

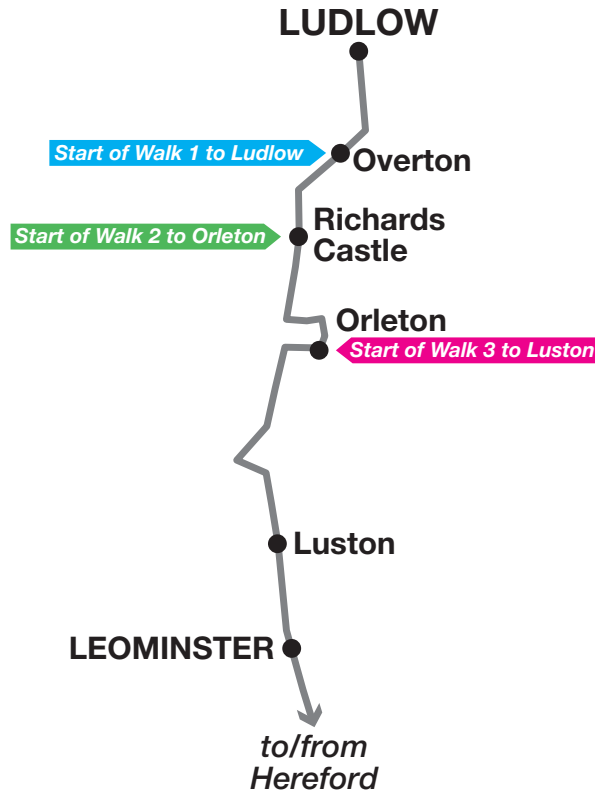
Mortimer Country Bus Walks

Three walks in the Mortimer Forest and North Herefordshire - all easily accessible on the 492 bus



Mortimer Country Bus Walks

Bus 492 Hereford - Leominster - Ludlow



This leaflet was produced with assistance from Herefordshire Council as part of the 'Tourism on Board' Initiative. It was prepared by the Institute of Transport and Tourism and the local environmental group Ludlow 21 to encourage sustainable travel for leisure and tourism in The Marches. Find out more about Ludlow 21 at www.Ludlow21.org.uk or phone 01584 875501.

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Travel information

Please make sure you are at the bus stop several minutes before the departure time shown.

Travel from Hereford and Leominster

Bus 492 Hereford - Leominster - Ludlow:

Travel from Hereford via Leominster (this might require a change of bus on Monday to Saturdays but through fares are available).

The bus leaves from Hereford railway station and calls at the Country Bus Station, St Peters Square and Maylord Orchards. It takes about one hour to Orleton and Richard's Castle.

Mondays to Saturdays: 0905 (from St Peters Square), 1055, 1255, 1355, 1555.

Sundays: 0950, 1250, 1550.

Return to Leominster and Hereford

Returning from Orleton and Luston (six minutes after the Orleton time).

Mondays to Saturdays: 1239, 1439, 1609, 1739 (Leominster only), 1939 (Leominster only).

Sundays: 1119, 1419, 1719.

Travel from Ludlow (Assembly Rooms, Mill Street)

Mondays to Saturdays: 0925, 1025, 1225, 1425, 1555, 1725 (Leominster only), 1925 (Leominster only).

Sundays: 1105, 1405, 1705.

Return to Ludlow from Luston (Orleton, The Boot Inn is 6 mins later)

Mondays to Saturdays: 1148, 1348, 1453, 1658, 1853.

Sundays: 1038, 1338, 1638.

Full timetable information is available at www.herefordbus.info or by phoning traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or txt 84268.



Checking bus times at Luston

Mortimer Country Bus Walks

These three very different walks introduce you to the border country of Herefordshire and Shropshire between Leominster and Ludlow. It is gentle walking country leading to villages steeped in the history of an area which has witnessed both turbulent and more peaceful times. The walks are linear; they are point to point rather than circular. That is why we recommend using the 492 bus to access the walks. We refer to them as bus walks and the bus runs every day of the week.



Walking the lanes at Richard's Castle (Walk 2)

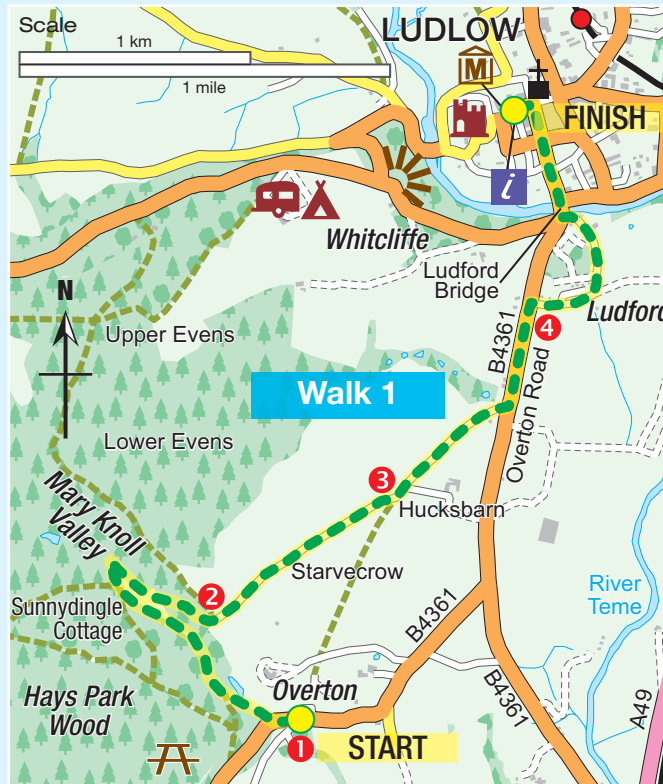
The walks offer a variety of landscapes and each one takes about 2-3 hours. Walk One enters the Mortimer Forest and then runs through fields to the old market town of Ludlow. It has excellent views over the Teme Valley across to the Cleve Hills. Walk Two climbs to the church of Saint Bartholomew standing by the remains of Richard's Castle. It continues to climb over The Goggin to the village of Orleton through very quiet countryside. Walk Three starts in Orleton and wanders along bridleways near to Berrington Hall and Eye Manor en route to Luston.

Walks Two and Three can be combined to make a day's walking.

OS Map: Explorer 203 Ludlow.



Walk One: Overton to Ludlow



2.5 miles 4km. Allow 2 hours.

Moderate: There's a climb in Mortimer Forest then easy walking into Ludlow.

Mortimer Forest is the name given to the woodlands across the Herefordshire - Shropshire border hereabouts. The Forestry Commission welcomes walkers to enjoy the many routes through the forest, some of which lead to Ludlow. This walk offers views across the two counties of Herefordshire and Shropshire and enters the township of Ludlow by way of the historic quarter of Ludford.

Travel: Catch the 492 bus from Hereford, Leominster or Ludlow to Overton (ask the driver to stop by the entrance to Moor Park School).

- 1 Walk up to the corner of the main road and as it bends left, you keep slightly right on a bridle-path which climbs into Sunny Dingle, walking beneath tall trees with a stream to your right. At the fork keep right to rise above a cottage and the track bends right by a



Autumn mist at Overton (Walk 1)

scar up to a point where a wall and gateway can be seen ahead.

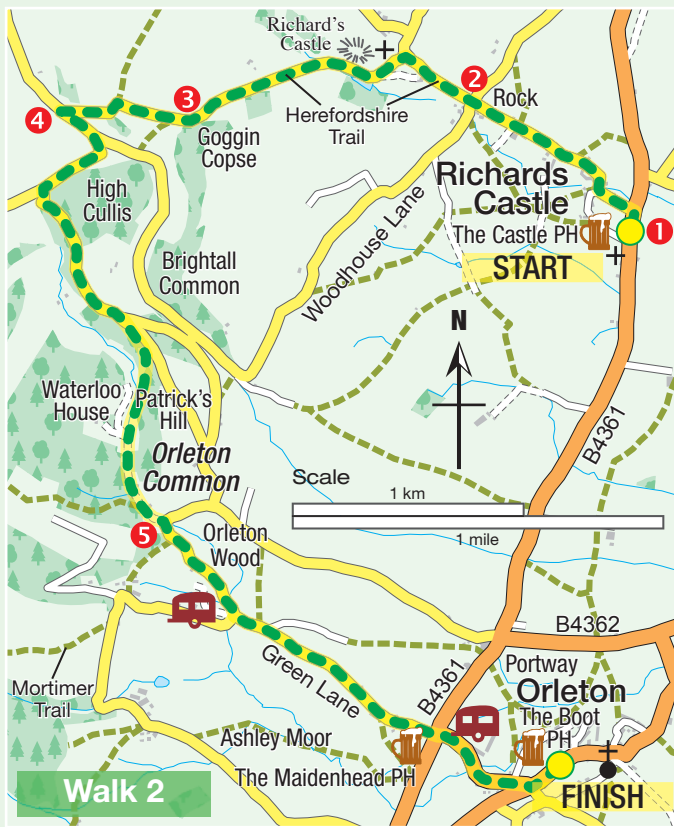
- 2 The main track bends left here but you keep ahead through the gateway on a track which offers fine views across the Teme Valley and to the Cleve Hills. Pass by a barn and dwelling known as Starvecrow. The path continues ahead alongside a hedge. At the bottom of this field go over a stile by a gate and proceed ahead again on the green way; it soon reaches a T junction.
- 3 Turn left and then continue ahead. Ignore tracks and a stile on the right to Hucksbarn. Cross a stile to enter a field and keep ahead to cross another. Walk beneath the shade of tall trees and down a private drive to the Overton Road. Go left along the pavement towards Ludlow. It is possible to follow this down to the Ludford Bridge.
- 4 However, some may prefer to cross the road just before it descends. Walk along Lower Barns Road to the large barred gate. Go through the small gate and turn left along a path which skirts the field to a kissing gate and a road by the Ludford Park Meadow of Remembrance. There are excellent views on the right to Steventon, Tinkers Hill and beyond to the Cleve Hills. The road passes by a number of historic dwellings including the half timbered Old Bell House to Ludford Bridge, which you cross with care. Continue ahead up Bridge Street to the Buttercross and left for the Market Square.

Mortimer Country Bus Walks

Walk Two: Richard's Castle to Orleton

4.5 miles 7 km. Allow 3 hours.

Moderate: Please note - there's a steep climb up to the church then another climb to The Goggin. Your effort is rewarded by excellent views across North Herefordshire. The route involves a mix of track and lane walking.



This walk passes by the 14th century church at Richard's Castle with its detached bell tower. Behind sits the remains of the early Norman castle thought to have been built prior to the Norman Conquest. The walk passes through some of the quietest hamlets in Herefordshire to the large village of Orleton.

Travel: Catch the 492 bus from Hereford, Leominster or



St Bartholomew's Church at Richard's Castle (Walk 2)

Ludlow to The Castle public house, Richard's Castle.

- 1 Start the walk by The Castle public house at Richard's Castle. The first part involves a section of the Herefordshire Trail. Go left up the lane from the main road passing by a fine set of buildings, Court House, on the left with its own dovecote. It is approximately half a mile to a cross roads by a half timbered cottage and small green.
- 2 Continue ahead up a steep bank towards the church and scant ruins of Richard Fitz Scrob's castle. Pass Green Farm and then as the road curves right by a small green, go left along a track by a half timbered cottage and pass the entrance to the church. Go through a gate ahead and walk along a greenway to another gate located well to the right of the barns. Once through the gate, go right on a more prominent track which runs beneath the wooded castle mound



The Boot Inn, Orleton



The bus to Ludlow at Orleton

- and crosses a stream (there's a footbridge alongside). Rise up the valley by a small plantation to a gate and then continue ahead again to Goggin Copse on the left.
- 3 Go through the barred gate at the end of the track and follow the hedge on your right to another gate. Go through it and turn left to descend to the road. This is the Mortimer Trail, another superb walk which follows a line between Kington and Ludlow.
- 4 Turn left at the road into the area known as The Goggin. Take the next right to climb for a short section and drop to the next junction. Go left to walk through woodland to a junction where Mortimer Trail continues ahead. Your way, however, is right on a brideway which descends ahead through the wood. Ignore any tracks to the right or left. Pass by a dwelling on your left on a track which leads to a road. Turn left here to walk through the hamlet of Orleton Common nestled beneath Patrick's Hill.
- 5 On reaching the road junction go right and then keep ahead at the next junction (where the Mortimer Trail departs), following the road around to the left at the second junction. Walk along Green Lane for about half a mile to the Maidenhead public house in Orleton. Cross over to the main road to walk into the village. The bus stop for Leominster and Hereford is on the right before reaching the crossroads. For the stop to Ludlow go left at the crossroads and the bus stop is just beyond The Boot Inn. This is your way if you are continuing on Walk Three.

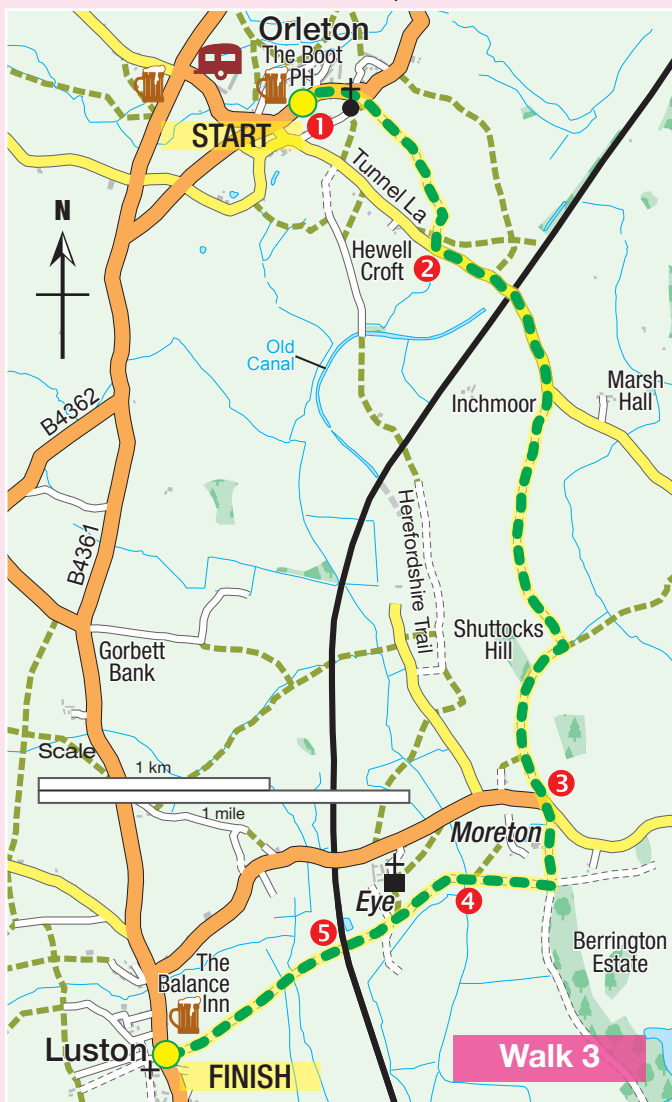
Walk Three: Orleton to Luston

4 miles 6km. Allow 2 hours.

Easy: This involves mainly bridleways and field paths through gently undulating landscape.

This is the gentler walk from Orleton, with its half timbered houses, to Luston across mixed farmland. It passes through the quiet hamlet of Moreton and skirts the parkland of Berrington Hall before heading west to Luston.

The Balance Inn is a reminder of the wool trade north of Leominster; wool used to be weighed here. You will see the remains of the Leominster to Stourport canal which did not



survive the arrival of the Hereford to Shrewsbury railway in the 1850s.

Travel: Catch the 492 bus from Hereford, Leominster or Ludlow to Orleton (The Boot Inn).

- 1 Start the walk from the bus stop by The Boot Inn. Turn left and walk along the pavement through the village. Pass the entrance to Claremont Orchard. Soon after, cross the road to turn right opposite the old bakery and pass by a large barn. Follow this road ahead; the parish church stands to the right. The road gives out into a track. Keep ahead along it to reach farm buildings. Do not enter; the track twists right and left to keep ahead through a barred gate and on a green track to Tunnel Lane, a reminder of the proximity of old Leominster to Stourport canal to the village.



Walking the bridleway to Moreton (Walk 3)

- 2 Go left along the lane to cross the railway bridge. Just before look to the right and you will see the tree lined old course of the canal across a field. Keep ahead on the lane for about one quarter of a mile where it bends left. You continue ahead on a delightful tree lined bridleway. This gives out into a field and proceed ahead to a gate where the bridleway becomes enclosed by hedgerows again. On reaching the junction turn right to follow the track to the hamlet of Moreton. This section can become muddy after wet weather.
- 3 Cross the road and continue ahead to pass Moreton Farm. The bridleway ahead dips a little and there's a pool on the left-it can get muddy on this section too. Look for a gap in the hedge on the right. Go right here into a field and walk along the boundary hedge on the right to a footbridge and stile.



The Lychgate at Eye Church (Walk 3)

- 4 Cross the bridge and you have a good view of Eye Manor and church ahead. Proceed in a direction slightly left of the church and go through a gate to enter another field. Continue in the same way to double gates and track; at this point you have re-joined The Herefordshire Trail. Go through the gates on either side and continue ahead to a stile. Cross this and the railway tracks - be very careful to look and listen for approaching trains.
- 5 Once across the tracks keep ahead along the field boundary to cross a footbridge. Once across, head slightly left on a well worn path through a large field to a boundary. Proceed in a similar direction towards Luston. Cross a stile to enter a small pasture and follow the hedge on the right up to a gate between gardens. This leads onto the main road where you turn right for The Balance Inn and the bus stop this side is for Leominster and Hereford and the other side for the direction of Ludlow.



The Balance Inn at Luston