

About Marcle Ridge

The route along Marcle Ridge has been an important line of communication for many millennia. The long, gentle slope of its eastern side offers well drained, easily worked agricultural land and this is reflected in the huge number of prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites recorded.

During the Bronze Age and Iron Age farmsteads would have been scattered over this slope with the ridge itself used as a vantage point. This is reflected in the location of Oldbury Camp, (Iron Age Hill Fort), south east of the ridge. The Roman period saw the construction of a road (from Gloucester to Wroxeter), at the base of the eastern slope. At intervals off this road were tracks leading to farmsteads and villas.

During the Saxon and medieval periods arable agriculture was intensified to keep pace with a growing population. Regular ploughing formed headlands between areas of ridge and furrow, many of which have been preserved today in the form of reversed "S" shaped hedges.

The narrow strip of woodland along Marcle Ridge and Ridge Hill is designated as Ancient Woodland. The steeper, uncultivable west side of the ridge has ensured that this woodland has remained uncleared and reflects woodland as it might have looked following its regeneration after the last Ice Age.

It has an important ground flora that includes orchids and spurge laurel. There is a good mix of tree species including the interesting and historic Wild Service Tree or Checker Tree, *Sorbus torminalis*. This attractive tree has beautiful flowers followed by brown fruit that used to be used to flavour beer before hops were cultivated; hence pub names derived from the word 'Checkers'. To complete its seasonal uses the foliage turns from a glorious yellow-green to a beautiful deep red-brown in autumn.

Parking

Parking is limited - please park safely.

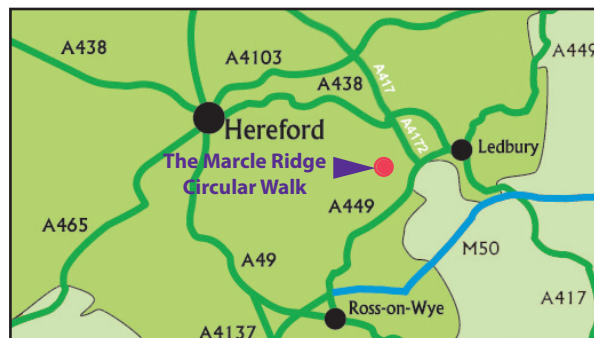
Refreshments

Refreshments cannot be obtained on route, however there are Inns in nearby Much Marcle, Woolhope, Fownhope. There is also a visitor centre at Weston's Cider in Much Marcle.

Walk Information

This leaflet has been designed to tell you all you need to know about the route **before** you set out.

Stiles	13
Gates	6
Steps	2 flights
Narrow Bridges	1
Slopes	Many steep sections



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.
Herefordshire Council 100024168 2023

Always follow the Country Code. Enjoy your walk!

Walk them all...

There are 15 circular walks in the county ranging in distance from 2 to 10 miles and four are 'Miles without Stiles' routes.

For more information on the other routes or to download the leaflets visit: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/circularwalks

This route is managed by Herefordshire Council.

Please report any issues online:
<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-public-right-of-way-problem>



Choose how you move



www.herefordmove.org

Funded by the Department For Transport



Choose how you move

The Marcle Ridge Circular Walk

DISTANCE: 4.5 miles



General Views

Whilst walking along the ridge on a clear day you should be able to see the following:

Looking North East

Distinctive hump-backed shape of the Malvern Hills (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

Looking East

Bredon Hill and north Cotswold hills

Looking South East

Western slopes of the Cotswold Hills (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

Looking South/South West

Wye Valley (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

Looking South West

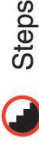
Garway Hill

Looking West

Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons (National Park)

Looking North West

Across Woolhope Dome and upper Wye Valley



Tarmac/road  please be aware of traffic

Natural surfaced track

Smooth stone surfaced track

Uneven stone surfaced track

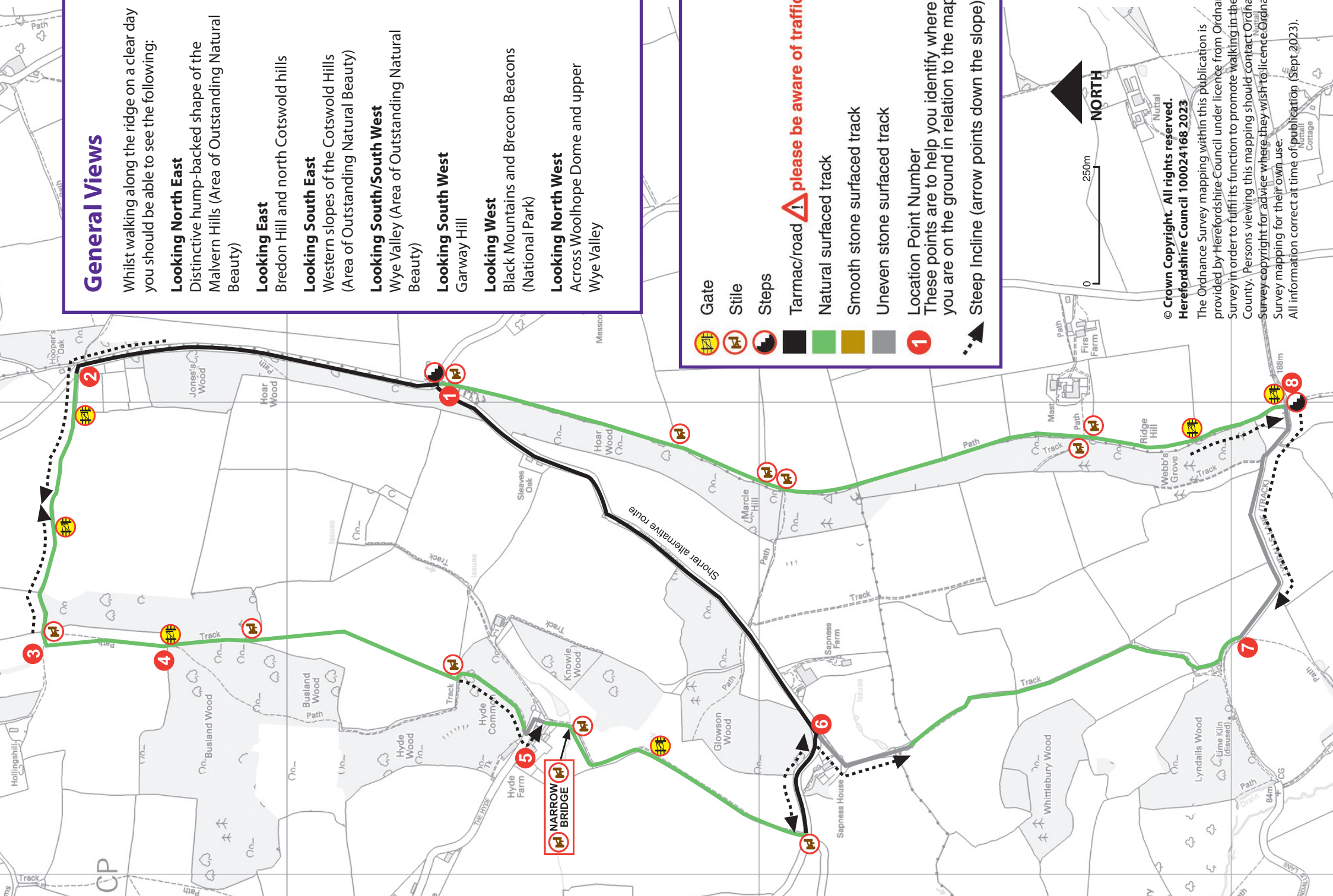


Location Point Number

These points are to help you identify where you are on the ground in relation to the map.



Steep Incline (arrow points down the slope)



0 250m

NORTH

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.
Herefordshire Council 100024168 2023

The Ordnance Survey mapping within this publication is provided by Herefordshire Council under licence from Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its function to promote walking in the county. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping for their own use.
All information correct at time of publication (Sept. 2023).