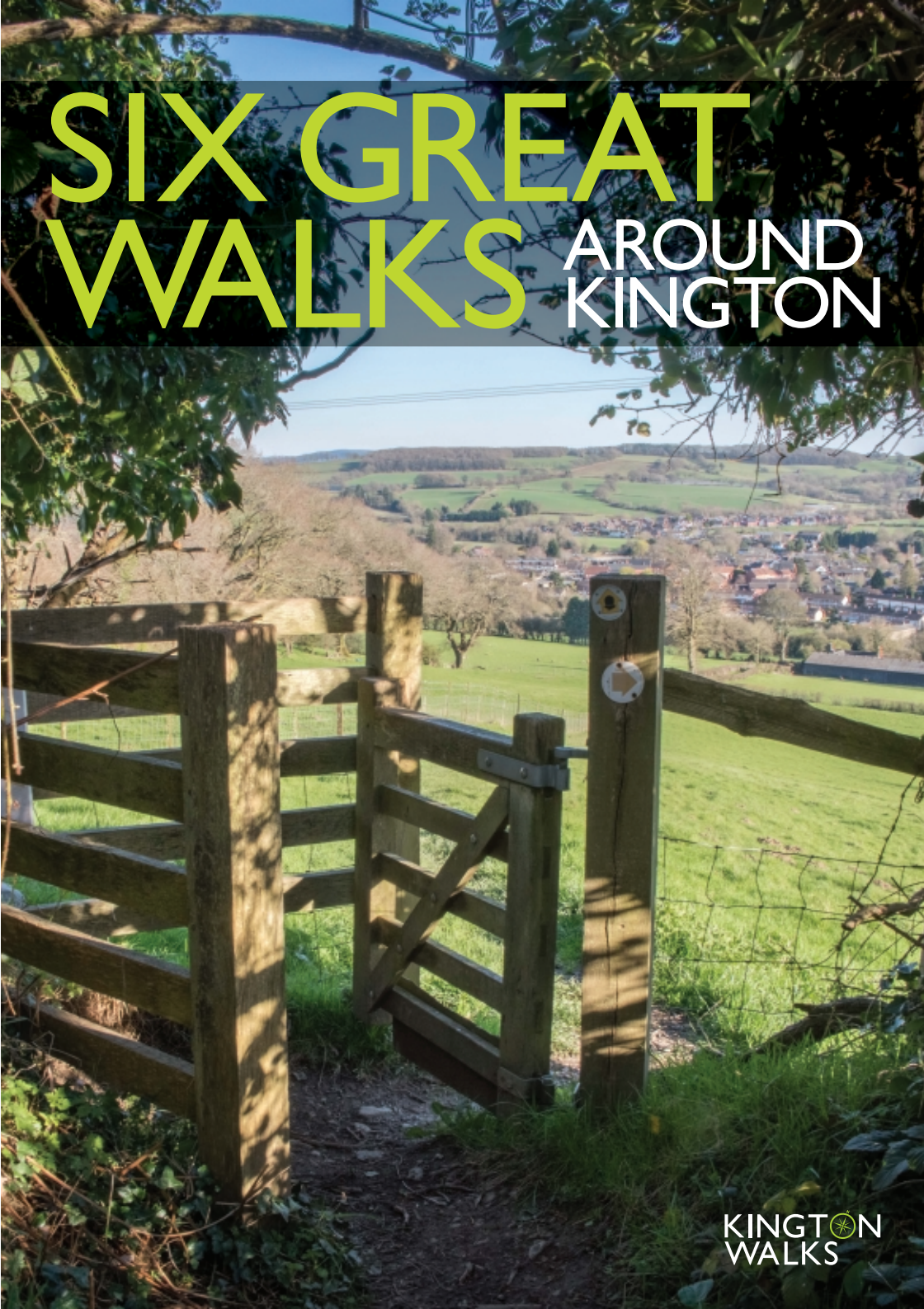




SIX GREAT WALKS AROUND KINGTON

Welcome to Kington

A centre for walking...



SOME of the best things happen in the smallest towns. Think of Hay on Wye – population around 2000 – and literature. Now think of Kington – just up the road from Hay and with a similar population – and walking.

Sitting on the frontier between the green and asymmetrical hills of Herefordshire and the wild uplands of Wales, it's perfect walking country for the tough and the lazy alike. More long-distance paths converge on the town than almost anywhere else in the UK: The Offa's Dyke National Trail runs along the border between England and Wales; the Herefordshire Trail; Mortimer's Trail, between Kington and Ludlow; the Arrow Valley Trail; Vaughan's Way, from Kington to Bredwardine, which links the Offa's Dyke Path with the Wye Valley Walk; and the Wyche Way, running from Kington to Broadway in the Cotswolds to join with The Cotswold Way.



Kington Walks was established in 2011, the same year that Kington became a *Walkers are Welcome* town. In 2012 we held our first walking festival, a four day event in the third week of September. Held annually ever since, the festival attracts both locals and people from around the UK and beyond including North America and other European countries.

In 2017 Kington Walks was registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with the aim of promoting community participation in healthy recreation by encouraging and enabling people to partake in regular walks as a form of exercise in the town and the surrounding area.

We hope this booklet of inspiring walks, all starting and ending in Kington, will give our visitors pleasure and that you will want to come back again and again to explore further – and perhaps even try one of our long distance trails.



KINGTON WALKS

kingtonwalks.org

Kington Walks is a charity registered in England & Wales (Nº 1172022).

Kington is an elegant specimen of a post-Medieval market town, still in everyday use by some of the descendants of the people who built it. It manages to avoid being pretty by being beautiful. This is particularly true of the four main streets which compose the centre of the town (High, Duke, Bridge and Church Streets), the church and the numerous tiny alleyways which criss cross the town, revealing ancient backs to houses which appear Georgian from their façades.

The Red Book of Hergest, one of the two manuscript sources of *The Mabinogion*, was held for centuries at Hergest Court. The Court was also home to the notoriously cruel 'Black' Vaughan, now arguably Britain's most ferocious ghost – an immense black dog with flaming eyes which haunts Hergest Ridge – and which inspired Arthur Conan Doyle's *Hound of the Baskervilles*.

The Kington hinterland was once one of Britain's largest Neolithic settlements, and the landscape is studded with Bronze Age tombs, Norman mottes, baileys and ancient churches. Now its farms produce some of the finest sheep and cattle in the kingdom. Numerous artists, actors, writers, poets and composers have understandably also been attracted to the area, including Mike Oldfield (see Walk 3).

Kington is also home to England's highest 18-hole golf course, and nestled on the lower slopes of Hergest Ridge is Hergest Croft, one of the world's great gardens and home to the National Collections of maples, birches and zelkovas. For animal lovers there is The Small Breeds Farm Park and Owl Centre (see Walk 1) and Kington even has its own Gulbenkian-Awarded town museum.

In many small towns, the 21st century means a rash of familiar high street shopfronts. Not so in Kington, which boasts a weekly livestock market and an array of independently-owned and family-run shops where you'll find superb local produce and friendly, helpful service. Shoppers wanting to eat, drink, build, farm, celebrate, dress or buy furniture need never go into a department store – unless, like Gammages, it began in Kington!

For enquiries concerning accommodation and other local information, please visit the Tourist Information Centre at 5 Church Street or go to kingtontourist.info



WALK I

Kington to the Small Breeds Farm Park & Owl Centre



WALK I at a glance...

Grade Easy

Distance 3.75 or 4 miles | 6 or 6.5km

Time 1.5 hours

Terrain A gentle walk to the south of Kington offering fine views. This walk can be muddy in places and there is one short but steep climb. The route involves a mixture of stiles and gates. You could also include a visit to the *Small Breeds Farm & Owl Centre* – one of Kington's most-visited attractions.

Starting at the clock tower head west along Mill Street, passing Kington Museum and the football ground. Enter the recreation ground keeping to the right hand side and at the end, enter the High School playing fields via an iron kissing gate. Proceed across the playing fields along the line of oaks heading for a second kissing gate on the far side. Carry on through two more kissing gates until you emerge at the side of the road (A). Don't join the road but turn sharp left down the short driveway of Hergest Mill.

Follow the right of way down the right hand side of the garden until you reach a wooden gate. Pass through this and another gate and across a bridge over the River Arrow (known locally as Murder Bridge), up the short incline and over the stile at the top. Now proceed down the long field you have entered keeping the fence to your right.

At the end of this field carry on through the gate and follow the path around the next field until you reach a gateless opening in the boundary to the next field. The path now proceeds left up the side of the field; after 50m you'll find a finger post by the hedge and a clear path cutting diagonally across the field should be seen going towards the middle of a line of trees. The exit from the far side of the field is via a stile about 50 metres from the top right hand corner of the field.

After climbing over it proceed with care down the steps to the small lane (B). Turn left up the lane and a steep hill, levelling out after about 250m. Carry on past a turning on the left, around a sharp right-hand bend. 80m further on there's a stile on the left into a field opposite *Steepholm*. Proceed across the next four fields (two stiles and a gate) keeping the hedge to your right. Behind you there are fine views of Hergest Ridge and Bradnor Hill. On entering the 4th field you'll be able to see the *Small Breeds Farm & Owl Centre* ahead. If you'd like to visit, allow up to an hour and a half. You'll also find a tea room serving tea, cakes and light snacks. For more information visit owlcentre.com.

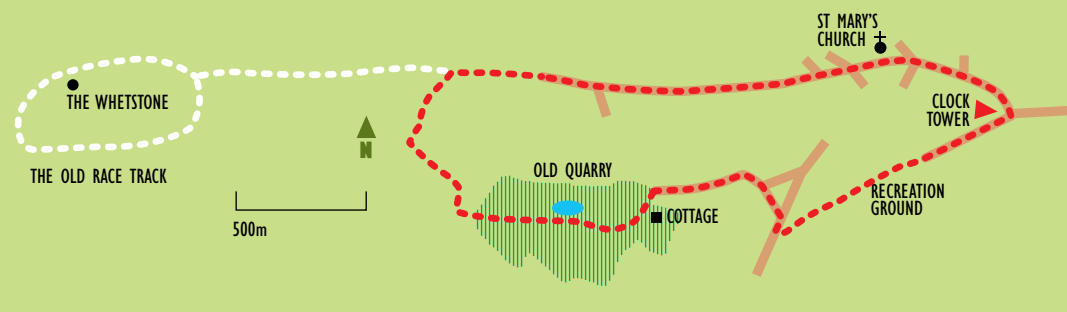
To return to the town, you can either retrace the way you have come, or turn right out the Owl Centre and follow the quiet country lane downhill for about 1.5km back to Kington. Turn left when you reach the T junction (C), cross the bridge over the River Arrow, walk up Bridge Street, and turn left into the High Street which will return you to the clock tower:

Clockwise from below: The River Arrow at Murder Bridge; White-Faced Scops owlets at Kington Owl Centre & Small Breeds Farm; the view back to Hergest Ridge.



WALK 2

Park Wood & Offa's Dike (plus 1.5 mile optional loop)



WALK 2 at a glance...

Grade Easy

Distance 3.5 miles (+1.5 for optional loop) | 5.5 or 8km

Time 1.5 hours
(+ 1 hour for loop)

Terrain This walk passes through the recreation ground, up through Park Wood, with a steady climb to Hergest Ridge, with its superb views of the Black Mountains and Bradnor Hill. The optional loop round the old racetrack provides outstanding 360 degree views.

From the clock tower; walk west along Mill Street passing the museum and primary school on the right, followed by the football ground on the left. Enter the recreation ground through the big iron gates and continue straight on the wide tarmac path. Leave the recreation ground through the kissing gate and enter the grounds of Lady Hawkins School. Follow the way marked path through the school fields along the line of oak trees.

Leave the school grounds through a kissing gate; into a small field and follow the path through another kissing gate, to the left you will see a natural depression; this used to be a pond fed by water leaking from a nearby mill run. In the winter it sometimes becomes a pond again. The end of the path is marked by another kissing gate, pass through and immediately turn right onto the road.

Walk along the road for about 125m then take the footpath on the left over a stile, with a finger post bearing the number 35. Follow the field hedge on the right for about 100m, then bear right through some undergrowth and leave the field over a stile onto a tarmac lane, on your RHS is a white cottage. Turn left along the lane and follow it for about 300m and over a cattle grid alongside a finger post bearing the name Hayward Common. There is also a small sign pointing in the direction of Park Wood. Continue on the track. cross another cattle grid and enter Park Wood.

After a short distance there is a cottage on the left. Take the right hand track at this point. (There is a notice about keeping to the public rights of way as the path is crossing the land of Hergest Croft.) On reaching a junction of footpaths marked by a finger post, take the right hand path and follow it past an old quarry to your right. You will

Left: Misty morning view from the permissible path.

Below: Wild ponies on Hergest Ridge.

notice the woodland changes from broadleaf to predominantly conifer as you continue in an upwards direction for another 300m or so to the edge of the wood. Leave the wood through a timber farm gate and keep straight ahead for 50m to a metal farm gate.

Go through this gate, turning sharp right on to the track. This is the start of a permissive path and there is a map on a post at this point. Follow this path, keeping left, through a kissing gate into a large field. Go through another kissing gate and keep straight on up the slope towards a kissing gate on the horizon. Leave this field through this kissing gate and bear right keeping the fence line to your right; from here you will have an excellent view back across Kington and the Black Mountains beyond. Ahead of you will see Bradnor Hill. After about 150m you will see a lone yew tree continue past this to the kissing gate which marks the other end of the permissive path and has a map displayed on it.

The wide grassy path in front of you is the Offa's Dyke National Trail. This is the point to choose between returning to Kington or turn left to the loop on Hergest Ridge (see details below). To return to Kington, turn right heading downhill. After a short distance, there is a metal gate leading

out onto a tarmac lane. Just before the gate, there is an information board about Hergest Ridge Common. Follow the lane downhill to the end, passing the entrance to Hergest Croft Gardens on the right and their car park on the left.

At the end of the lane, cross over the road going straight ahead and enter the grounds of St Mary's Church – if you have time the Church is well worth a visit. Pass on either side of the church to leave the churchyard through the 18th century lych gate. Turn downhill, following Church Street back to the junction with Mill Street where the Clock Tower is located.

To take the loop on Hergest Ridge, turn left along Offa's Dyke Path climbing steadily for about 1km until you come to a 'crossroads' of grassy paths. Take the left hand path and follow it round the complete oval circuit that was once a racetrack. Keeping the group of Monkey Puzzle trees to your right as you round the top of the race track, you will pass a large rock known as the Whet stone, also on your right.

On returning to the 'crossroads', retrace your steps downhill, returning to Kington as described previously.



WALK 3

Bradnor Hill



WALK 3 at a glance...

Grade	Long version: Energetic Short version: Easy
Distance	4 miles or 2.5 miles <i>easy option</i> 6.5km or 4km <i>easy option</i>
Time	2.5 hours or 1 hour <i>easy option</i>
Terrain	A walk up to and around Bradnor Hill, circuiting the highest golf course in England which affords magnificent 360 degree views over Herefordshire and Wales. There is the option of driving to the club house to avoid the steep climb up and descent. <i>This walk crosses and goes close to Kington Golf Course: be prepared to wait and give way to golfers.</i>

Left: View from close to the Ninth Tee at Brodnor Hill Golf Course.

Below: Ninth Green, with Kington below.

From the Clock Tower head up Church Street in a north westerly direction and take the first right by the war memorial. Continue through the Square to the far left corner and then to the far right corner in the next square following the Offa's Dyke footpath signs which are followed for the next 1km. Continue down the road over the crossroads into Crooked Well to reach the river at the bottom. Cross the footbridge and the A44 with care. Continue up the lane and take the second footpath on the right through the metal pedestrian gate. Cross the small field and pass through the metal gate beside the farmhouse. After a further two gates, continue up the field to reach a kissing gate and follow the path between two hedgerows. Through a further gate to the open moor of Bradnor Hill with a collection of cottages close by. The one ahead with the first floor conservatory was the home of musician Mike Oldfield from where he wrote the album *Hergest Ridge* in the 1970's. Follow the grassy slope ahead and after a short distance veer to the right through a gap in the bracken still following the Offa's Dyke signs. On reaching the golf course cross over following the yellow posts, first looking to the left and then right to wait for golfers teeing off. On reaching the tarmac road follow this up to the left which is where we leave the Offa's Dyke footpath **(A)**.

*If starting at the club house walk up the lane past the 1st Tee (wait for golfers to tee off if necessary) to soon reach the Offa's Dyke footpath **(A)** and continue as the instructions below.*

Continue upwards along this lane for about 750m, giving way to golfers when crossing two fairways, until the road becomes a stony track. Continue on the track towards a raised tee ahead. Follow the track round the back of the tee and soon take the right of the two grassy paths. Continue ahead between the bracken traversing the contours of the hill with a slight incline and you will shortly see a wooden hut in the distance and aim for this **(B)**. Walk to the right of the hut and the 9th tee where in summer there is a bench to sit and enjoy the magnificent views across the border into Wales and Radnor Forest. In the distance to the left can be seen the rounded slopes of Hay Bluff and Lord Hereford's Knob. Continue on level ground with the fairway on your left and a steep descent to



your right. Follow the path through the bracken and swing to the left, passing behind the 10th tee and continue down the right hand narrower grassy path with the view of Kington ahead. After a steady descent of about 800m walk to the right of the raised green where the track becomes stony and drops down to the left. Swing to the right as soon as possible to avoid getting too close to the fairway and continue to bear right and follow the narrow grassy path that descends steeply through the bracken. On almost reaching the line of trees at the bottom take a left turn with a fence now on your right and proceed to the corner to a wooden gate **(C)**.

To stay on Bradnor Hill to reach the golf club and car park continue on the grassy path with the field wall slightly below on your right. After a short distance, where the wall bends to the right, a shallow gully heads off to the left with an adjacent path between the bracken. Follow this, steadily climbing, to join the path just before the golf course. Instead of crossing the fairway bear right below the green and clubhouse to reach the car park.

The Golf Club welcomes visitors, where you can get light refreshments and enjoy excellent views from the club house.

To return to Kington go through the wooden gate in the corner and descend the sunken path between the walls. At the bottom, cross over Newton Lane to follow the footpath down a few steps ahead. Cross over the A44 with care and take the footbridge over Back Brook then turn left to follow the Old Tramway. After two kissing gates continue along the track to reach the road at Crooked Well. Turn right and re-trace your steps back to the start.

WALK GRADES

What do they mean?

Easy

Walks for anyone who has no difficulty with mobility, a specific health problem or is seriously unfit. Suitable for pushchairs if they can be lifted over occasional obstructions, such as stiles. Comfortable shoes or trainers would be adequate footwear.

Moderate

Walks for those with some experience of country walking and a good level of fitness. These walks may include some steep paths, terrain which may be muddy or rocky and open countryside. Walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are essential.

Energetic

These are for experienced walkers with above average fitness. These walks typically involve rough terrain and hills. Once again, walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are essential.

We recommend sensible footwear for most walks. Be aware that after heavy rainfall, the going may be wet and muddy and rivers and streams may be fast-flowing and dangerous.



We hope that you will find the directions given for walks in this book easy to follow but suggest that you take a copy of Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 201, available locally from either Kington Tourist Information Centre in Church Street or the Post Office in Bridge Street.

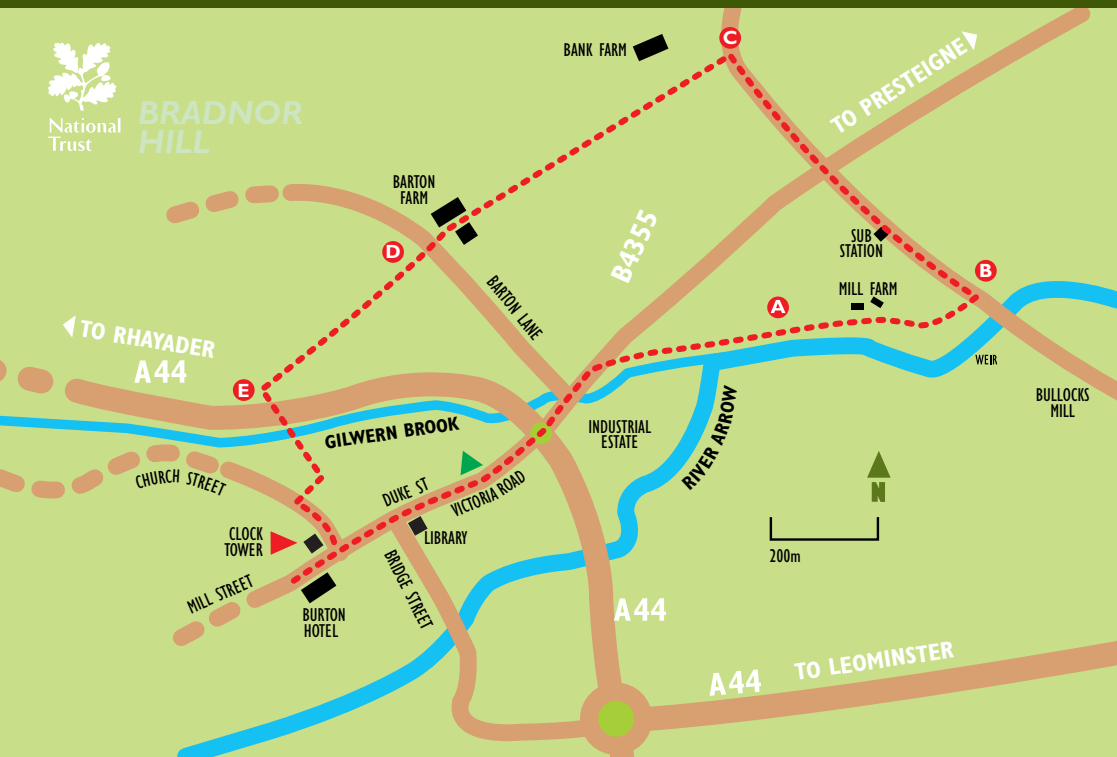


WALK 4

The Arrow Valley



BRADNOR HILL



WALK 4 at a glance...

Grade Easy

Distance 4.5 miles | 7km

Time 2 hours

Terrain A gentle walk along part of the River Arrow, returning along the valley side with fine views to the south and east.



From the Clock Tower walk along the High Street, continuing along Duke Street and Victoria Road to the roundabout. At the roundabout take the B4355 towards Titley over the bridge until you come to the penultimate building on the right, where you will see a signpost for the Mortimer Trail (A).

Cross the stile and follow the arrow across the field with the fence line on your right and the old dismantled railway track beyond. Continue to follow the way-marks to the point where the route splits into two options: the Mortimer Trail leads off to the left, but you should take the right hand path, climbing over a stile to proceed through a copse, finally coming to a plank over a stream (often dry).

At this point you'll see Mill Farm, with its impressive barn, to your left. Walk towards the stone barn, diagonally across the bottom of the field. When you arrive at the wire fence, turn right and follow it towards the farm house. In 30m you'll find an old metal gate and a stile.

Left: The bridge over the River Arrow at Bullock's Mill

Below: The River Arrow in full spate.

Climb the stile and continue in the same direction along the rough grassy track, with the tall hedge and the farm house on your left (in wet weather this track can get muddy). You will soon reach a steep wooded bank to your left and a marshy flat wooded area on your right. After 200m you'll arrive at a gate, with the River Arrow on your right and a stile slightly up to your left. Cross the stile then follow the old railway track, keeping the River Arrow on your right. As you walk across the field you'll make out a wooden barrier straight ahead in the trees, and a fine stone bridge beyond. As you approach the barrier you should hear the sound of water flowing over a double weir. On reaching the trees the weirs will come into view. At this point, turn left to the kissing gate in the hedge (B).

Go through the kissing gate onto a quiet lane and turn uphill to the left. (Before you do, you may like to walk down to the stone bridge over the River Arrow). Stay on the lane and after 15 minutes you'll come to a crossroads. Cross the road (beware of fast cars) and continue up the lane signposted to Rushock. Pass four pairs of semi-detached houses for about 200m, then turn left and after another 80m you'll come to a cattle grid (C).

Walk along the drive to a second cattle grid and take the footpath gate on its left and leave the drive. Continue ahead to a three-way footpath fingerpost. Go straight ahead, across the bottom of this field. To your right is Bank Farm. In 150m, you'll come to the corner of the field. Ignoring the stile by the left hand gate, go through the gate in front of you and onto a green lane.

After about three minutes you'll arrive at a metal gate. Go through it towards Barton Farm buildings – aim for these, keeping the hedge on your right. When the green lane opens into a field a view of the edge of Kington will come into view to your left. Pass through another gate onto a stone lane, hedged on both sides, and through Barton Farm. Walk through the farm yard onto the small road in front of you (D).

Bear right up the road, past the stone barn to a gate with a finger post on your left. Go through the gate, ignoring the finger-posted footpath which drops away to the left, and proceed straight ahead along the stony lane towards the single large tree. Here the track bends left



down a gentle slope towards three gates within 10m of each other. Take the middle gate, where a yellow footpath arrow points across the field towards the church spire – take this direction to a stile half way up the hedge line ahead. Climb over this stile and carry on in the same direction into the far bottom corner of the next field, still gradually losing height. Tucked away in this bottom corner is a stile. Climb over this and down the four steps into the quiet lane beyond. Turn downhill to the main road, passing a dark green *Welcome to Kington* sign. To your right is a building overgrown with ivy: this was once the water pumping station for Kington (E).

Cross the main road with care and the metal-railed footbridge over the Back Brook (also known as Gilwern Brook). After the bridge follow the lane to your left, with the whitewashed row of cottage on your right. The lane bears right and uphill, crossing another section of the old tram line, just before the crossroads of Llewelin Road and Bradnor View Close. Continue uphill for another 50m and bear left at the junction into the top of the Square. Follow the road as it bears right into Church Street, and by the War Memorial, turn left down into Church Street. In 100m you'll be back at your starting point by the Clock Tower.

WALK 5

Along the tracks to Lyonshall



WALK 5 at a glance...

Grade Moderate

Distance 6.5 miles | 10.5km

Time 4 hours

Terrain The walk starts by following the disused Leominster to Kington railway to a bridleway through Lyonshall Park Wood. The walk then passes the village church of Lyonshall and climbs to Rodds Wood. From here there are tremendous views of the Black Mountains to the west and the Malvern Hills to the east. The walk then descends along Vaughan's Way back into Kington. A gentle walk with no steep climbs.

From the Clock Tower walk along the High St continuing along Duke Street, take the first left up Gravel Hill Drive, crossing the road and take the public footpath on the right behind the block of flats. At the end of the footpath turn right and after 75m note on your left one of the 'Kington Past' bronze plaques about the horse drawn tram that passed here in the mid 19th century. At the roundabout take the B4355 towards Titley over the bridge until you come to the penultimate building on the right where you will see a sign posted for Mortimer Trail **(A)**. Cross the stile and follow the arrow across the field with the fence line on your right and the old dismantled railway track beyond. Continue to follow the way marks until the point where the route splits into two options, the Mortimer Trail leads off to the left but we take the right hand path, climbing over a stile and proceed through a copse coming to a plank over a stream (often dry).

At this point you will see Mill Farm with an impressive barn to your left. Walk towards the stone barn, diagonally

Below: St Michael & All Angels church at Lyonshall.

across the bottom of the field. When you arrive at the wire fence, turn right and follow it towards the farm house. In 30m you'll find an old metal gate and a stile. Climb the stile and continue in the same direction along the rough grassy track, with the tall hedge and the farm house on your left (in wet weather this track can get muddy). You will soon reach a steep wooded bank to your left and a marshy flat wooded area on your right. After 200m you'll arrive at a gate, with the River Arrow on your right and a stile slightly up to your left. Cross the stile then along the old railway track with the River Arrow on your right. As you walk across the field you will make out a wooden barrier straight ahead in the trees and a fine stone bridge beyond. As you approach the barrier you should hear the sound of water flowing over a double weir. On reaching the trees these come into view, turn left to the kissing gate in the hedge **(B)**.

Turn right along the narrow road – on your right is a mill race which you soon cross over. Follow the lane uphill past several cottages for about 800m before the lane enters Lyonshall Park Wood. Soon you will see the Tramway Pool on the right, beyond this the lane bears right with a metalled track opening on your left, take this track and after about 150m you will come to a signpost on the right. Take this path through the woods, which follows the route of the old tramway and eventually the path leaves the woods and into open fields, with the hedge first on your left and then on your right. To the right are fine views to the east. You now come to a tarmac lane – follow this past Castle Weir Farm. Look for a stile on the right and bear right up to a gate in the trees. Ahead you will see Lyonshall Church (a useful stopping point) with fine views to the south east **(C)**.

Take the path down from the church crossing the A44 and proceed up the drive of Lynhales Nursing home. Ignore two walking routes that cross the drive, (however the second is Offa's Dyke path and if you detour right onto it you will soon clearly see part of the dyke return) and carry on until the road bends sharply right by a lake. Here take the path signposted on the left and follow passing through a gate at the end. Turn right onto the lane until you reach some farm buildings where you take the path signposted to the left. Following the path for about

300m keeping close to the hedge on the left, eventually reaching a gate. You'll see some farm buildings – aim to the left of these, crossing the field towards another gate **(D)**.

You have now picked up Vaughan's Way, which you will follow until you reach the town again. Take the footpath immediately to the right aiming for the lone tree, continue straight past and on to the left hand corner of the field. Go through the gate and diagonally across the next field, aiming for another gate to the right of a pair of brick cottages where you reach a narrow lane. Cross the lane and continue along the same alignment uphill to a stile in a fence about 100m from the right hand corner of the field. Go over the two stiles to a further stile opposite. Follow the path across Rhodds Wood over the ridge to another stile with great views down into Kington **(E)**.

Aim straight across the field to a stile and then cross the next field keeping the hedge to the right until you reach a further stile. At this point the views down across Kington with the hills behind really open up. The footpath now crosses the next field diagonally – aim slightly to the left towards the bend in the hedge-line to a stile at the bottom. Once you have climbed this you follow the field keeping the hedge on your right past some cherry orchards in polytunnels. Keep the hedge to the right through the next two fields descending until you finally arrive at a gate to the main road (A44) **(F)**.

Take care when crossing the road and take the footpath to the right which brings you onto a road. At the T junction bear left into Headbrook and then Bridge Street and follow the road back into town.



WALK 6

Kington Mills and Weirs



WALK 6 at a glance...

Grade Easy

Distance 2.5 miles | 4km

Time 2 hours

Terrain This gentle town walk with no steep climbs is a veritable *rus in urbe* which explores some intriguing aspects of Kington's industrial past.

From the Town Clock go up Church Street, pass the War Memorial and continue for a further 200m. Turn into Castle Hill lane on your right, and look at the water tower **(A)** on your left. There is a plaque giving information on Kington's early water supply. Continue down Castle Hill and bear right into Broken Bank. On your right is a small hill covered in trees: this is a pre-Conquest castle mound.

Take a steeply descending foot path on your right, next to *The Nook*, bringing you down to the Old Tramway track, where you turn right to follow it. However, behind you is a private garden, in which stands *Floodgates Mill (B)*. It was built in 1826 as a fulling mill – beating woollen cloth to improve its insulating properties. This was at the end of the area's important woollen industry and it afterwards became a corn mill; it is now a private house.

The tramway path runs alongside the Back Brook and, after about 100m, go through a kissing gate – a typical product of Kington Foundry, further down the

brook. Soon you will see a weir **(C)** and, on the other bank, traces of a leat, an artificial watercourse, which once fed the corn mill and pumping station at Crooked Well.

Follow the path for 375m, pass through a second kissing gate and bear to the left of the first house, taking the path that hugs the brook. After 150m you'll come to a footbridge over the brook. Go over this bridge, and then cross the main A44 road with care. On the other side of the road, go on for a few metres and then turn left for a few metres. To your left is the ivy-covered

pumping station **(D)**, erected in 1886, which was powered by a water-turbine. On your right is the Crooked Well, from which Kington's water supply was drawn, and ahead is *Engine Cottage*, once attached to the former Crooked Well Corn Mill – long demolished.

Retrace your steps across the A44 and the Back Brook. From the footbridge the ancient ford is clearly visible. Turn left into Crooked Well lane for almost 200m to rejoin the Old Tramway path. As the lane rises, the cast-iron kerb-plates on your right **(E)** are also products of Kington Foundry, under two distinct ownerships. When you reach the tramway take a look at the end wall of the row of cottages on the right, rebuilt at a strange angle to accommodate the tramway.

Turn left onto the Old Tramway and, after about 400m it comes back by the brook. Shortly before a footbridge over the brook you can see traces of a minor weir **(F)**, with brickwork and inlet pipe. Despite its appearance, this marks the start of an important ancient leat, feeding water meadows.

Continue along the Old Tramway to a weir with an ugly later additional concrete fish ladder. At this end of the weir is a steel frame which once contained a sluice-gate. This controlled the water entering another leat which used to run along the left-hand side of the tramway to serve Kington Foundry **(G)**, a short distance along on the left. The first building was once the pattern shop, producing wooden patterns for cast-iron items. The small lawn in front was once a pond feeding the waterwheel, which was between buildings, where a wooden porch is now. The waterwheel provided draught for the iron furnace, and powered the machine shop. The 1820 foundry buildings, now converted into small units, make an attractive group around a central yard, and are worth a minor diversion. There is another wall-mounted plaque here.

The horse-drawn tramway, also of 1820, was vital in the foundation of the foundry, bringing coal and iron from South Wales. The tramway had a great effect on the town, and the foundry became Kington's largest employer. From 1820 until 1901 it was in the hands of the Meredith family, followed by Alexander and Duncan of Leominster until 1926. These are the names on the

Crooked Well kerb plates. There is much fine ironwork from the foundry to be seen around Kington.

Turn right into Victoria Road for about 250m and left into Love Lane. At the bottom turn right along a footpath. The course of this path was once a leat. The house on the left, *Arrow Lodge*, where the path widens into Tanyard Lane, is on the site of a tannery **(H)**. From here the dry leat is on the right-hand side. If you walk down the slope into the leat, you will see a brick tunnel which returned unwanted water to the river. The leat water would have been used to drive a bark mill for making tanning liquors, and to provide process water. The bridge in Bridge Street has a separate arch for this leat, which is effectively the tail-race from Arrow Mill. Shortly before the bridge is a date-stone on your left. This came from the second generation of station at Kington, built in 1875, when the line was extended to New Radnor.

Cross Bridge Street and go straight on to some iron gates. Ahead is Arrow Mill **(I)**, built about 1848, with its projecting lucomb for taking in sacks of grain. To the left is a wide arch over the stream, where a formerly a waterwheel, over 3.6m wide, turned. It was later replaced by a turbine – now restored and generating electricity.

Just before the gates turn into Mill Furlong. This runs along the back of stone maltings, erected around 1835 as part of the mill complex. Cross the Co-op car park and continue up Crabtree Road before turning left into Mill Street. Walk past the football ground. The building on your left immediately before the recreation ground entrance was Crabtree Woollen Mill with its adjoining house **(J)**. The internal waterwheel was fed by a leat, now infilled and levelled, running through the Recreation Ground, past the house and into the mill. Enter the Recreation Ground and follow the path. The leat once ran under the trees to the left of the path. Continue along this path and, not far from a side entrance, a rectangular patch of concrete to your left was once a bridge over the leat. At the far end of the path, a little to the left, is a gate into a private field. Looking across the field from here, the dry leat **(K)** can be seen emerging from the trees. This leat was fed by a weir, which still exists in the River Arrow, another few hundred metres upstream.



THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

Respect • Protect • Enjoy



We all have a responsibility to protect the countryside, now and for future generations, so make sure you don't harm animals, birds, plants or trees and try to leave no trace of your visit.

When out with your dog, make sure it's not a danger or a nuisance to farm animals, horses, wildlife or other people.

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs



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Contributors: Barbara Barrett, Val Burden, Geoff Cooper, Nick Eve, Paul Finch, Sam Llewellyn & Nigel Sheath. Photography by Nigel Sheath and Wayne Summers. Owl image in Walk 1 by Kington Small Breeds Farm & Owls Centre.

Designed by Wayne Summers | wayne@waynesummers.co.uk

For a complete statement of the Countryside Code, visit gov.uk/government/publications/thecountryside-code

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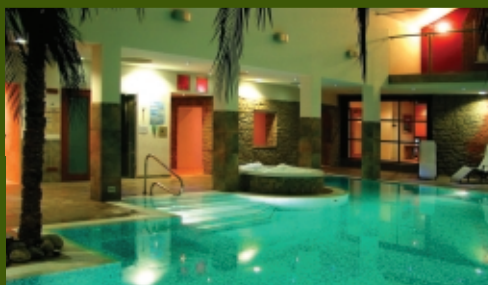
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