

# HEREFORDSHIRE WALK



Above left to right:  
View from the path  
below Upper  
Woodbatch farm.  
Limebrook. The Forge.

**8** Walk along the lane for about a quarter of a mile to a T-junction. Go left for about 30 yards and in the field on the left you can see what remains of Limebrook Priory. This was a 13th century nunnery that was founded either by Ralph de Lingen or one of the Mortimers. By 1516 six Augustinian nuns lived here and remained until the Dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII. Now there are few traces, apart from the grass-covered mounds and the remains of a doorway. And of course, sheep! These animals have provided an income for the inhabitants of this area for centuries.

**9** Retrace your route to Limebrook Mill and continue up the lane to the gate, where it turns to the right up to Upper Limebrook Cottage. Over to the left there is a path that crosses a narrow wooden bridge. Go through the gate and walk up the field following the course of the stream that now lies to the right. At the top of the field, go through the gate and follow the lane that now winds uphill, through woodland, to the minor road at Grove Head.

In 1874 pottery spoil was investigated just below here. In 1929 a much more thorough search discovered quantities of mainly unglazed domestic ware, and several kilns.

**10** As you cross the road, look down hill to the left, to where the village nestles below the hills around it. Having reached the lane opposite, go through the gate, follow the track left and downward, then contour round below the bracken-covered slopes on the right, until you see a small conical hill on the right and tucked into the hedge on the left, a stile.

Throughout this section you have views across to Hartley Mountain on the left, up to Deerfold on the right, and ahead to the hills above Brampton Bryan.

**11** Cross the stile (ref. OS 375679) to walk straight down

through the bushes and trees to the next stile. Slant left, down to near the bottom of the field, cross the wooden bridge with a stile at each end and then cut across the corner of the field to an indentation in the hedge where you will find a stile and then another bridge, again with two stiles. You are now crossing a tributary of the Lime Brook.

**12** Slant left over the field to the gate and just beyond this, along the hedge cross another stile and walk over the field towards the church. There is yet another double stile wooden bridge but you will be relieved to know that you can bypass this.

**13** With the church tower now in view you will also see many traces of the castle and village that once stood here. Although now grass-covered mounds, you will see that this field has been much disturbed. It has not been excavated but there is evidence of a motte and bailey castle and of a curtain wall round the bailey.

**14** Climb the three shallow steps to the gate into the churchyard and return to your car. ■

## THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

The Ramblers' Association is the UK's largest walking charity. It promotes walking in the countryside, improves access to it, and protects the beauty of the countryside. In the UK the RA has over 130,000 members organised in 54 areas and 450 local groups. In the Herefordshire area we have four groups: Hereford, Ross, Mortimer and Leadon Vale. We run a combined walks programme with about four walks every week. All are very welcome on our walks.

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