



08 WORCESTERSHIRE BREDON HILL

▶ Distance: 5¼ miles/9.35km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate

SEE
FEATURE
ON PAGE 68

Parson's Folly on the summit of Bredon Hill.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY... NICK HALLISSEY

Once part of the Cotswold upland, Bredon Hill now stands alone as a sort of buffer zone between the Cotswolds and the Malverns. But this independent spirit makes it all the more characterful; it is home to Roman and Iron Age relics and standing stones, and has inspired writers, musicians and artists from AE Housman to Ralph Vaughan Williams. This is a splendid walk around the whole bulk of the hill. The views from the summit tower – known as Parson's Folly – are superb.

1 Start

Head south on Main Street.

Turn R on Hill Lane. Ignore branching lane L but take first footpath L through gate shortly after, heading diagonally across field. At far side, emerge on lane and turn L. Follow lane uphill, passing gamekeeper's cottages to reach Hill House Farm, where lane becomes footpath.

2 ½ mile/1km

Pass through copse to reach junction of tracks. Take grassy path climbing steadily up bank. Continue uphill through a series of gates; ignore branching paths. On reaching summit escarpment, again ignoring branching options. Veer R and follow escarpment on Wychavon Way. Go through gate and continue

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking On-street parking on Main Street in Elmley Castle, just north of the Queen Elizabeth pub, grid ref SO982411, WR10 3HS.

Is it for me? Mostly easy walking on well-marked paths. Muddy after rain
Stiles 4

PLANNING

Nearest town Evesham

Refreshments Pub and café in Elmley Castle

Public toilets

None on route

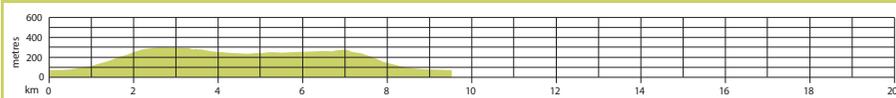
Public transport
Buses 564 & 565,
Evesham-Pershore

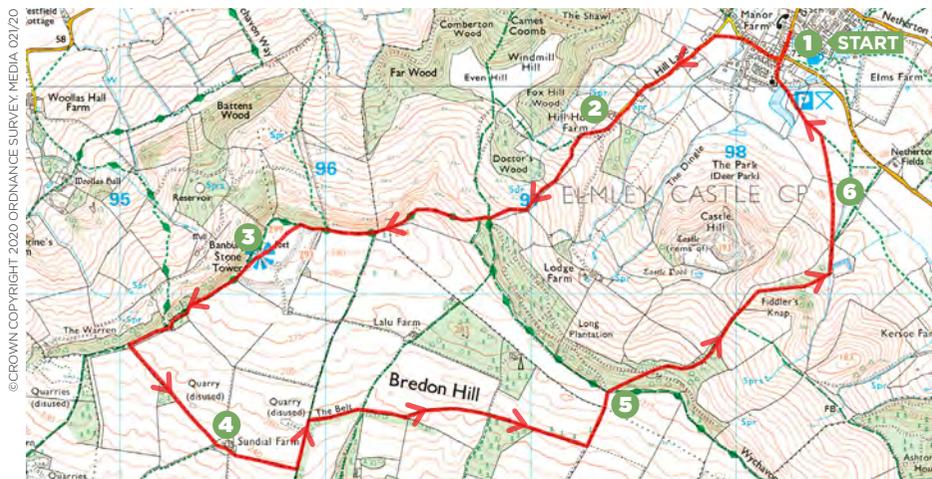
Maps OS Explorer 190,
Landranger 150

ahead (Malvern Hills now in distant view). Continue with wall R, but dovert L on grassy path just before summit to explore earthworks containing rocks including 'the King and Queen', separated by a slim



GRADIENT PROFILE



08 WORCESTERSHIRE
BREDON HILL► OS Explorer map 190 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shopDATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN
YOUR RATING

crevice. Climb slightly to reach tower at summit of Bredon Hill (Parson's Folly).

3 **2 miles/3.2km**
 Descend south-west away from tower on Wychavon Way, joining wall-line R continuing on edge of scarp. Descend to gate and pass through woodland, continuing along scarp on far side. Pass through another gate and continue ahead. Take first branching path L across stile. Follow R edge of field by tumbledown wall, making for barn on horizon. Cross V-stile to reach Sundial Farm.

4 **2¼ miles/4.4km**
 Join track passing R of farm. Go through gate and follow track, with line of trees L. At end of boundary, turn L on crossing track. Follow track

as it climbs slightly and veers R through gateway (do not take path continuing ahead uphill). Continue on track along R edge of field (marked 'The Belt' on OS Explorer map) with plantation R. Cross farm access track and continue ahead on bridleway with wall R, soon crossing a second track and continuing past plantation R. At far end of field boundary, take footpath L uphill to reach gate onto crossing track (Wychavon Way) with ornamental bench.

5 **4½ miles/6.9km**
 Cross the Way, pass through gate and head downhill on footpath through woods. Path joins larger track briefly, and veers L downhill, skirting L of Fiddler's Knap. At bottom, take farm track veering R then L (path slightly unclear

at this point). Path becomes grassy track with small brook L. Go through gate, turn L over footbridge and pass through another gate. Indistinct path continues through parkland, crossing stile at far side.

6 **5½ miles/8.7km**
 Right of way continues across a field, but field may be planted, with access provided around L edge. Arrive at stile L; cross and continue on track which emerges beside pond at church. R through churchyard back to Main Street. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

