



Above: Drovers Pond. Left (from left to right): View of the River Wye; Warham House; A bird hide; the view at Haybluff.

orchards around Breinton. Percy and Fred Bulmer launched their legendary Woodpecker brand in 1896. The Bulmers came from nearby Credenhill, so we can imagine them listening to the woodpeckers in orchards and woods like these. There is much more information at the Hereford cider museum (01432 354207).

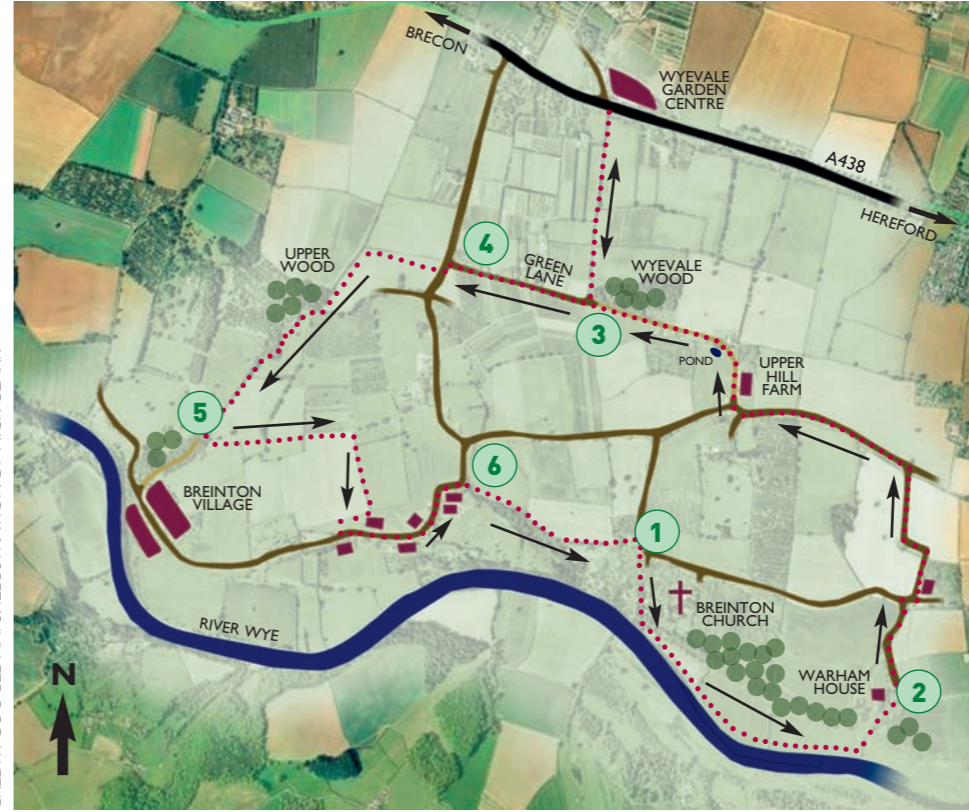
3 Now you come to a crossroads of paths. If you wish to visit Wyevale garden centre for refreshments, take the right hand path which leads straight down to the Kings Acre Road directly opposite the centre. This will add a mile to the walk. If you have come by bus, you will start down this path. Otherwise go ahead, staying on the bridleway, which shortly becomes a Tarmac lane called Green Lane. Green Lane was a drovers' road along which huge herds of Welsh cattle passed en route to Hereford and London. The drovers stayed overnight at an area called the King's Acre, where there was a drinking pond for the animals.

4 Follow the lane to the T junction, cross the road; go over a stile into the field and walk straight ahead,

keeping to the right hand edge. At the top corner of the field, turn left and follow the path along the edge until it drops away to your right, entering a small wooded area. Climb over the stile into the wood, follow the path through and over another stile into an attractive orchard – listening out for those woodpeckers! In the orchard bear left and follow a path upwards on the edge of the trees to a stile in the fence. Pause to enjoy the spectacular views towards Hay Bluff. Climb over the stile and go straight ahead to the next fence where the stile is close to the left edge. Continue ahead in the next field to another stile in the corner which takes you into a small wood. Follow the marked path through the wood until you reach a stile on your left. Climb over the stile onto a lane, and turn left immediately through a metal gate.

5 We have now re-joined the Wye Valley trail, a 136 mile trail along the Wye from its source on Plynlimon to Chepstow. In Herefordshire we are lucky to have four long distance paths, Wye Valley trail, Mortimer's trail, Offa's Dyke path and of course our own Herefordshire Trail. There is a constant need

Woodpeckers flourish here, as they do in the many orchards around Breinton. Percy and Fred Bulmer launched their legendary Woodpecker brand in 1896



THE BREINTON CIDER TRAIL

Start/Parking: National Trust car park at Lower Breinton, GR 473396

Maps: OS Explorer 189

Length: 5 1/2 miles

Grade: Easy

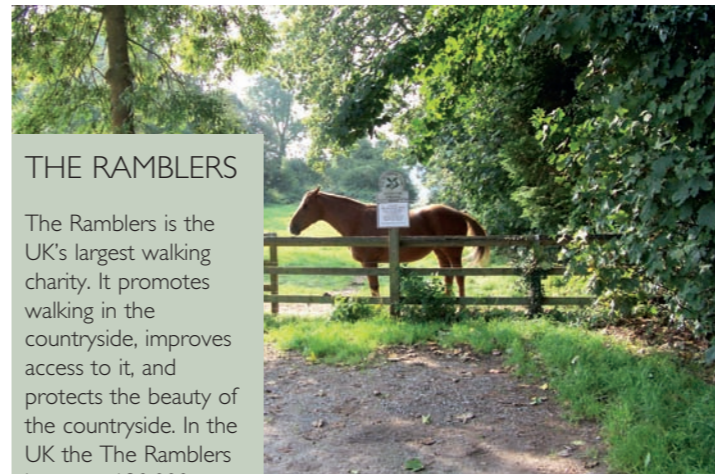
Stiles: 10

Nearest town: Hereford

Refreshments: Wyevale garden centre, tel: 01432 266261.

Toilets: Wyevale garden centre

Public transport: First 71 bus from Eign Street, Hereford towards Credenhill. Get off the bus at Wyevale nurseries and start the walk there at no. 3 below. Tel: 0800 5877321 for details.



THE RAMBLERS

The Ramblers 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 The Ramblers 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. For more information about Herefordshire Ramblers ring Tom Fisher on tel: 01886 821544 or email tom.fisher@virgin.net



for walkers to report any footpath problems. That is the only way to ensure the network is properly maintained. The number to ring is 01432 260572. Turn right and keeping close to the right hand hedge follow the path upwards to a gate in the corner. Go through the gate and turn left, crossing the field to the opposite boundary. After a few yards you will see a gate ahead. Go through this gate onto a wide track and descend a short distance where you will see two metal gates on your right. Take the first metal gate and keeping close to the left edge of the field go across the field to a kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and bear right diagonally across this paddock to the corner fence of a large garden. Climb the stile into the fenced in path and follow it down to the road via another stile. On the tarmac road turn left and proceed carefully through Breinton village. As

the road swings left you will see a large complex of renovated buildings on your right. The road turns sharply right as you go down hill then at the bottom swings sharp left. At this corner look for a small footbridge hidden in the trees on the right, which leads up steps to a kissing gate.

6 Take this footpath up into a large field and go across the field bearing right to the far right corner where there is a stile. Cross the stile, bear right and follow the path at the edge of the field to the far corner. Exit the field through a kissing gate into a lane; turn right and follow the lane onto a road. Cross the road to a small gate into a paddock. Bear left to another gate. Follow the path through the paddock to the opposite corner and exit through a kissing gate onto a lane. Turn right to the car park. ■