Two Churches and a Vineyard

Points of Interest

Colwall Church dates from around 1300 and there are windows of that date. There are later alterations as in many parish churches, especially when the parish has grown in the way Colwall has. The tower is also fourteenth century as is the preaching arch in the chancel. However, the oldest remnant of the church may well be the Saxon fane whose reclinum moon shape is visible embedded on the south side of the west window. There are fine yew trees together with Victorian plantings of conifers. The half timbered ale house to the east was used after the services in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Instead of sauer collections to maintain the church, ale was sold and the profits would go towards the upkeep of the church. The ale house has been restored and is used for village meetings.

The farm building ahead on your left is Moorcroft, which gave its name to the ‘Moorcroft’ pear, a single trunk that characterise

growing into the many stems on a

browsing line, new growth can escape being nibbled. This eventually

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are pollarded oaks and are typical of conifers. The half timbered ale house to the east was used after the services in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Instead of sauer collections to maintain the church, ale was sold and the profits would go towards the upkeep of the church. The ale house has been restored and is used for village meetings.

The large building on your right is Coddington Court, built in 1780. Prosperity came to Herefordshire in the eighteenth century and many landowners rebuilt their houses accordingly. Coddington Court is a classic of this vein.

The vineyard produces good white wine which it is possible to purchase in the shop. The two main grapes are Bacula and Ortega, which produce diarrhoea-resistant, grey wines with a pronounced bouquet. Recently the classic grape of Alsace, Pinot Gris, has been planted. These grapes are adapted to the short growing season of the vineyard. The soil has been restored to clay loam to increase the water flow away from the ice.

Coddington Church, like Colwall Church, dates from about 1300 and is too has Early English windows. The Victorian transept was quite extensive, but the church is still small and intimate. Outside, the preaching arch in the chancel is the earliest part of the present building dates from the sixteenth century, but there are later additions and adaptations. The park was extensive, covering the western side of the Malvern Hills from the Wyche Cutting to Chase End Hill and then back to Colwall.

From this point it is possible to see out oast houses (on your right) which were used for drying hops that were grown in large quantities in East Herefordshire. With the long vespers growing up the hop poles, they inundated the vineyards of warmer regions. With the relaxation of duty on beer, hop growing reached its zenith in the 1870s. Nowadays many hop yards have become redundant, and imported hops are used.

Also at point D are strangely shaped oak trees (see photograph). These are pollarded oaks and are typical of historic parkland. Pollarding is a way of growing timber and grazing stock, especially deer, together. By pruning the tree above the animals’ browsing line, new growth can escape being nibbled. This eventually grows into the many stems on a single trunk that characteristic pollarded trees.

The farm building ahead on your left is Moorcroft, which gave its name to the ‘Moorcroft’ pear, a traditional pear used to make pear or pear cider. Herefordshire and Worcestershire were famous for these trees and the symbol of the pear has been incorporated into the arms of Worcestershire. The National Collection of Pear Pears can be found at the Three Counties Showground on the eastern flank of the Malvern. The local name for these bitter pear pears is ‘strawberry’ because of the way the fruit grafts the tosset on the way to the stomach. Fortunately the drink they make is kinder to the throat.

The large building on your right is Coddington Court, built in 1780. Prosperity came to Herefordshire farming in the eighteenth century and many landowners rebuilt their houses accordingly. Coddington Court is a classic of this vein.

Ostorius, who was active in the area. An alternative is that it is named after Easter whose name is derived from the pre-christian Goddess of the rising sun, Oestrus, whose festival was at the vernal equinox. The trig point is not on the top for alignment reasons. There are great views in all directions and most people consider the views superior to those from the Malvern ridge.

The walled garden is part of Hope End House and predates the time when the poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, lived there as a youngster. Her father built a large house in Islamic style in 1815 complete with concrete minarets. There are still many fine trees that he planted which can be seen beyond the walled garden. Later, Mary Sumner, founder of the Mother’s Union, also spent her childhood here and it was her father who replaced Barrett’s building with one of his own. Most of the building burned down in 1918. The remains, with their distinctive gables, can be climbed through the trees after the walled garden.

Please contact Colwall Church for opening times. The church is a treasure trove of stained glass windows designed by Burne-Jones. There are some interesting buildings around the church including Church Farm and the sandstone Old School House. The walk includes both sandstone (from the valley) and limestone (from small quarries) buildings. The view from the west of the church towards Bosbury includes rolling hills, hop yards and red sandstone sols, typical of rural Herefordshire, with the Welsh Mountains in the background.

The large building on your right is Coddington Court, built in 1780. Prosperity came to Herefordshire farming in the eighteenth century and many landowners rebuilt their houses accordingly. Coddington Court is a classic of this vein.

A new of Park Farm and Coddington Church

Coddington Church, like Colwall Church, dates from about 1300 and is too has Early English windows. The Victorian transept was quite extensive, but the church is still small and intimate. Outside, the preaching arch in the chancel is the earliest part of the present building dates from the sixteenth century, but there are later additions and adaptations. The park was extensive, covering the western side of the Malvern Hills from the Wyche Cutting to Chase End Hill and then back to Colwall.

From point E it is possible to see out oast houses (on your right) which were used for drying hops that were grown in large quantities in East Herefordshire. With the long vespers growing up the hop poles, they inundated the vineyards of warmer regions. With the relaxation of duty on beer, hop growing reached its zenith in the 1870s. Nowadays many hop yards have become redundant, and imported hops are used.

Also at point D are strangely shaped oak trees (see photograph). These are pollarded oaks and are typical of historic parkland. Pollarding is a way of growing timber and grazing stock, especially deer, together. By pruning the tree above the animals’ browsing line, new growth can escape being nibbled. This eventually grows into the many stems on a single trunk that characteristic pollarded trees.

The farm building ahead on your left is Moorcroft, which gave its name to the ‘Moorcroft’ pear, a traditional pear used to make pear or pear cider. Herefordshire and Worcestershire were famous for these trees and the symbol of the pear has been incorporated into the arms of Worcestershire. The National Collection of Pear Pears can be found at the Three Counties Showground on the eastern flank of the Malvern. The local name for these bitter pear pears is ‘strawberry’ because of the way the fruit grafts the tosset on the way to the stomach. Fortunately the drink they make is kinder to the throat.

The large building on your right is Coddington Court, built in 1780. Prosperity came to Herefordshire farming in the eighteenth century and many landowners rebuilt their houses accordingly. Coddington Court is a classic of this vein.
THE MALVERN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Discovery Walk No. 2

Two Churches and a Vineyard

Points of Interest

Colwall Church dates from around 1300 and there are windows of that date. There are later alterations as in many parish churches, especially when the parish has grown in the way Colwall has. The tower is also fourteenth century as is the preaching cross in the churchyard. However, the oldest remnant of the church may well be the Saxon lintel whose reeding moon shape is visible embedded on the south side of the west window. There are fine yew trees together with Victorian plantings of conifers. The hall timbered ale house to the east was used after the services in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Instead of sober collections to maintain the church, ale would be sold and the profits would go towards the upkeep of the church. The ale house has been restored and is used for village meetings.

Park Farm is on the site where the Bishops of Hereford had a hunting lodge in medieval times. The earliest part of the present building dates from the sixteenth century, but there are later additions and alterations. The park was extensive, covering the western side of the Malvern Hills from the Wyche Cutting to Chase End Hill and then back to Colwall.

The stream is the Cradley Brook and this flows north into the river Teme. The extended northerly flow of the brook is unusual for a British waterway. The various ice ages and their accompanying ice sheets tended to hail from the north, and in consequence forced waterways to find new channels to flow away from the ice.

From this point it is possible to see out houses (on your right) which were used for drying hops that were grown in large quantities in East Herefordshire. With their long vines growing up the hop poles, they surrounded the vineyards of warmer regions. With the relaxation of duty on hops, hop growing reached its zenith in the 1870s. Nowadays many hopyards have become redundant, and imported hops are used.

At point D are strangely shaped oak trees (see photograph). These are pollarded oaks and are typical of historic parkland. Pollarding is a way of growing timber and grazing stock, exceptedly, to together. By cutting the tree above the animals' branching line, new growth can escape being nibbled. This eventually grows into the many stems on a single trunk that characteristics pollarded trees.

This section of the walk is also part of the 'Ledbury Run', an extremely tough Hill county route, where pupils of Malvern College run from Ledbury to Malvern over two ranges of hills. It is also closely cote to, or actually on, a pilgrimage route from Hereford to Holywell on the Malvern Hills and may explain why both Colwall and Coddington Churches have preaching crosses.

The farm building ahead on your left is Mootenoch, which gave its name to the 'Mootenoch' pear, a traditional pear used to make pear or pear cider. Herefordshire and Worcestershire were famous for these trees and the symbol of the pear has been incorporated into the arms of Worcestershire. The National Collection of Perry Pear Trees can be found at the Three Counties Showground on the eastern flanks of the Malverns. The local name for these bitter perry pears is 'stranglers' because of the way they grow into the many stems on a single trunk that characterise pollarded trees.

On your right is a hawthorn hedge, typical of the enclosures of the nineteenth century. The choice of hawthorn was because of the strong thorns and fast growth. Hawthorn hedges became the "barbed wire" for new enclosures.

The vineyard produces good white wine which it is possible to purchase in the shop. The two main grapes are Baculaus and Ortega, which produce cleansing white/grey wines with a pronounced bouquet. Recently the classic grape of Albarin, Pinot Gris, has been planted. These grapes are adapted to the short growing season of Colwall and the open, often sunny, ground on the lower slopes of Oyster Hill is ideal. The vigour of vines, running down a warm southern facing slope, maximises the amount of warmth and sun that the vines enjoy. In warmer and earlier times, vineyards abandoned in southern England have been re-established because of warming climate and foreign imports from Europe. Even if you do not stop to buy wine, pause to admire the very beautiful garden framed by the old buildings behind. The house dates from 1788, the creak barn from 1794 and there is a cider mill in the shop.

When you look back to the north you will see the lovely view of Coddington. In the spring the wood to the east is carpeted with snow drops and bluebells.

The walled garden is part of Hope End House and predates the time when the poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, lived there as a teenager. Her father built a large house in Islamic style in 1883 complete with concrete minarets. There are still many fine trees that he planted which can be seen beyond the walled garden. Later, Mary Sommerton, founder of the Mother's Union, also spent her childhood here and it was her father who replaced Barrett’s building with one of his own. Most of the building burnt down in 1918. The remains, with their distinctive gables, can be climbed through the trees after the walled garden.

Oyster Hill is an unusual name and the most likely explanation is that it is named after the Roman General Ostorius, who was active in the area. An alternative is that it is named after Easter whose name is derived from the pre-christian Goddess of the rising sun, Oestrus, whose festival was at the vernal equinox. The trig point is not on the top for alignment reasons. There are great views in all directions and most people consider the views superior to those from the Malvern ridge.

The wall walks finishes with fine views of the church and Park Farm, framed by the Hills. It is at its best in the evening sunshine.

Coddington Church, like Colwall Church, dates from about 1300 and is too vast Early English windows. The Victorian restoration was quite extensive, but the church is still small and intimate. Outside, the preaching cross and mounted figure of St. John are impressive. The Victoria added the present crucifix on top. Inside the church are to be found stained glass windows by William Morris from designs by Burne-Jones. There are some interesting buildings around the church including Church Farm and the sunnise Old School House. The walls includes both sandstone (from the valley and limestone (from small quarries) building. The view from the west of the church towards Bowsbury includes rolling hills, hopyards and red sandstone and, typical of rural Herefordshire, with the Welsh Mountains in the background.

Essential Information

Staring Point

Colwall Church (SO734921)

Alternative Staring point

Coddington Church (SO738427), Colwall Station (SO736424)

If you arrive by train and start at the station, use the Colwall Fourpaths map (available from Colwall Post Office) to get to the church (1.4 km). There are many possibilities on the return journey leave the churchyard by the ale house and go straight across the lane onto footpath CW23; this leads to the cricket pitches, follow round Snowe Lane to join Wakesley Road which leads to Coddington and the Station (2 km).

Maps

Ordnance Survey Explorer 190; Colwall Parish Fourpaths map.

Distance

5.5 miles (8.8 km)

Terrain

Easy walking with one steady climb. A short stretch can be muddy in winter.

Refreshments

None; but Colwall itself has various inns and there is also a pub at Wellington Heath (at SO724906. 80m off the route).

Car Parking

At Colwall and Coddington Churches by kind permission of the Rector.

When out walking, please follow the COUNTRYSIDE CODE.

Use alternatives in your car whenever possible.

Keep to the public rights of way and designated areas of public access when crossing farmland.

Use appropriate gates and stiles and cross field boundaries.

Close all gates that you have opened.

Avoid damaging or disturbing wildlife, including plants and trees.

Keep dogs under close control and always clean up after them.

Guard against all risk of fire.

Take your litter home and dispose of it responsibly.

Public Transport Information

To check details and timetables of bus services contact County Bus Line. Tel: 0845 7125436.

For train information telephone 0845 7484950.

This is one of a series of Discovery walks in the AONB; for further details please contact the AONB.

Acknowledgements to: Dr J Ferguson and Colwall Parish Council.
THE MALVERN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Discovery Walk No. 2

A view of Park Farm and Coddington Church

Two Churches and a Vineyard

Points of Interest

Coddington Church dates from around 1300 and there are windows of that date. There are later alterations as in many parish churches, especially when the parish has grown in the way Coddington has. The tower is also fourteenth century as is the preaching cross in the churchyard. However, the oldest remnant of the church may well be the Saxon lintel whose relictining moon shaped is visible embedded on the south side of the west window. There are fine yew trees together with Victorian plantings of elms. The large timber framed house to the east was used after the services in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Instead of sober collections to maintain the church, ale would be sold and the profits would go towards the upkeep of the church. The ale house has been restored and is used for village meetings.

Park Farm is on the site where the Bishops of Hereford had a hunting lodge in medieval times. The earliest part of the present building dates from the sixteenth century, but there are later additions and adaptations. The park was extensive, covering the western side of the Malvern Hills from the Wyche Cutting to Chase End Hill and then back to Coddington.

The stream is the Cradley Brook and this flows north into the river Teme. The various ice ages and their accompanying ice sheets tended to spill over the north, and in consequence forced waterways to find new channels to flow away from the ice. From this point it is possible to see out houses (on your right) which were used for drying hops that were grown in large quantities in East Herefordshire. With their long vines growing up the hop poles, they surrounded the vineyards of warmer regions. With the relaxation of duty on beer, hop growing reached its zenith in the 1890s. Nowadays many hopyards have become redundant, and imported hops are used.

Also at point D are strangely shaped oak trees (see photograph). These are pollarded oaks and are typical of historical parkland. Pollarding is a way of growing timber and grazing stock, together. By putting the tree above the animal’s browsing line, new growth can escape being nibbled. This eventually grows into the many stems on a single trunk that characterise pollarded trees.

The farm building ahead on your left is Moorten, which grew its name to the ‘Moorten’s’ pea, a traditional pea used to make pork or pea caviar. Herefordshire and Worcestershire were famous for these peas and the symbol of the pea has been incorporated into the arms of Worcetershire. The National Collection of Pea Pea Trees can be found at the Three Counties Showground on the eastern flanks of the Malverns. The local name for these bitter peas is ‘stranglers’ because of the way these trees and the symbol of the pear has been incorporated into the arms of Worcetershire. The traditional pear used to make perry or pear cider. Herefordshire and Worcestershire were famous for Coddington Churches have preaching crosses.

The walk finishes with fine views of the Church and Park Farm, framed by the Hills. It is at its best in the evening sunshine.

Coddington Church, like Coddington Church, dates from about 1300 and is one of the most extensive in the country. The Victorian restoration was quite extensive, but the church is still small and intimate. Outside, the preaching cross is prominent and there are some particularly fine yew trees. The Victorian added the present crucifix on top. Inside the church are to be found stained glass windows by William Morris from designs by Burne-Jones. There are some interesting buildings around the church including Church Farm and the sunshin Old School House. The walk includes both sandstone (from the valley) and limestone (from small quarry buildings). The view from the west of the church towards Bowhay includes rolling hills, hopyards and red sandstone sol, typical of rural Herefordshire, with the Welsh Mountains in the background. The vineyard produces good white wine which it is possible to purchase in the shop. The two main grapes are Baccula and Orangers, which produce dramatically grey toes with a pronounced bouquet. Recently the classic grape of Alanz, Pinot Gris, has been planted. These grapes are adapted to the short growing season of the area. The smell of the vines, running down a warm southern facing slope, maintains the amount of warmth and sun that the vines enjoy. In winter and earlier times , vineyards abounded in southern England but then declined because of worsening climate and foreign imports from Europe. Even if you do not stop to buy wine, pause to admire the very beautiful garden framed by the old buildings behind. The house dates from 1730, the cream brick from 1740 and there is a cider mill in the shop.

Territory Easy walking with one steady climb. A short stretch can be muddy in winter.

Public Transport Information

To check detailed times and timetables of bus services contact County Bus Line. Tel 0845 7125436. For train information telephone 0845 7484950.

This is one of a series of Discovery walks in the AONB; for further details please contact the AONB.

Acknowledgements to: Dr J Ferguson and Coddington Parish Council.

Essential Information

Staring Point

Coddington Church (SO734921)

Alternative Starting point

Coddington Church (SO754847); Coddlington Station (SO754842)

If you arrive by train and start at the station, use the Coddington Fourways map (available from Colwall Post Office) to get to the church (1.6 km). There are many possibilities on the return journey leave the churchyard by the old house and go straight across the lane onto footpath C93); this leads to the cricket pitch; follow round Stone Lane to join Walwyn Road which leads to Coddington Stone and the Station (2 km).

Maps

Ordnance Survey Explorer 190; Coddington Parish Fourways map.

Distance

5.3 miles (8.5 km)

Terrain

Easy walking with one steady climb. A short stretch can be muddy in winter.

Refreshments

None; but Coddington itself has various inns and there is also a pub at Wellington Heath (at 0.72480, 780m off the route).

Car Parking

At Coddington and Coddington Churches by kind permission of the Rector.

When out walking, please follow the COUNTRYSIDE CODE.

Use alternatives in your car whenever possible.

Keep to the public rights of way and designated areas of public access when crossing farmland.

Use appropriate gates and respect field boundaries.

Close all gates that you have opened.

Avoid damaging or disturbing wildlife, including plants and trees.

Keep dogs under close control and always clean up after them.

Guard against all risk of fire.

Take your litter home and dispose of it responsibly.