



Sir Edward Elgar –

The Elgar Route, Worcestershire

Auriol Ainley

The Third Age Trust, London

Pershore & District U3A

June 2020

The Malvern Hills

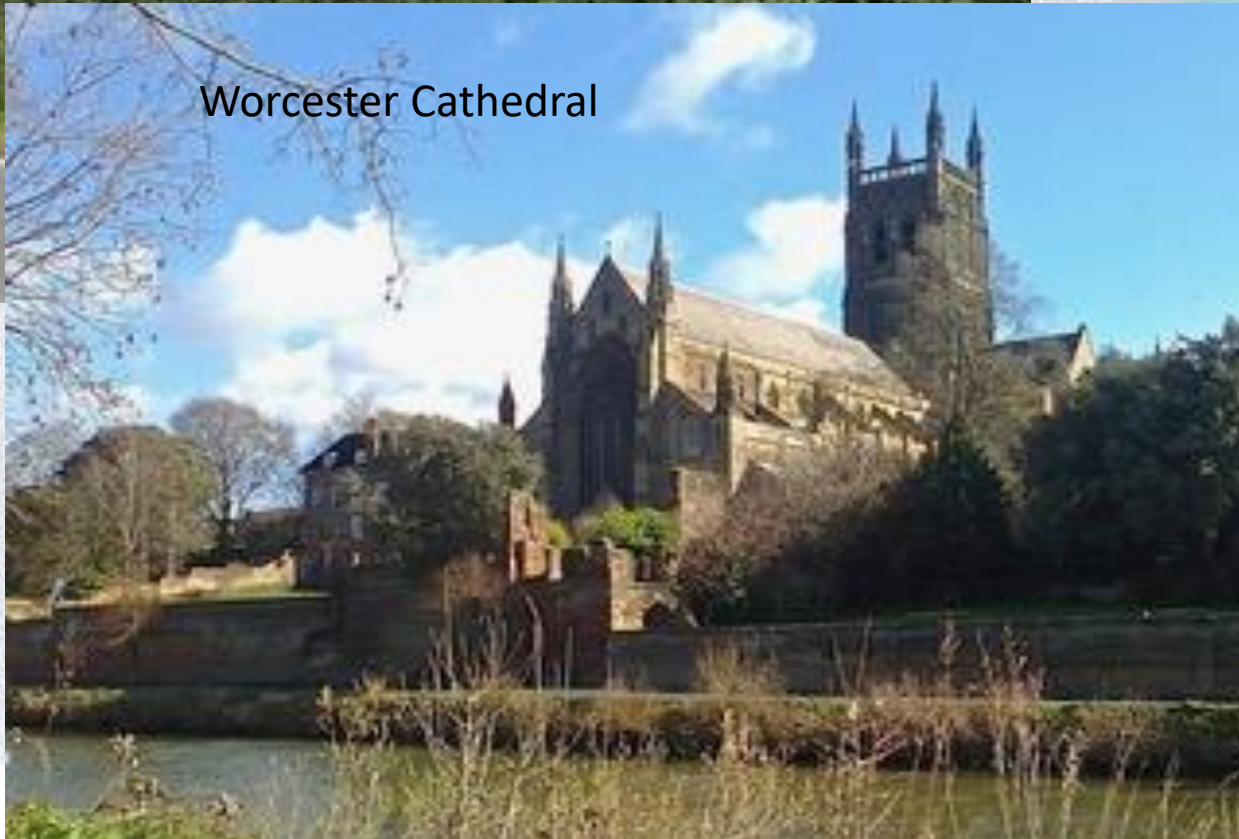


The Firs, Broadheath





Worcester Cathedral



Elgar's Statue



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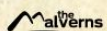
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Visit our website to view the Google map:
VisitTheMalverns.org/ElgarRoute

Malvern Tourist Information Centre
 Telephone: 01684 892289
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In the footsteps of Elgar

Three walks mapping Elgar's life.

Walk 1

Great Malvern to Worcestershire Beacon via St Ann's Well

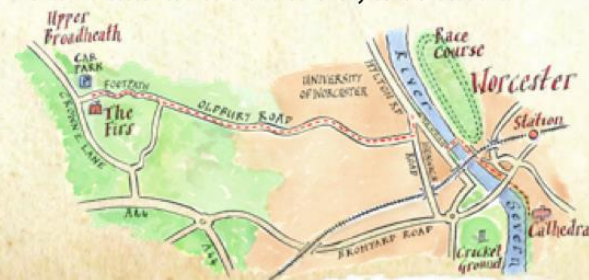
Start from the statue of Elgar located on Belle Vue Island in the centre of Great Malvern. Cross the main A449 road and head left up to Rose Bank Gardens and follow the wall to the right and up the '99' steps. Follow signs onto the Hills signposted St Ann's Well. Walk behind the café and follow the stone path climbing up to a main path running along the side of Sugarloaf hill heading southward towards the Worcestershire Beacon past the circular stone marker following the stone path to the summit.



Walk 2

The Firs: Elgar's Birthplace to centre of Worcester

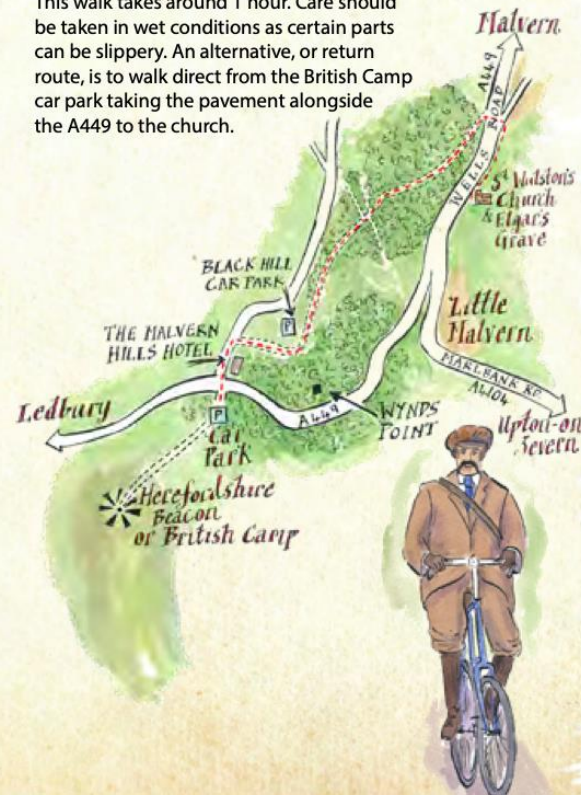
Leave The Firs car park and follow the bridge path across farmland towards Oldbury Grange and Worcester. Join Oldbury Road, continue to the T-junction, turn left onto Henwick Road and immediately right onto Hylton Road before crossing the river using Sabrina footbridge. From Deansway walk along the river to Worcester Cathedral and other city centre locations.



Walk 3

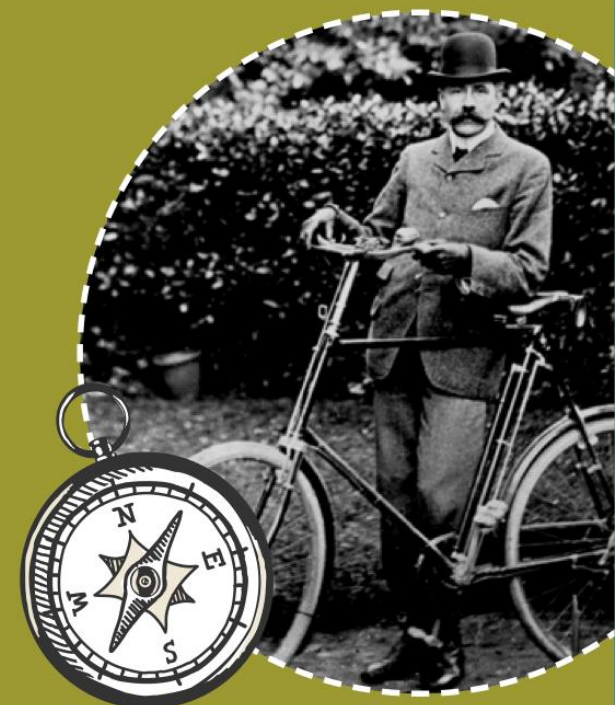
British Camp car park to St Wulstan's Church and Elgar graves

This walk starts at British Camp Car Park. Cross the A449 go past the Malvern Hills Hotel on to Jubilee Drive and follow the path above the road behind Wynds Point then taking the path above Blackhill car park. The easier access route flattens out and at the junction of multiple paths follow the right hand path heading east down the side of the hill, staying on right descending to Holywell Road and the junction with A449 Wells Road. Cross and turn right and follow the pavement down the St Wulstan's Church where the Elgar family graves are located. This walk takes around 1 hour. Care should be taken in wet conditions as certain parts can be slippery. An alternative, or return route, is to walk direct from the British Camp car park taking the pavement alongside the A449 to the church.



The Elgar Route

Explore the places which inspired some of Sir Edward Elgar's greatest works with this driving, walking and cycling route.



VisitTheMalverns.org/ElgarRoute



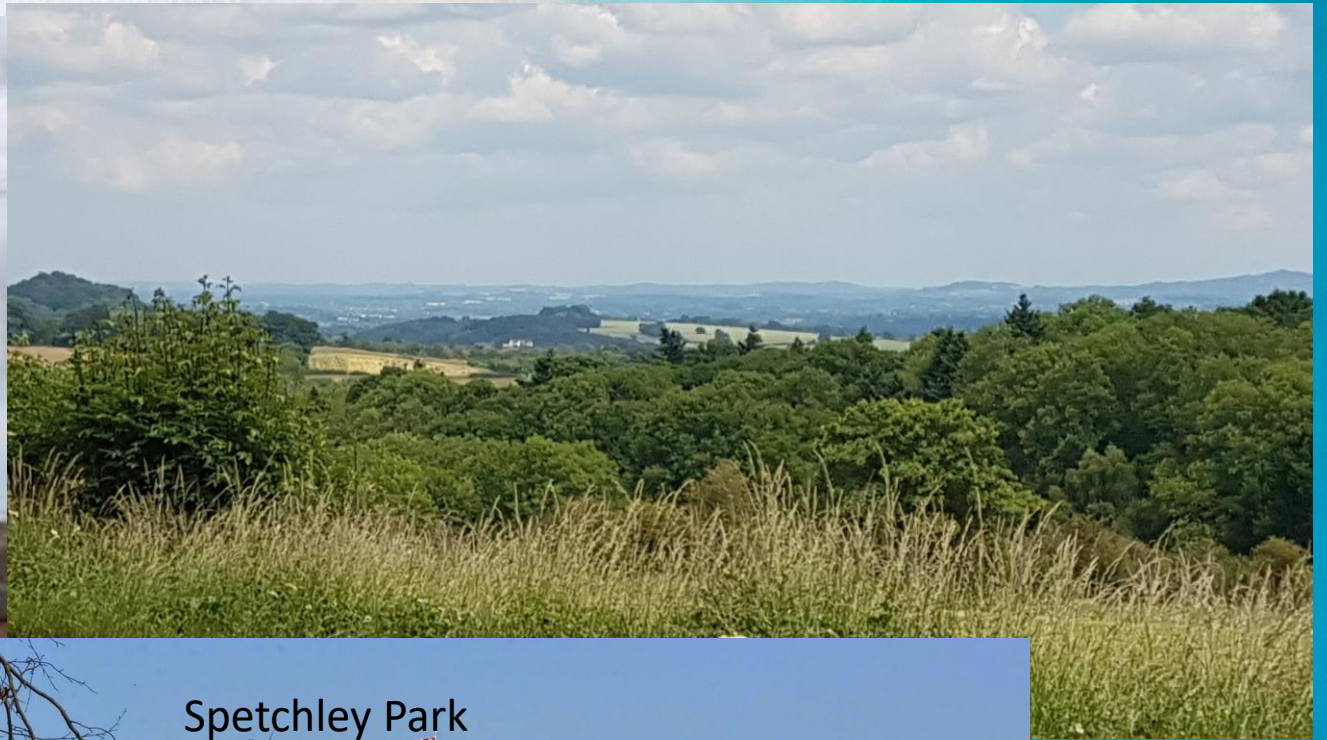
Elgar in Malvern





Upton upon Severn

The Pepperpot,
Upton upon Severn



Spetchley Park



Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934)
 regarded as one of the world's
 greatest composers. The inspiration
 for many of his greatest works came
 from the Malvern Hills.
 The Elgar Route signposts to
 a short tour through Elgar's life.

1. The Firs: Elgar's Birthplace, Lower
 Malvern
 Elgar was born at The Firs on 2 June 1857.
 Although he lived here for just two years
 before moving to the area and when he was made
 a baronet, he called himself Edward Elgar
 of Leamington. The cottage became
 a museum dedicated to Elgar's work
 after his death, on his instruction.
 It is now managed by the National Trust.

2. St. Ann's Church and St. Ann's

Elgar was baptised in the church
 on the corner of Church
 and Grange Road (Connell's) is
 the former Gentleman's Club. In Grange
 and Malvern Theatres, where Elgar
 and George Bernard Shaw found the
 Festival in 1929.

3. The Priory Museum, in The Priory
 House, was the workplace of notable
 composer Troyte Griffith, the inspiration
 for Elgar's No. 7. During Elgar's time St.
 Ann's was once renowned for its
 virtues.

4. Malvern Hills
 the landmark that provided
 the inspiration to Elgar. The main
 summit is 425 metres.

5. Worcestershire Beacon
 the highest point of the Hills (1395
 feet or 425 metres).

6. Wyche Cutting
 takes its name from an ancient
 way that crossed the hills at this
 point en route from Droitwich to
 North Wales.

5. Jubilee Drive
 South of the Wyche Cutting on the
 west side of the hills. Constructed to
 commemorate Queen Victoria's 1887
 Golden Jubilee.

6. Herefordshire Beacon
 (British Camp)
 The inspiration for Elgar's cantata of
 1898, 'Caractacus' and is one of the
 largest ancient British camps in the
 country.

7. St. Wulstan's Church
 The burial place of Lady Elgar (1920),
 Elgar (1934) and their daughter Carice
 Elgar Blake (1970). Built in 1862 and
 found just below the Worcester-Ledbury
 Road at Little Malvern.

8. Craig Lea, 86 Wells Road
 (no public access-private residence)
 Home of the Elgars from 1899 until 1904
 and an anagram of their names. Numerous
 works including 'The Apostles' and 'Pomp
 and Circumstance Marches 1 and 2' were
 composed from the first floor study.

9. Upton upon Severn
 Elgar regularly took bike rides to this
 attractive riverside town where there is
 now a Heritage Centre in the base of the
 famous 'Pepperpot'.

10. Napleton Grange
 (no public access-private residence)
 Home of Elgar from 1923 to 1927 and
 where the 'Civic Fanfare' was composed.
 Whilst living here Elgar was appointed
 Master of the King's Music in 1924.



Off the beaten track
 12. Madresfield Court (pre booked tours only)
 Home of the Earl of Beauchamp whose sister
 was Lady Mary Lygon and one of the inspirations for
 Enigma No 13.

13. Willey Court
 (A443 Worcester – Tenbury Road)
 Elgar's father W.H. Elgar tuned pianos here for Dowager
 Queen Adelaide. The court is now an impressive ruin run by
 English Heritage.

14. Longdon Marsh and Queenhill Church
 Elgar regularly cycled to Longdon Marsh as he loved the
 stillness. Here he was inspired to compose The Apostles.
 Further inspiration came while he was sheltering from a
 thunderstorm in nearby Queenhill Church.

15. Spetchley Park Gardens
 So inspired by the garden, Elgar penned
 part of his masterpiece 'The Dream of
 Gerontius'.

11. Worcester

Worcester Cathedral
 Elgar played here under Dvorak
 during the eighth centenary
 celebrations in 1884. A memorial
 window depicting the 'Dream of
 Gerontius' was unveiled in 1935.

The Elgar Statue
 Facing the Cathedral at the end of
 the High Street, it was unveiled in
 1981 by HRH Prince of Wales, an
 admirer of the composer's work.

10 High Street (plaque)
 The Elgars moved here in 1863 and
 lived above the Elgar Bros. Pianoforte
 & Music Warehouse. Elgar wrote
 music here for wind quintet and left
 in 1879.

The Guildhall
 Elgar received the freedom of the
 City of Worcester here in 1905 from
 the Mayor, his childhood friend,
 Hubert Leicester. An oil painting and
 bronze bust of Elgar can be found
 within its walls. Gilbert can also be seen.

St. George's Roman Catholic Church
 In Sansome Place, this is where Elgar
 succeeded his father as organist in 1885.

RGS Britannia House (plaque)
 A special plaque was unveiled in
 2016 commemorating Elgar's time
 as a violin teacher from when he
 worked as a violin teacher at The
 Alice Ottley School.

Worcester Racecourse
 Elgar was a member of the Pitchcroft
 based course.

Worcestershire Courthouse
 Elgar is believed to have been a
 regular supporter of

Cathedral Ferry
 Elgar and Hubert Leicester
 crossed the ferry and walked across
 the school at Lyttleton House
 operates on weekends
 summer months from



