

WALK



Above: Rowden Station
Right: Mistletoe on fruit tree
Below: Wall Hills Iron Age Fort
Bottom: Edwyn Ralph Church



At Butterly Brook, cross the lane and continue along the bridleway. Enjoy the open country as you bowl along the bridleway, which, after a mile, bears right and, after 400 yards, turns into a lane and begins to climb.

5 At the top of the hill, you meet the Herefordshire Trail.

If you are visiting Fencote station, and have an appointment, turn left along a footpath just 50 yards before the Herefordshire Trail. In a few minutes you will reach the station. Otherwise turn right along the Herefordshire Trail.

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. Copies of the Trail book can be purchased locally in Tourist Information Centres, bookshops or ring 01432 264374.

First you go through five fields, enjoying then good views in front of you towards Bromyard Downs and the Malvern Hills beyond. The ramparts of the Wall Hills Iron Age Fort stand out impressively on your left. The route is easy to find and you feel on top of the world as the cottages and farms of Thornbury appear ahead. Pause to

admire the mistletoe, and reflect that we are only a few miles from Tenbury, the centre of the UK mistletoe industry. At a lane crossing, carry on down a hedge-enclosed footpath. When it emerges into the field, go to the left of the hedge in front of you and continue down this field with the hedge on your right. At the bottom, you will cross the Frome, which rises just to the north of us. The geology of the Frome has been well described in the Frome Valley Discovery Guide available from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust on 01905 855184. Go through the gateway on the right and then follow the track round to the left. As the track bears left, follow the hedge on your right, up to the corner of the field, to a stile leading out into the lane. You are now in Thornbury. If you have time, turn left along the lane, and visit the lovely St Anna's church.

6 Otherwise, turn right and follow the lane to the next road junction, where the bridleway leaves the lane opposite. Take the bridleway straight up the field, passing close to the dog-leg in the hedge on your right and then continue into the next field with the fence on your right. Continue down the field but do not go through the gate in front of you but enter the wood on your right and then go through a small

wooden gate. Follow the bridleway through the wood to the next gate. Turn left and follow this track back to Edwyn Ralph. ■

*** There is a chance to do this walk with Leadon Vale Ramblers on Saturday February 6, 10am start, including a visit to Fencote station. All are welcome. Please ring Tom Fisher on 01886 821544.**

The Ramblers

The Ramblers is Britain's biggest charity working to promote walking 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 local groups, Hereford, Mortimer, Ross on Wye and Leadon Vale.

For more information contact Tom Fisher, tel: 01886 821544 or email: tomfisher@virgin.net



FOR MORE WALKS

