



# Prior's Frome Woodland Walk



Produced by Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council

This walk will take you through ancient coppiced woodland, pastureland and beside traditional Herefordshire cider orchards. Its starting point at Swardon Quarry Picnic Site provides a magnificent viewpoint over the Wye, Lugg and Frome valleys. The round walk will take about an hour, but can be extended to include a second picnic spot at Checkley Barn with views over the Woolhope Dome on the Mordiford Circular Walk.

Access from the Dormington/ Mordiford road through Prior's Frome.

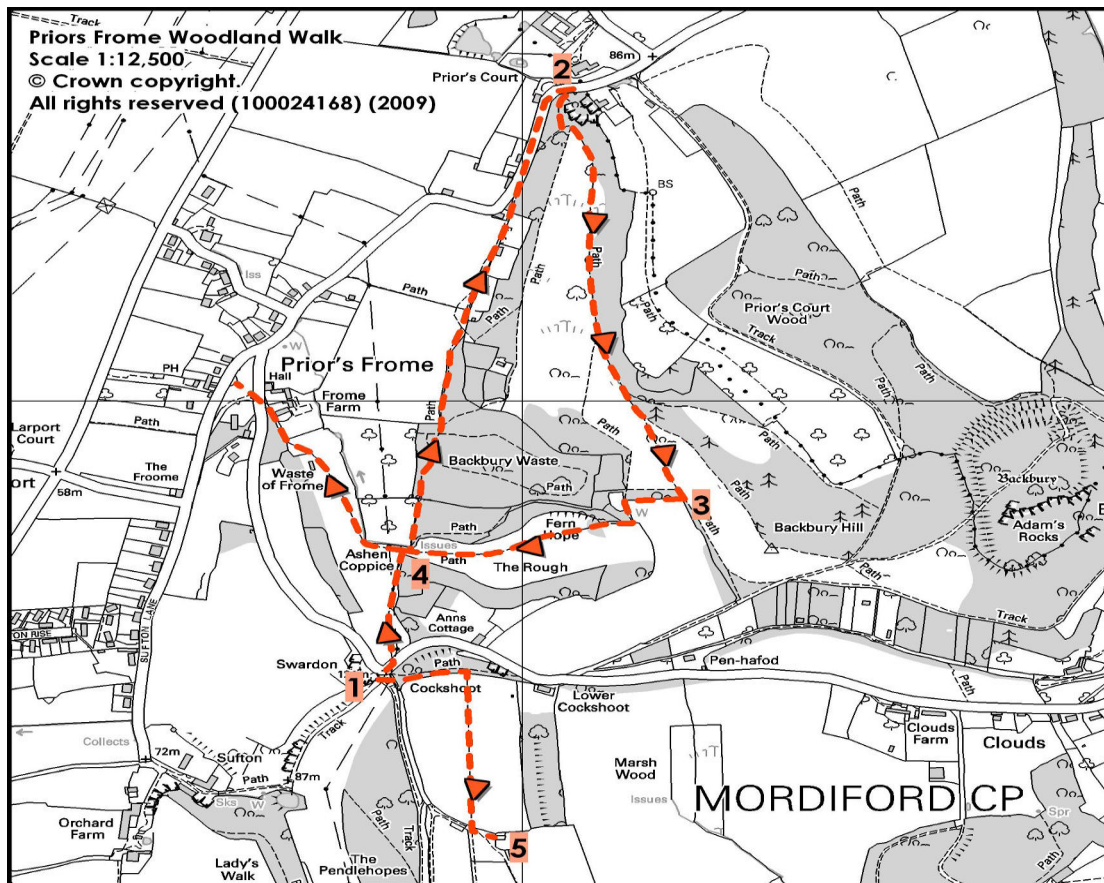
**Summary:** A relatively easy walk with only short, moderately steep climbs, although parts can be slippery and muddy when wet.

**Distance:** The circuit is about 1.5 miles and should take about an 1 hour to complete, although the directions indicate where it can be extended. As this walk links directly onto the Mordiford Circular Walk (4 miles), allow a further 2 hours to complete the full circuit.

The Circular walk is clearly waymarked throughout.

**Parking:** Swardon Quarry OS Explorer Map 189 SO578385





**Directions:**

1. Park at the Swardon Quarry car park. Start the walk in the field across the road, access via the kissing gate on the bend just a short distance away. Proceed down the hill keeping to the right and through the small gate in the hedge. Continue with the hedge on your left and woodland rising above to your right. Through the next gate and carry straight on, ignoring the alternative routes to right and left, (you will be returning here later in the walk). After a very short distance, pass through another gate and enter the woodland. The path follows the woodland edge with traditional cider orchards visible to your left. The path climbs gently into the wood with Oak, Ash, Cherry and Field Maple being the predominant species. Passing through yet another gate brings you back into open pasture.

Bear right following the upper edge of the field to the small metal gate and carry straight on into the lane, following the waymarker badges and continue as far as the road.

Bear right along the road for about 200 metres until the road bends to the right.

2. Turn right, up the slope through the kissing gate, just before the small vehicle pull in. The woodland path rises fairly steeply at first. Turn left at the waymarker post and follow the path up into the wood. The path meanders through some hazel coppiced woodland with bracken clearings, rising steadily all the while.

3. After about half a mile, climb over the stile on your right and keep to the right down the field slope. This slope is steep in places so care should be taken when it is wet and slippery. If you wish to avoid this stile, just continue along the track as you were, turn right at the junction with the circular walk track and right again when you reach the road. This will bring you back to Swardon Quarry.

4. At the bottom of the slope head for the left hand gate in the hedge (remember, you have been here before!). At this point retrace your steps through the gate on your left and follow the path up the slope.

Back at the Quarry, if you wish to extend your walk to access 5. Checkley Barn Picnic Site follow the Loop Walk sign in the small woodland on your left and take the first right into the field. The signpost to Checkley Barn will be seen beyond the stile at the far side of this field..