



Some of these locations are part of the 'Ross-on-Wye Walkers are Welcome' scheme. See www.ross-on-wyewalkersarewelcome.co.uk for more information and details about more bus walks.

Refreshments

The Cottage of Content, Carey: open lunchtimes and from 1:30 in the evening. Not open Sunday evening; closed on Monday. Times may vary in winter. This inn is a delightful two mile walk from Hoarwithy. Tel: (01432) 840242.

Harewood End Inn: open lunchtimes and from 1:00 in evening (1900 on Sunday). Tel: (01989) 730637.

Lough Pool Inn, Sellack: open lunchtimes and from 1:00 on Monday - Thursday and Sunday (1900); open all day Friday and Saturday. Times may vary in winter. Tel: (01989) 730888.

New Harp Inn, Hoarwithy: open from 1:00 until 1:50 and from 1:00 Monday to Thursday and all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The inn is open all day, during school holidays. The village shop and post office is located within the pub. The shop is open during pub opening times and the post office opens on Mondays only from 09:30-11:00. Tel: (01432) 840900.

Plough Inn, Little Dewchurch: open lunchtimes Tuesday - Friday and from 1:00 Mondays - Fridays. Open all day Saturday and Sunday. Tel: (01432) 840542.

Pengethley Farm Shop: open from 09:00 on Monday to Saturday until 17:00 (17:30 in the summer); 10:30 until 16:30 on Sunday. The bus stops nearby - see walk 2.

Pengethley Garden Centre and Restaurant: restaurant open from 09:30 on Monday to Saturday until 16:30 and from 10:30 until 16:00 on Sunday.

Peterstow Village Store: open daily until 2:10 (1900 on Sunday).

Red Lion Inn, Winters Cross: open all day except Monday lunchtimes. Tel: (01989) 730546. This is a half mile walk from Upper Grove Common (point 9 on Walk 1).

The Yew Tree, Peterstow: open lunchtimes and from 1:00 daily. Tel: (01989) 562815.

The bus ride and how to get to the walks

It is possible to travel to Ross-on-Wye on Bus 37 from Hereford Country Bus Station on Mondays to Saturdays at 1045, 1245 and 1720. Journeys to Hereford from Ross-on-Wye leave at 0720, 0940, 1140 and 1340. There is no Sunday service on the 37 route.

Walking Routes

Travel from Hereford Country Bus Station to Little Dewchurch (and Hoarwithy) on the 37 bus at 1045 and 1245 and 1610. Buses return from Hoarwithy at 1155 and 1355. Buses from Ross-on-Wye (Cantilupe Road) leave at 1140 and 1340. Buses return from Hoarwithy (New Harp Inn) to Ross-on-Wye at 1115, 1315 and 1750. Bus 32/33 runs from Hereford (Country Bus Station) to Pengethley Manor at 40 minutes past the hour until 1940 then at 2030, 2130 and 2330 on Mondays to Saturdays. The exception is the 1440 which runs 10 mins later in the School Holidays. There are additional services mid afternoon on Mondays to Fridays. On Sundays the bus leaves Hereford (Country Bus Station) at 1140, 1340, 1540, 1740 and 1940. Buses times from Peterstow (Post Office) to Hereford are 45 minutes past the hour until 1645 then 1755, 1845, 1945, 2049 and 2249. Buses call at Harewood End 5 minutes later and then at 2053 and 2253. There are additional buses at 1515, 1625 and 1715 on Mondays to Fridays. On Sundays buses depart from Peterstow (Post Office) to Hereford at 1101, 1301, 1501, 1701 and 1901.



St David's, Little Dewchurch (Walk 1)

Full timetable information is available at www.herefordbus.info or by phoning traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or txt 84268.

The old cross at Peterstow



into the village centre; it is one of the most beautiful in the county. Funded by a local clergyman, William Poole, and designed by the architect, John Seddon in the 1880s the church is considered as something of a masterpiece with a blend of Italianate and Byzantine architectural styles. Beyond Hoarwithy the road runs near to the banks of the River Wye, and by a group of houses at Red Rail. The bus then climbs Caradoc Hill to pass by the Lough Pool Inn and then it's a climb again to Pict's Cross, an old crossroads where a war memorial now stands. You'll see both parkland and pasture before reaching the Wells Brook at Poolmill; the name is a reminder that the stream once powered a nearby mill. It is then a short rise to the main road and across the Wilton Bridge into the market town of Ross-on-Wye, beautifully situated above a loop in the River Wye. For more bus walks in the Wye Valley check out the booklet *Walk this Wye* featuring 12 walks using public transport - see www.wyevallyanob.org.uk

In the village of Hoarwithy



St John the Baptist Church at Aconbury



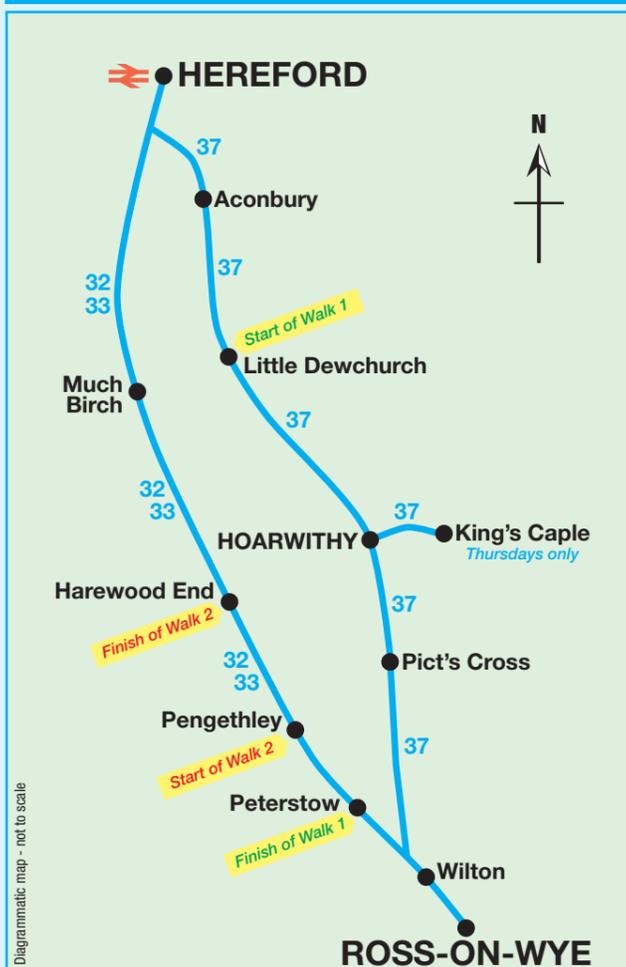
The 37 bus from Hereford to Ross-on-Wye follows an old turnpike road dating from the 18th century, by way of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. From Hereford the bus climbs between the wooded hills of Dinedor (on the left) and Aconbury (on the right), crowned with ancient hillforts both of which are short walks from this bus route. You will also catch sight of Aconbury St John the Baptist Church on the right. It is thought to have been part of 13th century priory so there would have been a much larger settlement here in medieval times. There are also good views across the Wye Valley to the Woolhope Dome on your left and to the Garway Hills on the right as the bus makes its way to Little Dewchurch where it often pauses awhile by the village green. The next village is Hoarwithy, sheltered by wooded slopes and where the Wriggles Brook flows into the River Wye. Look out for St Catherine's Church on the right as the bus descends

Bus 37 en-route to Hereford (Photo: Herefordshire Council)



The old road from Hereford to Ross-on-Wye

The Hoarwithy Bus



Thanks go to Councillor Russell B Hamilton (Pontrilas Ward) for initiating this project and to 'Rail for Herefordshire' (Mike Ledlie, Les Lumsdon, Les Williams) for research and copy, with assistance from Herefordshire Council Public Transport Team. Photography: Chloe Lumsdon, except where otherwise indicated. Designed and produced for Herefordshire Council by Simon Holt Marketing Services (www.simonholtmarketing.com) Every care has been taken in ensuring the accuracy of the details given in this publication, but neither Herefordshire Council nor their agents can be held responsible for any inconvenience arising from errors or omissions.



The Hoarwithy Bus

A scenic bus ride to Ross-on-Wye via Little Dewchurch, Hoarwithy and Pict's Cross, plus two superb bus walks



Walk 1 from Little Dewchurch

6-7 mile easy walk following, in the main, the Herefordshire Trail. There are a few steep climbs and it can be muddy or waterlogged in the Sellack area after heavy rains. If you prefer a shorter walk (4½ miles) start at Hoarwithy (point 5). Allow 4 hours to walk the entire route. OS Map: Explorer 189 Hereford and Ross-on-Wye

This is a linear walk from Little Dewchurch through rich red sandstone country to one of Herefordshire's finest Victorian churches at Hoarwithy. The walk passes through King's Caple to the Wye at Sellack Bridge and onward to Upper Grove Common and finally across fields to Peterstow.

Mostly on paths with some country lanes. There are four pubs on this walk, the Plough Inn at the beginning, the New Harp Inn at Hoarwithy (with village shop), and the Lough Pool Inn at Sellack and finally the Yew Tree Inn at Peterstow. There is also a village store at Peterstow so there are plenty of opportunities for refreshment.

Ask the bus driver to let you off at Little Dewchurch.

- From bus shelter, turn right following the footpath sign on a track alongside a field. After a few yards cut away from the track to follow a path, slightly left, across the large field. Cross a stile to go over a track, then bear right to a field corner. Now turn left to follow the hedge and stream on your right, but only part way down, as you take the well worn path left to a stile. Cross this and head slightly right to a stile in the top right corner. Go over it and keep ahead in the pasture where there are superb views across to May Hill (left), ahead for the Forest of Dean and on the right the Garway Hills.
- Climb over the next stile and head slightly left alongside the hedgerow to reach a stile in the bottom corner of the pasture. Keep left alongside a hedge but in about 50 yards go left up steps and cross a stile into the next field. Turn right to walk down a green path to the bottom corner. Cross a stile and follow the hedge on the right to a barred gate. Go through this to a road.

- Keep ahead to a junction where you turn left to pass by Prothither Farm in the valley of the Wiggles Brook which looks small but once powered several mills. Walk down the road, but keep a look out for a footpath on the left, opposite a barred gate. Go left here, through a metal barred gate but, before a second gate, go right over a stile and climb steeply up a bank to cross a brideway by way of stiles and steps.
- The path now proceeds along the top of the hillside through rough ground; you'll see the beautiful bow top gypsy wagons by the stream below (Wiggles Brook Gypsy B&B). Ignore the left turning and cross the stile ahead into a pasture. You'll see the tower of St Catherine's Church at Hoarwithy so you are not far off now. Keep ahead to pass by Upper Barn, on the left, and onwards through two kissing gates to reach a track down to a road. Go right to descend into the village. The steps leading to St Catherine's Church are on the right and it really is worth a visit. Keep ahead to the New Harp Inn where there the bus stops.
- From the New Harp Inn turn right to retrace your steps to a road junction again but now keep right and at the second junction ahead to the Hoarwithy Bridge, guarded by an old toll house. This crossing point was known in earlier times as the Hoarwithy Passage; see *Trackway to Turnpike... The Old Roads of South Herefordshire* by local author, Heather Hurley, for a more detailed story.
- Once over, go right along a green track through bushes. This gives out onto a lane; keep ahead here. It rises up to King's Caple Church; the 14th century spire is a landmark for miles around. Opposite stands the castle tump, thought to have been built by the Normans not long after the Conquest in 1066.
- Pass by the Georgian King's Caple Court and keep ahead at the crossroads by the old Sunday school. Beyond the primary school, look for a path on the right by High House. A green way between hedges leads to two barred gates and then gives out into an orchard. Keep to the right of a gateway ahead, then cross a stile. Enter a large field and head slightly right towards Sellack Church, seen in the distance. On reaching the hedge go left down to a stile and road. Turn right for Sellack Boat and when the road bends right, go left to Sellack Bridge. However, Shieldbrook Sculpture Park is to the right but opening times are limited: see www.shieldbrooksculpturegarden.com
- Sellack Bridge was built in 1895 mainly at the instigation of the Reverend Augustin Ley who needed to attend Sellack Church and King's Caple Church. He and the ferryman did not get on that well and the clergyman pressed the case for a more permanent crossing and this fine bridge was the result. Proceed ahead over the bridge and water meadows to the church. There's a stile there by a gate which leads to a lane. Go left to pass the fine sandstone church dedicated to



Sellack Bridge over the Wye

St Tysilio, the only one in England, and with many fine interior features.

- At the end of the churchyard, look for a stile on the right. Cross it and keep ahead through a pasture beneath a wooded slope to a stile which leads into the wood. Within a few yards take the right fork (leaving the Herefordshire Trail for a while) and follow the path through to a gateway leading into a shallow valley. Walk ahead to a bridge gate and path to a road. Go left and right to pass by the Lough Pool Inn. The pool is to the right but is now often dried out. Walk up the lane through Upper Grove Common to a junction where you go right and at the next junction keep ahead; there's a pool on the right. You are back on the Herefordshire Trail and in about 100 yards go left through a gate to follow the hedge ahead to another gate. Go through and descend to a stile in the valley bottom. The path leads to a footbridge over the infant Wells Brook. Cross a stile and then turn left on a track to a small gate by a barred gate.
- Go through here and rise next to restored buildings at The Flann. Walk up the drive and go through a metal gate next to a barred gate. Turn left and before reaching the entrance to Peterstow Church, cut right to cross a drive and go up steps to a gate to cross a field on a well worn path to the main A49 road. Go left into the village. The stop for Hereford is on the right at the edge of the common; the stop for Ross-on-Wye is just beyond the village store.

Walk 2 from Pengethly Park

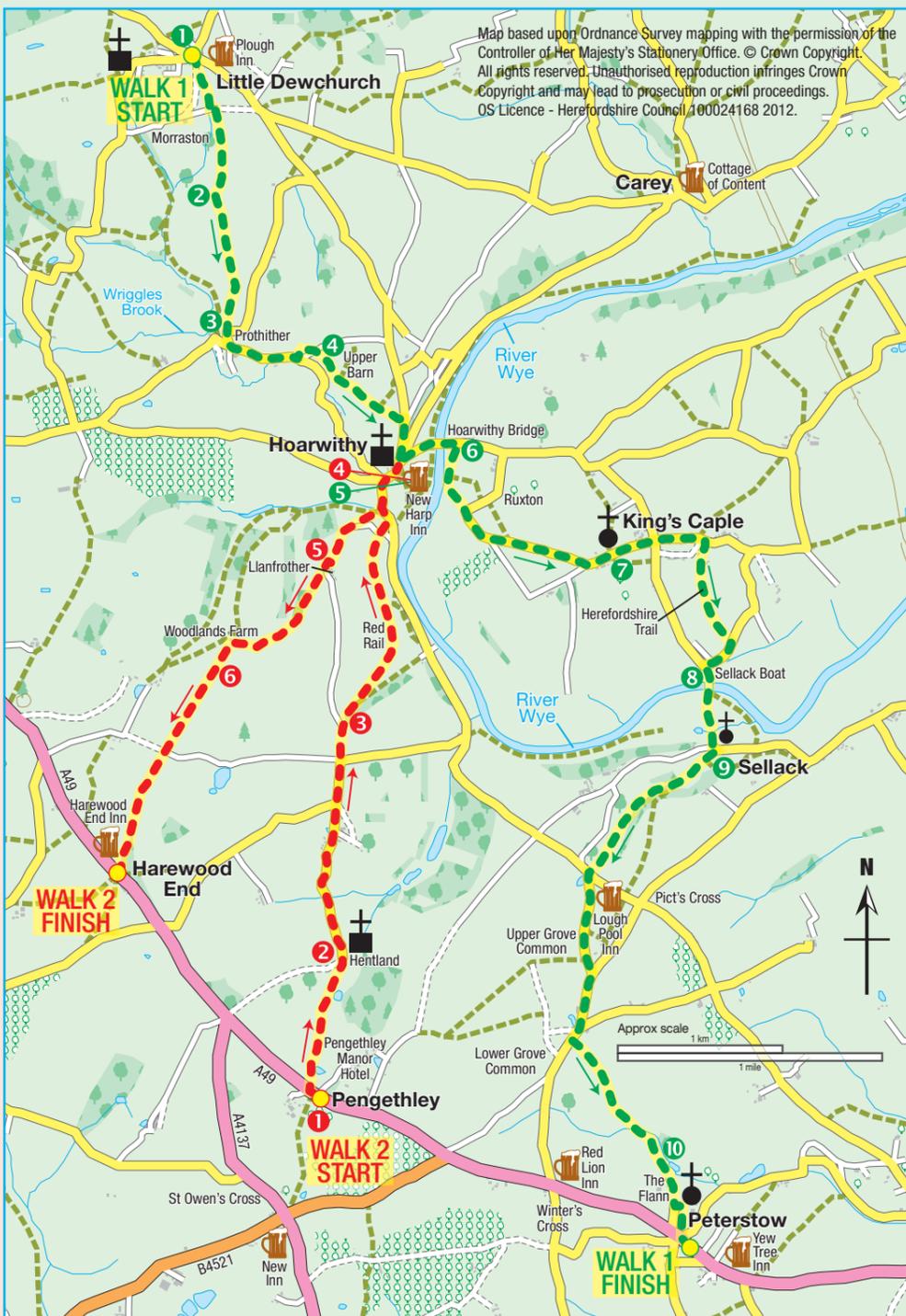
This is a linear walk of two parts. It is an easy walk (2½ miles) on paths and lanes to Hoarwithy with an additional 2 mile link to Harewood End with some climbs. Allow 2½ hours walking time for the full walk. OS Map: Explorer 189 Hereford and Ross-on-Wye.

The walk descends through beautiful parkland beneath Pengethly Manor Hotel, originating from the 16th century, to Hentland Church and through to Hoarwithy, where there's a public house with a shop and post office. Ask the driver of the 32 or 33 bus to drop you off at Pengethly Manor Hotel. The return bus will be the 37 bus from the New Harp Inn at Hoarwithy or the 32/33 from Harewood End.



Pengethly Park

- Alight from the bus at the Pengethly Manor stop. Facing the stop, go left and through a kissing gate into Pengethly Park, now managed by the National Trust. Head slightly left down to a corner where there's a pool to the right. Go slightly right down and along a line of trees to a kissing gate with Hentland Church in view beyond. Once through, go on towards the church, keeping to the left of the pool and passing near to several ancient oak trees some of which may well be 800 years old. Go through the kissing gate onto a lane with Hentland Church to your right. Dedicated to St Dubricius the church is reckoned to have originated in the 6th century although what you see today is a mixture of renovations in late medieval and Victorian times.
- Follow the lane ahead for half a mile to a junction. Keep ahead on the road to Hentland House. The road bends right but



St Dubricius Church, Hentland

you continue ahead on a track; there's a superb view over to King's Caple Church and Marcle Ridge beyond. The track forks and you keep ahead. At the next junction, within about 20 yards, keep slightly left down a sunken lane to a stile by a gate.

- Cross it and keep ahead along a hillside. Cross the next stile by a gate and keep ahead once again. Go slightly left over two more stiles and proceed through a long pasture with views over the Wye Valley and to King's Caple Church. Cross a stile into woodland and the path joins a track



Hoarwithy

which is crossed. Continue ahead by Quarry Bank to drop down to the road. Beware of traffic as you walk ahead into the village. The New Harp Inn is on the right.

- For those continuing to Harewood End, retrace your steps back along the road to the corner where you entered but now turn right on a tarmac drive to Redbrook Farm. However, within a few steps cut off left through a barred gate and the path climbs, slightly right and fairly steeply, up the hillside to join a hedge. There's a superb view of the church and Wye Valley from this point. Cross a stile by a holly bush and keep ahead.
- You pass to the right of Llanfrother, and the path veers slightly right next to a fence on the left to reach a gate into woodland. Make your way through to the other end and then head slightly right across the dry valley to join a track which climbs up, through a barred gate to Woodlands Farm. Go through a yard where ponies are kept (please shut the gate firmly so they don't escape!). This leads to a track by the farmhouse where you turn left.
- The track runs in a straight line, climbing gently between fields, as you make your way towards Harewood End. It then turns sharp right but you continue ahead on a leafy green lane to the edge of the village where it joins a drive by a tall hedge. This leads to the busy A49 road and the Harewood End Inn stands just to the right. The bus stop for Ross-on-Wye is to the left and the stop for Hereford is across the road (cross with care).