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Malvern Hills District District Council Worcestershire

#### In the footsteps of Elgar Three walks mapping Elgar's life.

## Q 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 bridle 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.



## **Q** 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.

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# The Elgar Koyte

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



#### VisitTheMalverns.org/ElgarRoute

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

#### 1. The Firs: Elgar's Birthplace, Lower Broadheath

Elgar was born at The Firs on 2 June 1857. Although he lived here for just two years he loved the area and when he was made a Baronet he called himself Edward Elgar of Broadheath. The cottage became a museum dedicated to Elgar's work following his death, on his instruction. Today it is managed by the National Trust.

#### 2. Great Malvern Centre and St. Ann's Well

The building on the corner of Church Street and Grange Road (Connells) is Elgar's former Gentleman's Club. In Grange Road stands Malvern Theatres, where Elgar helped George Bernard Shaw found the Malvern Festival in 1929.

Malvern Museum, in The Priory Gatehouse, was the workplace of notable architect Troyte Griffith, the inspiration for Enigma No. 7. During Elgar's time St. Ann's Well was once renowned for its healing virtues.

#### The Malvern Hills

Explore the landmark that provided so much inspiration to Elgar. The main features are:

**3. Worcestershire Beacon** The highest point of the Hills (1395 feet or 425 metres).

#### 4. Wyche Cutting

It takes its name from an ancient salt way that crossed the hills at this point en route from Droitwich to South 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. Craeg Lea, 86 Wells Road

(no public access-private residence) Home of the Elgar's 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.

Malvern Hills



#### 11. Worcester

#### (O) Worcester Cathedral

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

Provide the statue of the state the High Street, it was unveiled in 1981 by HRH Prince of Wales, an admirer of the composer's work.

#### 10 High Street (plaque)

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

- St. George's Roman Catholic Char 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 County Cricket Club Elgar is believed to have been a regular supporter of the club.
- Cathedral Ferry Elgar and Hubert Leicester used this
- ferry and walked across hop fields to school at Lyttleton House. The ferry operates on weekends during the summer months from the Watergate.