



The view towards Orcop

the empty farm called Griegs, then carry on up the track to the left. When you come to a holding pen on your right, leave the track and climb the stile into the field. Climb to the gate and across the next field, then over the stile to follow the path by the hedge, to a rather dodgy assembly of gates where the stile is obscured.

③ Here you take the road left as it climbs across Saddlebow Hill, with, if you are lucky, wide views across to the Malverns to the right. Coles Tump is obscured ahead, but continue along until the road forks down to the left where the dogs and I paused to admire the coltsfoot gleaming out from the scrubby ground.

④ Just after the house on the left is a turn onto a bridle way, the path to the tump. Go through the gate and a second, and then follow a steep track on the right, which was deeply pitted with horses hoof prints. The beech trees of the tump tower above you as you ascend to a gate. Go through this and head toward the second clump of trees which are fir. From here you will, to the east see a third clump of trees again beech and the triangulation point which Ludo had to visit before taking off in pursuit of the chuck, chuck, chuck of a pheasant in the wood

below us to the north, into which we followed him. This is a steep descent frequented by horses, but is then intercepted by a dry path which you take to the left and follow out of the wood past a cottage, through a gate and back to the gate where you entered from the road.

Turn right the way you came, but take the right hand fork instead straight to Saddlebow Farm. Pass beside the farm with it on your left to a very damp and lush lane that takes you down to a field across which you see Saddlebow Wood. Keep the wood on your left and turn right at the gate, following the fields-edge as it then turns left, then bears right following the hedges. Turn left through the gate when you see New House Farm at the other side of the field. Ludo meeting the lady of the house beside the pond caused a good half hour chat about the area its occupants and geography. There is a theory that Coles Tump was a volcano, founded on the scattering of big rocks and its black soil.

⑤ From here follow the lane straight on passing both the turn and the houses on the left. A finger-post directs you left down a field to a strip of wood, look for the marker slightly too your right. Climb down the bank to the stile, cross the field, climb another stile over the

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and to improve conditions for all walkers. The Ramblers is celebrating its 75th anniversary and has won many victories, the most recent being the new coastal access legislation. In Herefordshire there are four groups: Hereford, Mortimer, Ross-on-Wye and Leadon Vale.

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footbridge and head towards the house marked as the Priory. Keeping the house on your right follow their drive out onto the road and the oak tree on the green again, now you have the pleasure of viewing both church and castle of Kilpeck. ■

*The Herefordshire Trail is a circular walk of about 154 miles, all within the county of Herefordshire, visiting all the market towns and some delightful villages. The route was devised by the Hereford Group of the Ramblers using public rights of way and, where possible, public transport links.

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