

Walk 5

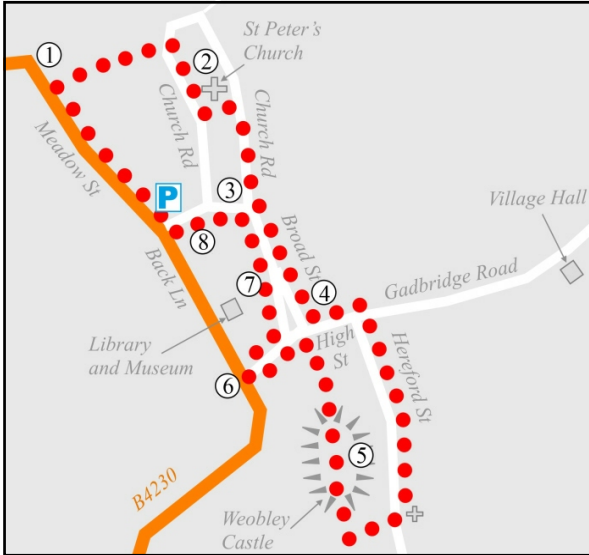
WEOBLEY, HEREFORDSHIRE



The Red Lion



The border region of Hereford and Worcestershire is one of England's best kept secrets. Attractive rolling countryside with historic little towns and hidden villages, its beauty is a surprise and delight. Weobley is one of these gems, an enclave of rare and ancient timber framed houses. Add to this a medieval church shaped by centuries of change and the old castle earthworks and you have a rustic village of genuine historic value.



This short walk passes the finest buildings in the village. The section down Hereford Street and back over the old castle can be muddy so omit it if desired. You can also walk up Back lane from (6) to (8) but it is narrow and has no pavement so I have suggested heading back via Broad Street.

Distance: 1 ½ miles approx. Plenty of cafes and pubs in the village.

Parking: There is a small car park just off the B4230 as marked on the map. If this is full there is additional parking at the Village Hall on Gadbridge Road.

All the houses are private so please respect owners privacy.

From the junction next to the car park turn right towards Leominster and walk along the pavement passing a number of timber framed houses on your left (pictured below). What you see today mostly dates from the 16th and 17th century although the core of some will be older. Although the black and white is distinctive most would have originally had their timber untreated and the panels between lime-washed or coloured as in the example bottom right ①.



Just before you get to the sharp left turn in the road turn right down the footpath behind the timber and brick outbuilding. This takes you to Church Lane where you turn right and walk down to the church. Turn in and take the path along its south side.

② *St Peter and St Paul's Church, HR4 8SD*
The building dates back over 800 years, although there are fragments from an even earlier church on the site. For all the interest inside and out it is the impressive tower and spire which dominate. It is assumed that due to its plain exterior and a drawbar on its only doorway that it was built with some degree of defence in mind during the 1330s and 40s. It was not until the 16th century that this border region became more settled.



St Peter's and St Paul's Church



The Red Lion



Once you have walked alongside the church turn right at the far end of the path and go down the lane to the Red Lion on the corner.

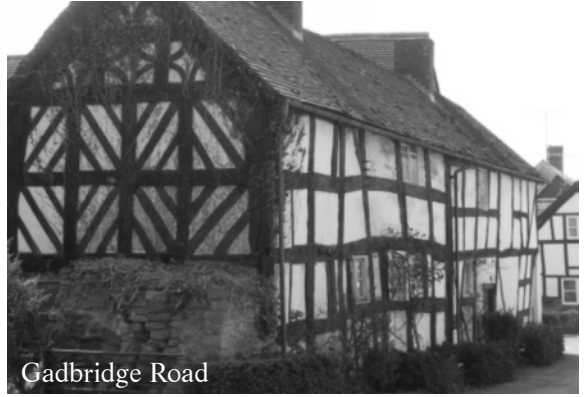
③ *The Red Lion, HR4 8SE.*
The Red Lion has parts dating back to the 14th century. Most old timber framed buildings like this are formed from box shaped units, a flexible system which made it easy to extend and alter them later. However an earlier system which is rare today relied upon two large, slightly curved timbers angled to form a triangle with the rest of the frame built off it. This crucks framing can be seen at the rear of the Red Lion (above left).



Late 14th century house,
opposite Red Lion



Broad Street



Gadbridge Road

From the Red Lion head south up Broad Street, the main village road, with fine buildings especially on the east side many dating from the 15th century. The open area in the centre of its southern end was originally the market place and had some old houses upon it but these burnt down in 1943. At the top turn left into High Street where there are an assortment of different patterned timber framed buildings (below) ④.



The Throne (16th century), Hereford Street

After a hundred yards follow the road as it turns sharp right down Hereford Street and then out of the old part of the village. Walk about 300 yards and then just before the red brick chapel cross the road and go down the public footpath opposite.



Late 14th century house



Unicorn Inn



16th century houses, High Street

One element of the oldest houses which has changed are the windows. Most of those you see will be later glazed replacements designed to let more light in and make the building look fashionable. Originally most windows would have been smaller openings with vertical timber bars called mullions. There would have usually been no glass just internal shutters or oiled cloth keeping the draughts out. They occasionally survive in a few of Weobley's houses as in this example. More often though the sockets left in the timbers above and below are discovered when a house is renovated showing where windows once were.



After 50 yards or so turn right up the footpath which takes you over the old castle earthworks, dating from the 11th century, ⑤ and back down to the southern end of Broad Street. Turn left and walk down to the Forge to see more of Weobley's timber framed buildings (below) ⑥.



17th century cottages, High Street

The Olde Salutation Inn

From here you can walk up Back Lane to the little museum and public toilets on the right and back to the car park this way. I suggest returning though the way you came, back up High Street, left by the old market place then along into Broad Street.



The Forge (left) and
14th century house (right)



Back Lane and old mill



⑦ The central hall and southern wing of a once larger 15th century house (left) alongside the old market place. At the top of Broad Street turn left by the Red Lion and back to the car park.

⑧ This pair of timber framed houses (right) opposite the car park date from the late 14th and early 15th century. Notice the little tracery timberwork in the top corner which could have been an original window.



If you want to find out more details about the area's architecture then look out for the Buildings of England series, originally written by Nicholas Pevsner (Herefordshire edition).

If you would like to discover more about timber framed houses then look out for my books pictured below. They are packed with photos and drawings explaining in an easy to understand manner how they were built, what the different styles were and where you can find some outstanding examples. They are available from Amazon, my publisher's website www.countrysidebooks.co.uk and your local bookshop (usually less than £10 each). Go to my website www.trevoryorke.co.uk for more details and to take a look inside.

