The bus ride and how to get to the walks

It is possible to travel to Ross-on-Wye on Bus 37 from Hereford Country Bus Station on Mondays to Saturdays at 1045, 1245 and 1720.

Journeys to Hereford from Ross-on-Wye leave at 0720, 0940, 1045, 1245 and 1720.

There is no Sunday service on the 37 route.

Walking Routes

Travel from Hereford Country Bus Station to Little Dewchurch (and Hoarwithy) on the 37 bus on Mondays to Saturdays at 1140, 1340 and 1750.

Buses from Ross-on-Wye (Cantilupe Road) leave at 1140 and 1340.

Buses return from Hoarwithy (New Harp Inn) to Ross-on-Wye at 1115, 1315 and 1700.

Bus 32/33 runs from Hereford (Country Bus Station) to Pengethley Manor at 40 minutes past the hour until 1940 then at 2030, 2130 and 2300 on Mondays to Saturdays. The exception is the 1440 which runs 10 mins later in the School Holidays. There are additional services mid afternoon on Mondays to Fridays.

On Sundays the bus leaves Hereford (Country Bus Station) at 1140, 1340, 1540 and 1740.

Buses times from Peterstow (Post Office) to Hereford are 45 minutes past the hour until 1645 then 1755, 1845, 2045, 2045 and 2249. Buses call at Hoarwithy End 5 minutes later and then at 2053 and 2253. There are additional buses at 1515, 1625 and 1715 on Mondays to Fridays.

On Sundays buses depart from Peterstow (Post Office) to Hereford at 1101, 1301, 1501, 1701 and 1901.

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Walk 1 from Little Dewchurch

6-7 mile easy walk following, in the main, the Herefordshire Trail. There are some steep climbs and it can be muddy or waterlogged in the Sellack area after heavy rains. If you prefer a shorter walk (4½ miles) start at Harewood (point 5). Allow 4 hours to walk the entire route.

OS Map: Explorer 189 Hereford and Ross-on-Wye

This is a linear walk from Little Dewchurch through rich red sandstone country to one of Herefordshire’s finest Victorian churches at Hoarwithy. The walk passes through Shieldbrook Caple to the Wye at Sellack Bridge and onward to Upper Grove Common and finally across fields to Harewood End.

Mostly on paths with some country lanes. There are four pubs on this walk, the Plough Inn at the beginning, the New Harp Inn at Hoarwithy (with village shop and post office), and the Lough Pool Inn at Sellack and finally the Yew Tree Inn at Peterstow. There is also a village shop at Peterstow so there are plenty of opportunities for refreshment.

Ask the bus driver to let you off at Little Dewchurch.

1. From bus shelter, turn right following the footpath sign on a track alongside a field. After a few yards cut away from the track to follow a path, slightly left across the lawn. Cross a stile to go over a track, then bear right to a field corner. Now turn left to follow the hedge and stream on your right, but only part way down, as you take the well worn path left to a stile. Cross this and head slightly right to a stile in the top right corner. Go over it and keep ahead in the pasture where there are many views across to May Hill (left), ahead for the Forest of Dean and on the right the Garway Hills.

2. Climb over the next stile and head slightly left alongside the hedge to reach a stile in the bottom corner of the pasture. Keep left alongside a hedge but in about 50 yards go left up steps and cross a stile into the next field. Turn right to walk down a green track and over the bottom corner of a field. Then cross a stile and follow the hedge on the right to a barred gate. Go through this to a road.

3. Keep ahead to a junction where you turn left to pass Prothither Farm in the valley of the Wriggles Brook which looks small but once powered several mills. Walk down the road, but keep a look out for a footpath on the left, opposite a barred gate. Go left here, through a metal barred gate but, before a second gate, go right over a stile and climb steeply up a bank to cross a bridleway by way of stiles and steps.

4. The path now proceeds along the top of the hillside through rough ground; you’ll see the beautiful bow top gypsy wagons by the stream below (Wriggles Bridge – Gypsy B&B). Ignore the left turning and cross the stile ahead into a pasture. You’ll see the tower of St Catherine’s Church at Hoarwithy so you are not far off now. Keep ahead to pass by Upper Barn, on the left, and onwards through two kissing gates to reach a track down to a road. Go right to descend into the village. The steps leading to St Catherine’s Church are on the right and it really is worth a visit. Keep ahead to the New Harp Inn where there the bus stop.

5. From the New Harp Inn turn right to retrace your steps to a road junction again but now keep right and at the second junction ahead to the Hoarwithy Bridge, guarded by an old toll house. This crossing point was known in earlier times as the Hoarwithy Passage; see Trackway to Tump降落. The Old Roads of Herefordshire by local author, Heather Hurley, for a more detailed story.

6. Once over, go right along a green track through bushes. This goes out onto a lane; keep ahead here. It rises up to King’s Caple Church; the 14th century spire is a landmark for miles around. Opposite stands the castle tumph, thought to have been built by the Normans not long after the Conquest in 1066.

7. Pass by the Georgian King’s Caple Court and keep ahead at the crossroads by the old Sunday school. Beyond the primary school, look for a path on the right by High House. A green way between hedges leads to two barred gates and then goes out into a orchard. Keep to the path of a gateway ahead, then cross a stile. Enter a large field and head slightly right towards Sellack Church, seen in the distance. On reaching the hedge go left down to a stile and road. Turn right for Sellack Boat and when you reach the first right, go left to Sellack Bridge. However, shieldbrook Sculpture Park is to the right but opening times are limited; see www.shieldbrooksculpturegarden.com

8. Sellack Bridge was built in 1895 mainly at the instigation of the Reverend Augustus Lewis to enable to attend Sellack Church and King’s Caple Church. He and the ferryman did not get on that well and the clergymen pressed the case for a more permanent crossing and here the result was the sale. Proceed ahead over the bridge and water meadows to the church. There’s a stile on the bank which leads to a lane. Go left to pass the fine sandstone church dedicated to St Tysilio, the only one in England, and with many fine interior features.

9. At the end of the churchyard, look for a stile on the right. Cross it and keep ahead through a pasture beneath a wooted slope to a stile which leads into the wood. With a little more trouble take the old road (leaving the Herefordshire Trail for a while) and follow the path through to a gateway leading to a shallower Wye Valley which leads to a bridle gate and path to a road. Go left and right to pass by the Lough Pool Inn. The pool is to the right but is now dried out. Walk up the lane through Upper Grove Common to a junction where you go right and at the next junction keep ahead; there’s a pool on the right. You are back on the Herefordshire Trail and in about 100 yards go left through a gate to follow the hedge ahead to another gate. Go through and descend to a stile in the valley bottom. The path leads to a footbridge over the infant Wells Brook. Cross a stile and then turn left on a track to a small gate by a barred gate.

10. Go through here and rise next to restored buildings at The Flann. Walk up the drive and go through a metal gate next to a barn to the left and then ahead to a point where reaching the entrance to Peterstow Church, cut right to a cross and go up steps to a gate to cross a field on a well worn path to the church. Go right through the churchyard. The stop for Hereford is on the right at the edge of the common; the stop for Ross-on-Wye is just beyond the village store.

Walk 2 from Pengethley Park

This is a linear walk of two parts. It is an easy walk (6½ miles) on paths and lanes to Hoarwithy with an additional 2 mile link to Harewood End with some climbs. Allow 2½ hours walking time for the full walk. OS Map: Explorer 189 Hereford and Ross-on-Wye.

The walk descends through beautiful parkland beneath Pengethley Manor Hotel, originating from the 16th century, to Hentland Church and through to Hoarwithy, where there’s a public house with a shop and post office. Ask the driver of the 32 or 33 bus to drop you at Pengethley Manor Hotel. The return bus will be the 37 bus from the New Harp Inn at Hoarwithy or the 52/53 from Harewood End.

1. Alight from the bus at the Pengethley Manor stop. Facing the stop, go left and through a kissing gate into Pengethley Gate, now managed by the National Trust. Head slightly left down to a corner where there’s a pool to the right. Go slightly right down and along a line of trees to a kissing gate with Hentland Church in view beyond. Once through, go on towards the church, keeping to the left of the pool and passing near to several ancient oak trees some of which may well be 600 years old. Cross through the kissing gate onto a lane with Hentland Church to your right. Dedicated to St Dwellius the church is reckoned to have originated in the 6th century although what you see today is a mixture of renovations in late medieval and Jacobean times.

2. Follow the lane ahead for half a mile to a junction. Keep ahead on the road to Hentland House. The road bends right but you continue ahead on a track; there’s a superb view over to King’s Caple Church and Mance Ridge beyond. The track forks and you keep ahead. At the next junction, within about 20 yards, keep slightly left down a sunken lane to a stile by a gate.

3. Cross it and keep ahead along a hedge. Cross the next stile by a gate and keep ahead once again. Go slightly left over two more stiles and proceed through a long pasture with views over the Wye Valley and to King’s Caple Church. Cross a stile into woodland and the path joins a track which is crossed. Continue ahead by Quarry Bank to drop down to the road. Beware of traffic as you walk ahead into the village. The New Harp Inn is on the right.

4. For those continuing to Harewood End, retrace your steps back along the road to the corner where you entered but now turn right on a tarmac drive to Redbrook Farm. However, within a few steps cut off left through a barred gate and the path climbs, slightly right and fairly steeply, up the hillside to join a hedge. There’s a superb view of the church and Wye Valley from this point. Cross a stile by a holly bush and keep ahead.

5. You pass to the right of Llanfrother, and the path veers slightly right next to a fence on the left to reach a gate into woodland. Make your way through to the other end and then head slightly right across the dry valley to join a track which climbs up, through a barred gate to Woodlands Farm. Go through a yard where ponies are kept (please shut the gate firmly so they don’t escape!). This leads to a track by the farmhouse where you turn left.

6. The path runs in a straight line, climbing gently between fields, as you make your way towards Harewood End. It then turns sharply left but you continue ahead on a leafy green lane to the edge of the village where it joins a drive by a tall hedge. This leads to the stop A49 road and the Harewood End Inn stands just to the right. The bus stop for Ross-on-Wye is to the left and the stop for Hereford is across the road (cross with care).