

A) Leave the Village Hall, turning left into Millbrook Way. Proceed for 370 yards, crossing a bridge over a stream, and between houses, to reach the War Memorial, on the right. Go straight over the crossroads into Tunnel Lane for 80 yards, and take the lane on your right. After 100 yards you reach Orleton Manor, the present house being built in 1568, and occupied by the Blount Family from 1655 to 1907. King Charles 1<sup>st</sup> was reputed to have stayed here after the battle of Worcester, and in 1875 the estate covered 2500 acres. Continue on this lane, ignoring a turning to the right, for a further 275 yards to reach a footpath, on the left, between 2 timbered houses, named Little Overton and The Grange.



Orleton Manor

B) Go along this footpath for 65 yards, cross the stile into a field, with a pond to the right. Follow close to the hedge on your left to reach a footbridge. Cross the bridge and walk, half left, through an orchard to another footbridge, by a large pool on your left. Cross the bridge and walk, in the same direction, on a track for 50 yards. Here take the left bend in the

track for a further 80 yards to reach a T junction of tracks. Turn right, and follow the track for about 1/2 mile to a small bridge over one of the last remaining stretches of the Leominster Canal. This canal was built around 1800 with the aim of transporting coal from Mable to Leominster and Kington. The canal was overtaken by the development of the railways and was never completed, finally being dewatered in 1851.

C) After crossing the bridge, cross the large field ahead, aiming initially for the large oak tree. At the oak tree bear left and head for the stile in the fence at the side of the railway about 200 yards ahead. Cross the railway and continue ahead to the far left hand corner of the field in front of you, keeping the hedge on your left. Proceed through four more fields, following the way marks for the Herefordshire Way, with the hedge on your left through the first field and on your right through the next three. Three quarters of the way through the last field look for a gate on the right, with a way mark. Go through this gate and across the field ahead, with the hedge on your left. Go through the gate ahead and turn left into a lane. Follow this lane for 1/4 mile to Moreton, joining the road from Luston to Aston. Turn left along this road, noting the remnants of the canal in the garden of the first house on your right (The Nest). After about 250 yards turn sharp left into a lane by the Post Box and the Parish Notice Board. You are now on the Marches Way, a long distance footpath through the

borderland between England and Wales linking the two Roman forts, Chester and Caerleon, which guarded the Welsh border. It takes in towns and villages such as Wem, Shrewsbury, Leominster, Abergavenny and Pontypool, mainly following the course of the Whitchurch - Newport railway lines.

D) Follow the Marches Way for about 1/2 mile and then turn left by the way markers at the junction between two tracks. Go straight ahead between the hedges and continue for about another 1/2 mile, passing through several gates, and then turn left into Tunnel Lane. After about 1/4 mile cross the railway line, and go up the hill, crossing the path of the Orleton Tunnel of the Leominster Canal. From the gate on the left you can look across the field to a copse of trees. The south western portal of the tunnel can still be found in this copse of trees, and the canal is still full of water between here and the bridge which you crossed earlier. Continue down Tunnel Lane back to Orleton Village, retracing your steps from the War Memorial back to the Village Hall. Orleton Post Office and Stores, which caters for all requirements, is on the left when you reach the War Memorial, while the Boot Inn, parts of which were built in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, and where lunches, dinners and a variety of refreshments are available, is on the right at this point. The Maidenhead Inn, also offering lunches, dinners and a variety of refreshments, is situated at the crossroads about 100 yards beyond the Village Hall.