Turn right through kissing gate into the wood. Immediately turn left and after a few yards take the left hand of the two paths leading through the woods. Leave woodland by stile into field. There are fine views all the way round from the Lickeys to Abberley Hill. Aim for the brow of hill and stile becomes visible in hedge opposite. Keep straight down to kissing gate onto Holmes Lane. Turn right to return to the crossroads.

The full walk should take around 2½-3 hours.

Getting there

As this walk is entirely within a rural setting there are unfortunately no public transport services available on the route. Car or taxi from Bromsgrove or Droitwich (both served by bus and train services) are the only options.

For details of all walks visit the Stoke Parish website. www.stoke-pc-worcs.gov.uk

- A Upton Warren
- B Avoncroft and St Michael's Church
- C Stoke Flight and Woodgate
- D Dodderhill Common and Hanbury Hall
- E Pipers Hill and Two Trees Hill
- F Great Transport Feats
- G Reserve Links
- H John Corbett Way
- J Return to Avoncroft (a return walk to the John Corbett Way)

INFORMATION

Droitwich TIC 01905 774312
Redditch TIC 01527 60806

If you encounter any problems, please contact Worcestershire County Council Countryside Services:
01905 768289 www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/countryside/public-rights-of-way.aspx

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