

# HAY HO! 39A

## HARDWICKE TO HAY

This is quite a short (4 mile) linear walk, but very little of it is on flat ground until the final stretch on the road, and there are several quite noticeable climbs.

**START** Hardwicke Church, SO 270438

**FINISH** Hay Castle bus stop, Oxford Road, Hay-on-Wye, SO 230423

**MAP** All of the walk is on the OS 1:25000 map OL13

### DIRECTIONS

The bus goes very close to Hardwicke Church., which is clearly visible from the road.

If coming from Hay the church is on the left about half a mile after the bus turns right at Hardwicke Turn onto the B 4348. Ask the driver to stop as close to the church as convenient. If coming from Hereford the church is about half a mile after the house 'Bricklands' on the right. Very soon after a large cream coloured house on the right there is a turning on the left where the driver can pull in to let you off. The church is now visible ahead just off the bus route on the right.

**1** The church is an interesting example of a complete Victorian church (not a restoration of an older church). Assuming you have visited the church, leave the churchyard through the lychgate and head half left across a field to a stile leading to the road. Cross the road with care, turn left and very soon right down a smaller road. When you reach buildings fork left along a track to a gate. Once through this, turn right along a bridleway (blue arrow), not the footpath just to its left (yellow arrow). After quite a while the track passes a gate on the right with a house with chimneys close by. Keep going to pass another gate on the right, then a third. Immediately after this one, turn right down a smaller (unsigned) track which keeps close to the hedge with a field visible through it. Cross a broken gate and soon reach a stile on the right. Cross this into a field.

**2** Head down the field to the right hand corner, go through a gateway or over a stile and continue with a hedge on your right through another gateway. Soon pick up a track going down between a house on your left and a barn on your right. Go across a lane and through a gate into a field. Continue ahead towards another house (Mill Cottage). Turn left just before a cattle grid over a footbridge, then turn right and up the middle of the field ahead. Go through a gate at the edge of woodland, then ahead but slightly right to reach some trees. Turn left to the gate in the corner of the field, go through this and up the field next to the hedge on your right. Cross a stile to a road, turn right, then immediately left over another stile.

**3** Walk up the field, aiming for the right hand edge of farm buildings ahead. Go through the right hand one of two gates, then very soon turn left through another gate on to the farm drive. Cross this and go

through a gate into a field. Veer left to yet another gate; once through this head straight up the long slope and at the top turn right, then soon left through another gate. Walk up next to a hedge on your right, passing a house. This is the last climb of the walk! Cross a stile at the end of the field, turn right, cross a lane and go down a track and through a gate into Mouse Castle Wood. This is an ancient wood now owned by the Woodland Trust; there is a motte and bailey near where you enter the wood but the mound is now very overgrown. Turn left. Later keep left at a fork, continuing downhill. Leave the wood over a stile and go straight down the field to a kissing gate leading to a road. Turn right and walk down to the main road. Cross over with care and turn left to walk just over half a mile into Hay (or, if returning to Hereford, you can wait at one of the bus stops on this road). Oxford Road bus stop (for Hereford) is opposite the large car park on the left and next to Hay Castle on the right.

For timetable information, forthcoming events and more, please visit  
**[www.hayhobus.org.uk](http://www.hayhobus.org.uk)**