

## Notes on Points of Interest.

\***Backbury Hill** is a fine viewpoint. Its summit in Iron Age times was a Multi-vallate Hill Fort. Though it is given the name "Backbury Camp" it is also called "St. Ethelberts Camp".

\***Dormington Church**, St Peters, has a small bronze, Norman, door-knocker; 13<sup>th</sup> century windows and chancel arch and early font; an example of a wall painting and several 17<sup>th</sup> century monuments.



\***Claston Farm**, on the Hereford - Ledbury Road, has continued to grow hops for many years. Hops were introduced into Herefordshire in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. Daniel Defoe on his tour through Britain in 1724 observed the people of Herefordshire "are diligent and laborious people and boast they have the best hops in all of Britain".

\***Priors Court and Priors Frome**. In Domesday the chief estate of Dormington belonged to the Priory of St Guthlac in Hereford. The Foley estate goes back to Thomas Foley who as a rich Iron Master bought the Stoke Edith Estate for his son Paul in 1670 who subsequently bought Priors Court.

Walking is a form of exercise that is free, fun and a great way for families to get together. Regular walking can have a positive effect on your health and quality of life.

## The Countryside Code



Launched on 12 July 2004, this Code for England has been produced through a partnership between the Countryside Agency and Countryside Council for Wales.

The Countryside Code has been revised and re-launched to reflect the introduction of new open access rights (Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000) and changes in society over the last 20 years.

Countryside Code - advice for the public

- \* Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- \* Leave gates and property as you find them
- \* Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- \* Keep dogs under close control
- \* Consider other people

## This leaflet has been produced with the support of the Woolhope Dome Project

The 'dome' supports a rich mosaic of ancient woodlands, species-rich hedgerows, wildflower meadows, traditional orchards, streams, and a wealth of wildlife. The importance of protecting and supporting this unique landscape is at the heart of the Woolhope Dome Project.

The Woolhope Dome project is a partnership between local people, Natural England, the Wye Valley AONB, Forestry Commission, and Herefordshire Nature Trust. Funding has also been given from Herefordshire Rivers Leader + in association with the EU and DEFRA



# Woolhope Dome Walks

(Part of the Fownhope Walk Series)

## Walk Two

### Backbury Hill Loop Walk

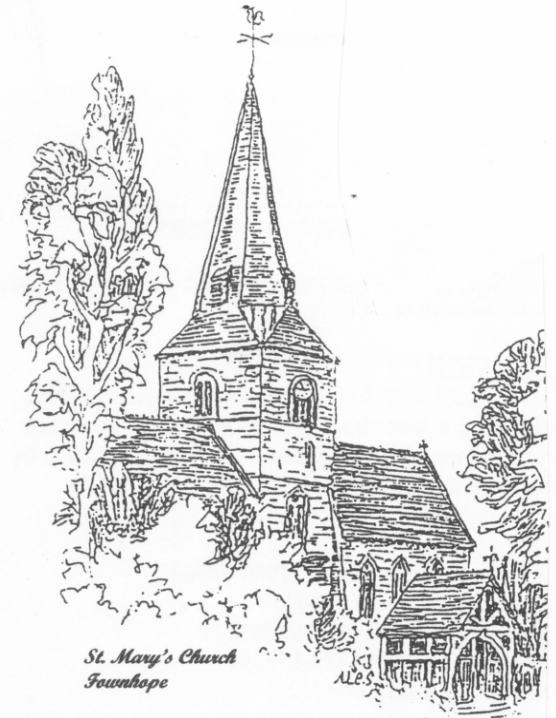


Illustration by Mary Soulsby reproduced by kind permission of John Soulsby

This is one of a series of walks produced by Fownhope Residents Association with the help of many villagers. Financial support has been given by the Countryside Agency through their "Walking the Way to Health" initiative.

Other organisations/groups also participating and giving assistance are: Fownhope Medical Centre, Herefordshire Nature Trust, the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Woolhope Dome Project, local landowners and farmers.

## Woolhope Dome Walks - Number Two

### Backbury Hill Loop Walk

**Summary:** A pleasant walk with moderate climbs that covers a northwest area of the Woolhope Dome around Backbury Hill and Upper Dormington.

**Distance:** 4 ½ miles.

**Time:** 2 to 2 ½ hours plus time for refreshments.

**Parking:** Swardon Quarry - signposted from Dormington - Mordiford Road (SO578385)

**Refreshments:** Yew Tree Inn, Upper Dormington or Swardon Quarry Picnic Site

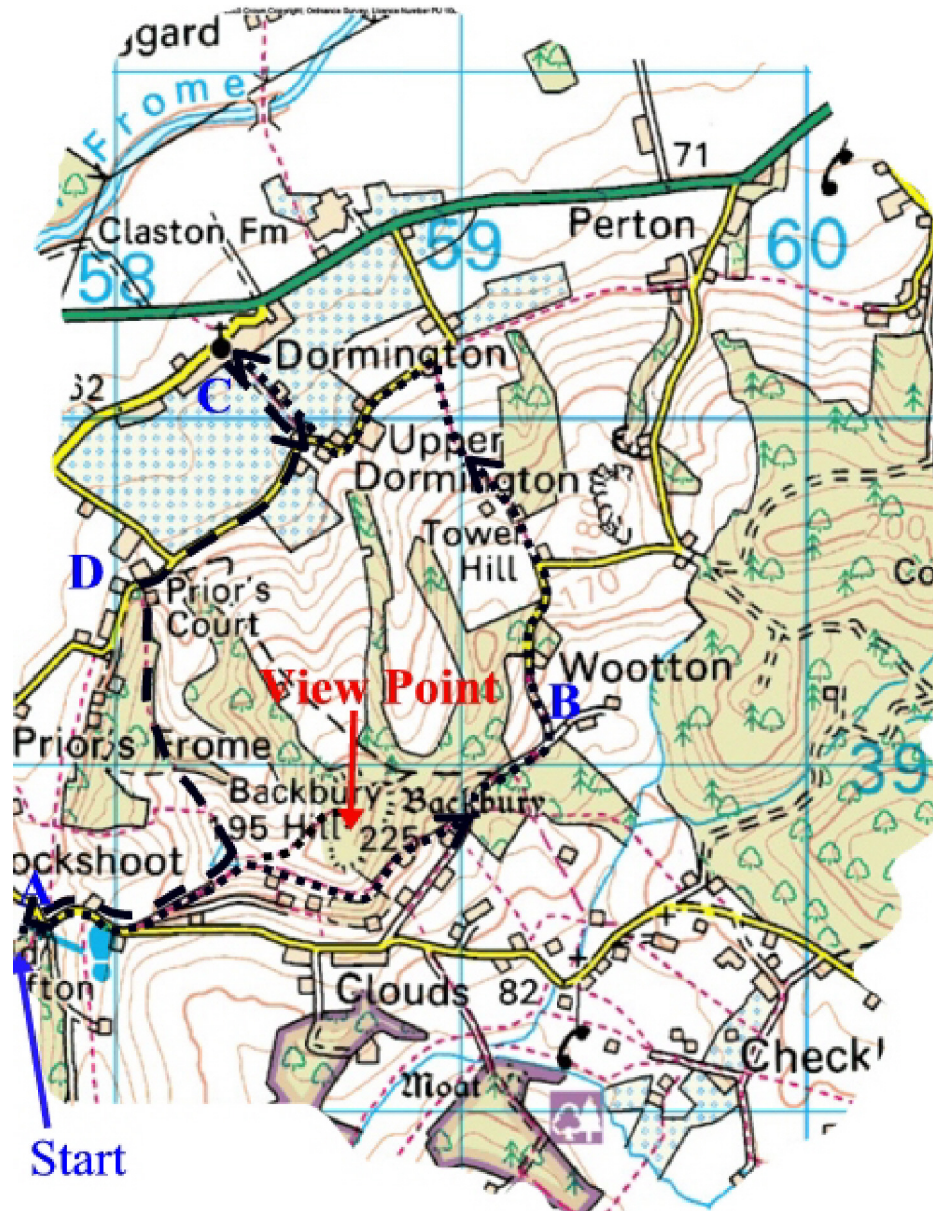
**Ordnance Survey Map:** Explorer 189 Hereford & Ross on Wye is recommended and may be purchased from the West End Stores in Fownhope

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#### Directions:

\* Look out for the this symbol which indicates Points of Interest along the route. Take a look at the accompanying notes overleaf. We hope that this will add enjoyment to your walk.

- Before starting the walk, at **Point A**, you may wish to go up the steps, at the side of the car park, and walk the few steps to the picnic area which affords good views to Hereford, Dinedor Hill and Aconbury Hill.
- Starting the walk, with your back to the car park, walk a few paces up the road and just before the footpath sign on your left, turn right at the Mordiford Loop signpost. Climbing through trees until after about 150 yards you reach another footpath sign and follow the "Mordiford Loop/Checkley 1 mile" direction, turn half right back onto the road. After 50 yards turn half left up a track, which inclines gently for about 400 yards. Where this flattens out,



half left, there is a grassy path through bushes, not sign posted, which takes you on a slight detour of about 100 yards, up to a flat area on the top of Backbury Hill\* which gives views towards Shucknall and Tarrington. Return down the same path turning left to rejoin the main route. The track descends gently along a tree lined route for about 750

yards. (Ignore a signpost to the right along the way.) Here at an open flat area, turn left along a track, ignoring another signpost to the right, to the end of Frith Wood, on your right, arriving at another open flat area.

- At **Point B**, turn left uphill to Tower Hill and continue straight onto a bridleway which descends towards Upper Dormington, with fine views. En route, on your right you will see some derelict buildings which evidently are/have been the subject of a planning dispute, also great care is needed descending the rocky section of the path as the stones become quite slippery after rain. On reaching the lane, turn left and where it bends left look out for a bridleway sign on the right at the side of a black and white cottage. This takes you along a track to St Peter's Church (**Point C**); well worth a visit.

- Return along the path to the road, turn right and continue for about ½ mile. Having just passed Priors Court\* on your right and where the road bends left there is a kissing gate stile up a bank on the left (**Point D**). Go through this and start the upward path, through bracken (In summer the path maybe indistinct, and it is suggested that you continue going in a southerly direction). After 100 yards take a left turn at a path junction, continue along this rather winding path, ignoring any path on the right, perhaps pausing for breath at the occasional flat sections! At the top you are again at the summit of Backbury Hill, then the path descends to a track which is the Mordiford Loop path. Turn right down to join the road, turn right and continue down the road to return to the car park.