

Isle of Rhea, Bowley Town and Hampton Park

A riverside and ridge walk with views to the Black Mountains and Cleve and South Shropshire hills

5 miles (8 km.)

**Start:- Car park at Bodenham Parish Hall, or
England's Gate Inn (S) opposite**

Explorer 202 or Pathfinder 994 GR 545 514

To complete this as a circular walk will involve a return along the grass verge of the A417. Do not be put off this rewarding walk, however, as you can enjoy the walk by turning about at any point on the ridge and retracing your steps to the stile above Clayfield Cottage. Turn left along the track to Bowley Town, right down Bowley Lane passing Broadfield Court (M) and left at Saffron's Cross (H) to your starting point.

Start from the Parish Hall and turn right, or left from England's Gate Inn (S) for about 200 metres on the A417 to cross a stile in the hedge on the left at Calderwell (R). Follow the hedge on the right to a stile in the hedge ahead and turn left down Ketch Lane to the tee junction. Turn right for 100 metres and cross a footbridge on the right. Here the right of way goes across the field but the landowners kindly invite you to take the far more interesting and pleasant route along the riverside. Accordingly walk along the riverbank through two fields



Hampton Court

until you come to a stream from the right (P). Follow the stream on your left to a footbridge which you cross and walk diagonally left to a stile on the A417.

Turn right for 100 metres and cross the road to walk up the lane through the Isle of Rhea until you reach a stile. Cross this and follow first the hedge on your right and then the line of trees to reach a stile in the top right corner of the field. As you follow the route of the old Bowley Lane to Leominster, continue steadily uphill over three more stiles, not forgetting to turn for the view towards the Black Mountains. Continue to a fourth stile at the gate below Clayfield Cottage and on to the track towards Bowley Town, which you follow for about 100 metres to a stile on your left.

With Bowley Court (N) over to your right the route continues across the field, parallel to the hedge on your left. With views towards the Black Mountains on your left and the Cleve and South Shropshire Hills on your right cross a stile in the hedge ahead. Continue alongside the hedge on your right and through the gate ahead into a large field. On roughly the same line walk to the left of the clump of trees in this field ahead to cross a stile in the corner of the field into Hampton Park. Walk to the left of the conifers on your right and downhill towards a cattle watering trough and a stile alongside. Cross the track and the stile and bear left to the far left corner of the field and on to the A417 almost opposite the gate to Hampton Court (Q). Cross the road and turn left to reach and walk along the grass verge to your starting point.

