

Goodrich Castle and views

Distance and time Approx 700m. Allow 30 mins

Brief description of the walk, path conditions and facilities

Goodrich Castle stands on a prominent wooded hill commanding the passage of the River Wye downstream from pastoral Herefordshire into the narrow Wye Gorge at Symonds Yat. Construction of the Castle began in the late 11th century, and the oldest remaining building is the well-preserved Norman keep. The castle still boasts one of the most complete sets of medieval domestic buildings surviving in any English castle.

This is a short 'there and back' easy-access walk suitable for all users, ending at a viewing area overlooking the castle from across its dry moat, and with more extensive views of the surrounding countryside.

Access into the castle complex is difficult due to steps and uneven surfaces, but the well-graded, gently sloping gravel path is accessible for all as far as the barbican footbridge. There are then two steps down into the barbican and a further 11 steps and stone ramp leading to the courtyard and Great Hall. Within the walls of the castle, the upper floors and viewing platforms can only be reached by climbing steep stairways, some of which are spiralled.

Start point for the walk

A short driveway leads from the centre of Goodrich village into the castle grounds, where there is a spacious pay and display car park. Fork right off the entrance drive to reach a separate, smaller car park on a higher level, with 6 large bays reserved for disabled badge holders. Parking here avoids a flight of steps from the lower car park up to the visitor centre. There are attractive picnic areas at the front and back of the centre which includes a café, shop, information point and accessible toilet. The facilities are open 7 days a week (April to October) and from Wednesday to Sunday (November to March). There is indoor seating and the benches outside are wheelchair friendly. Please note that two additional disabled parking bays are available 100m from the castle: speak to reception for permission to drive your

car along the main pedestrian access to use these bays. An audio tour with hearing loop is available for deaf and hard of hearing visitors.

Relevant OS Maps

Explorer OL14 – Wye Valley and Forest of Dean

Outdoor Leisure 162 – Gloucester and the Forest of Dean

Detailed Walk description

Leave the visitor centre by the rear exit and then follow the well-graded path for 330m to reach the castle.