



Worcestershire Walks are a series of easy to use and well waymarked walks.



Grafton Flyford



Hairstreak Butterfly Trail

The Brown Hairstreak butterfly is declining nationally but is thriving in east Worcestershire where it breeds on blackthorn hedgerows. The adult butterfly is on the wing usually from early August to mid-September and female butterflies can be seen basking on blackthorn leaves between bouts of egg-laying. Male Brown Hairstreaks are much more elusive, spending most of their lives high on ash trees where they can occasionally be spotted flitting around the canopy. Brown Hairstreak eggs stay on blackthorn bushes all winter and are very vulnerable to hedge cutting. A number of hedgerows that you pass on the Trail are now only being cut every second or third year, which means more eggs survive until the following spring. Sympathetic hedgerow management is good for

other wildlife as well and uncut hedges mean more berries for overwintering birds. Further information about the Brown Hairstreak can be found on the regional Butterfly Conservation website

www.westmidlands-butterflies.org.uk

Further information about Grafton Wood can be found on www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk

Fact File

Start	Three Parishes Hall, Grafton Flyford or Himbleton village
Length	6.5 miles (approx. 3 hours).
Parking	St Johns Church, Grafton Flyford WR7 4PG (donation to church)
Gates/Stiles	A number of both gates and stiles.
Terrain	Some roadside walking and mostly flat terrain.



The Countryside Code

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals. Take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control & clean up after them
- Consider other people

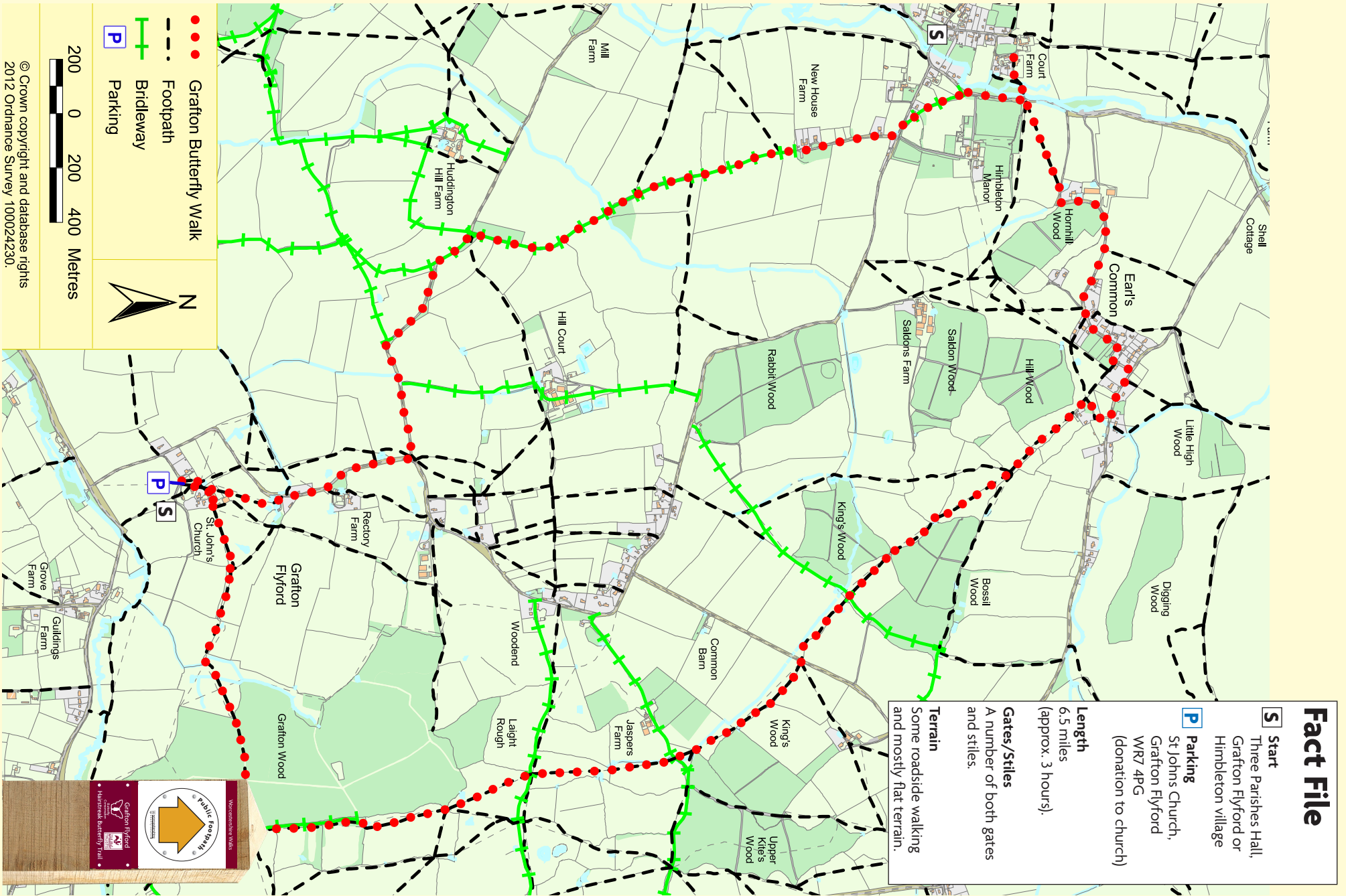


Hairstreak Trail

The Hairstreak Trail will guide you around the beautiful countryside of east Worcestershire, which is home to the rare Brown Hairstreak butterfly. The trail links to the long distance Wychavon Way footpath and passes through Grafton Wood, part of the original Forest of Feckenham and now a nature reserve managed by Butterfly Conservation and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Grafton Wood has many fine trees and is full of wild flowers that attract many butterflies and other insects. Uncommon species like the beautiful Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral are found in the wood and there is a circular nature trail that can be followed if you would like to extend your walk. The trail also passes the attractive villages of Himbleton and Earls Common, which contain many fine buildings and are well worth a detour.



Worcestershire



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