

In order to enjoy your day out using the Hills Hopper more, you may like to try some of the lovely walks in the area and the ones shown here can be done by leaving the service at one point and then picking it up again further along its route.

① The Dingle to the Kettle Sings (3 miles)

Delightful views of the Malverns and across Herefordshire.

Alight at the Dingle Bus stop and walk to the Brewers Arms sign which you can see, then left down the track past it. Continue forward and down the steep zigzag path through a grassy area to a drive. Turn right, then right onto a road (Blackheath Way). Then turn left at Park Road along the Drive to The Croft. Fork right at The Croft along a path and over a stile.

Cross the field downhill, over another stile and down to a wicket gate. Go through, turn left and immediately over a stile. Go forward, hedge on left, over stile and along track to a road. Turn right, then left along a lane left of Coneycroft Farm. Cross stile, then another on the right 20 yards on. Turn left, forward hedge on left. Through gate and ahead, then over a stile, and right along roughly surfaced Brockhill Road. Turn left at Downs School up signed footpath just beyond the miniature railway station, turn right at the top, pass buildings, fork left, through gate and right along drive.

Cross the next road, along Broadwood Drive and over stile at end. Forward 200 yards, over stile at gate, then 30 yards and over stile. Continue on track immediately below trees. Fork left after 300 yards at waymark post to climb through bank of trees and forward along the top of trees for 70 yards. Turn left at waymark post and climb up hill to stile. Go over and up green lane between hedge and trees, then bearing right along the top of the field leading to a gate. Go through and turn left up path to The Kettle Sings. Refreshments are available. Now climb the grassy slope up to the main road. The bus stops by the entrance to the car park.

② Hollybush to Eastnor via the Obelisk (3 miles)

A wonderful walk through splendid countryside and historic parkland.

Alight at the Hollybush bus shelter. Walk 80 yds up the road, turn left into car park and over stile at cattle grid. The track climbs steadily with extensive views opening up towards the Obelisk and beyond. It then descends a little and you reach a junction a mile from the start. Turn left through a gate in to Eastnor Park and follow the middle track ahead rising slightly to reach the Obelisk. There are superb views all around.

Continue forwards, slightly downhill, then more steeply, towards two lakes ahead. Cross an estate road and continue forward through a summer caravan site and pass between the two lakes and over wood bridge beside some stepping stones. Head half left up the hill on a grassy track and then left onto and along a tarmac drive to Eastnor.

Eastnor Castle is open to visitors (see advertisement in this leaflet). The village also has a lovely green, stone and brick gabled buildings, and St. John the Baptist Parish Church with a Norman tower and a fine avenue of trees.

The bus stops by the telephone box.

③ Eastnor to Ledbury via Coneygree Wood (2 miles)

A pleasant walk through field and woods. This area has many associations with the poet John Masefield. Ledbury is full of interest with many old buildings and is well worth exploring.

Alight at Eastnor Castle. Go to the village green and bear right past the church and immediately turn left up a footpath at the right of some white gates. Go up steps and turn left with hedge on left, then ahead on a track crossing a field slightly uphill. There are good views of the Malvern Hills looking backwards. Bear right down a track with a fence on the left, then through a gate opening and across the field to another gate. Go through the wood and over stile at the end into a field.

Continue ahead, hedge on right, then ahead 50 yards through trees, and ahead into field keeping wood on right. Continue to end of field ignoring footpath on the right. Bear right through a gate and downhill through Coneygree wood, crossing two forest tracks with a few bends and steps to reach a main road (A449).

Go left along the road and turn right up Cabbage Lane immediately past the police station, which leads to St. Michael and All Angels Church. Go round the church, out of the churchyard and down Church Lane, lined with interesting old buildings. This leads to the Market House where the bus stops.

For Ledbury Railway Station, turn right up the Home End for a further half a mile passing Tesco's on the left.

④ Hollybush to Whiteleaved Oak Circular (about 2 miles)

A walk mainly in shady woods and an interesting ancient oak tree.

Alight at Hollybush bus shelter and walk down the hill for 70 yds and through gate on your left. Go uphill to the right and follow the path round the side of Ragged Stone Hill. You should get a glimpse of distant views to your right through the trees. After about 1/2 mile, the path descends and you go over a stile and then left down a lane into Whiteleaved Oak. Turn left at the road.

After 40 yards fork left up a track, passing the specimen white leaved oak in a triangle on your right planted by the Malvern Hills Conservators to replace the original which gave rise to the name. Go through a gate and then turn left along a broad track through woodland. The track eventually bears left and descends steeply to the main road. Turn left uphill to return to the start.

⑤ Castlemorton (Plume of Feathers) to Hollybush via Mill Pond (2 3/4 miles)

A walk through fields and common with wide views to the Malvern Hills.

Alight at the Plume of Feathers. Cross the road to the telephone box and proceed ahead along the drive. Just beyond the house turn left onto a narrow track and over stile/plank bridge in hedge. Cross the field and through iron gate. Go half right downhill and over stile in the hedge. Turn left down through the trees, over stile and continue with hedge on left. Go over footbridge and proceed with hedge on right to a gap. Cross the field keeping power lines on right. Go over stile and along enclosed path to road. Cross road and over stile at road. Keep hedge on left to another stile and lane.

Turn right and just before gate across lane go through another gate on left. Go straight ahead with hedge on right, over stile in wire fence, to end of hedge. Now bear right down the slope and cross the footbridge in corner. Forward about 40 yards, cross plank bridge on left, go uphill, through steel gate, then half left and through gate in the corner. Cross the field to a gate at right side of the brick pavilion, and go down short drive onto Hollybed Common. Continue over the common skirting the right hand side of the football pitch and then slightly right to Mill Pond - a great spot for a picnic.

Next go along the right hand side of the pond. Keep the hedge on right and go uphill to the road (A438). Turn right and walk along the grass verge and then pavement to Hollybush. The bus shelter is just over the brow of the hill.



Ordnance Survey Explorer Sheet 190 Malvern Hills & Bredon Hill covers this area. When walking wear stout boots or shoes, take adequate clothes in case of cold or rain and a snack to keep your energy up. These walks have been prepared by Malvern Hills District Footpath Society. The Society provides a weekly programme of walks in the area. New members are given a warm welcome. For details see website www.mhdfs.org.uk.

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EASTNOR CASTLE

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Guided tours for groups can be pre-booked for Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the year (subject to availability). You will find the castle 2 miles east of Ledbury on A438 Tewkesbury road.

On production of your Hills Hopper ticket, you can claim a discounted entry fee to Eastnor Castle and Grounds at a special rate of £7.50 for adults, £6.50 for seniors and £4.50 for children.

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