

THE RIVERSIDE
At Aymestrey

CROFT AMBREY HILLFORT

500-1000 ft
MODERATE

KEY TO MAP

- Road
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Track
- Live link
- Viewpoint
- Take care!
- Cafe
- Parking
- Church
- Ascent
- Descent
- Picnic site

GPX FOR APPS

We can email you the GPX file for this walk - just ask!



Map Sheet

THE RIVERSIDE
AYMESTREY

MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

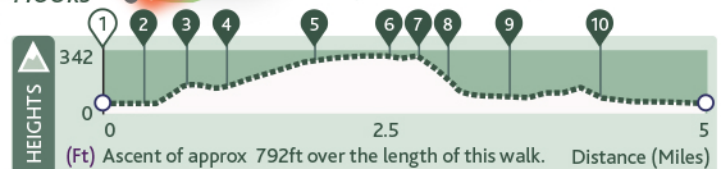
Scan or click me here.



CROFT AMBREY HILLFORT
Croft Ambrey is a magnificent Iron Age hillfort, proudly dominating the landscape of north Herefordshire. Perched atop a prominent hill near the village of Croft, this univallate (single-ramparted) fort offers commanding views across the surrounding Marches. Its strategic position, overlooking the Lugg Valley and the distant Malvern Hills, undoubtedly contributed to its significance in ancient times.

An artist's impression of a hillfort like Croft Ambrey with its terraces and huts on top.

Believed to have been constructed in the 6th century BC and continuously occupied until the 1st century AD, Croft Ambrey represents a substantial undertaking. Archaeological excavations in the mid-20th century, particularly by Stanford, revealed extensive evidence of a thriving community within its formidable defenses. The visible remains today include a massive earthen rampart and an impressive ditch, encircling an area of approximately 22 acres. The main entrance,



often a vulnerable point, is particularly well-preserved, showcasing the intricate defensive architecture of the Iron Age, with its complex outworks and multiple gateways.

Inside the hillfort, excavations unearthed numerous post-holes indicating the presence of many roundhouses,

suggesting a considerable population. Evidence of pottery, metalworking, and agricultural practices paints a picture of a largely self-sufficient and organized society. The longevity of its occupation suggests it was a vital centre, perhaps for trade, communal gatherings, or as a defensive refuge for the local tribal group, likely the Dobunni or Silures depending on the period.



Point 2
BESPOKE MAPPING SOLUTIONS

DIRECTIONS

Key L = Turn Left | TR = Turn Right | FP = Footpath | MT = Mortimer Trail

THE RIVERSIDE

At Aymestrey

CIRCULAR WALK 04

8.3 kms / 5.15 Miles

> 2.5 Hrs

Climb

CROFT AMBREY HILLFORT

500-1000 ft
MODERATE

1 TL from the Riverside's front door, cross the River Lugg and then cross the A4110 to the gate for the Mortimer Trail aside the gatehouse (please be careful here, this can be a fast road). Continue straight until you see the next gate ahead in corner of field. Go through gate and you should see path bearing slightly right ahead over fields (a further couple more stiles/gates) to the foot of the wood (horses grazed occasionally here).

2 At foot of wood go through gate then look to see path going uphill into the wood. Continue up until you cross another track. Steps continue up into the wood, continue uphill until you eventually arrive at a gate to open fields (The Moors).

3 Go across field ahead to next stile (cattle grazed occasionally in these fields). Path bears slightly left next to field corner and another couple of stiles. Go right through hedge stiles (don't go through horse field ahead/on left) and on to corner of next field past information board. Go over stile as path bears left to track.

4 TL at track and continue uphill past Hill Farm on your L until you reach the gates for the woodland. Continue up track through wood for some way until you see small path on L (if you miss it then just TL at Log yard down on the Mortimer Trail).

5 Path bears right at junction of paths, continue straight then go over stile from wood into open common (this can be slightly overgrown in summer) across Yatton Hill to the foot of Croft Ambrey Hillfort and a junction of paths.

6 At foot of hill fort TL on covered path that runs along the foot of the fort path the stile that take you up on R into the fort proper. Continue on path ahead as it eventually bears slightly right and

uphill (ignore paths down to left here). Continue on Mortimer Trail path until you reach a vantage point and bench where you can have a well-earned rest if needed while admiring the view.

7 Path splits by bench, go straight ahead (don't follow MT on right path bench). Path goes downhill on common (this can be slightly overgrown in summer) past tall Scots Pine trees. Continue down to junction of paths, TR here and down into covered 'Holloway'.

8 Look for path at gate after house on L. Go through and downhill on track that follows field edge to Yatton Farm/Yatton and then continue on minor road past Upper Patton Farm on R to A4110 junction (please be careful here, this can be a fast road).

9 TL over grass verge to point opposite track on opposite side of the road. Cross road and through gate uphill, track runs to the right of Pyon Wood (Private) and up/along past field gate on R. Continue straight on path (this can be slightly overgrown in summer) uphill and over so that you can see the top of Ballsgate Cottage and the valley ahead. Continue down track to corner of minor road.

10 TL here on the corner and follow the road (keeping the River Lugg on your right, this section is also the Mortimer Trail) through Garden House Wood and past Garden House on L with it's impressive walled garden. Continue to junction of A4110 and TR here back over the River Lugg to your start point at the Riverside.

THE MOORS - GRASSLANDS

A marbled white butterfly.



British ancient grasslands, vibrant in summer, teem with diverse life. Among the rich tapestry of plants, you'll find a striking array of wildflowers like Greater Knapweed, Field Scabious, Lady's Bedstraw, and various clovers, providing vital nectar. Delicate orchids, such as the Common Spotted-orchid and Bee Orchid, add splashes of colour. Grasses like Sweet Vernal-grass and Crested Dog's-tail form the foundation.

This floral bounty supports a buzzing insect world. Bees (bumblebees and solitary bees) are constant visitors, vital for pollination. Butterflies, including the striking Marbled White, Common Blue, and Meadow Brown, flit between flowers. Look closely for grasshoppers, crickets, and an array of beetles, from iridescent leaf beetles to ground beetles. Many moths will also be present, often camouflaged among the vegetation, contributing to the intricate food web.