

## I. Black dogs and high tees

A walk on the Herefordshire border - Kington, Hergest Ridge and Rushock Hill

A great black hound with flaming eyes haunts the hills of Kington and is said to have inspired Conan Doyle's *Hound of the Baskervilles*. From Hergest Ridge you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views of a post-glacial landscape. A curious dog's leg in the line of Offa's Dyke on Rushock Hill leads you to the highest 18-hole golf course in England. But don't play around or the dog will get you!



### START/FINISH

OS Explorer 201

The walk starts at Kington Museum on Mill Street heading west out of town along Offa's Dyke Path. Park in Kington or Stanner (SO 256584) joining the route from there

### MAIN ROUTE


Distance: 13.7km (8 ½ miles).

Time: 4 – 4 ½ hrs

### DIFFICULTY



**1** From the START walk past the Market Hall and turn left up Church Street. Pass the Square and the Swan Hotel and bear right past the church. Turn left along Ridgeborne Road following signs to Hergest Croft Gardens. Keep going to eventually reach a gate onto Hergest Hill following Offa's Dyke Path.

**2** Continue for half a mile to cross the Old Racecourse and at the next signpost (on the crest of the hill) leave Offa's Dyke Path and turn right. Follow the path towards a small plantation of conifers at the base of Hanter Hill. Note the Whet Stone just off the path.  **Play your podcast here.**

**2a** The view from the Trig point at 2a is worth walking the extra half mile for but beware, the direct path from here to 3 is very steep.

**3** Turn right at the corner of the plantation onto the path that crosses the shoulder of Hanter Hill. A climb to the top of Hanter Hill in good weather will be rewarded by excellent views.

**4** Follow the path around towards Middle Hanter, until you come to a waymarked footpath on your right. Take this path and cross the field with Worsell Wood on your left.

Follow this path along the valley until you reach Vestry Farm.

*To take the short cut, go on past Vestry Farm and follow Yeld Lane back into Kington.*

**5** Turn left at the farm and follow the path along the farm track to where it joins the A44.

**6** Head up the lane directly opposite taking care crossing the A44. Follow the lane until it is crossed by a footpath at the brow of the hill.

**7** Turn right following the footpath until it crosses a fence at the bottom of Herrock Hill. Once over the fence turn immediately right and follow the fenceline around the bottom of the hill. Follow the path until it reaches a junction at a field corner and turn left up the hill to where the walk rejoins Offa's Dyke Path.

**8** Turn right onto the National Trail and follow it out onto the top of Rushock Hill. The path is well waymarked but be prepared for when it turns back on itself near Knill Garraway. **Play your podcast here.** 

**9** Continue along Offa's Dyke Path across Rushock Hill, following the waymarker posts and briefly the fence when it comes in from the left. Follow the path down the hill until it crosses a further stile. **Caution** stay on Offa's Dyke Path at this point ignoring the other footpath past the 'The Bower'.

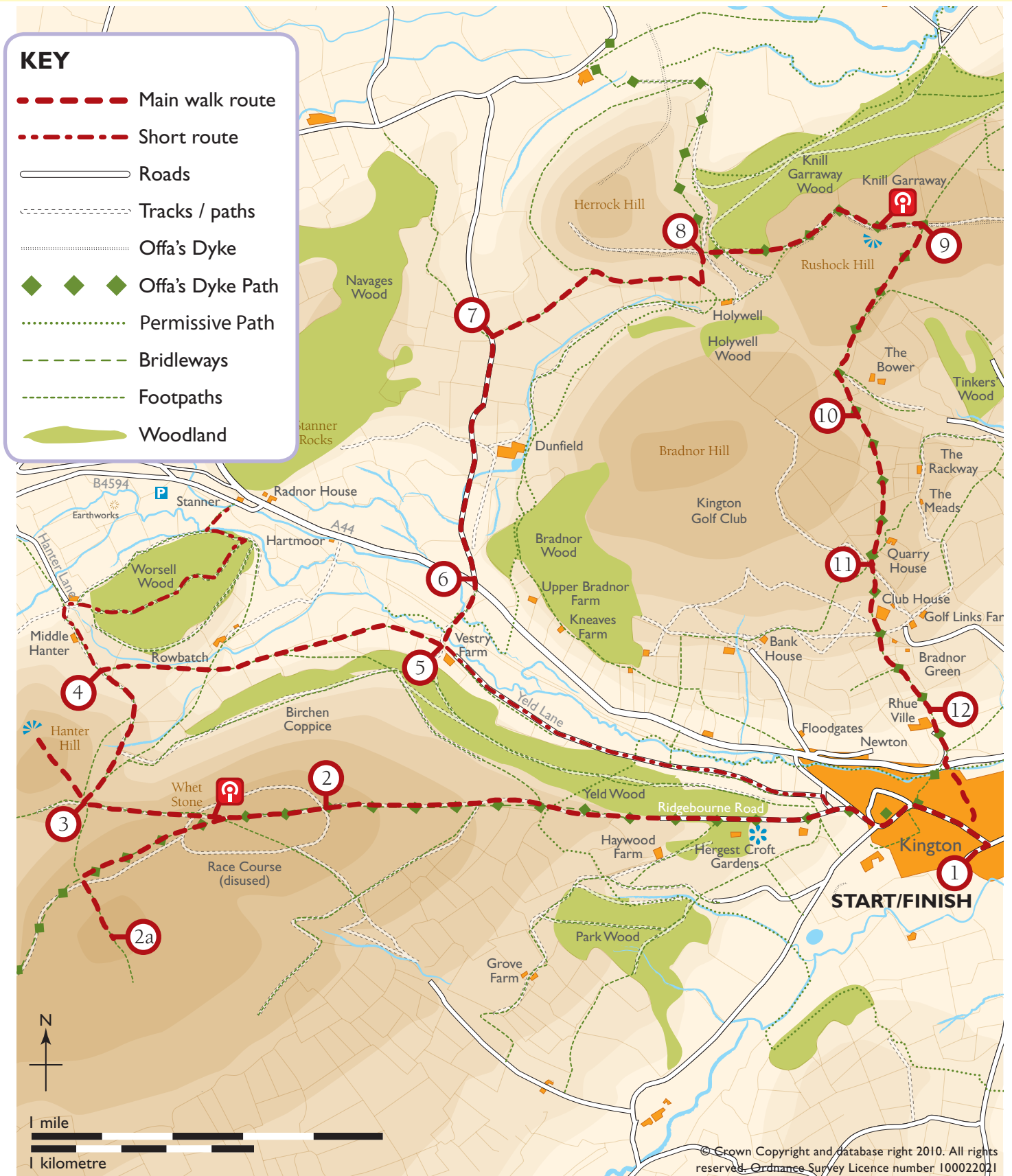
**10** Head left over two more stiles and then onwards to where the path meets a small piece of woodland. Follow the track keeping the woodland on your left until after a gate you see Quarry House down the hill and ahead of you. Head for the far corner of the field keeping the house on your left and then after a further gate keep going until you reach a cattle grid.

**11** Cross the cattle grid and follow the National Trail down the hill across the golf course fairway (watch out for golfers) and on past some scattered houses.

**12** Turn left at Rhue Ville and follow the lane to the bottom of the hill. Carefully cross the A44 into return to Kington and your starting point.

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