



## **Walks from Daisy Bank Caravan Park**

This booklet offers a selection of circular walks that locals and visitors can enjoy by walking from Daisy Bank or from a car park not too far away. The walks are of various lengths and difficulty. Some can be walked in stout shoes but others, particularly if it has rained, may be easier in walking boots.

The walks are arranged in order of distance from Daisy Bank and allow visitors to appreciate the beautiful surrounding area.

Enjoy the 73 miles of walks in this booklet.

**Written by Peter Waite**

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(R) = canal walked in **R**everse direction

## Copyright

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This document, which is provided in pdf format, may be copied and distributed in whole but not in part. You may print copies of this document for your personal use and to allow you to organise walks for a group of walkers provided that you do not make any charge for the documents. You may download the pdf file to your 'phone or tablet to save printing out the document – just make sure that your battery is fully charged before you venture out!

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## Maps

The base maps used in this publication can be seen at the Open Street Map website [www.openstreetmap.org](http://www.openstreetmap.org) (see Map Links on page 4.) By going to this web site you can pan and zoom the map to give you larger scale maps or street level maps which you may find useful for clarification of detail. These worldwide maps are produced and edited by people like me and are distributed for free. (This document was produced largely on Open Office which is also free and is compatible with Microsoft Office.)

The O.S. 25K maps come from one of the settings of [www.streetmap.co.uk](http://www.streetmap.co.uk). Streetmap does more than streets! Please note that O.S. Maps for the areas covered in this publication show paths that don't exist and are missing some paths that do exist. When walking in rural areas on paths across fields and with minimal landmarks it cannot be over emphasised that O.S. 25K maps are needed. Ask at reception to purchase a copy of the Daisy Bank 16K O.S. Map (even better than 25K).

All the maps can be downloaded to a tablet or 'phone but please remember that maps are no good when the battery is flat!

All the maps within this publication are produced with north at the top (& east to the right!!).

Maps use metric units (metres and kilometres) but distances here are given in miles as most walkers appear to be imperial rather than metric. Younger walkers who don't understand yards (yds) can treat these to be almost the same as metres for the distances referred to in this booklet. One yard is approximately the length of a man's stride when walking on level ground. The quoted walk distances are reasonably accurate, but walk times are approximate averages not allowing for any stops. Some walk very quickly but you may enjoy a more leisurely pace.

## Safety

You are responsible for your own safety. You'll need to wear appropriate clothing and, in particular, footwear. A mobile 'phone may not work in all the areas covered by this publication. To summon help in a sparsely populated area the national signal is 6 short blasts on a whistle repeated after an interval as necessary.

## Parking

All of the walks have a recommended start point. Some walks will allow you to start from a different location but walking in the text direction is recommended. Wherever you park, please ensure that you park considerately and respect private roads where there is no public right of vehicular access. If you park on the roadside then check that emergency and large service vehicles pass safely and have you left room for pedestrians to get past? Please do not park on pavements which should be clear for walkers – you!

## Notes

Some walks go uphill but remember that you don't have to race up hills and running down is dangerous. Take your time and enjoy the walk. Stopping to get your breath is God's way of getting you to stop and enjoy the view!

Please leave gates open or closed as you found them and take all litter back with you. Banana skins and orange peel are litter.

You may wish to carry and use secateurs to cut back vegetation around gates, stiles and finger posts to keep the paths clear.

This document was produced without charge.

## Map Links

<b>Walk</b>	<b>OpenStreetMap</b>	<b>O.S. 25K Map</b>
Walk 1	<a href="#">Daisy Bank</a>	<a href="#">Daisy Bank - SY15 6EB</a>
Walk 2	<a href="#">Churchstoke</a>	<a href="#">Todleth/Roundton Hills</a>
Walk 3-1	<a href="#">Bishop's Castle - centre</a>	<a href="#">Bishop's Castle - centre</a>
Walk 3-2	<a href="#">Bishop's Castle - walk area</a>	<a href="#">Bishop's Castle - walk area</a>
Walk 4	<a href="#">Montgomery</a>	<a href="#">Montgomery</a>
Walk 5	<a href="#">Powis Castle</a>	<a href="#">Powis Castle</a>
Walk 6	<a href="#">Criggion</a>	<a href="#">Criggion</a>
Walk 7	<a href="#">Church Stretton</a>	<a href="#">Church Stretton Vale</a>
Walk 8-1	<a href="#">Newtown</a>	<a href="#">Newtown</a>
Walk 8-2	<a href="#">Abermule</a>	<a href="#">Abermule</a>
Walk 8-3	<a href="#">Berriew</a>	<a href="#">Berriew</a>
Walk 8-4	<a href="#">Welshpool</a>	<a href="#">Welshpool</a>
Walk 8-5	<a href="#">Arddleen</a>	<a href="#">Arddleen</a>
Walk 8-6.1	<a href="#">Llanymynech</a>	<a href="#">Llanymynech</a>
Walk 8-6.2	<a href="#">Oswestry</a>	
Walk 8-6.3	<a href="#">Queen's Head</a>	<a href="#">Queen's Head</a>
Walk 8-7.1	<a href="#">Whittington</a>	
Walk 8-7.2	<a href="#">Lower Frankton</a>	<a href="#">Lower Frankton</a>

## Abbreviations

Br	Bridleway (pedestrians and horses)
E	East
FP	Footpath (pedestrians)
fp	Finger post
gps	The walkers equivalent of a SatNav used in cars
L	Left
N	North
PH	Public House, Inn
PRoW	Public Right of Way
R	Right
RB	Restricted Byway (pedestrians and limited vehicle access, locally specified)
S	South
SE	South east
sp	Signpost
SSW	South south west
W	West
yds	Yards (measurement)



Finger post



Waymark post



A Frame

## Acknowledgements

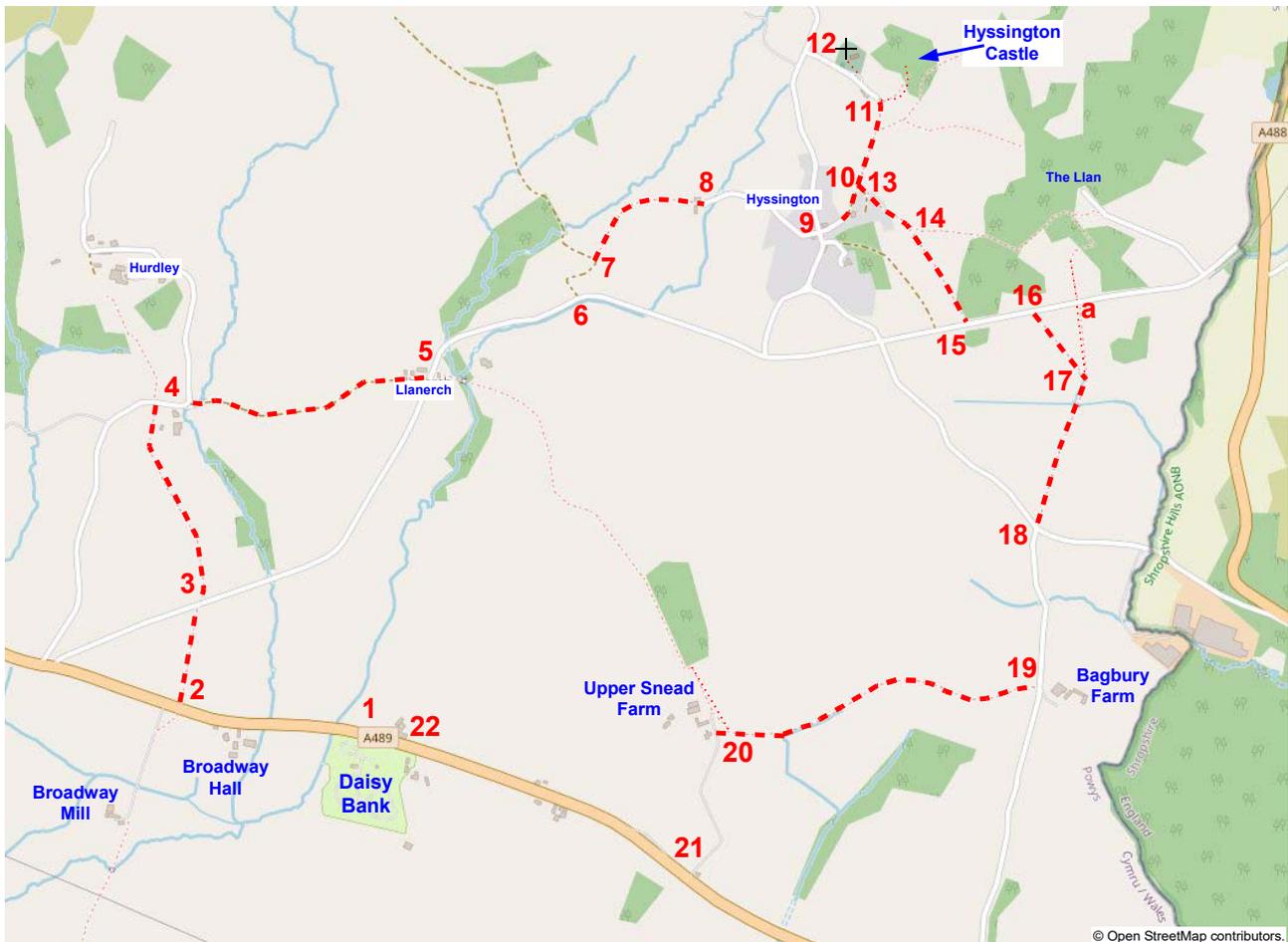
This booklet was produced with the help of my wife, Jean, who proof read the document and failed to get lost when testing the instructions for each walk.

Walk 1 was provided by Mark. Thanks to Mark and Nicky for providing such a lovely site and for making us so welcome over all the years we've been staying with them.

Without the 2020/2021 winter lockdown due to Covid-19 this booklet might never have been written. At least some good came out of the pandemic!

## Walk 1 – Daisy Bank to Hyssington church

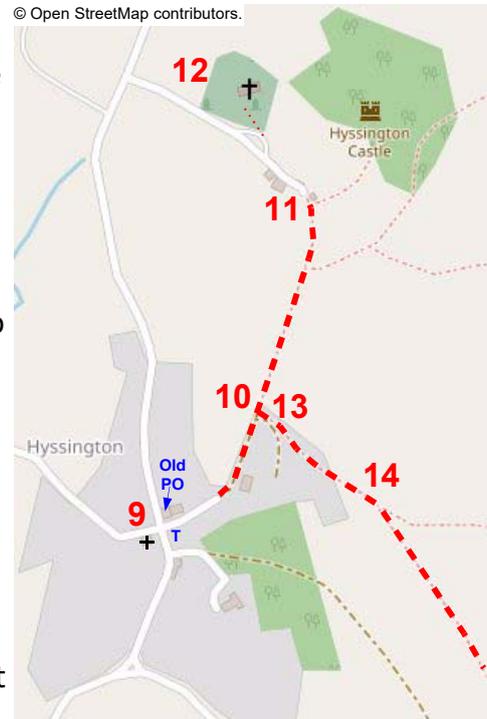
A 5 mile walk with stiles and gates. Walking time 2 – 2¾ hrs plus stops.



1. Walk from Daisy Bank turning L on the A489 towards Churchstoke for 500 yds going past Broadway Hall and almost to the road on your L to Broadway Mill. (Please walk on the R facing the oncoming traffic.)
2. Take the path on your R, through the gap by the gate, heading up to the road keeping the hedge on your L.
3. Cross the road at the stiles and go just R of the small disused quarry then slightly L uphill heading for Roundton peak to a stile by a power post. Follow the path keeping L of the cables and go over 2 stiles to reach the stile at the road by an electricity post.
4. Turn R on to the road for a few yds to the L bend at New House where you go straight ahead on the bridleway between two fields to Llanerch.
5. Turn L and walk for about 450 yds through Llanerch to a lane on your L signed 'Cwm Mawr'. (It is just before the R bend and looks like a gravel track.)
6. Turn L up the lane for 150 yds, past the R bend, to the L bend where there is a gate into the field.
7. Go through the gate and walk straight ahead (but don't go downhill) through the field then



- bear right at the fence to go between a house and farm buildings.
8. Go through 2 gates to the L of the farmhouse and follow the lane to the Methodist Church on your R at the crossroads in the centre of Hyssington.
  9. Go straight ahead to take the lane opposite (passing the Old Post Office with a post box in the wall on your left) and follow the lane as it bends to the L until you reach the gate. *{The telephone box opposite the post box is Grade II listed.}*
  10. Go through the gate to a path that heads towards the castle.
  11. Turn L through a gate and walk down the road past the house on your L to the church on your R. *{The castle is now privately owned without public access. See note 1. See note 2 for information about the church.}*
  12. After viewing the church retrace your steps to point **13** on the map.
  13. Go through the gate and immediately turn L, walking to the L of the curved driveway to the house. Go through 2 small gates in the garden to reach a field where you keep **R** heading for the pedestrian gate.
  14. Go through the gate and walk slightly to the R down to near the corner of the wood. Go into the wood, turn R and walk to the road.
  15. Turn L along the road for about 150 yds looking for the stile and fingerpost on your R immediately after a hedge at the angle of the path you are to take. (If this stile is not usable, continue walking for 250 yds to point **a** on the map and go R through the gate and walk diagonally to the far end of the hedge on your R then turn R.)
  16. Go over the stile and follow the hedge on your R, turning R at the end of the hedge.
  17. Go through 2 gates (used for sheep). Then head uphill, straight across the field, over a stile, then up over the brow of the field towards the road. The pedestrian gate is a few yds L of the field gate.
  18. Go L down the road, ignoring the minor road to your L, (heading S) for 400 yds, downhill and then rising to Bagbury Farm. (Please check your map here to save you having a very long walk.)
  19. At the brow of the hill, opposite the entrance to Bagbury Farm, take the path to the R (the L of the 2 gates). Keep close to the hedge on your R for about ½ mile, going through 4 gates to the field before the track to Upper Snead Farm. (The 3<sup>rd</sup> gate is reportedly often illegally tied to prevent opening even though it is on a Public Right of Way. If that is the case, as it was for us, then you will need to climb over it.)
  20. After the 4<sup>th</sup> gate go immediately R through another gate then diagonally L to the field gate (not the pedestrian gate to the continuation of the PRow) onto the track where you turn L and walk to the main A489 road.
  21. Turn R and walk for about ½ mile back to Daisy Bank on your left.
  22. Have a well deserved ice cream!



## NOTES

1. The owners of the house adjacent to the castle have bought the castle and removed the public access rights. Hyssington Motte & Bailey Castle was constructed at the top of a small, steep sided knoll to the north of what is now Hyssington village. The original bailey was thought to be about 70 x 45 metres and there was possibly a stone tower on the motte. Little surface evidence has been visible since the early 1800s.
2. It is thought that the earliest church on this site was built in the late Saxon times (AD 410 to 1066) but records only go back to the 13th century. The former medieval chapel was rebuilt in 1875 and restored in the 1890s. It is dedicated to St Etheldreda, a 7th century Saxon princess who became an East Anglian abbess.  
The building has plain plastered interior walls with a scissor-rafter roof and a wagon roof in the chancel. It has a large, octagonal, late medieval font and an early 17th century pulpit with intricately carved panels.  
Close to the entrance there is a picture of the "Demon bull of Bagbury". The story behind the picture can be found on the internet. Please don't disturb the flagstone just outside the church door!  
The churchyard has Commonwealth war graves of British Army soldiers from both World Wars I and II. Many of the graves are of families still resident in the area. A large list of the plants that grow in the churchyard indicate that at most times of the year it should be of interest to plant lovers. The sloping churchyard offers fine views of the Shropshire hills (for the residents?).

## Walk 2 – Churchstoke to the Four Hills

Please park on the Churchstoke Shopping Centre car park as far as possible from the store so as not to inconvenience shoppers.

This walk has been written so that walkers can choose the length and degree of difficulty to suit their skills and stamina. All four routes have stiles, gates and field paths. It is recommended that you take a paper map with you such as the one available from reception. (That one is particularly suited to the job as it is a 16K scale O.S. Map and water resistant – not that it ever rains in these parts!). Please do not rely on mobile 'phone signals in this area.

- > The Todleth Hill walk is an easy 3½ mile walk climbing 150m and should take around 2½ hours excluding stops.
- > The Two Hills (Todleth and Roundton) walk is an easy 4½ mile walk climbing 190m and should take around 3 hours excluding stops.
- > The Lan Fawr (translates roughly as High Up) walk is a more strenuous 7 mile walk climbing 260m and should take around 4½ hours excluding stops. This walk includes Roundton and Todleth hills. (Also see notes for Corndon Walk on page 13)
- > The Corndon Hill walk is a challenging 8 mile walk climbing 360m and should take around 5¼ hours excluding stops. You walk to all 4 summits. It should only be undertaken by those experienced in this type of walk. It is not advisable to attempt it in anything but good weather. It is recommended that you take a compass for this route particularly if, as an experienced walker, you choose a different route down such as the 5 cairns route. (See notes for Corndon Walk on page 13)

All 4 walks have a similar average gradient of about 1:12 offering great views and aerobic exercise.

Please be aware that the temperature at Lan Fawr is about 3°C lower than that at the car park and, when combined with any wind chill, means that another layer of windproof clothing may be advisable. Corndon is higher and more exposed than Lan Fawr.

All four hills have large areas of Open Access land. This means that you don't need to stick to the paths and can walk, within reason, wherever you like. That's great news but has the disadvantage that paths are not as well marked on the ground – so it's easier to get lost.

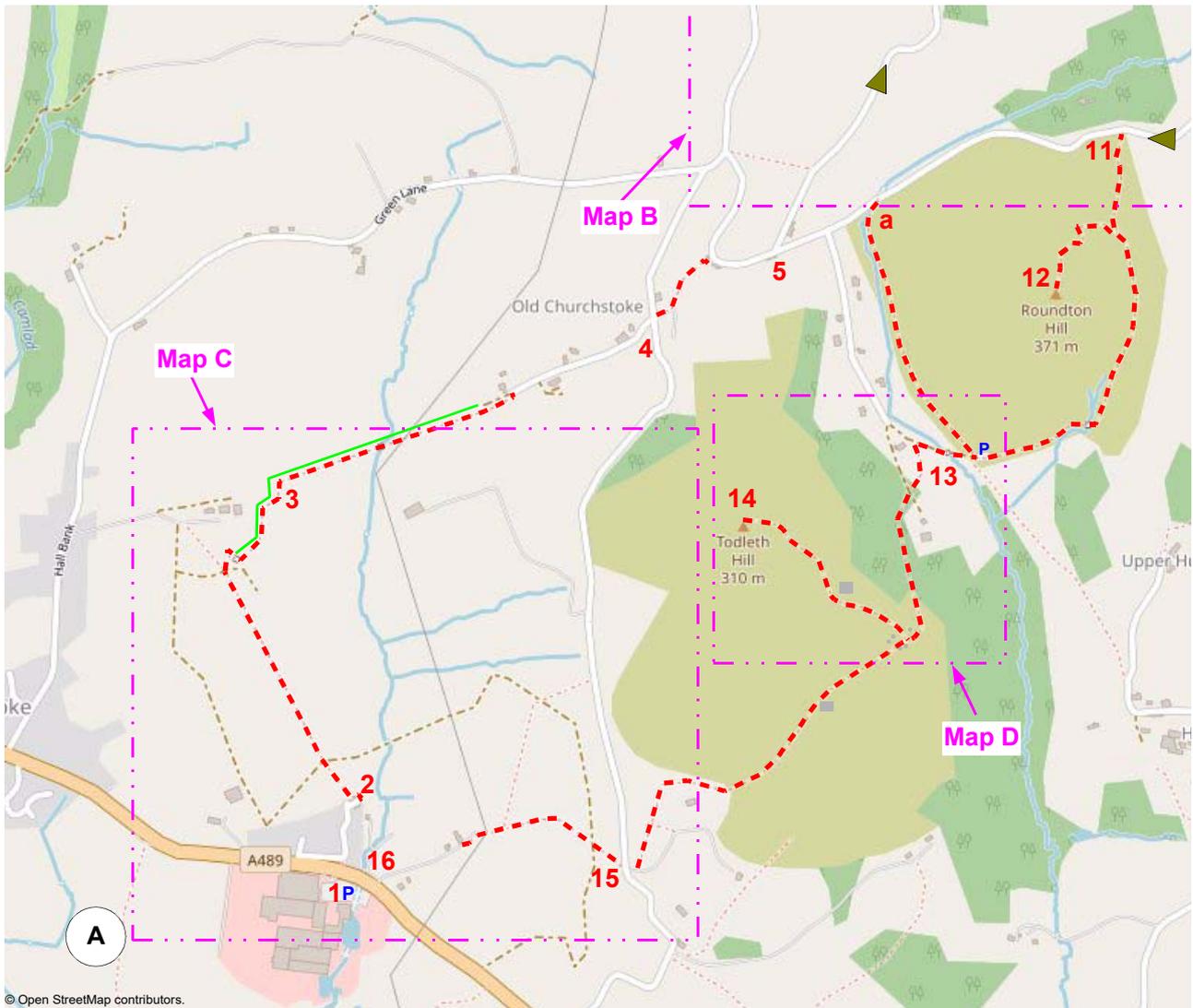
This walk was derived from a number of old publications and a more recent one by Shropshire County Council. All the publications were out of date so this walk aims to be correct as of 2021. I'm indebted to Jim Roberts (Bishop's Castle) for the detailed updates I gleaned from his information.

These ancient volcanic hills are peppered with springs which provide the water for the Montgomery Water bottling plant at the Churchstoke Shopping Centre.

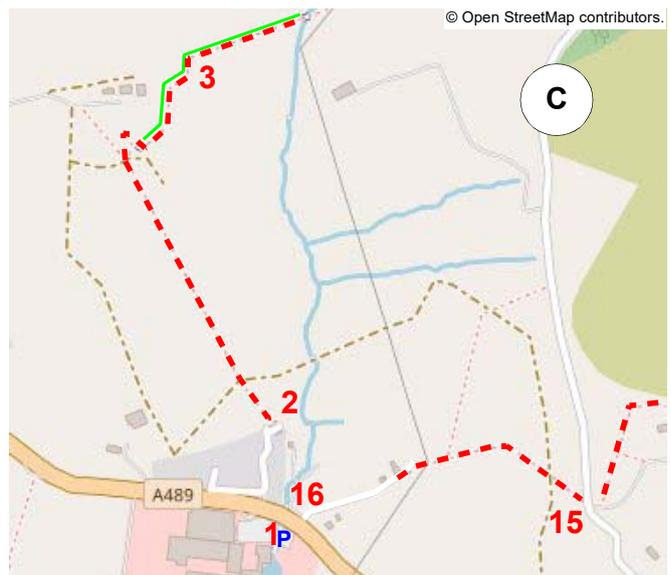
Roundton Hill is a National Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Some rare species of plants and insects can be found here along with many bird species. This web site may be of interest: <https://www.montwt.co.uk/nature-reserves/roundton-hill>

The hill is also the location of the 19<sup>th</sup> century disused mine which allowed the extraction of lead and Barytes (Barium). The mine shaft (near the Nature Reserve car park) is closed to the public but is home to roosting bats. I am informed that part of the mine extended to the NW corner of Daisy Bank where the access was known as Roundton Mine Plot 10 – that part of the park is called Roundton.

Enjoy your walk and don't forget the drink and snacks!



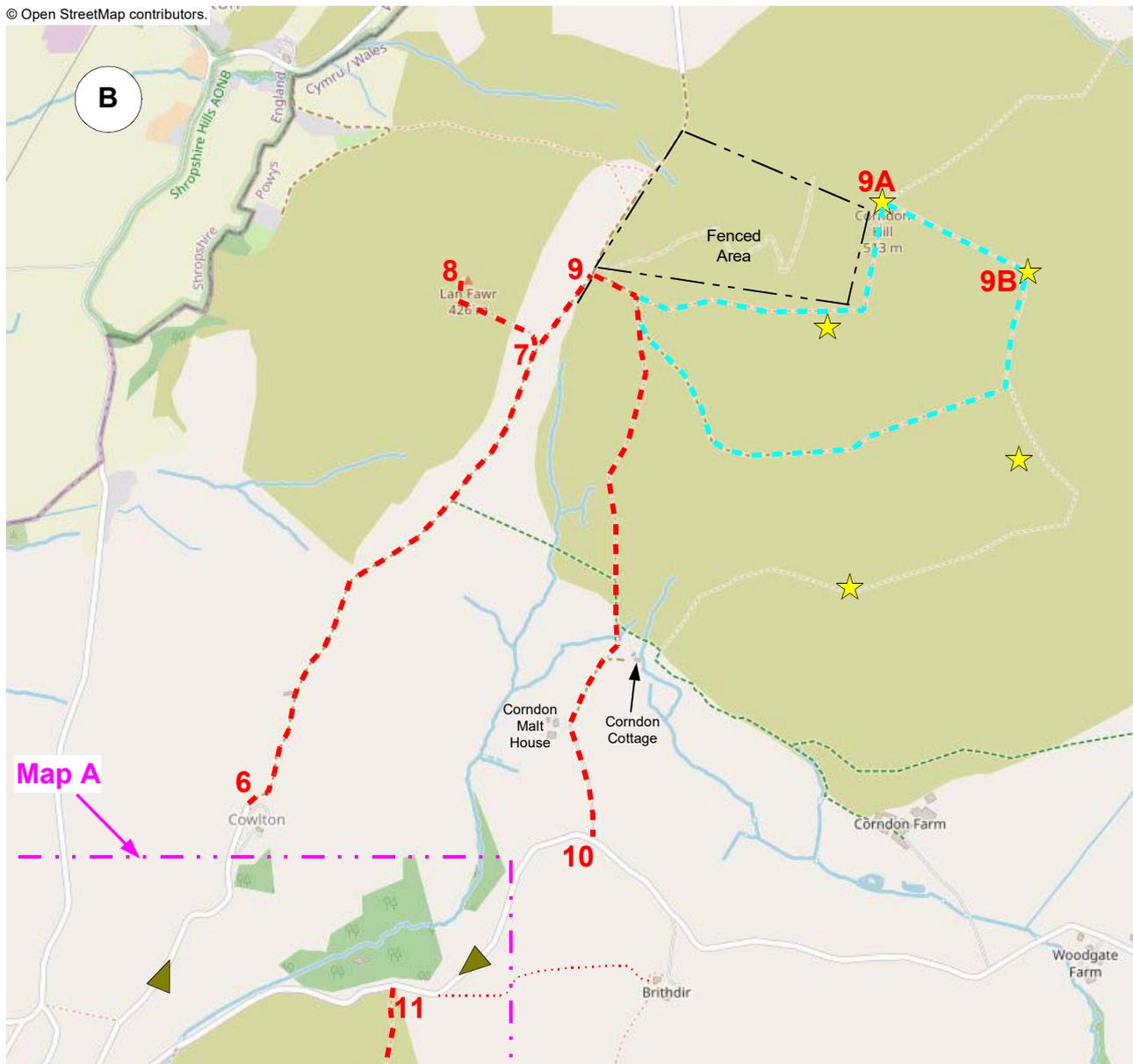
1. Walk to the car park entrance and carefully cross the road to go through a small gate to Cross Likey Close. Walk straight ahead and then R between the garages. At the end of the road you reach a stile into the field.
2. Go over the stile and turn L to walk with the hedge on your L. Cross two stiles to take you into the 3<sup>rd</sup> field. At the L corner go through the gate heading for the brick house. Look for the small bridge to your R. Go over the bridge and turn L to walk close to the hedge on your L so that you are facing Todleth and Roundton hills.
3. Walk to the gate near the power cables, go through and through the next field gate then look for a stile in the hedge on your L, just past the house on your L, where you turn R and walk down the road to Old Churchstoke.



- Cross the road and walk up the track towards the house. Go through the gap between the gate and the house fence (R of the house fence and L of the field gate). Go over the stile into a field. Go over 2 more stiles then turn R to reach the driveway to the L of the house and the road where you turn R. Walk to the road to your L.

For the Todleth Hill walk please go to the Todleth Hill variation on page 13.  
 For the Two Hills walk please go to the Two Hills variation on page 13.

- Turn L and walk uphill for almost 1½ miles as you climb 350m.

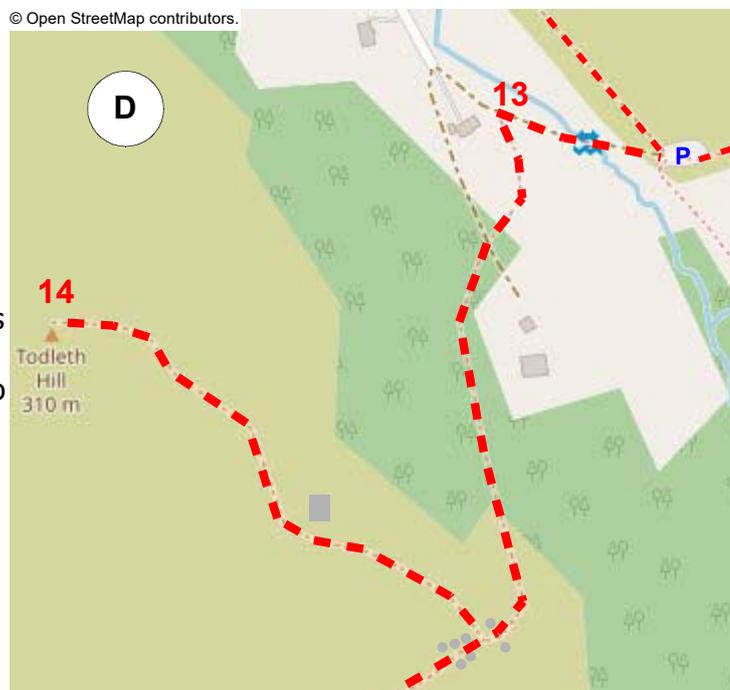


- The road gate at Cowlton is 1/3 of the distance to Lan Fawr. Continue walking on the grass track past the wind turbine on your R and the ruined house on your L for just over ¾ mile to a point where you can see rock formation and a long hedge starts on your L.  
*{The views of Lan Fawr ahead and Corndon to your R start to get really good so take a break or two on the steep climb and enjoy them whilst getting your breath back!}*
- Go L on the Open Access land and walk the short distance to the summit to enjoy the view.

- 8 Walk back to the path and go L for about 150 yds to a pedestrian gate (alongside a field gate) on your R leading to a well used track which runs towards Corndon.

For the Corndon walk please go to the Corndon variation on page 13.

9. Go through the gate and follow the track curving to the R. (About 120 yds from the gate you see the uphill track to Corndon on your L.) As it starts to curve to the L you take the path which forks to the R past a stand of trees on your R down to Corndon Cottage and Corndon Malt House 85m below you. Close to the cottage you go through 2 gates to the R of the cottage keeping R onto the track which runs down to the mill. Just before the mill you go through another gate and then to the road.
10. Turn R for 1/3 mile (past the path to Brithdir) to a kissing gate on your L.
11. Go through the gate and walk diagonally R for about 200 yds past the information board then take the path to your R (please remember this point for your return) that zigzags up about 70m to the summit.
12. Retrace your steps to the point remembered and turn R on the path by the wall which you follow through to the car park. Go over the footbridge alongside the ford, through the gate and after a few yds take the stile on your L.
13. Keep L and go over 2<sup>nd</sup> stile. Just **before** 3<sup>rd</sup> stile turn R to go uphill, over a stile to cross a private driveway and take the steep uphill path opposite through the wood. After keeping L you cross another stile and head diagonally L onto the open slopes of Todleth Hill. As the path levels you walk between some piles of loose stone. (Remember this location.) Go R to climb past the Montgomery Water (MW) building to the summit about 35m above you.
14. Walk down the hill to the loose stones, turn R and follow the path to the **R** of another MW building by a power pole. Don't take the track, follow the power lines down to a fence where you turn R to walk with the fence on your L. At end of fence go diagonally L to reach a track just before a cattle grid. Go over the grid to the road and cross diagonally R to the footpath.
15. Go diagonally R (ignore the waymark which showed straight ahead when we checked) steeply downhill to the stile at the far R corner of the field. Cross and walk down the R side of the field to a corner stile taking you to the lane near the house. Walk down this lane to the main A489.
16. Walk on the R of the road until you reach the shopping centre car park.



## Walk variations.

### Todleth Hill

5. Keep on the road (don't turn left here) and walk 300 yds to point **a** on map A.

Turn R over the plank bridge and take the path to the car park (map D), walking with the stream to your R around the foot of the hill. At the car park turn R, to go over the footbridge alongside the ford, through the gate and after a few yds take the stile on your L.

Continue the walk from point 13.

### Two Hills Walk

5. Keep on the road (don't turn left here) and walk for almost ½ mile past the road on your R, past an information board by a plank bridge on your R **a**, to a kissing gate and information board on your R shortly after the R & L bends on this very steep, narrow road. Your path is by a stone wall before the path to your R leading to Brithdir. (Maps A and B)

Continue the walk from point 11.

### Corndon Walk

This text covers an easier route to the summit and back via the track. This route is shown in blue to avoid confusion with the other walks. The map shows the 5 cairns which can be used to form a more adventurous route down to Corndon Cottage. An O.S. Map and compass is advisable and should be carried for routes other than the one detailed here. Please note that the O.S. Maps are not showing the 2021 paths here correctly.

Both the Lan Fawr and Corndon Hills can be walked from the north by parking on the access road to the stone circle between White Grit and Priest Weston. (O.S. Ref. SO 3018 9772) You then walk 2/3 mile south on the track to point 9 on the map.

9. Go through the gate and follow the track curving to the R. About 120 yds from the gate you take the uphill track on your L to Corndon. This leads steeply uphill (90m) to the end of the fence where you turn L and walk up to the summit cairn and trig point.

*{There's a bench at the summit for you to admire the views (and sometimes the hang gliders). On a good day the distant views should include Brown Clee and the Cheshire plains.}*

- 9A. Walk downhill to the cairn south east (SE) of the summit.

- 9B. Walk SSW downhill for about 250 yds to take the track to your R which you follow (80m) downhill for a little more than ½ mile to reach the path going L down to Corndon Cottage and Corndon Mill 85m below you.

Turn L walking past a stand of trees on your R. Close to the cottage you go through 2 gates to the R of the cottage keeping R onto the track which runs down to the mill. Just before the mill you go through another gate and then to the road.

Continue the walk from point 10.

## Walk 3 – Bishop's Castle to Bankshead

A 5½ mile walk with stiles, gates and field paths. This is a beautiful walk when done in good weather but can be far from easy in mist or rain. You should allow about 2¾ hrs plus stops if you're an average leisure walker. Please carry an O.S. 25K map and wear stout shoes.

Drive to the Station Street car park **1** (SY9 5AQ). If this car park is being used for the livestock auction then please safely park nearby, allowing room for the large cattle vehicles turning.

1. Take the passageway that goes alongside the King's Head pub to reach High Street **2**.
2. Turn L and then walk down Church Street.
3. Just before you cross to the church look at the houses on your L. Turn R and immediately L then walk down Church Lane until you reach Grange Gardens on your R **4**.  
{Nos. 2 and 4½ Church St. have jig-saw and zip divides for the paint! See picture below}



**Use Map B for the next section of the walk.**

4. Turn R and then L into Field Lane (not into Grange Gardens) to start walking on the Shropshire Way. Follow the Shropshire Way for just under a mile going through gates and stiles until you drop down towards a bridge over a stream **5**.

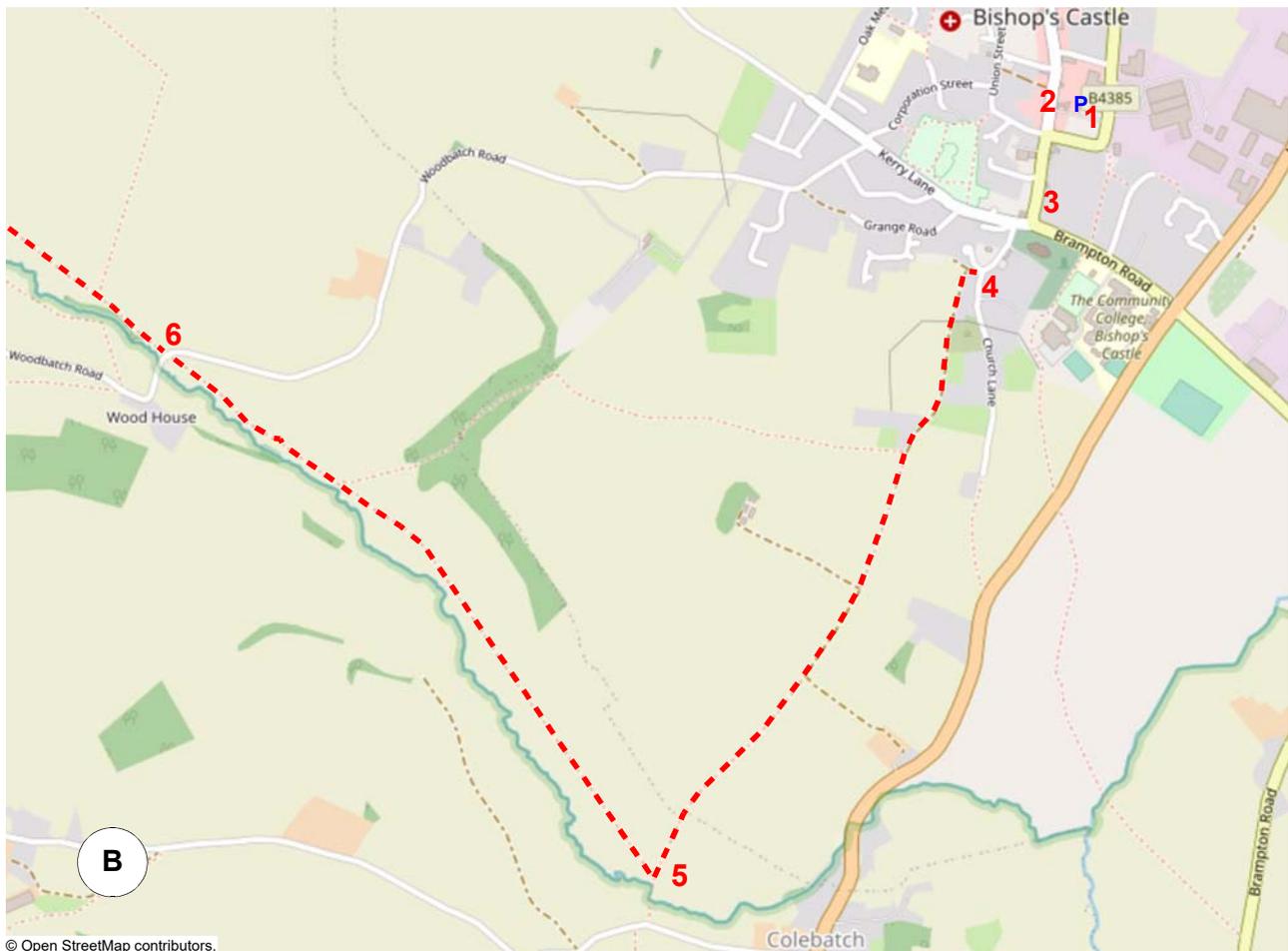
*{The Shropshire Way has a buzzard on its waymarks; there are two versions of the waymark in use.}*

5. Just before the bridge you turn R to walk with the stream to your L for just under a mile to reach the stile at Woodbatch Road **6**.

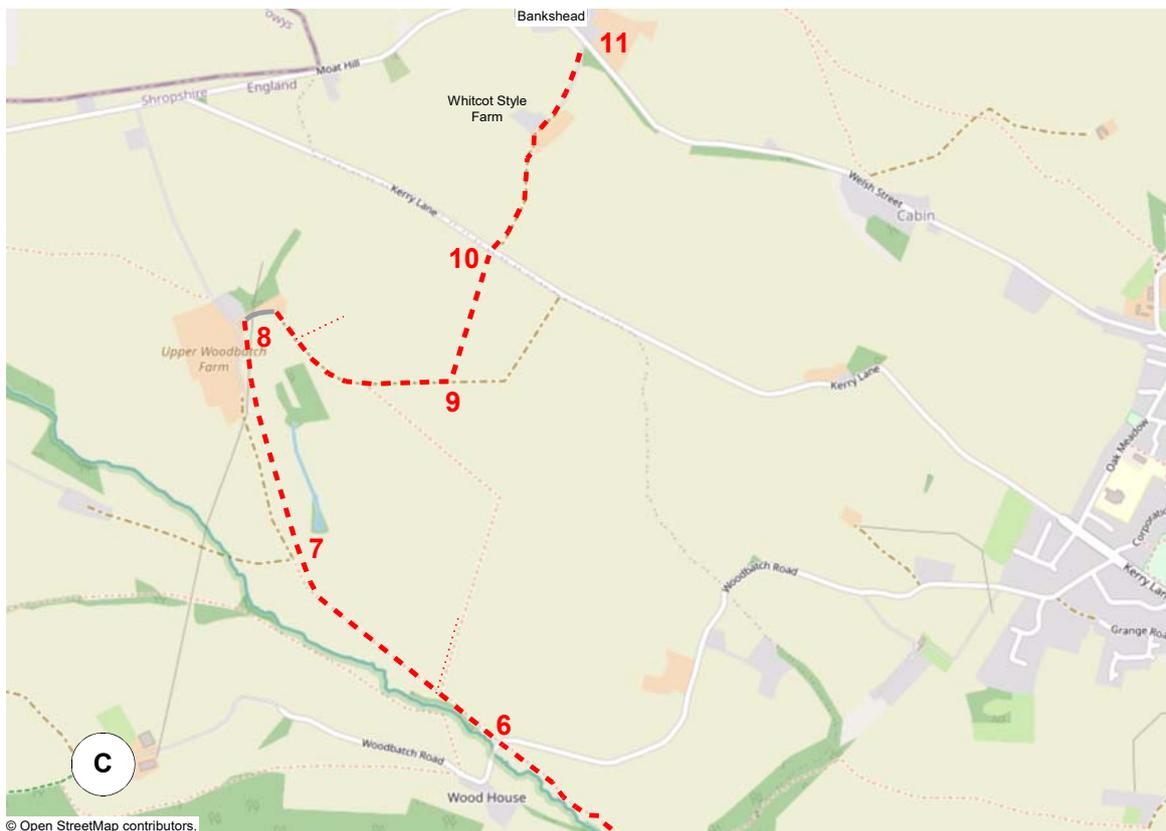
**Use Map C for the next section of the walk.**



Nos. 2 and 4½ Church St.



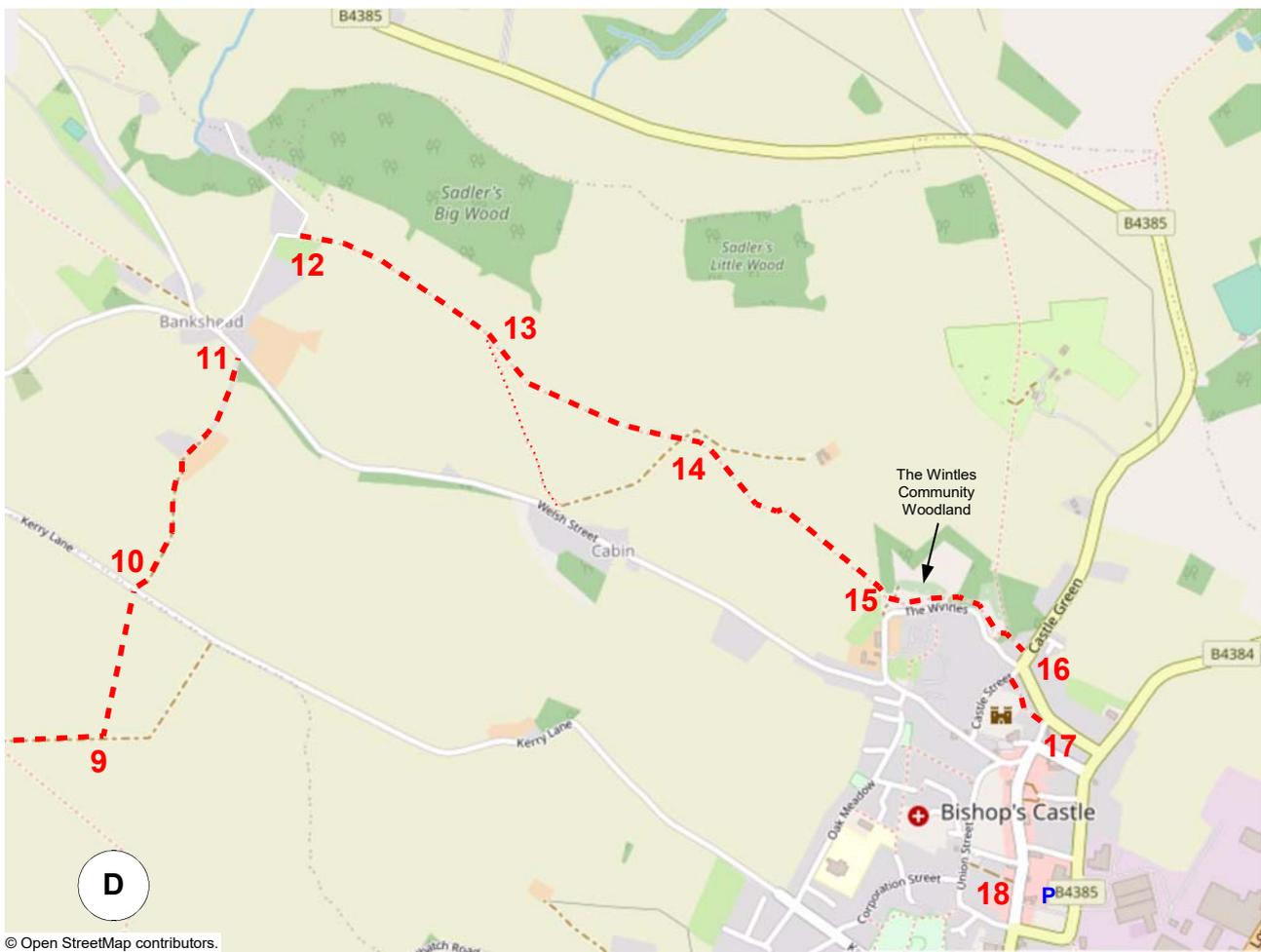
6. Cross the road and go over the stile to walk in an almost straight line for under ½ mile to reach the ¼ mile track **7** to Upper Woodbatch Farm **8**. (Some of the waymarks on the stiles are not pointing in the correct directions; you are aiming for the farm buildings. You have now left the Shropshire Way and are walking on PRoWs – Public Footpaths – until you pass The Wintles **16**.)
7. Walk to the R of the track and its fencing to go through a small gate and to arrive at the gate at the far R corner of the farm.
8. Go R through the gate and walk on the track past the farm building heading back the way you came. Continue on the track for about 750 yds looking for the path to your L before the L bend. *{Enjoy the views from this track.}*



9. Go through the gate to the gate at Kerry Lane **10**.  
{There's a useful seat at Kerry Lane.}
10. Cross to go through the gate onto a track which takes you past Whitcot Style Farm and through a gate to Welsh Street **11** where you turn L.

**Use Map D for the next section of the walk.**

11. After 60 yds. turn R (The lane has a sign 'Seven Wells'.)  
Walk until the lane turns sharp R **12**.
12. Go straight ahead into the field (this is before the house on your L) and follow this path with a hedge on your R. (The walk from **12** to **16** is about 1 mile.)
13. At the end of the hedge you continue to walk as if the hedge was there to go into the next field, avoiding the path more to your R. Go over the stile just to the R of a power pole keeping the hedge to your L. (Locating this power pole and stile is important.)
14. The path crosses a track to an agricultural building and goes over a stile (between 2 field gates) and continues on the L of the field. Go over the stile on your L and immediately R with the hedge on you R to reach a track leading to The Wintles.
15. Cross this track and go through a pedestrian gate. Your path keeps you to the N of the road, through The Wintles Community Woodland and then joins the Shropshire Way joining from the L to reach the road, Castle Green **16**.  
{The Wintles Community area is an interesting mix of woodland, allotments and feature areas such as the fruit labyrinth, some are open to the public and can be accessed from the footpath. Please respect the facility.}



**Use Map A for the last section of the walk.**

16. Turn R and then L into Castle Street (rather than following the road into Bull Lane). After a few yds a fingerpost on the R side of the road directs you to a narrow path between the buildings (Cross Keys Cottage) opposite. Walk down the path past the bowling green on your R. At the entrance to Middle Bailey Cottage turn L to go down to Bull Street.  
*{The bowling green is on the remains of the castle.}*
17. Carefully turn R into the one-way Bull Street which leads steeply downhill to High Street and then Church Street. You find the King's Head on your R **18**.
18. Turn L into the passageway to the car park.

**NOTE**

Bishop's Castle is an interesting little town, dating back some 800 years, with numerous places of interest which you might like to visit before you return to your car. The Castle Hotel garden terrace provides a scenic place for refreshments. The Town Hall at the top of High Street is an interesting 1765 Grade II\* building brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Near the Town Hall is The House on Crutches Museum. The Victorian church of Saint John the Baptist has a 13c Norman tower. It has a number of micro breweries which are very tempting for some!

## Walk 4 – Montgomery Castle and County War Memorial

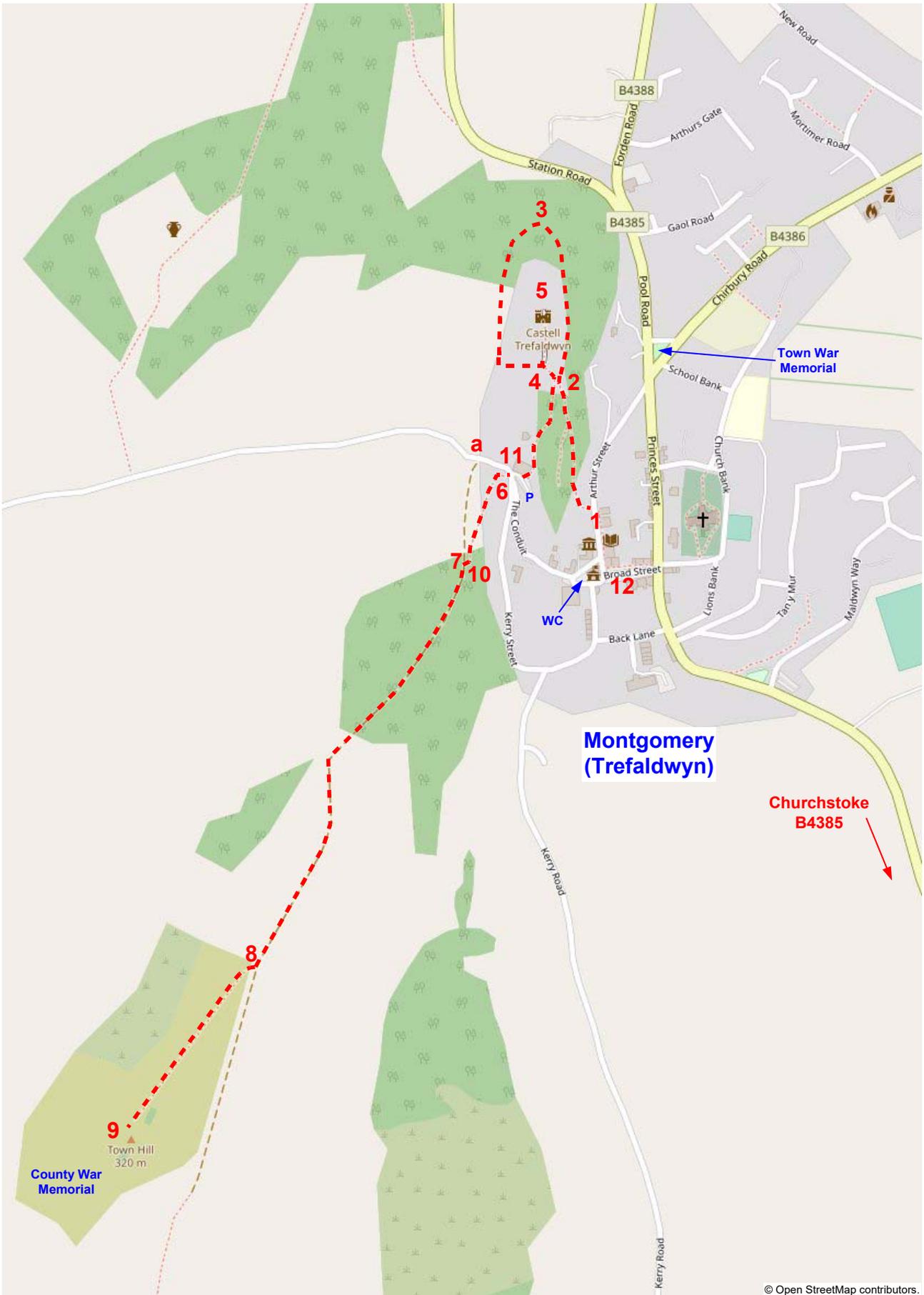
A 2 mile walk with stiles, gates and steps. You climb about 30m from the Town Square to the Castle car park and then a further 115m to the County War Memorial. However, as your total ascent and descent is 185m with some steep sections you should allow about 1½ hrs plus stops if you're an average leisure walker.

**This walk is not suitable for those with mobility issues – see notes below the map.**

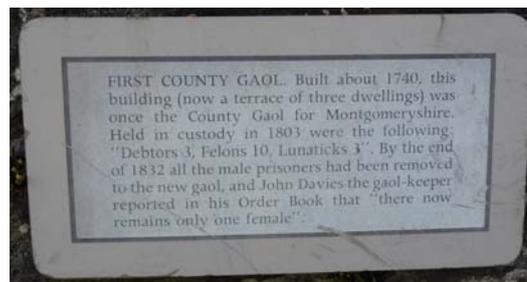
Montgomery is a small town with a population of about 1300 and a long history. It used to be the county town of Montgomeryshire until 1996 when Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire merged to become Powys with Newtown as the county town. The town boasts 141 listed buildings/structures. The castle and church are Grade I and four others are Grade II\*.

Park in Montgomery (SY15 6RA) in or near Broad Street and walk to Bunnars in Arthur Street. *{Bunnars is a family run hardware shop that is better described as an Aladdin's Cave. They have all the things that you never knew you needed. Whether it's a few seeds or a tractor tyre they stock it or can get it for you. Didn't you realise that buying something here was on your bucket list?}*

1. Take the footpath which leaves the road opposite Bunnars. This is accessed through a kissing gate and climbs steeply up to the base of the castle.
2. Close to the castle a path merges from the L. Keep R and walk at this level with the castle (curtain) wall on your L and a hedge on your R.  
*{The outer walls that link the castle towers are known as curtain walls. The design offers a very strong defence of the inner areas. The Norman castle is on high ground which provides superb views and defence against invasion.}*
3. At the end of the castle beyond where the wall curves there is an information board describing the Battle of Montgomery that took place on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1644 in the field below. Continue walking with the castle walls now on your L and head for the wooden bridge leading to the inside of the castle.  
*{It's hard to envisage such a huge loss of life in just one hour of fighting.}*
4. Go across the bridge.
5. Enjoy the castle and its views before returning to this bridge and walking on the level path to the CADW [K-add-oo] car park **6** .
6. Exit to Kerry Street and go through the small gate opposite. Walk up this rough path to its junction with a track. (Try to remember this point as you'll take the R turn to this path on your return.)
7. Go L and follow the track to the point where you go through a pair of stone gateposts and can see a grass path to your R up to the monument.
8. Walk to the monument which is between two stands of pine trees.  
*{The Grade II listed structure which is made from solid Portland stone is 50 feet high and was erected in 1923 to commemorate the dead of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. It has since been further dedicated to include those from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. It was repaired after the 1990 earth tremor.  
It is flanked by an O.S. Trig point on one side and a topograph on the other. A topograph is a monument erected in a high place, such as a hilltop, indicating the direction and distance of notable landscape features which can be seen with the naked eye from that point.}*
9. Retrace your steps to point **10** which was where you left the small path to take the track.
10. Go R and walk to the road. (If you can't find the path then walk to point **a** where you go through the gate and walk to the road junction just past the car park.)



11. Cross diagonally to walk down the very steep The Conduit.  
*{The Old Gaol is on your R.}*
12. You are now in Town Square and can return to your car or perhaps enjoy Montgomery.



## NOTES

1. You can just visit the castle by driving up Kerry Street to the very limited CADW car park at the castle.
2. The walk from the castle to the monument is not particularly steep but is a fair climb over a fairly long distance.
3. From the castle car park, the easiest route down is via Kerry Street, the steepest is via The Conduit (where you can usually enjoy the plants on this traffic free road) and, of course, you can always retrace your steps from the castle to point **1**.
4. The Montgomery Town War Memorial (as opposed to the County War Memorial) is at the triangular garden at the junction of Pool Road and Chirbury Road.

## Suggestions for enjoying Montgomery.

1. As you emerge from The Conduit into Town Square, look to your R to see a Grade II stone structure on the wall. This used to be a water tap for the town fed from the very old reservoir up the hill. (Conduit means pipe.)
2. The church has a Robber's Grave located 14 yds from the N gate and 8 yds W. The grave is only marked with a wooden cross. You can choose which of the stories you'd like to believe; you can find them on the internet. You get a good view of the Old Gaol in The Conduit from the churchyard.
3. I've already mentioned Bunnars.
4. If it's open, then The Old Bell Museum is a fascinating visit. Amongst other things, it includes the railway, the schoolroom, the workhouse, the blind lady's box (known to all as 'Blind May' – a must see item!) and a link with Lymm in Cheshire. Don't be put off by its apparent small size – it has 11 rooms.
5. After all that a visit to the Grade II Castle Tearooms is called for. It's listed for its history but it should also be listed for its food!  
(Other tearooms and place of refreshment are available!)

## Walk 5 – Welshpool to Belan Locks

An easy 4 mile walk with stiles, steps and gates. You should allow about 1¾ hrs plus stops if you're an average leisure walker. The paths can be muddy after wet weather.

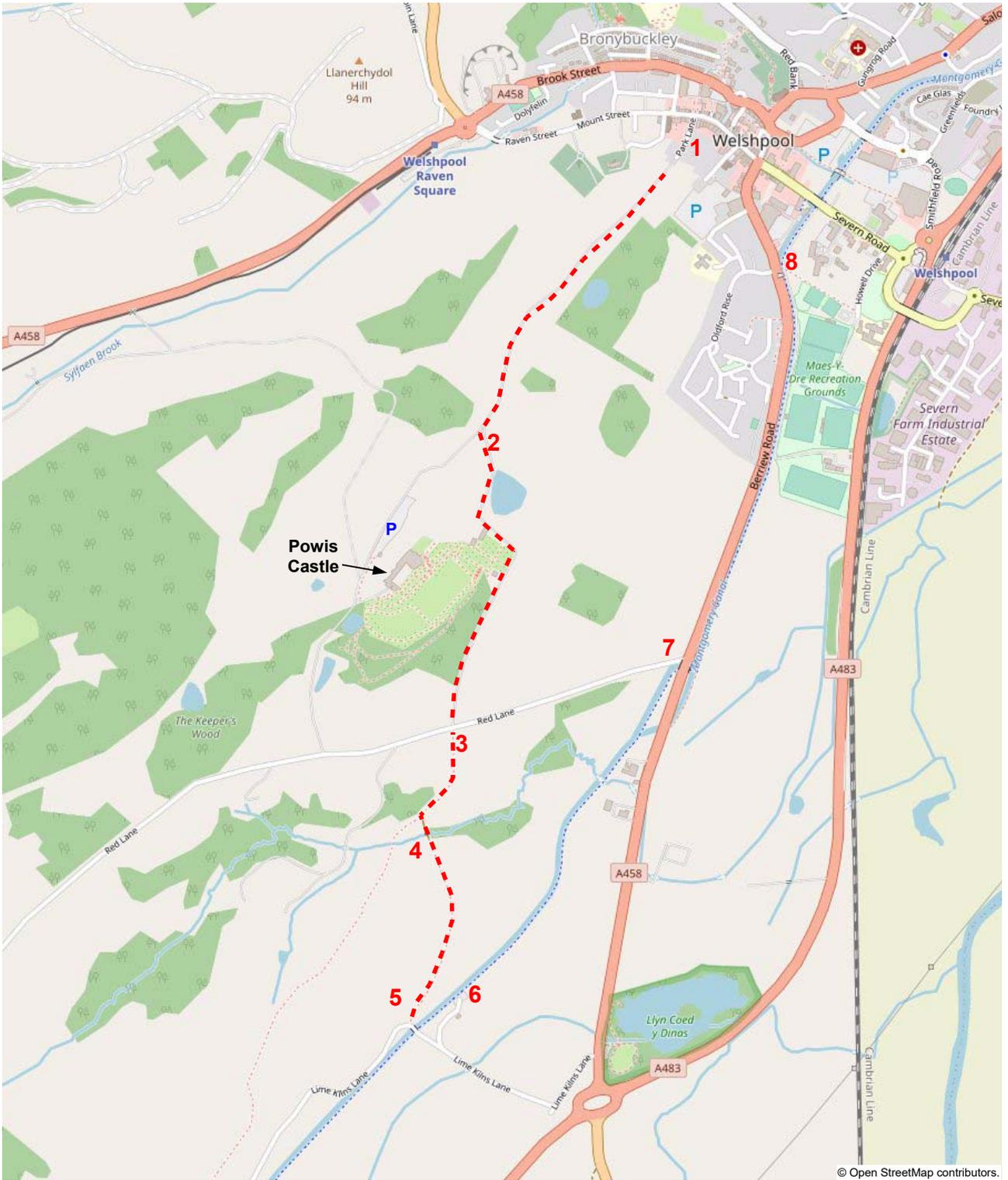
See Welshpool map on page 35 for parking and for the start/end of walk.

Drive to Welshpool, taking the exit **1** from the A483 at the 'Old Station' roundabout. At the New Road junction **2** go L and exit **L** on the bend on to the 'Church St.' car park **3** (SY21 7DD). This is a Pay & Display car park, rarely full and with reasonable charges (£3 or £4 in 2021 for a 4hr stay).

Walk back to New Road and keep L to reach the busy Severn Street/Broad Street junction where you go R to Broad Street. Walk to Park Lane (point **8** on the Welshpool map and point **1** on this map).

1. Turn L onto Park Lane **1** and go through the pedestrian gate into the Powis Estate.  
*{You are on a Permissive Footpath until you reach point **3**. You are only allowed access if you stay on the path and don't stop for a picnic etc. Should you wish to stray from the route to enjoy the facilities you are obliged to obtain a ticket from the National Trust at the Castle or Car Park. It is worth coming back another time to enjoy the castle and the beautiful gardens at your leisure. Please note that Powis Castle is in Powys.}*
2. At the path junction **2** turn L to walk past the small lake and estate facilities to reach Red Lane **3**.  
*{You are now on a one-way system, facing the incoming traffic to the castle so some care is needed.}*
3. Cross the road, go over the stile and walk straight ahead to the track leading down to the stone bridge over the stream.
4. Cross the bridge, go through the field gate straight ahead. Ignore the stile on your R and walk up the slope with the fence on your R. At the top of the hill go over the stile and take the path half L downhill between two lines of trees. This takes you to the stile at the road.
5. At the road, Lime Kiln Lane, you go over the stile, L across the bridge and then R and R to walk along the canal towpath with the canal on your L.  
*{The canal is the Montgomery Canal (known as The Monty) which was built in the years just before and shortly after 1800. As you cross this bridge (121), Belan Upper Lock is to your R and the Lower Lock to your L. There are picnic tables at the locks.}*
6. Looking back to your R immediately after Belan Lower Lock you can see a fine example of Estate workers' houses which are still lived in by workers and retired workers.
7. After about ½ mile the canal goes under the A458 at bridge 120. The canal now runs through the outskirts of Welshpool with the canal alongside the road.  
*{There's a nature reserve here with some information boards.}*
8. As the canal parts company with the road (point **8** on this map and point **6** on the Welshpool map which is referred to from now on.) walk past the Welshpool Lock and go under Severn Street bridge (119). You now cross Lledan Brook Aqueduct **4** and immediately go up onto the footbridge (118A) where you turn L to reach the car park **3**.





## Walk 6 – Breidden Hill & (Admiral) Rodney's Pillar

A 5 mile walk ascending 280 metres with stiles, field paths and gates. Typical time 3 hours.

Rodney's Pillar is the outstanding landmark when driving on the A483 north of Welshpool.

The hill has Permissive paths which are closed for shooting and/or forestry work every Tuesday and Saturday from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Permissive paths are not Public Rights of Way but may be used by the public by permission of the landowner who can, and usually does, stipulate the condition of use. Here the closures are posted and there is a notice stipulating that dogs must be on a lead at all times; both for good reason. You are asked to stick to the paths and tracks as the area is not Open Access and you could disturb the game birds.

The paths can be muddy after wet weather. Walking boots are recommended. The summit can be tricky in windy weather if the wind is gusting and is likely to be colder than at the car park.

This walk is all about the fabulous views from the summit rather than the route to the summit. The easiest route (slightly longer in distance but less steep and clearly defined) is the one from **1** to **6** using the red line on the map. This route from **1** to **4** is fairly smooth crushed stone used by estate vehicles and is easy to walk on. From **4** to **6** it is largely grass.

When returning you can either retrace your steps or try **5** to **a** to **b** to reach point **3**. From the summit you can decide whether the route from **6** to **a** is an option or too steep for you.

The path from **a** to **2** via **c** is very wet, steep, rocky and is on or close to the bed of the stream!

The path from **3** to **2** (and **d**) via **b** and **c** is a public bridleway and best avoided unless you have 4 legs! It is steep and very difficult to walk on in places, particularly after rain.

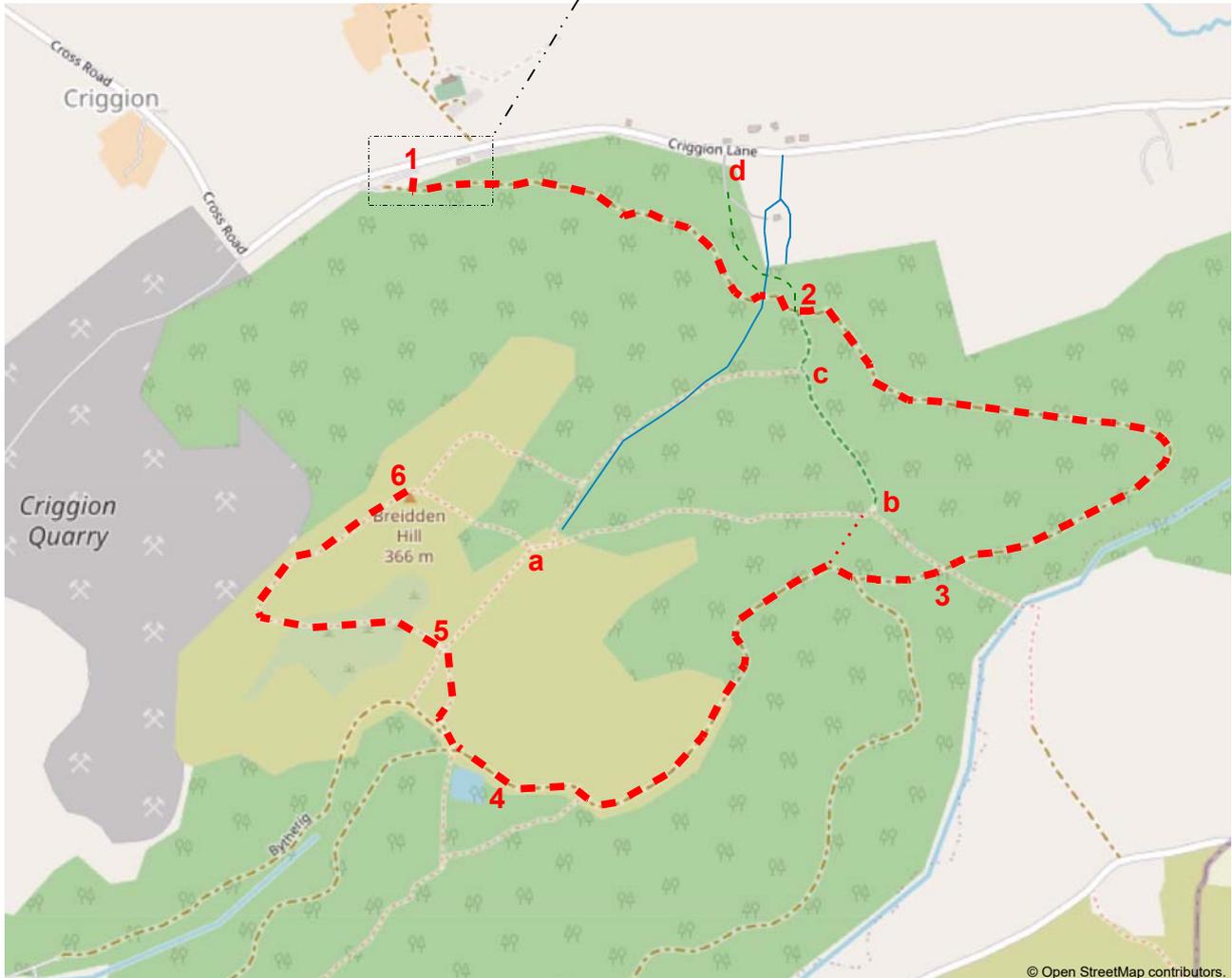
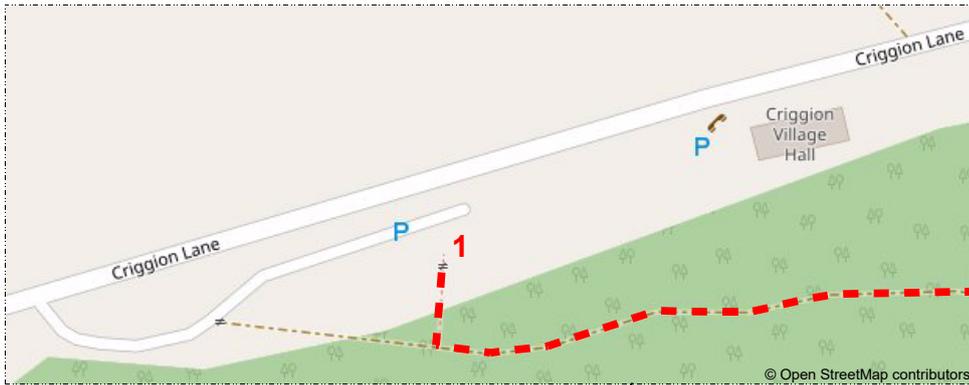
Drive N from Welshpool on A483 to just past Arddleen. Take B4393 on R sp Llandrinio. After 4 miles, just before Crewgreen take R onto Criggion Lane (sp at junction) for about 1.5 miles. The large forestry commission car park is on your L beyond the Criggion Community Council single storey, brick village hall (SY5 9AZ OS Ref. SJ295149) and before the sharp R bend at the quarry. It is signed 'Breidden' and is separate from the VH CP.

Whilst you're in this area you might wish to visit St Peter's Church at Meverley (SY10 8PJ nr Crewgreen). This is a rare example of a black and white timber-framed church surviving (with rebuild and restoration) for 1000 years. It is reputed to be the oldest example of its kind in the UK.

<http://meverleychurch.co.uk/about/>

This is where the River Vyrnwy flows into the River Severn.

On your return journey turn R at the B4393 junction to drive about 1½ miles through Crewgreen to Meverley. The church is on your L down Church Lane.



1. Park on the car park and go through the pedestrian gate signed 'Rodney's Pillar' to turn L uphill onto the track.
2. After 875 yds, just after crossing the stream, a narrow public bridleway from Criggion Lane joins and crosses your track. The track now climbs through Brimford Wood to again cross the bridleway.
3. Continue on the track ignoring the track going L, the path to your R and another track to your L just before you reach the pond.
4. Just after the pond you turn R off the track to take an uphill path to the path crossroads.

5. Go straight ahead and then follow the L sweeping ascent to the quarry fence and then R for the final ascent. Close to the Pillar and the 366m summit is a topograph.  
*{A topograph is a monument erected in a high place, such as a hilltop, indicating the direction and distance of notable landscape features which can be seen with the naked eye from that point. The Wrekin in E, The Stipperstones & Long Mynd to the SE, Snowdon and the Berwyns to the NW.}*
6. Enjoy your time here at this excellent 360° viewpoint. You can now decide which route you wish to take for your return. There is little difference in the time taken for the different routes as the shorter ones are steeper.  
*{Breidden Hill is an extinct volcano. The 16m high Grade II\* pillar made of local stone was erected in 1782. A granite panel states that it was erected by the Gentlemen of Montgomeryshire to commemorate the naval successes of Admiral Rodney including the Battle of the Saints. Prior to 1890 an inscription in Welsh read "RODNEY'S PILLAR. The highest pillar will fall, the strongest towers will decay: but the fame of Sir George Brydges Rodney shall increase continually, and his good name shall never be obliterated."}*

When returning you can either retrace your steps or try **5** to **a** to **b** to reach point **3**. From the summit you can decide whether the route from **6** to **a** is an option or too steep for you.

Driving back to the A483 and from the A483 you get some good views of the pillar giving you the opportunity to congratulate yourself on your achievement.

## Walk 7 – Church Stretton Vale

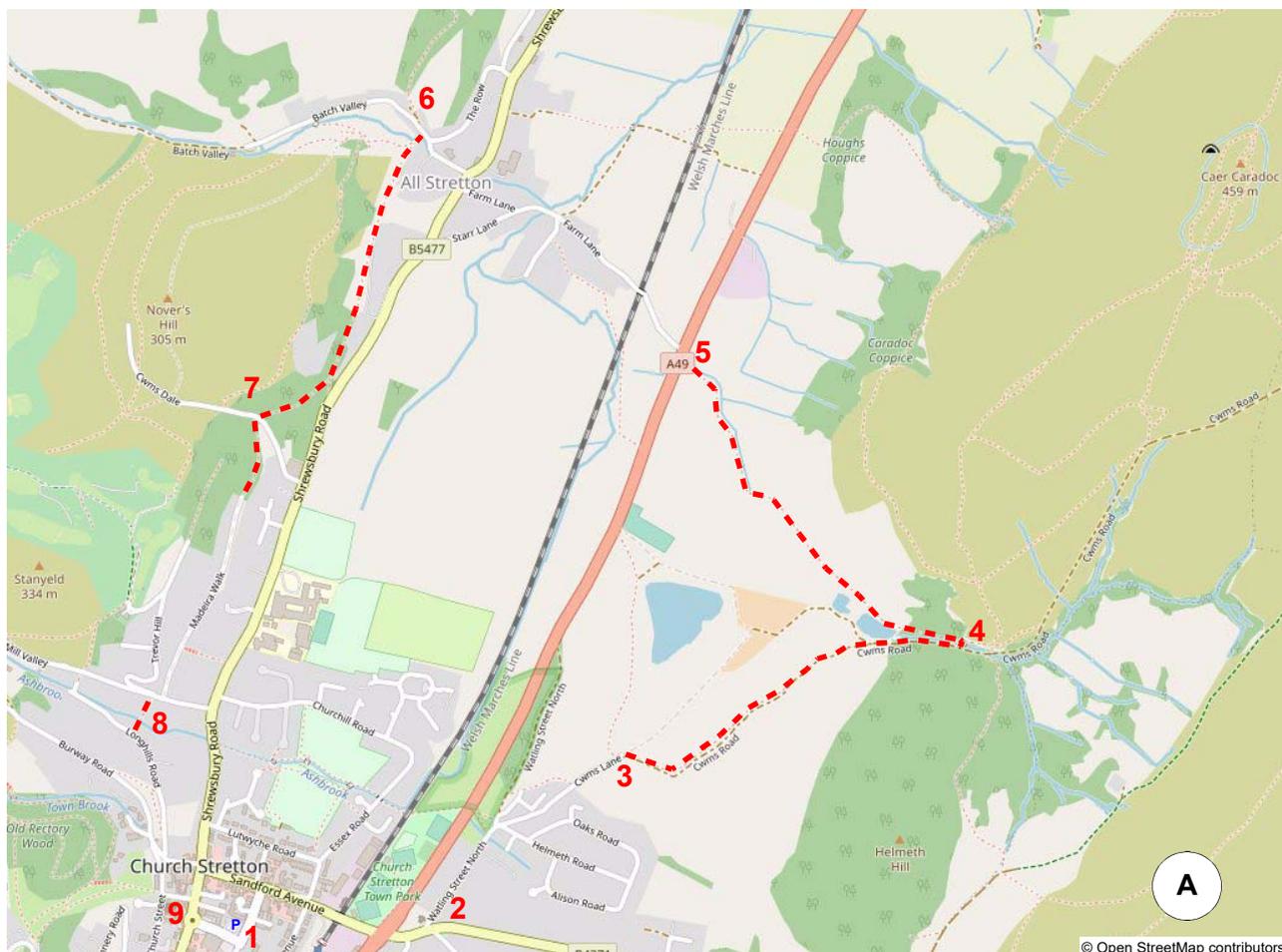
An easy 4 mile scenic walk with stiles, field paths and gates. Typical time 2 hours.

Enjoy Church Stretton at the end of your walk. It offers a good selection of shops, cafés and other refreshment opportunities as well as a range of walks for all abilities.

This is a well used walk route where even the novice walker would find it difficult to get lost. However, it is particularly important that you get the route correct at point **4** detailed on map C.

Map A is the main walk map with maps B, C and D provided where a larger scale offers greater clarity.

Drive to Church Stretton and park on the Easthope Road (Pay & Display) car park SY6 6BZ. The entrance is from Lion Meadow (opposite the Co-op).



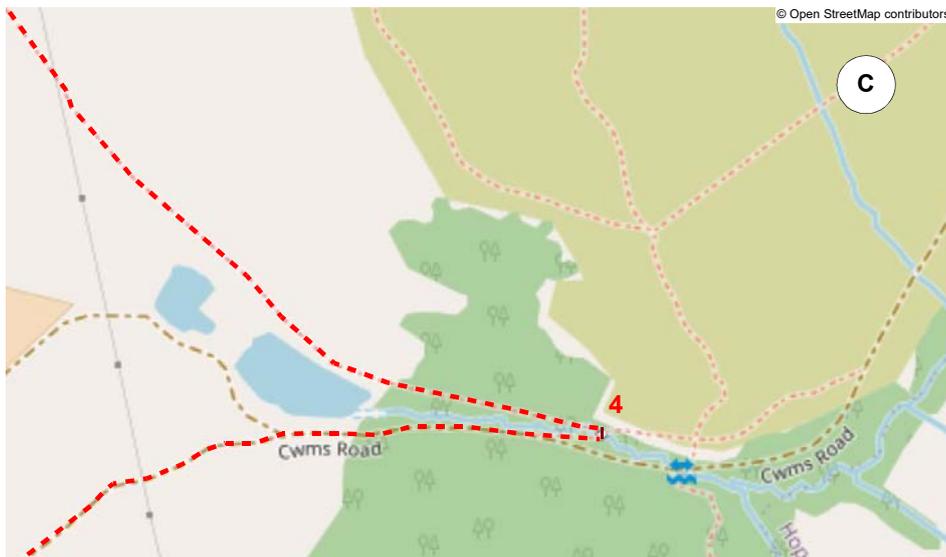
### **Use Maps A & B for this section of the walk.**

1. Walk from the car park to Sandford Avenue where you turn R to cross the railway and reach the A49 at the traffic lights.
2. Cross the A49 and then Sandford Avenue, walk past the Catholic Church and immediately turn **L** into Watling Street **North**. At the R bend where it becomes Helmeth Road you go L into the narrow Cwms Lane (immediately past Leasowes Close) and walk until you reach the cattle grid.

*{Cwm [kum] is a welsh word for a steep sided hollow at the head of a valley or mountainside.}*

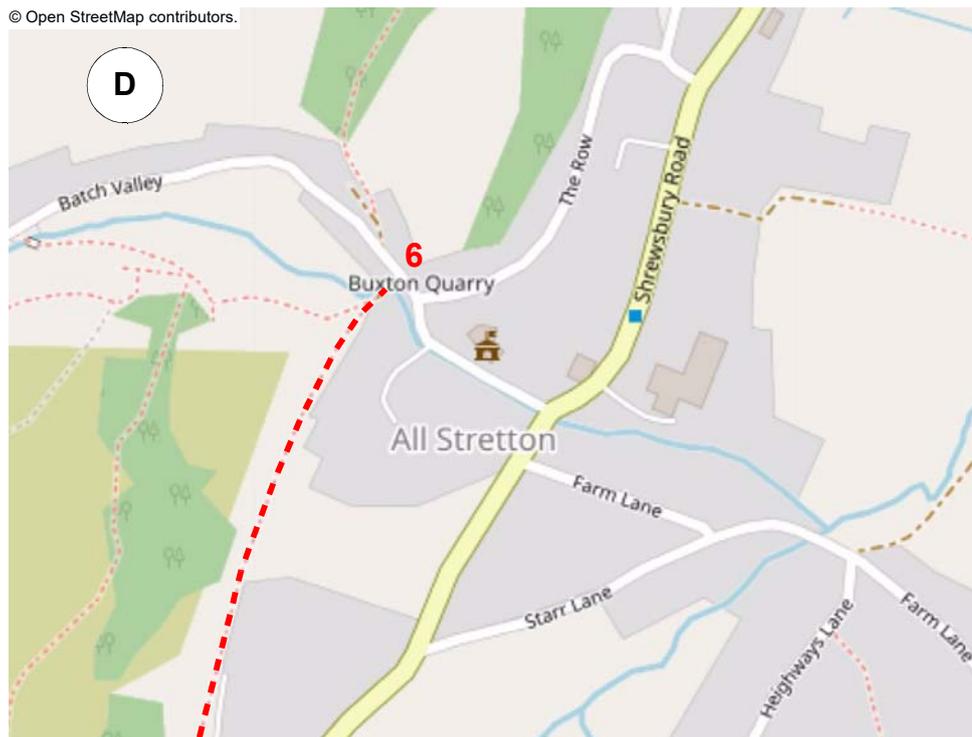
**Use Maps A & C for this section of the walk.**

3. Go R over the stile and follow the hedge on your R until you join a track which you follow to the R through a gate (ignore misleading information board) and after 150yds you should see a wooden footbridge over a stream diagonally L from the track.  
*{Helmeth Hill is behind you and Caer Caradoc in front of you.}*
4. Cross the bridge, **immediately turn L** and take the path to cross the stile and then walk past the 2 ponds on your L. Just after the 2<sup>nd</sup> pond go over a stile on your L and turn R to follow the hedge to your R to go over 2 stiles close together and then a stile ahead. Go over the stile keeping the hedge to your R and head for white/cream house with 2 tall chimneys. Walk down to the busy A49 road.



**Use Maps A & D for this section of the walk.**

5. Go over the stile and carefully cross the road to take the minor road opposite (Farm Lane) signed 'All Stretton'. Walk along this road, over the railway, to the junction with Starr Lane where you turn R to walk up to Shrewsbury Road. Turn R and then 1<sup>st</sup> L into Batch Valley Road (signs for Village Hall & YHA Bunkhouse). After you pass the Village Hall on your R, a private road on your L and then a street called 'The Row' on your R, your path is signed with a fingerpost on the L opposite the quarry entrance.  
*{Buxton Quarry is a disused quarry owned by the National Trust.}*
6. Go over the stile (next to a gate) and walk following the L edge of the field to a kissing gate about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way to point **7**. Go through the gate, cross driveway and take narrow path. At the Y junction head R uphill to the minor road (Cwms Dale) avoiding the path going L down to the main road.



**Use Maps A & B for this section of the walk.**

7. Cross Cwms Dale Road at the gates opposite each other and walk along Madeira Walk to Carding Mill Valley Road. (Madeira Walk is a Public Footpath which starts in woods/fields at Cwms Dale and then becomes a private road with public walkers' access after a short distance.)  
*{Montgomery Water (Churchstoke) have a facility at the bottom of Cwms Dale Road where they extract the water for bottling from the Cwms Dale spring.}*
8. Cross the road diagonally R to take the Lime Walk path to Longhills Road where you turn L and walk to Burway Road where you again go L to the crossroads. Here the route takes you R to the mini roundabout.
9. Turn L to your car.  
(It is recognised that you may succumb to temptation before you get to the roundabout!)

## Walk 8 – Montgomery Canal (The Monty)

A 35+ mile walk with a few stiles, gates and some field paths. Not unsurprisingly, whilst it is a largely level walk you may not wish to walk it in one go! This walk description divides it into walkable sections allowing you to do one or two at a time by utilising your car and the excellent local buses. This means that you will walk more than the 35 mile towpath distance.

The canal was built in 4 stages from Frankton Junction on the Shropshire Union Canal to Newtown, Powys in the years just before and shortly after 1800. It was closed in 1936 and restoration was started in 1987. Only some of its 35 miles is navigable but it is important for its aquatic plants, it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in England and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in Wales. All of these make it a great walk and it is arguably the most scenic canal towpath in the UK.

The canal runs close to the A483 from Newtown to Llanymynech [Clan-ee-me-neck] which is on the Newtown to Oswestry bus route. Queen's Head (hamlet & pub) is just off the A5 and a stop on the Shrewsbury to Oswestry via Whittington bus route. The Narrowboat Inn at Welsh Frankton is on the A495 and a stop on the Ellesmere to Oswestry via Whittington bus route.

Please check the bus information before you set off. Bus stops marked on Google maps (not always in the exact location) and internet searches e.g. 'Abermule to Berriew bus' provide useful information (not always correct!). You can also get information from Tanat Valley Coaches for the Newtown to Oswestry route and Arriva Bus for the Queen's Head area. Bus times and the bus stop locations in Newtown, Welshpool and Oswestry have changed over the years we've been using them. Also, please remember that country buses can arrive 5 minutes earlier than scheduled and are often up to at least 20 minutes late. You ask for single tickets in case the driver assumes returns. The drivers are usually helpful.

In order to help with the pronunciation of Welsh place names which you may use when getting a ticket on the bus I've given an approximation in square brackets [ ] after the name; locals may not agree!. Please note that the Welsh word 'canol' means 'centre' and not canal which is camlas.

1.	Newtown to Abermule [Aber-me-ull]	5 miles	
2.	Abermule [Aber-me-ull] to Berriew [Berr-ee-oo]	5	
3.	Berriew [Berr-ee-oo] to Welshpool	5½	
4.	Welshpool to Arddleen [Ar-th-leen]	7	
5.	Arddleen [Ar-th-leen] to Llanymynech [Clan-ee-me-neck]	4½	
6.	Llanymynech [Clan-ee-me-neck] to Queen's Head	6¾	
7.	Queen's Head to Welsh Frankton	6	Total = 40 miles

For these walks maps are provided for the starting section of each walk. This will usually show details of where to catch and alight from the bus. The text describes key points on the walk – for which you don't usually need a map as it just follows the route of the canal (keep to the towpath and don't fall in!). You will be referred to the relevant map at the end of the route to show how to get back to your car. However, it is recommended that you have a good map with you and that you don't rely on 'phone signals which may not be available in some of the more rural areas. Either the start or the finish map for your section of the walk may be in the walk section before or after the one you intend to walk. Sections of the canal towpath can be closed for restoration or maintenance purposes and you may find your map useful to follow the diversions which are usually advised but not signed. Charging your 'phone before you start is also a good idea.

Please see Map Links on page 4 to access online maps.

Please ensure that you have sufficient food and drink with you as, apart from in Newtown, Welshpool and Oswestry, it is not always available along the route. Some pubs only open in the evenings and other outlets are closed on some days of the week.

Information about common features of the walk is not repeated in every applicable section so glancing at all sections before you start would be advantageous.

This canal is unusual as the low point is not at the start or finish points (Newtown and Lower Frankton). The low point or sump is at The Wern and is detailed in walk 8.4 on page 35.

The canal has a number of 'dropped' bridges. These were canal bridges that were lowered (dropped) to level them for road traffic after the canal closed. The towpath usually leads you up to the road, which you cross, and then back down to canal level. These bridges will all have to be restored if the canal is to be fully navigable again. Some want it restored (apparently by about 2030) so that it can be fully appreciated as a canal but others prefer the tranquillity, flora and wildlife that accompany walks along nearly all of the beautiful towpath.

The following useful links were found to be correct at the time of writing:

Montgomery Canal pictures <http://www.montgomerycanal.me.uk/montgomerycanal.html>

Montgomery Canal Maps <https://www.waterwayroutes.co.uk/blog/34m3/>

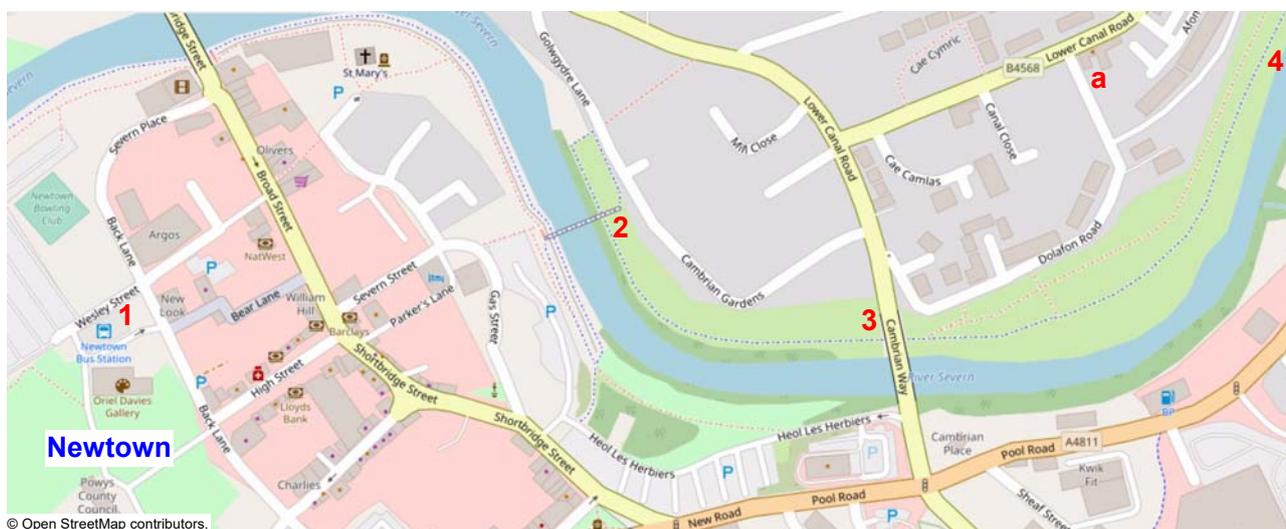
(This downloads an up to date pdf canal map of about 11MB)

Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montgomery\\_Canal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montgomery_Canal)



## 8.1 Newtown to Abermule - 5 miles

Drive to Abermule (SY15 6ND) and park near point **2** on the Abermule map (in walk section 8.2) and catch the bus to Newtown Bus Station from the Post Office bus stop. Check you are travelling in the right direction.



Leave the bus station **1** to go R on Back Lane then L on High St. Cross Broad St. diagonally L to go into Severn St. which leads to Gas St. Here a path to your L (alongside the car park) leads to the pedestrian bridge **2** over the River Sever [Afon Hafren].

Once across the river take one of the paths that will allow you to walk close to the river which should be on your R so that you're walking along National Cycle Route 81. The canal is not visible along this part of the walk which is part of the Severn Way. Walk under the Cambrian Way road bridge **3** and past point **4**.

*{The original Welshpool canal basin is no longer visible as it has been built over. It was between the Waggon & Horses pub **a** and the bridge **3** .}*

**You are now beyond the R edge of the map.**

About ½ mile from the road bridge **3** you pass under a small pedestrian bridge with a white house on your R.

*{The stone building next to it was the Newtown Pumping Station which kept the canal supplied with water from the river. The road to your L is Canal Road.}*

At the Waste Water Treatment Works (about 2 miles from the pedestrian bridge **2**) the path crosses a service road and continues through a gate to reach the current start of the canal. This is a dry section with the remains of Dolfor Lock. After about a ¼ mile you pass Freestone Lock and Freestone Bridge (153) at the start of the wet section.

After passing New House and Byles Lock you go under the A483 bridge (147A), using the towpath tunnel, and reach the B4386 bridge (147) where you take the slope up to road and turn R into Abermule.

*{In the 1850s the Wolverhampton Swift Packet Boat Company ran a scheduled boat service from Newtown to connect with Rednal railway station near the wharf at Heath Houses, just beyond Queen's Head. First and second class passengers were carried on about 10,500 single journeys in the early years. However, as the 32 mile journey through 21 locks took just over 5 hours the service was short-lived!}*

## 8.2 Abermule to Berriew - 5 miles

This walk is described in the Berriew to Abermule direction to make car parking easier. Berriew is a beautiful village with limited car parking.

Drive to Abermule (SY15 6ND) and park near point **2** and catch the bus from the Post Office bus stop to the Lion Hotel Berriew/Aberriw [Berr-ee-oo] (point **1** on the Berriew map in walk section) 8.3. Check you are travelling in the right direction (towards Welshpool/Oswestry).



Get off the bus in Berriew and walk to cross the river to reach Berriew map point **2** where you turn L. Walk under the Grade II Listed aqueduct **3** over the Afon (Ay-von - River) Rhiw and climb up to the canal. Turn L so that you're walking with the canal on your R.

The canal is navigable until you reach the next bridge (Refail 129) when it remains wet but only suited to canoes or similar.

Bridges 129, 131A, 132, 136 and 141 are 'dropped' bridges which means that they were lowered after the canal closed. The towpath leads you up to the road, which you cross, and then back down to canal level.

You cross over the A483 at bridge 131A, back again at bridge 136 and yet again at bridge 141.

At bridge 131 (Garthmyl) you leave the canal, cross over the A483 (131A) going R & then L on the B4385, over bridge 132 and immediately R to the canal and towpath.

At bridge 141 (Dairy Bridge) you leave the canal, cross over the A483 diagonally L to the end of the crash barrier then turn R on the path to rejoin the towpath.

Bridges 139, 142 and 144 are swing bridges which make navigation very slow as the boat crew have to manually open and close them.

At Brynderewen [Brin-d-air-e-oo-en] Lock you cross the canal at the first gate and back at the second.

Just after Brynderewen Lock you go under Brynderewen New Road Bridge (147) and take the slope up to point **1** on the Abermule map above.

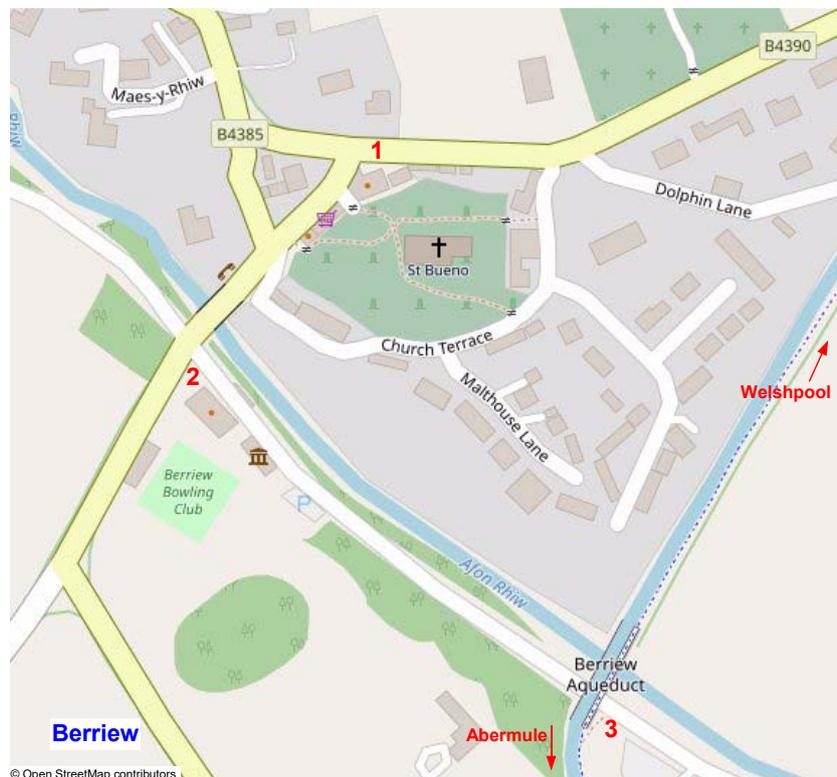
*{In January 1921 Abermule was the site of a rail disaster when two trains on the single line section of track collided head-on killing 17 people and injuring 36.}*

### 8.3 Berriew to Welshpool - 5½ miles

Drive to Welshpool, taking the exit **(1)** on the Welshpool map in walk section 8.4) from the A483 at the 'Old Station' roundabout. At the New Road junction **2** go L and exit **L** on the bend on to the 'Church St.' car park **3** (SY21 7DD). This is a Pay & Display car park, rarely full and with reasonable charges (£3 or £4 in 2021 for a 4hr stay).

Walk back to New Road and keep L to reach the busy Severn Street/Broad Street junction where you go R to Broad Street. You'll need to find the correct bus stop which will be somewhere around point **7** on the map. (The bus stops have been changed on more than one occasion to suit the one-way and layout changes.)

Catch the bus to the Lion Hotel Berriew/Aberriw [Berr-ee-oo] (point **1** on the Berriew map), checking you are travelling in the right direction – towards Newtown.



Get off the bus in Berriew and walk to cross the river to reach Berriew map point **2** where you turn L. Walk under the Grade II Listed aqueduct **3** over the Afon[(Ay-von - River] Rhiw and climb up to the canal. Turn R so that you're walking with the canal on your L and crossing the aqueduct.

The canal is navigable here through to Arddleen.

Your walk takes you past 5 locks: Berriew, Brithdir, Belan Top, Belan Bottom and Welshpool. *{The ornate black and white Powis Estate cottages at Belan Locks are not to be missed.}*

Immediately after the Welshpool Lock you go under Severn Street, over the aqueduct and up on to the footpath bridge which leads to your car park. Points **6**, **4** and **3** on the Welshpool map in walk section 8.4.

*{See note referring to this footbridge at the end of the next section 8.4}*

## 8.4 Welshpool to Arddleen - 7 miles

This walk is described in the Arddleen to Welshpool direction. Arddleen means flax garden.

Drive to Welshpool, taking the exit **1** from the A483 at the 'Old Station' roundabout. At the New Road junction **2** go L and exit **L** on the bend on to the 'Church St.' car park **3** (SY21 7DD). This is a Pay & Display car park, rarely full and with reasonable charges (£3 or £4 in 2021 for a 4hr stay).

Walk back to New Road and keep L to reach the busy Severn Street/Broad Street junction where you go R to Broad Street. You'll need to find the correct bus stop which will be somewhere around point **7** on the map. (The bus stops have been changed on more than one occasion to suit the one-way and layout changes.)

Catch the bus to Arddleen [Ar-th-leen], checking you are travelling in the right direction; the drivers are usually helpful. You'll leave the bus at either the bus stop at **1** or near the Horse Shoe Inn near **2** on the Arddleen map in walk section 8.5.



Walk S along the grass verge of the A483 (which can be very busy) well clear of the HGVs to the dropped bridge 103 at **3** (on the Arddleen map). This bridge has a culvert underneath it to allow the water to flow along the canal. Raising this bridge is a very costly exercise but crucial if the canal is to become fully navigable from Lower Frankton to Berriew. Go through the gate and walk towards Welshpool with the canal on your R.

Immediately before Burgedin Top Lock you can see the abandoned Guilsfield Arm of the canal.

You pass 6 locks: Burgedin Top & Bottom, Bank, Cabin, Crowther Hall, and Pool Quay.

About ¼ mile after Burgedin Bottom Lock you pass the Red Bridge turning point (also known as a Winding Hole) and then under Red Bridge (106) to The Wern - Claypit Nature Reserve on your L.

*{This is the low point of canal. It is 25m below the Shropshire Union Canal at Lower Frankton and 35m below the River Severn water feed point at Dolfor near the original Newtown Pumping Station. This means that water from the locks when boats pass through and other drainage collects here. When the now demolished Corn Mill was operational, the water was channelled into the mill pond on your L and used to power the mill before being drained via the 'New Cut' into the River Severn. The water currently just drains via the weir into various ponds and then, as before, into the River Severn. I feel a small hydro-electric scheme begging to be installed here! The canal-side bench here may be a welcome sight.}*

Between Crowther Hall and Pool Quay Locks a path can take you to the Victorian, St John the Evangelist Church where self serve refreshments are often available and rest can be taken.

*{Pool Quay marked the navigation limit on the River Severn. Here at the quay boats transferred their cargo between the river and canal for onward shipment to Poole – now known as Welshpool.}*

Abbey Lift Bridge (112) and Moss Farm bridge (114) are chain lift bridges.

*{The abbey was the Strata Marcella Cistercian Monastery.}*

Buttington Wharf lies between bridges 114 and 115. Here you can sit, rest and digest the history on the information boards at this point which is popular with locals.

After Buttington Bridge (115) you are walking in the Welshpool urban area towards **5** (on the Welshpool map above). Just past the moorings you go under the footpath bridge **4** and go L on to the bridge and then L to the car park **3**.

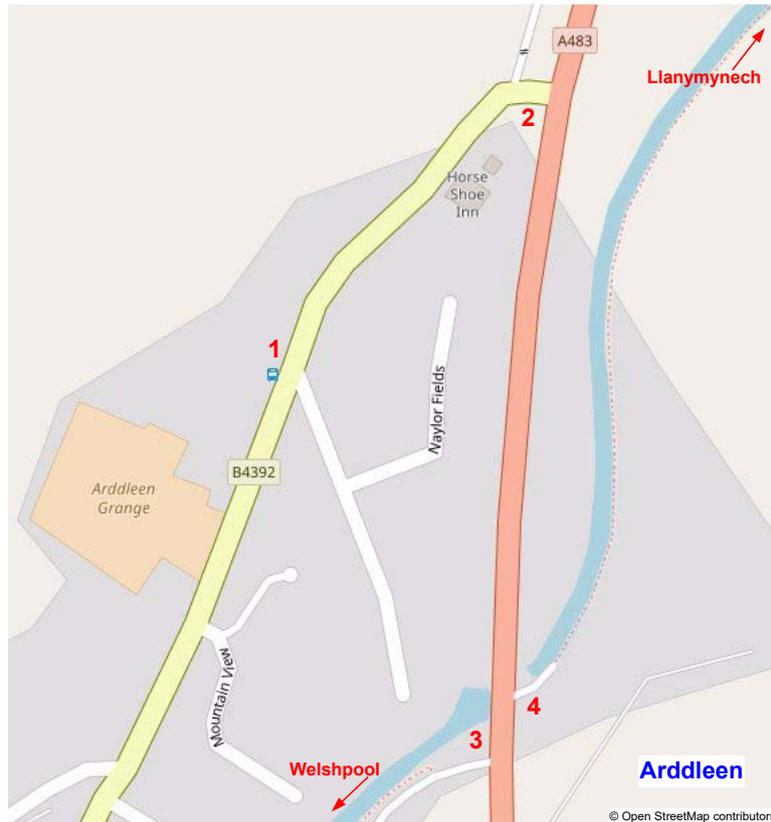
*{The footbridge is on the line of the abandoned part of the Welshpool and Llanfair [Clan-vire as in fire] Light Railway. You can still ride 8 miles on the now preserved 2ft 6ins gauge railway from Raven Square which is on the western edge of the town.}*

## 8.5 Arddleen to Llanymynech - 4½ miles

This walk is described in the Llanymynech to Arddleen direction although car parking allows it to be walked in either direction. (If you wish to reverse the direction, the bus to Arddleen stops at **2** on the Llanymynech map in walk section 8.6.)



Park somewhere near the Horse Shoe Inn **2** (SY22 6TY) and catch the bus to Llanymynech from the bus shelter **1** on the Arddleen Grange side of the road. You travel to the Lion Hotel stop (**4** on the Llanymynech map in walk section 8.6). Confusingly the bus stop is opposite the Bradford Arms as the Lion Hotel no longer exists!



Walk up the road and cross at the pedestrian crossing before continuing to bridge 92 (**1** on the Llanymynech map) where you go down to the canal and turn L to walk with the canal on your R.

There are only two locks on this section which, after the first bridge (dropped), is only navigable by small craft. Carreghofa Top and Bottom Locks are about ½ mile from the Vyrnwy Aqueduct. The River Vyrnwy flows from Lake Vyrnwy to between Crewgreen and Melverley where it flows into the River Severn. This is a beautiful section of the canal.



After what should be a quiet, scenic walk you reach the A483 at the dropped Maerdy Bridge 102. Here you cross the road diagonally R from the house to a gate on the grass verge and continue to the next dropped crossing of the A483 at Arddleen Bridge 103 (**4** on the Arddleen map above). Again you should find the walk pleasant, albeit with some traffic noise.

At bridge 103 you turn R and walk up the busy road (keeping clear of the heavy vehicles) to point **2** where you go L into Arddleen to locate your car.

## 8.6 Llanymynech to Queen's Head - 6¾ miles

This walk is described in the Queen's Head to Llanymynech direction although car parking allows it to be walked in either direction.

Park at the Village Car Park **3** (SY22 6ES) and walk to the bus stop **4** (opposite the the Bradford Arms) to catch a bus to Oswestry (near the Cambrian Heritage Railway Centre).

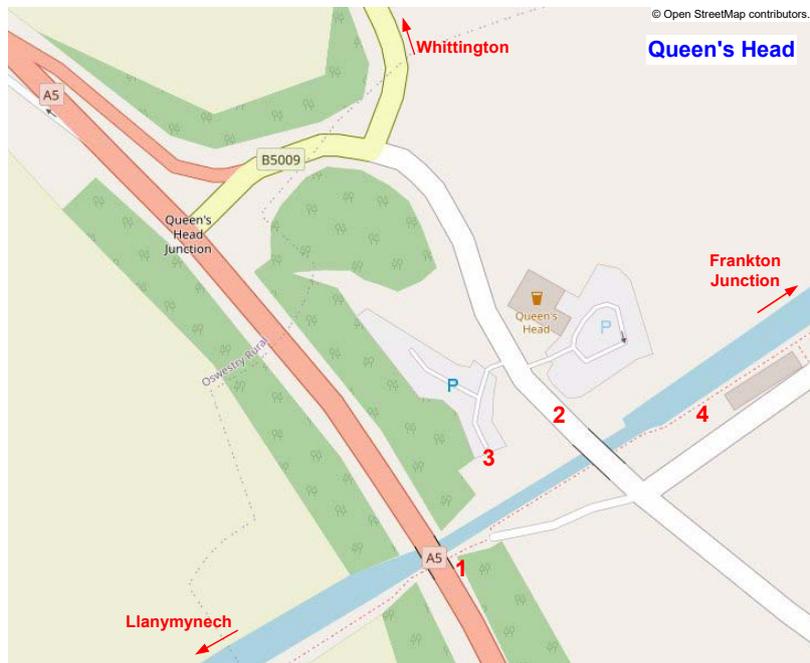


The bus stops are shown on the Oswestry map below which also shows a pay and display car park **1** should you decide to visit Oswestry which has much more to offer than the bus station area. The Newtown service generally uses the Cambrian Heritage Railway stops and the other buses normally use the bus station opposite.

Locate the Shrewsbury bus stop and travel to Queen's Head. The bus takes an indirect route to Whittington and then to Queen's Head **2** via the B5009 (see the Whittington and Queen's Head maps below. You might like to observe the stop in Whittington and the canal parking at Queen's Head should you be walking the Lower Frankton to Queen's Head section.)

Walk over the canal bridge and turn R. You reach the canal towpath under the A5 **1**. Walk with the canal on your R. You quickly reach Aston Top, Middle and Bottom Locks and after nearly 2 miles the Croft's Mill Lift Bridge 81.

*{This area of the canal is being restored (2021) so major work including the replacement of Schoolhouse Bridge 86 is taking place. Hopefully the towpath will remain open or with minimum diversions in place.}*



You now walk along a 'dry' section of the canal until you reach the outskirts of Llanymynech. Just before you go under the A483 at bridge 92 **1** you leave the canal, cross the road and return to the car park **3**.

## 8.7 Queen's Head to Welsh Frankton - 6 miles

This walk is described in the Welsh Frankton to Queen's Head direction as there is no suitable car parking at Lower Frankton.

Park at the canal users car park (SY11 4EB **3** on the Queen's Head map in walk section 8.6) which is the S part of the car park shared with the Queen's Head Inn. Catch a bus to Whittington from near point **2**. This is the Shrewsbury to Oswestry service.



Get off the bus as it turns L in Whittington at the local shop and cross to the bus shelter to catch the Ellesmere bus to the Narrowboat Inn on the A495 near Welsh Frankton (**1** on the Lower Frankton map below).

*{The driver can't see you if you stand fully in the shelter. Also, unless you are familiar with the area, you need to ask to be told when you reach the Narrowboat Inn.}*

At the stop you walk from the pub, over the canal bridge (5W) and go L down to the towpath where you turn L to walk with the canal on your R.

*{This is the Llangollen [Clan-goth-len] branch of the Shropshire Union Canal. The towpath here until bridge 3W is not the best and had some holes in it the last time we walked it.}*

At bridge 3W **2** you cross to walk with the canal on your L and walk under bridges 2W and 1W to reach the Montgomery Canal at Frankton Junction **3**. Follow the towpath round to pass the four Frankton Locks **4** (Top, Middle and Lower with the top lock being a staircase lock – 2 locks but only 3 lock gates instead of the usual 4).



About ½ mile on you reach The Graham Palmer Lock.

*{In the 1960s Graham became the founder member of the Waterways Recovery Group (now part of the Inland Waterways Association) which was the main driver in the restoration of so many canals. There is a memorial stone here at 'his' lock.}*

After a mile you cross an aqueduct over the River Perry. Just less than a mile further on you cross the Rednal Basin swing bridge (fixed closed to boat traffic) to go under the railway bridge (73) and almost immediately over bridge 74 to rejoin the canal which is now on your R.

*{A canal breach about ¼ mile north of the Perry Aqueduct in 1936 led to the closure of the entire canal and its legal abandonment in 1944. Restoration, starting at Frankton Locks, began in 1987. Bridge 74 is the only 'Roving Bridge' on the canal. This design allowed the towing horse to change sides without being unhitched.}*

The last mile is a straight section where you pass under Corbett's Bridge (75) and leave the towpath just after a canal building (4 on the Queen's Head map in walk section 8.6) to walk on the road to the crossroads. Turn R and return to the car park 3.

*{Shortly before the canal building 4 you can see a 'Vee' cut out of the opposite bank. These 'Vee' cuts are known as winding holes and are located on the non-towpath side of the canal so that boats of up to 70 feet long can turn around in a canal that's only 30 to 40 feet wide.}*

If this is your last section then 'well done'! If not, then please be aware that each section offers different views and enjoyment. We had only one wet day when doing these canal walks and even that day was not unpleasant.

One final thought, you get a different experience when doing a walk in the opposite direction; so what's stopping you? !!