

Walking with Edward Elgar

Walk Four - Little Malvern, Shadybank Common

- Hill paths and field edges
- Moderate/strenuous 4 mile ramble with spectacular views. No stiles. Good terrain
- Ordnance Survey map - Malvern Hills (Explorer 190)

The Route

1. British Camp Pay and Display Car Park, Wynds Point. WR13 6DW. Away from the Malvern Hills Hotel, half way down the park, TR through wooden gate with "Broad Down and British Camp" inscribed on wall. Head up the wide aggregate path, ignoring turns. Just past the first bench, spectacular views open out over British Camp Reservoir to the left across the Severn Plain. Wind along the great path until it ends at a slight crest and kink over 20m to the right through a gap.
2. Round Indicator Stone. Find your direction marker on the ground to the left, and follow the lower path ahead, slightly R of your original direction, for "Giants Cave and Pink Cottage". (Views now to the west. Elgar lived near Storridge at "Birchwood."). Follow the path to Clutter's Cave. Pass beneath Hangman's Hill, down through trees beyond a turning (L) to Broad Down, still descending for further 60m to find a five way path intersection.
3. Five Ways. TL for "Castlemorton and Pink Cottage", along grassy path. Pass down to the L of Pink Cottage up slope beyond it along the wide hedged tree-lined path. After 160m, take the rocky, uneven path, to the L down through the trees. Initially gloomy, it becomes level and grassy, emerging from the trees, with Dales Hall at the end of a farm track, below to R.
4. Shadybank Common. At rutted track below telegraph line, TL to follow the T-line through a shaded bridle gate. Keep ahead along top L edge/hedge. Drop down through gate (L), follow farm track to R of Underhill Farm and up drive on other side. Pass the topiaried, tantalising Little Malvern Court. TL at road up to T-junction. TR as if for Malvern to St Wulstan's Church.
5. Elgar's Grave. Visit the family graves and return to road to resume same direction. 50m past turn for Upper Welland, cross to Holywell Road. After 30 paces, T sharp L up wide path. (Malvern Wells is just along the road ahead.) Ignore turns and climb stiffly, through gate, past bench in memory of Leslie James Guest all the way up to crest. Level with bench in memory of William David Dunn, take first left on to Black Hill for fabulous 360 degree views. Keep ahead over two small peaks down and up gravel path under trees past to the immediate right of a line of benches and the memorial to Barry Vincent Jackson. (Jenny Lind's old home at Wynds Point is up to L behind a fence). Descend steeply to reach road and TL past hotel to Start Point.

