

Walking with Edward Elgar

Walk One - Hereford and Warham

- Cathedral, Castle Green, town, riverside and country walking
- A 4.5 mile easy walk. One field only. Pleasant road walking. No stiles
- Ordnance Survey map - Hereford and Ross-on-Wye. (Explorer 189)

The Route

1. Hereford Cathedral Close. The statue of Elgar leaning on his Sunbeam bicycle - "Mr Phoebus". Walk towards east end of cathedral, left of Elgar's gaze, TL into Castle Street. TR into Quay Street. (Quay House at the end was the home of Elgar's friend and self-styled bodyguard Canon Gorton). Follow the path ahead, up to the Castle Green, along R edge railing which overlooks the River Wye. Head down from Castle Green by tarmac drive. TR across 1898 Victoria Suspension Bridge. TR. Follow riverside path to statue. (It was across on the other side of the river that Canon Gorton slipped into the water in 1912).
2. Dan the bulldog. (Elgar's *Enigma Variation No. 11*). Carry on, briefly left and right, to the six-arched Wye Bridge of 1490. Cross the road, re-joining the riverside path. Go under Greyfriars Bridge to old Hunderton railway bridge, now used by walkers and cyclists. Go up steps across river. At other end, go down steps on left, kink left to riverside. Turn right along path. Follow this Wye Valley Walk along the bank, for 1½ miles, to landmark small brick Monitoring Station. Carry on 400m to cross little bridge at path junction.
3. WVV gate. TR through gate up tree-lined field edge, through wooden k-gate. (The area through the gap on the right is where Hereford artist Brian Hatton painted *Fields By The River at Warham*, and *Wye Bank at Warham*, in oil). Go up to skirt the front of Warham House. Leave the field via "fishermens" gate on to lane.
4. Warham. TR up the country lane past Warham Cottage and Old House. Continue along lane for one mile. (This is part of Hereford Cathedral School's "Hull" cross country course.) Pass Broomy House and the drive to Hereford Waterworks Museum. Continue past the old Mount Craig home/studio (L) of Brian Hatton, marked with blue plaque. At Breinton Road junction, cross and TR, signed city centre ¼ mile, over bridge.
5. The Priory, 4 Barton Road is on the left just before Friar Street. (This was Elgar's retreat during the 1933 Three Choirs Festival). Cross to join the right hand pavement by Greyfriars Avenue and follow the railed path on the left side of the car park through the subway under Greyfriars Bridge. Go up steps. TR along St Nicholas Street and King Street back to Cathedral Close.

