

WORCESTERSHIRE & HEREFORDSHIRE

Croft Castle Fishpool Valley walk

Discover the beautiful Fishpool Valley, landscaped during the late 18th century in the naturalistic 'Picturesque' style and now in the process of being restored. This pleasant walk takes in the chain of dams and pools, carefully planted trees and architecture such as the icehouse, grotto, pumphouse and limekiln.

Access to walking trails

All our walking trails are within the parkland at Croft Castle, so you'll need to pay the admission fee or present your National Trust membership card to access them.



Information

Address: Croft Castle, Yarpole, Nr Leominster, HR6 0BL

OS map: Landranger 149 Hereford and Leominster

Activity: Walking

Moderate: Includes some slopes and steps. For further details, see the Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Dogs are welcome but must be kept on leads and under close control at all times as livestock graze in the woodland pasture and in Fishpool Valley.

Full trail: Miles: 1.5 (km: 2.4)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 1 hour

Terrain

The terrain is mainly flat, with some slopes and steps. The route is muddy in places so please wear suitable footwear.

Total steps: 6

Start point: Croft visitor reception, grid ref SO45119 65659

1. Turn right at visitor reception and go through the gate. Ignore the track and instead head straight on, across the field, following the waymarks with the pumphouse on them.
2. Keep following the pumphouse waymarks until you reach a gate. Go through the gate and close it behind you. You'll eventually come to some tall Douglas fir trees on your left and right. The limekiln will be straight in front of you. Continue along the path with the limekiln on your left and the pools on your right until you come to a gate.
3. Go through the gate and close it behind you. You will then need to make a hairpin turn to your right, still following the pumphouse waymarks.
4. Continue along the path, keeping the pools on your right. You'll eventually come to a small gate on your right, with a pumphouse waymark on it. Go through this gate and follow the path until you reach a rusticated grotto on your left, dating from the 1790s.
5. Keep following the path through the valley, with the pools on your right. You'll see the cascade and dams 6 and 7, which are being restored as part of our conservation project. Continue straight on, until you come to a pumphouse waymark pointing down the hill to the right. Walk carefully down the hill and over the dam towards the Gothic pumphouse.
6. Continue past the pumphouse on your left and up towards the main track. Turn left onto the track and keep going until you see another track heading right, up the hill.

Follow this back up to the gate at the main car park.
End point: Croft visitor reception, grid ref SO45119 65659
