



This walk starts at the Three Horseshoes.

A) Facing the pub, walk up the right-hand side of the building passing through two metal gates and entering a small paddock. Follow the hedge on your left, passing through a gateway in a fence, to the paddock's far left-hand corner, where you will find a stile.

B) Cross the stile and turn right to cross the field (i.e. by continuing to follow the line of the hedge you've just been following), and when you reach the far side, turn left and follow the hedge along to the top corner of the field. Note: you may find that the farmer has created a path through any crops on a diagonal line to the top corner of the field, in which case follow that path.

C) However you reach the top corner of the field, once there go through the metal gate on your right, and then follow

the fence on your right till you reach a stile after 200 metres or so. Cross this stile and head straight across the field, keeping just to the left of a telegraph pole. At the far side, cross another stile and then follow the short length of hedge on your left and then keep on across the field to another stile. Keep straight on again across the next field to a further stile. Once over this, head across to the far side of a comparatively narrow strip of field to where a fence meets the hedge. Turn left and walk along the hedge and at the corner bear slightly right and cross the field to a metal gate on the far side. Go through this and then head downhill along the field boundary on your right through two fields until you reach the road.

D) Turn right onto the road and walk past a dismantled railway bridge, a farmstead on your left, past the turning signposted Calver Hill off to the right, and then several houses. After about 400 metres on the road, look out for Rose Cottage on your right. Immediately past the cottage, turn right into a small field and follow its boundary with Rose Cottage to a stile in the hedge ahead.

E) Once over the stile, head across the field just to the left of some lone oaks that stand in the field to a stile on the far side. Cross the next field aiming just to the left of the large oak in the opposite hedgerow. Cross another stile here, then cross the next field aiming for the timber clad gable wall of Yew Tree Farm.

F) Here cross a stile alongside a metal field gate, then cross the road and, just to the right of Yew Tree Farm, go up the tarmacked track that passes between the houses. Continue past the last house on your right and cross a stile into the Davies Meadows (see below). Follow the hedge on your right (there is a bench on which you can take a rest!) to the far end and cross a stile into a small market garden. Keep following the field boundary on your right over a number of stiles, including one each side of a gravelled track, to cross out onto the main road by a stile just to the left of a gate. Turn right and follow the road until you are back at the pub.

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust's Davies Meadow Nature Reserve

The 8.1 hectare reserve comprises a block of three traditional Herefordshire hay-meadows, a small old orchard area with some veteran pear trees, two ponds and a complex of old hedgerows. These meadows have always been farmed traditionally, and the main meadow has not been ploughed for over a hundred years. All the meadows are herb-rich with a wide variety of grasses. Common spotted and green winged orchids are also found. The meadows are alive with butterflies and moths during late spring and summer. In the autumn, fungi love this undisturbed pasture and pink waxcaps are commonly seen here.

While the hay crop is growing or stock grazing please keep to the edge of the meadows. Field gates should be kept shut at all times.

Ground nesting birds such as snipe favour these areas of rough grassland for breeding but numbers of breeding lapwing and curlew have severely declined over the last decade. One major cause of this is the presence of large numbers of dogs so we do ask that people keep their dogs on leads on the reserves during spring and summer to help us effectively manage the sites for wildlife. Dog mess can also effect the make-up of the soil, as well as being unpleasant for other visitors, so we would appreciate it if you could leave nothing behind on your visits!

We are in the process of establishing a volunteer group to carry out habitat management on our nature reserves in north-west Herefordshire. Volunteering with the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust is a great way to connect with, and conserve, your local landscape – as well as being a lot of fun! If you are interested in joining this group, please contact nature reserves officer Jim Light on 01432 256872 / j.light@herefordshirewt.co.uk.

(Text from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust)