





- - - Walk Route
- . . . Short Cut
- - - Other rights of way
- Field boundaries
- Woodlands
- Shropshire Hills AONB
- A-Roads
- B-Roads
- Other Roads
- Railway
- ▲ Caution: busy road or rail crossing
- ★ Viewpoint

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# Wart Hill Wander



## Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, the home of Grow Cook Learn

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**Grow Cook Learn** is a registered charity, connecting people to the food, history and landscape of the Shropshire Hills AONB, providing opportunities to local people and visitors to learn and discover.

Visit the Centre for the Shropshire Hills exhibition and film, our cafe which serves delicious home cooked meals and for walks through 30 acres of riverside meadows.

There are regular bus and train services to Craven Arms.

The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is recognised as one of Britain's finest landscapes. It's one of 46 AONBs in the UK.

Walks produced with support from:



CRAVEN ARMS  
Community Food  
Initiative

**13** Go through the kissing gate and follow the permissive path to the left which climbs up to the top of Wart Hill, bear right to the summit.

People lived here 3000 years ago. This small knoll was a small fortified homestead. The ancient Britons could see other Iron Age farms below and forts on the hill tops all around. Look north west for **Caer Caradoc**, south west to **Burrow Hill** and south east to **Norton Camp**. The **Clee Hills** beyond also boast impressive earthworks.

Pass the trig point and take the path on the left of a large tree down onto a track and turn right, downhill to a T junction. Go left along the forestry track to eventually reach a sharp right hand bend downhill.

**14** Continue downhill to reach another junction. Take the middle track, heading downhill, then climbing steeply zig-zagging uphill to turn left up a surfaced track to the road at the top.

**15** At the road turn left and then immediately right to follow the track down the hill. You will pass through several gates.

**16** Pass the small cottage on the left and stay on the track until it goes through a gateway and swings right. The path cuts diagonally up across the field to a gate and stile. Over the stile, follow the track down the hill to a T junction.

**17** Turn right, back into the wood. At the top of the hill take a path on the left, steeply downhill. Descend to a stile. Go to the left of the shed ahead, over two stiles, then cross a field to another stile.

**18** The route goes ahead over the rise and descends to a stile in the far right hand corner of the field. You may have to detour round high growing bracken in the summer. Cross the stile and turn right to follow the path down to the river and turn right onto a muddy track.

This is the **Onny Trail** which follows the line of the heroically, doomed **Bishop's Castle Railway (1865-1935)**. It was vital to local life but was bankrupt for 69 of its 70 years. Many of its staff worked for less than union wage rates to keep it going.

**19** Follow the trail along the old rail track, keeping the river on your left, under a bridge and across several stiles. At a second, ruined bridge, follow the path left, away from the rail track, along the riverbank and over a stile. You reach a kissing gate onto a small track and a footbridge.

**20** Go left over the bridge and follow the track up to the road. Cross the main road carefully and take the lane opposite towards Wistanstow and to a T junction. Turn left to pass the Plough Inn on your right.

The **Plough** is also home to **Wood's Brewery** that brews **Shropshire Lad** – a 'must try' pint for anyone new to the county.

**21** Take the next right turn and follow this lane over the railway and down to the very busy A49 road. Cross very carefully. Take the stile opposite and follow the right hand field edge to cross a small bridge.

**22** Go on, heading slightly left to a bridge over the Quinny Brook. Go left to cross a third bridge, on the right and then go on ahead to a stile in a hedge. After this, follow the path across fields heading for Berrymill Cottage.

**23** Pass the cottages on your left, following a track ahead to a stile. Head right, across the field, following a faint track round the left of a clump of trees. By the trees cut left away from the track to find a small metal gate into the woods ahead. Follow the narrow path round to a kissing gate.

**24** Go straight on through the gateway on your right to follow the left hand hedge to a stile on the left. Cross and go right to pass the Old

School House at Halford where there are two stiles.

- 25** Go left at the lane and follow it through the village, past Halford Church to meet the main Corvedale road.
- 26** Go right to the bridge and cross the road carefully to a gate on the bridge. Drop down into the field and follow the river to reach a while metal bridge.
- 27** Cross the bridge into Newton and go straight on to reach the Onny Meadows. Go right in the meadows, back to the Discovery Centre.

## Short cut

**13a** Instead of going left up Wart Hill, go across the clearing, keeping right to meet a track heading downhill. Take the second turning on the right, steeply downhill.

**14a** Follow the track to eventually turn right at the T junction going downhill. Pass through the metal gate with a large pool on your right and turn right. After another 100m bear right and cross a muddy ford. Cross the footbridge to climb to a stile into the fields.

Head across the field bearing right up the slope, close to a line of mature trees.

**On a clear day you can look ahead to see Flounders Folly, a small tower on the ridge. In the distance you can see the Clew Hills.**

**15a** Go left along a rutted track downhill to a field gate and stile. Follow the track, keeping the hedge on your left. Ignore the first gate on your left and continue to the second gate where you turn left and drop down left, past Castle Farm.

**16a** Follow the lane ahead to Cheney Longville, turning right onto the lane through the village.

**Cheney Longville was called simply 'Langfeld' at the time of the Domesday Book in 1087, when it was owned by Shrewsbury Abbey. Later Roger de Cheney gave his name to the village around 1395**

**when he fortified the manor house.**

**17a** Continue over the crossroads until you find a gate and footpath on the right leading diagonally across a field. Follow the footpath as it kinks right, then left at an ancient oak tree to a further hedge. Pass through and bear right to a wide hedgeline masking the railway line and the crossing point.

**18a** Take great care crossing the railway line\* and then bear right across the next field to a gate by the busy A49. Carefully cross the road and then the stile opposite. Follow the footpath over stiles around the back of Newington Farm and then turn left to reach the river. Go over the river bridge and through the gate to follow the surfaced path across the field. Go right after the next gate, up the lane to the Old School House.

**Follow the directions from point 25 back to the Discovery Centre.**

\* If the railway crossing is closed, follow the Watling Street byway to the right under the trees to join Long Lane, turn left and cross the railway at the level crossing. You can rejoin the route via a path on the other side of the A49.

## Guidelines for walkers

- Wear suitable clothes and footwear for the walk, paying attention to the local weather forecast.
- Take water and refreshments with you suitable for the length of the walk.
- Most of the Discovery Walks have muddy patches for much of the year and stout shoes or walking boots are recommended.
- Please keep dogs under close control, taking particular care when crossing fields with livestock.
- Keep to the waymarked paths and leave gates as you find them.
- Take your litter home. Respect the wildlife, plants and trees and do not light fires.

# SHROPSHIRE HILLS DISCOVERY WALKS

10  
miles

## Wart Hill Wander

