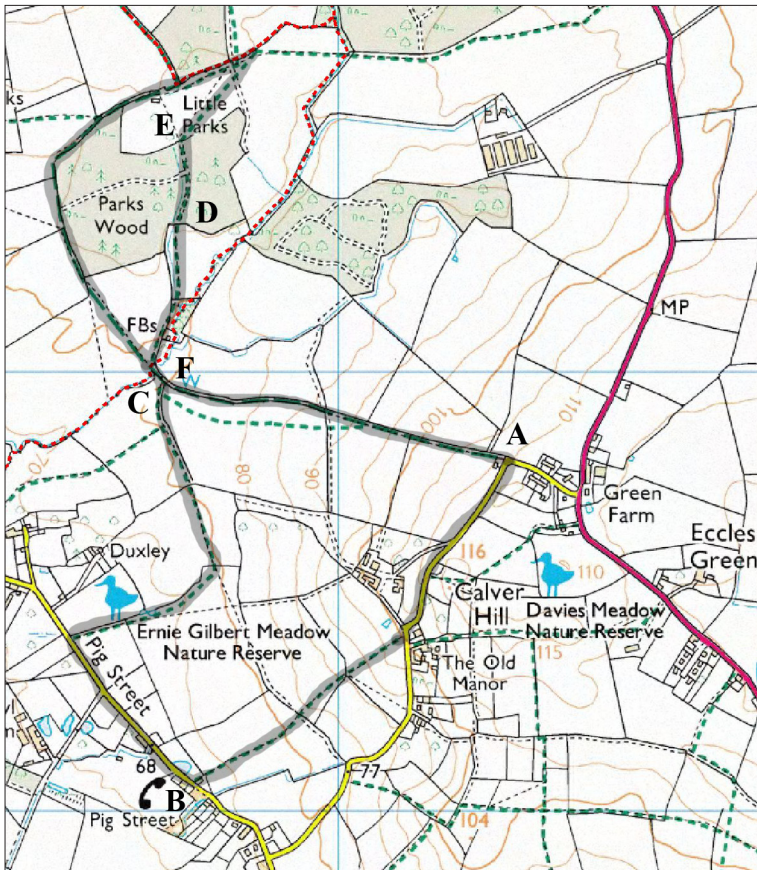




This walk starts at Norton Canon Village Hall.

A) Turn right onto the road from the Village Hall car park and walk along it downhill, passing Calver Hill House and farm on your right, till you reach the part timber-clad gable wall of Yew Tree Farm on your left. Cross the stile alongside the metal field gate opposite the farm and head across the field, aiming just to the right of a large oak in the opposite hedgerow. Here you will find a stile which you cross, and then head across this next field to a stile on the far side. Cross this and then the next field, aiming for a point just to the right of the furthest of some free standing oaks in the field. Cross the stile here and follow the field boundary alongside the cottage on the left down to a gate out onto a road.

B) Turn right on the road. After 500 metres you will come to a double stile on the right-hand side, just before the gate into the Ernle Gilbert Meadow Nature Reserve. Cross the stiles and walk along the hedgerow boundary with the nature reserve on your left to a small gate, bridge and then stile into the next field. Keep following the hedgerow on your left as it gently curves to the left. Just after it then bends to the right, go through the large gateway in the hedgerow. The path now sets off across this field at a near right angle to the line of the hedge you've just passed through, aiming, as you'll see as you approach, for a 'corner' of the field where there is another large gap in the hedgerow. The path passes through this, and then follows the hedgerow on your right to a stile at the far end of the field.

C) Cross this and turn left on the grassy track and in a few yards you'll cross a bridge to a small metal gate out into a field. Turn right and follow the field boundary for about 200 metres till you reach a stile on your right. Cross this, then the stream and head up the bank on the far side to enter a field. Then shadow the field boundary on your left to a large oak on the edge of the wood. Pass to the left of this tree to enter Parks Wood. (In time, this field will have new fencing and you may therefore find new pedestrian gates in place.)

D) The path now follows the stream/drainage ditch on your left through fairly open woodland to, in due course, join a track on which you keep straight ahead. When the track makes a right-hand turn, keep following the stream/drainage ditch on your left to reach a small metal gate out into a field.

E) The path now crosses the field somewhat diagonally, aiming for the right-hand end of the woodland on the far side. (If this field is under a crop an alternative route is to turn right and follow the woodland/field boundary up to a hard track. Turn left along the track and after about 150 metres turn left at the corner of the woodland where you will be re-united with your walk.) Here you turn left in front of the woodland and follow it and then the field boundary on your right, passing a small metal gate on your right, till you reach a gateway which leads onto a track. This you take, following the track to its end.

Go through the gate here, then keep following the edge of the woodland on your left. This will lead you to a field boundary where you cross over a wooden bridge with a wooden gate at each end, then a metal field gate between fields, and to a second field gate where you turn left at a corner of Parks Wood. Once through this gate you need to look for a section of hedge on the far side of the field (a bit to the left of the line you've just been walking) which has no trees immediately behind it (there is just the one such section). Just to the left of this is a small copse and it is towards the left-hand end of this copse that you want to head; here you will find the metal gate by which you entered the field earlier in the walk. (If the field is obstructed by crops, then follow the edge of the field round on your left; in due course you'll pass the stile you took out of the field earlier on your walk and so reach the gate by which you entered the field.) Go through this gate and cross the bridge to join a grassy track.

F) Walk up the grassy track and when you reach a crossroads with gravelled tracks, continue ahead and this will lead you out onto the road near the Village Hall.

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust's Ernle Gilbert Nature Reserve

The 1.9 hectare reserve is a traditional old Herefordshire hay meadow named in memory of our former Trust Chairman whose memorial fund contributed to the purchase of the reserve. Both common spotted and green wing orchids are found here along with a wealth of meadow butterflies.

While the hay crop is growing in June and July, it is especially important to keep to the edge of the meadow.

(Text from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust)