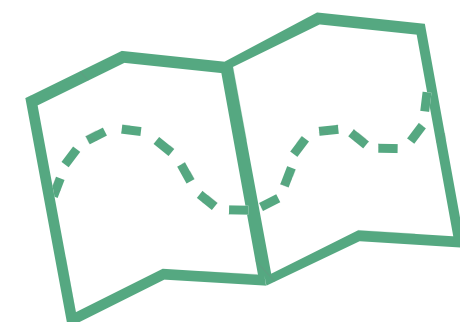
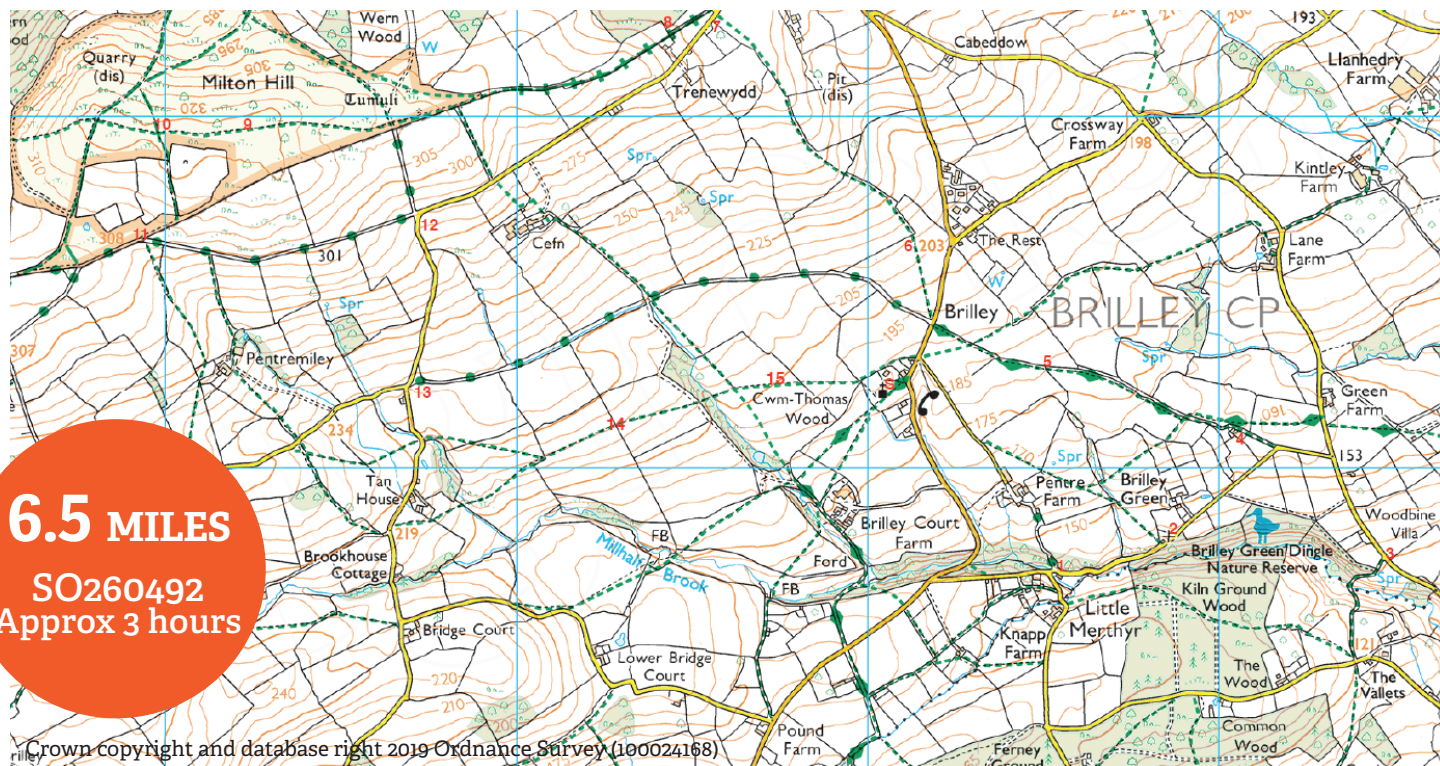


Brilliant Brilley Walk



A fantastic walk through holloways, commons, lanes, meadows and byways in the west of the county.

Please note, this walk includes uneven ground, moderate ascents and some stiles and rickety gates to negotiate!

Start at Brilley church (voluntary donation in honesty box appreciated).

Turn left out of the car park entrance onto the lane and then right down the no through road after The Old Forge. Descend the narrow tarmac lane to where it stops beyond Pentre Farm and continue down the overhung grass and stone track to emerge opposite Millbrook Cottage (Point 1). Ignoring the nearby road junction over a small bridge to your right, turn left along the tarmac lane.

At a small fenced layby on your right, turn off right down steps into Brilley Green Dingle Nature Reserve. Turn left along the boardwalk to stay on the left of the stream rather than crossing it. At a small fork in the path, take the steps uphill. Soon after passing below a railway goods truck cabin you may wish to take the path on your left across the lane to view the 1828 Tabernacle chapel (Point 2). Returning to the nature reserve path

you continue on the path along the northern lip of the Dingle, crossing a small footbridge. The final section of the path is much lighter, thanks to the recent work of the Reserves Officer and volunteers in creating a transition zone between the fields and hedge on your left and the ancient semi-natural woodland on your right.

Leave the nature reserve via the gate by the interpretation board, bear to your left along a short grass and woodchip track to meet a tarmac lane (Point 3). Turn left uphill along the lane, passing The Woodbine Villa on your left and Three Hollies on your right before taking the lane turning on the left. When the tarmac kinks left keep straight ahead on the footpath through the gate to Pen-y-Parc (Point 4). Past the buildings on your left continue straight beyond the end of the drive and over a waymarked stile into a short overgrown section leading to another stile into a large field.

Brilley was for some time the home parish of Allan Leonard Lewis, awarded Herefordshire's sole First World War Victoria Cross posthumously in 1918. Allan Leonard Lewis was born in neighbouring Whitney parish in 1895 and a 4.75 mile memorial trail has been waymarked through the two parishes, starting from The Boat Inn with a free map and guide available there. Allan Leonard Lewis is the figure portrayed in the sculpture at the Widemarsh Gate entrance to the Old Market retail development in Hereford City centre.

Keep the line of trees close on your right; views of the Black Mountains open up on your left. The line of trees ends and after a short distance beside a hedge you reach the corner of the field, at which point a footbridge with stiles is revealed (Point 5); cross this and emerge into another large field where the view to the left opens wider to include the central peaks of the Brecon Beacons National Park, including Pen-y-Fan. Cross another stile and follow its waymark along the left of the hedge ahead. Leave the field via a farm gate, to access a surfaced lane

If you feel you have walked far enough you have the opportunity to turn left down the surfaced lane for a short distance to reach the start point.

To continue, cross the surfaced lane and take the footpath opposite through a farm gate (ignoring the un-gated green lane). You should aim for the top corner of the field ahead; there may be tyre marks to lead you first to an un-gated gap in the fence ahead. Continue up to the stile in the corner (Point 6), pausing to take in the superb views behind and to your left; it's possible to pick out the town of Hay and the road to Gospel Pass snaking across the flank of Hay Bluff. Cross the stile and keep the fence ahead close on your left, heading for a stile by a farm gate on the horizon. Cross the stile and keep the hedge close on your right before crossing another stile through the hedge line and continuing ahead with the hedge now close on your left. Leave the field via a stile by a fingerpost to access a surfaced lane (Point 7). Make a staggered right/left crossing of this lane to enter the Cliffordd/ Byway opposite, bilingual because it runs directly along the border between England and Wales.

Proceed on the level to pass through a farm gate (Point 8) and then ascend the field ahead, keeping the hedge close on your left. A hedge line approaching from your right will channel you into a green lane, with fine views of Radnor Forest to your right, looking straight up the Harley Valley towards the mast on Black Mixen. Over your right shoulder you should see the distinctive clump of Monkey Puzzle trees on the summit of Hergest Ridge.

Enter the Access Land of Milton Hill through a gate and follow paths through the bracken along the ridge crest to reach the highest ground ahead (Point 9). To the North (your right) the panorama sweeps left to right from Llanbedr Hill via Newchurch Hill to distant Clee Hill. After following the flat-topped ridge crest for a short distance the path descends gently for a short distance to reach a cross path through the bracken (point 10), at which you should turn left towards a waymarked farm gate.

Pass through the waymarked farm gate and continue ahead, keeping the line of thorns close on your left, with a great southern panorama southwards across the Wye Valley and beyond. Leave the Access Land via a gate and then turn right down a green lane. Pass through a farm gate and turn left along a well-used stony track (Point 11).

After some distance along this track you meet a surfaced lane (Point 12) and should turn downhill along it. After descending a hill you should turn left at a junction of tarmac lanes (Point 13). Pass a stone wall on your right and continue to descend the tarmac lane to the bottom of the pitch, where you will find a footpath post marking the Right of Way through a metal farm gate on your left. Take this footpath and then keep

straight ahead, initially with a boundary on your right, and then continue on a straight line through a small open field to meet a waymarked stile beside a metal farm gate. At this stile, great views of Vagar Hill (with its distinctive communications tower) and the Black Mountains open up. Follow the direction shown by the stile's waymark, i.e. about 30 degrees off the hedgeline ahead on your left after you cross the stile; as you cross the brow of the field you should see another waymarked stile ahead. Proceed over the stile and into a short, overgrown section to reach another waymarked stile with a clear path ahead that runs parallel to the contours to reach a double waymarked stile (Point 14); Yazor Wood and Burton Hill stand out as wooded slopes on the horizon straight ahead. Keep straight on to a distant waymarked stile into Cwm Thomas Wood. Cross the steep-sided, wooded dingle and emerge into a field via a waymarked stile. Follow the waymark towards Brilley church tower; there may be a clearly visible path through the crop field. Cross over double waymarked stiles and follow the waymark to a pair of metal farm gates in the far right hand corner of the next field. Through the gates, keep the churchyard hedgerow close on your right through the last field to access the surfaced lane through a metal farm gate. Turn right on the lane to return to the start in a short distance.



The view south from Milton Hill