

## Welcome to the Shropshire Way 80K

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Welcome to an amazing challenge. Get to the end and you will have achieved something incredible. This guide has been prepared to take you along the route if you follow it closely, but it must be used along with a map because if you do get lost, the route description won't be able to get you back on the route. Please note that this was prepared in January 2019 and reflects the situation at that time. I will refresh the document before the event, but I can't guarantee that the document will be totally accurate all the time. Again, you will also need your map.

All distances are a guide only but grid references are accurate to within 100m.

Good luck.

## SW80K route description

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### Section1. Discovery Centre to Carding Mill Valley checkpoint. 17.5KM

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- 1 Start at the Mammoth tusks and turn left after 30m, taking the path which exits the meadows via a gate leading into a lane. As the lane splits in 100m, keep right. Carry on for a further 200m to a white footbridge.
- 2 Cross the footbridge and follow the Riverside Walk which is signed, heading for the far-left hand corner of the field.
- 3 When you approach the hedge, look slight left for a gate. Go through gate, cross road and turn right. After 50m, take road on left into Halford.
- 4 After 300m, ignore right turn and continue ahead into lane signposted Halford ¼. (No through road). Continue for a further 300m to reach a junction where the tarmac ends. Between the two tracks is a stile leading into a narrow passageway by the side of a house. BE CAREFUL NOT TO MISS THIS
- 5 Go over the stile. Continue ahead into a field, keeping the hedge to your left. After 250m, look for a stile on your left. Go over the stile and continue in the same direction, now with the hedge on your right. Continue on this path into the field corner where you go through a metal gate leading into some woodland.
- 6 Keep ahead through the woodland emerging into a field, then after 350m, re-enter woodland then exit it again next to some houses. After the houses, go through a gate (may be open) and continue ahead on the path. Exit the field by a stile and continue ahead in the same direction to reach a wooden footbridge. Cross the bridge, turn left for 40m to a small gate on right, leading to a footbridge over the river Onny.
- 7 Cross the river via the footbridge and turn right, now with the river on your right. Continue for three more fields to reach a gate leading into a track. Continue along the track, which becomes a lane to reach the village of Strefford.

- 8 Go through the village to a T-junction. Here turn right and continue along the road for 250m to reach a ford. Cross the ford on the footbridge then turn immediately left (no through road). Continue for 70m, and then take the wide, un-signposted path (a bridleway) on your right. At the cross track in 400m, continue ahead on a bearing of 70 degrees and continue on this bearing all the way to the ridge path.
- 9 At the top, the path levels and then joins the main path leading along the top of Wenlock Edge. Turn left along this main path for 200m until you reach a junction at 453 855 and continue ahead along the ridge path for 2.6km, which will feel like a lot further, and stay on this path all the way to the sign post and self-clip at CP1 (GR 472 873)
- 10 After the self-clip, take the path on the left signposted Acton Scott and Church Stretton. Continue downhill to exit the wood, here turn left to keep the hedge on your left. At the end of the hedge, turn half left to field bottom and footbridge. Cross the bridge then head diagonally right, across the field, passing the corner of the building, to a small gate leading to a road. Cross the road then go through a gate into a field. Here turn left and follow the path around the field edge for 400m to reach a small gate into a track.
- 11 Go through gate, where you will find a watering station, CP2 (no need to clip here) kindly provided by our friends at Wenlock Water. Re-fill your bottle and be on your way!
- 12 Turn right and continue for 300m to reach the track end. **This section, as far as Acton Scott museum will be waymarked on event day as navigation is complicated.** Here go between the two oak trees and continue on the well-defined path through the middle of the field. At the end of the field, enter small wood, over 2 stiles then follow the SW arrow, head half left across the field, aiming for a large oak tree. Here you generally continue in a similar direction, perhaps bearing slightly to the right. At the end of the field, you will get to a stile in the hedge ahead of you. Cross this stile and completely ignore the Shropshire Way marker arrow, which points half left. Instead head half right, heading to a gate and stile at the edge of a wood. Cross this stile and again, ignore the Shropshire Way marker arrow. You need to turn half left and head up the field with the fence on your left towards another small wood. At the field corner, enter the wood via a stile where the Shropshire Way arrows once again return to normal. Exit the wood in 150m and follow the path across a small field to a gate and stile leading into Acton Scott car park. Head half right across the carpark to a gate into the lane.
- 13 Turn left along the lane for 600m to crossroads. Here turn right (signposted Ragdon 1.5m)
- 14 Continue on this lane for 1200m until the road bends sharp right. Stay on the lane for a further 200m, then look for a partly hidden stile in the hedge on the left. Go over stile and continue ahead with the hedge on your right. After 200m, go over another stile then head slight left, down to a gap in the hedge and another stile. Over this stile then turn half right to climb steeply to another stile which leads onto Ragleth Hill. Go over this stile and climb steeply for 500m and the self-clip at Ragleth summit, CP3 452 917.
- 15 After the summit, head NE on the wide path along the ridge for 900m, then look for a rock outcrop on your left at GR 457 924. At the path split just by the rock outcrop, take the left fork and then bear slight right after the rock outcrop on the path heading diagonally downhill.
- 16 Continue along this path which leads into woodland and continues downhill to join a fence. Here turn left and continue with the fence on your right. Keep the fence on your right as the path bends sharply right and descends steeply to a stile. Go over the stile and down the steps, following this path for a further 400m over a stile and around a sharp left then right hand turn to reach a road.
- 17 Follow the road downhill for 150m to T-Junction. Here turn left. Continue downhill all the way to the main A49, going over a small crossroads by a church. Turn right along the A49 for 100m and cross at the pedestrian crossing.
- 18 Head over the railway bridge and up Sandford Avenue, Church Stretton's high street. At the crossroads at the end, go straight across into Burway Road and follow the road up as it bears to the right. Stay on Burway Road for 700m as it climbs steeply to reach a cattle grid. Just after the cattle grid, take the track on the right marked no through road. Stay on the track as it narrows into

a path to join the road leading up Carding Mill Valley. When you join the road, turn left and continue for a further 300m to reach CP4 in the hut outside the Tea Rooms. (GR 445 944)

## Section 2 Carding Mill Valley to Stiperstones Car Park 15.25KM

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- 1 Turn left out of the CP to continue up Carding Mill Valley. After 200m, take the footbridge on the right, crossing over the stream to avoid the ford. Continue for a further 400m to re-join the road and continue for another 400m to a car park.
- 2 When you get to the car park, take the second footbridge on your left to continue along the valley floor, now with the stream on your right
- 3 Continue for 700m to reach a ford at stream junction. Here, ford the stream and take the right fork, signposted shooting box 30minutes (it won't take you that long!)
- 4 Continue on this path for 1.2 km, as it climbs steeply onto the Long Mynd plateau.
- 5 At the junction at the top, turn left and then in 30m, keep left joining the main track along the ridge
- 6 In 300m, ignore the main track which bears left and continue ahead following the path signposted shooting box.
- 7 Continue for 400m to reach the road junction at Shooting box. Here go straight across the road and carry on for a further 1km to reach the self-clip at Pole Bank summit, CP5 (GR 415 944)
- 8 After the self-clip, double back for 400m and where the fence line meets the path, turn left on a faint path which is signposted Priory Cottage.
- 9 Continue on this path, keeping the fence to your left for 1km until the path meets a track which joins from the right. Continue ahead on this track for 1.4km, which climbs a small rise and then descends, going through several gates. At the fourth gate, as the track joins a rather muddy lane at Coates Farm, bear right and stay on this muddy lane, past the farm buildings and then ignoring the track on the right in 50 m to stay on the lane which heads downhill past the cattle grid. Stay on this lane for 1km to reach the hamlet and pub at Bridges.
- 10 Enter the pub, order a pint of beer, take a seat and enjoy your afternoon.
- 11 Only joking, you can't do that, you've got work to do!
- 12 Go past the pub and immediately after it, bear left and then in 100m, turn left to go along the road for 50m.
- 13 Cross the road and turn right into the lane signposted Gatten, Minsterley Ranges, Bog Visitor Centre and Stiperstones NNR.
- 14 Stay on this lane and then in 600m, take the right fork signposted Gatten.
- 15 Stay on this lane for 1.8km until you get to a junction and an SW marker post. Here turn left into a lane, following the orange SW marker, (no through road) towards the Hollies to find the self-clip, CP6 at GR 382 988
- 16 Follow the lane through the Hollies farmyard to reach a gate into a field and continue ahead on the track marked "private vehicle access only"
- 17 Stay on this track, following the orange SW marker, to turn right in 150m. After a further 50m, fork left, following the path heading diagonally up the field to reach a gate.

- 18 Go through the gate and continue up the field, initially with the fence on your right. When the fence turns right, keep ahead for 200m to reach a gate leading onto the open hill of the Stiperstones Nature Reserve.
- 19 Go through the gate to the Y-junction and take the left-hand path, following the orange SW marker. Continue on this path, climbing gently for 250m, to reach the ridge line, path crossroads and cairn.
- 20 Here turn left (orange SW marker) to follow the path heading towards the eponymous stones ahead. The first stone you pass is the fabled "Devil's Chair" and then, in 400m, you will reach the self-clip, CP7 on the right of the path below the trig point at 368 986
- 21 After the self-clip, continue ahead on the main stony track which heads to the left of Cranberry Rock, the next stone. Stay on this path for a further 600m as it descends and becomes grassy, to reach a gate leading into the car park and checkpoint. CP8 (369 976)

### Section 3 Stiperstones Car Park to Bishop's Castle 13 KM

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1. Leave the CP heading towards the road. At the road, turn right signposted Bog Visitors' Centre. At the junction in 600m, head right and then in 50m, go through the gate on your right (SW waymarker)
2. Go across the field and over a stile keeping on the path heading into the pine wood. In 300m, you meet a gate onto a cross track. Go straight across to re-join the path via another gate.
3. Stay on this well marked path across open heath for 1km, passing to the right of the rock, imaginatively named "The Rock" to arrive at a SW marker post. Here turn left and continue on this path all the way down to a lane.
4. At the road turn right and then immediately left, over the stile following the path down to a footbridge.
5. Cross the footbridge, go over the stile and continue ahead climbing steeply to arrive at a stile leading onto a lane
6. At the lane turn right and continue for 500m. Immediately after the farm buildings, look for the path on the left (SW marker). Follow the path with the hedge on your left, climbing steeply to the ridge line.
7. As the path levels, go over the stile and continue ahead keeping the woodland to your right. At the end of the wood, continue ahead with the fence on your right for 250m until you get to a farm gate. Just after this is your gate, complete with the now familiar SW marker. Go through the gate and follow the direction of the marker through two fields. At the entrance to the third field, leave the fence line, heading slightly right to reach another gate with SW marker. Here carry on towards the large beech trees ahead of you. This is the famous Linley Beeches, an ancient avenue of trees through which you are about to pass.
8. Enter the beech avenue via the gate and continue through it, going through a couple of gates, into a track and continue downhill to reach a lane.
9. Here bear left and continue for 500m to a T-junction. Here turn right and stay on the road for 400m passing the entrance to Linley Hall. Just after this, turn left into the lane (SW marker) After 900m, look for the SW marker on the right. Here go through two gates and continue in the direction of the SW marker over two fields to a lane.
10. Cross the lane and continue following the SW arrow to a footbridge. Cross the bridge and continue over a further 3 fields to reach a gate leading into a car park and village hall.
11. Go across the car park to the road. Cross the road and turn left and stay on the road (signposted Bishops Castle) for 300m until you get to a track on your right just before the cows on road sign.

12. Turn into the track and stay on this for 500m to reach a gate on the left where the track bends right. Go through the gate (SW marker), heading diagonally left to reach the fence line. Continue up the field with the fence on your left for 200m to a gate (SW marker). Stay on this path, following the orange SW arrows, climbing through the trees to an open field. Half way round the field, turn hard right following the SW arrow across another field leading onto a farm drive. Cross the mouth of the farm drive to the road and turn right.
13. Stay on the road for 200m until you see a SW marker on the left opposite a road junction. Cross to the marker post, go through the gate and follow the path which climbs, around the left side of the wood. At the end of the wood, continue ahead on the path through the middle of the field leading to a stile. Go over the stile and continue through what is now a campsite with the hedge on your left.
14. After 300m, turn left through the gate and immediately right to continue in the same direction now with the hedge on your right. When you reach the Buddha, (you're not hallucinating, it is Buddha) go through the gate and continue on the path leading down through two fields to a gate leading into a path. Continue past the allotments to join a driveway leading to a road. At the road turn right and after 30m, as the road bends left, continue ahead into a road marked "unsuitable for HGV's". After 20m, look for the SW arrow on the right. Here turn left into the narrow ginnel. Stay on here to reach another road. Here turn right and then in 30m, turn left and the CP at the Castle Hotel will be in front of you. CP9

## Section 4 Bishop's Castle to Reilth Top 5.75km

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1. Leave the CP, heading down to the road. Here turn right and then in 20m, keep left on what is now Bishops Castle High Street. Continue all the way down the high street until you get to the Six Bells pub on your right. Here turn right and then in 20m, cross the road and turn left into Church Lane. In 200m, turn right into Field Lane and then in 20m, follow the track hard left (SW marker).
2. Keep ahead on this track, to leave the houses behind and out into open fields. Continue with the hedge on your left through several fields until the path drops down towards a stream.
3. As you approach the stream, swing right and continue parallel with the stream through several fields for 1300m until you reach a lane. Go over the stile into the lane and turn left. BE SURE NOT TO CARRY ON THE FOOTPATH HERE, YOU NEED TO TURN LEFT ON THE LANE.
4. Stay on this lane, which peters out into a track, for 1km, climbing all the way to Middle Woodbatch Farm.
5. At the farm, make sure you keep right, following the "Campers" arrow, not the "B&B" marker! After the farmyard, go through the gate on your left (SW marker) to climb steadily through the woods to reach an open field. 150m into the field, turn 90 degrees left (SW marker) to go across the field to a gate at the ridge line.
6. Go through the gate and turn half right (SW marker) and pass through two more fields to arrive at a lane by a barn.
7. At the lane turn left and then, in 100m when the SW turns off to the right, we take a detour to the CP. DO NOT TURN OFF THE LANE ON THE SHROPSHIRE WAY. INSTEAD, STAY ON THE LANE FOR 400M TO REACH THE CP AT REITH TOP, THE FIRST BUILDING ON THE LEFT. CP10

## Section 5 Reilth Top to Clun Memorial hall 10.75KM

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1. Exit the CP and turn left onto the lane. After 400m as the lane bears left, go over the stile on the right and follow the arrow (not SW). Head over the small rise and then down the field to a stile by a gate. Go over the stile and head half right, aiming for the stone shelter. Pass to the right of the stone shelter to arrive at a gate in 50m. Go through the gate and follow the arrow across the field to a gate in the field corner leading into a lane.
2. Turn right on the lane and in 100m, we re-join the SW at a road junction.
3. Here turn left on the lane and in 150m, take the footpath on your right (SW marker). In 200m, make sure you take the right fork (SW marker) and head down the field to a stile. Cross the stile and bear left across the field to reach a stile in the field corner. Go over the stile and turn left on the lane for 30m to a junction then turn left on the lane which climbs steeply.
4. After 150m, go through the gate on your right (SW marker). Stay on this path for 1km to reach the self-clip where the SW joins Offa's Dyke Path.
5. After the self-clip, turn left along ODP, making sure you keep left at the fork in 10m, to stay on the path which climbs steeply.
6. As your lung-busting climb begins to level out, you pass through a gate to join one of the best-preserved sections of Offa's Dyke, King Offa's eponymous Saxon earthwork.
7. The next 1km provides little opportunity to get lost as you follow the well-marked ODP with its white acorns, ably assisted at times by the SW markers which may appear either as the third-generation orange, second generation yellow and black or the really old black and white buzzards. Just follow the path up hill and down dale as it crosses a small lane, a couple of streams and many fields until you get to the path split at 261 854. This is a rather lonely finger post with the new orange SW markers. Make sure when you reach this, you turn sharp left (almost a double back) bearing NW and following the orange SW marker, not the ODP acorn which points SW.
8. Carry on this track which soon emerges into open hill pasture, following the SW marker across the field to a stile. Go over the stile and enjoy easy navigation through several fields, following the SW markers for 500m to emerge onto a lane.
9. Here turn left and continue on the lane for 400m, passing some farm buildings, and then as the road bends to the left, go through the gate on your right leading into a track. (SW marker)
10. Continue up the track which soon emerges onto the open hill pasture of Cefns. From here, the navigation is so easy that a route description is superfluous. There is only one cross track, which you go straight across and one lane which you also go straight across. You simply follow the SW markers over myriad stiles and enjoy the spectacular views of the Clun valley as you continue on the long, gentle descent into Clun.
11. After almost 3km of descent, the path meets the river, which it crosses several times and eventually emerges into a driveway by some houses. Go along the driveway for 200m, and then, as it bends left, bear right through a gate leading into a path around Clun Castle.
12. Exit this path via a gate leading into another driveway. Go through the gate and turn left onto the driveway and continue all the way to the end to reach a road. Here we leave the SW to get to the CP, but we will re-trace our steps to this point after the CP to continue straight ahead on the SW.
13. Cross the road and turn right. In 150m, immediately after the Spar and Post Office, turn right and then bear left in 50m, heading downhill to the bridge. Cross the bridge and continue ahead for 300m where you turn left into Vicarage Lane to find the CP at Hightown Community Room in 100m on your right. CP11

## Section 6 Clun Memorial hall to the Discovery Centre 18KM

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1. Leave the CP and re-trace your steps to the Shropshire Way and turn right into Newport Street

2. Continue along Newport Street ignoring all side roads for 800m until you leave Clun behind and pass the Youth Hostel on your right.
3. 200m after the Youth Hostel, at the sign for Mill Barn, take the track on your left (orange SW marker). When you get to Mill Barn, take the path which skirts around the right of the building to a stile into a field. Follow the SW orange marker, heading half left across the field, over a stile, across the next field to another stile into a lane (careful, it's very wet here)
4. Turn left on the lane and stay with it for 700m as it climbs and keep right at the small group of buildings and stay on the lane for a further 300m until the tarmac ends. Here turn 90 degrees left following the SW arrow.
5. Stay on this track for 700m, round the barrier and continue ahead as the track narrows and then enters the forest via a gate and way marker.
6. Follow the path for 150m as it climbs to join a forestry track. Here turn right and continue for 400m to a fork. Here head left following the SW arrow
7. Stay on this track, climbing gently through the forest for 600m. At the top of the rise, turn 90 degrees right following the SW arrow. Stay on this path for 400m as it ends at a gate. Go through the gate and follow the path up onto the open hill fort.
8. Stay on this main path across the hillfort and exit via a gate onto a path leading down to the woods to reach the CP in 600m. CP12 No need to clip here, just grab a drink and push on to the finish.
9. Leave the checkpoint heading towards the lane. Here turn right and after 200m, take the track on your left. Continue on this track, past the house and then, at the second gate, take the path on the right (SW arrow) which heads downhill for 150m to join a track at a hairpin. Here fork right, taking the lower track. After 500m, join the main track by some farm buildings and continue ahead for 1KM
10. Just after a small track forks off to the left and the main track bends sharp right, look for a stile on your left (SW arrow). Go over the stile heading half left and after 15m, go over another stile and follow the SW arrow, turn right keeping the field boundary to your right.
11. Exit the field over a stile between the two houses. Turn right and head along the driveway to a bridge over the stream in 200m. Just after the bridge, go through the kissing gate on your right. Follow the path in the direction of the SW arrow across the field to a gate. Go through the gate into a small paddock for 50m to exit via a large gate. Turn right then immediately left, following the farm track up to the road.
12. At the road, turn right and in 100m, opposite the turn to the right, cross the road and head left up the track.
13. Stay on this track for 1.5KM as it climbs steadily. At the top of the rise, look for the SW arrow on the left pointing to a gate on the right. Go through the gate, turn left and follow around the field boundary, to the far corner of the field to a gate. **NOTE you stay in this field. When you get to the first gate in the left-hand corner of the field, which may be open, do not go through it, instead stay in the same field turning 90 degrees right to keep the hedge on your left.** When you get to the gate in the far corner, following the SW arrow down through three fields, keeping the hedge to your right. At the end of the third field, go across the cross track, following the SW arrow across a fourth field towards the small clump of trees by a gate.
14. Continue down this field following the SW arrow to a stile and gate leading into a track. Go over the stile and continue on the track all the way down into Hopesay village.
15. When you join the road at a T junction, turn right. Very old maps may show the SW path going left here, but ignore this and turn right. Continue on the road for 400m to a kissing gate on the left (SW arrow).
16. Go through kissing gate, over the footbridge and continue ahead, climbing through several small fields leading to a gate onto the open hill.

17. Go through the gate, turning left for 20m (fence on left). After the first big oak, turn right on the path through the clump of larches above you. Continue on this main grassy path as it climbs steeply and then as it narrows, head to the gate at the left corner of the wood in front of you.
18. Go over the stile and continue ahead, keeping the fence and woodland to your right, passing through 1 gate and stile. At the second gate, go over the stile just before it and follow the direction of the orange Shropshire Way marker down through the field.
19. At the bottom left field corner, look for a stile next to a house. Go over the stile and again follow the orange arrow diagonally across the field, aiming for the middle one of the three oak trees. When you get to the marker post by the middle tree, follow the arrow to the stile in the hedge by the large ash tree.
20. Go through the stile, cross a little footbridge, through a metal gate go across a small field for 70m, to reach another metal gate leading into a carriage drive. **Here you must leave the Shropshire Way for a short while at the request of the landowner.** Turn right down the carriage drive for 300m to a crossroads. Here turn left along the lane for a further 300m to a stile on the right signposted Shropshire way.
21. Go over the stile to re-join the Shropshire Way. Go down the field heading further left than the arrow indicates to the bottom left field corner. Here go through the gate, turn right and continue through three further fields keeping the hedge on your right, to arrive at a kissing gate.
22. Go through kissing gate, follow the path between the houses for 60m to a path split. At the path split, turn right and continue for 100m to a road. Cross the road and turn right. After 150m, as the road bends left, cross to the SW fingerpost and head down a little road for 100m to a T-junction which is a dead end for traffic. **Cross the road ahead with care** and turn right, then, after 20m, take the turning on the left signposted Rowton and Shelderton. Continue for 200m, under the railway bridge to a stile immediately after this on your left. Do not take the footpath on the left just before the railway bridge!
23. Go over the stile and follow the orange SW marker through four fields, keeping the railway embankment to your left.
24. After four fields, as the path leaves the railway line, bear slight right heading towards a group of Ash trees. After the Ash trees, the path bends left towards a lane with a gate and stile. Go over the stile into the lane. Continue on the lane to reach a housing estate. Here continue ahead for 200m, as the road bends right, turn left on the footpath to the main road. Here turn left to the pedestrian crossing. Cross here, turn right and turn into school lane and the Discovery Centre. At the front entrance, go around the right-hand side of the building to reach the finish at the back, **Congratulations you've done it!!!!!!!**