

Corvedale Cake Walk

Route description – 10 mile route

To be used with OS 1:25000 217 Longmynd and Wenlock Edge.

Stage 1 – Holdgate to Abdon Burf SO594 866

Distance 6Km 3.8 miles

From Holdgate Church you follow the orange markers of the Shropshire Way main route till the climb to Abdon Burf. The Shropshire Way does a circuit of the hill, but you go straight up. There are some Shropshire Way stickers on stiles you do not cross – look at the arrows!

From the church car park turn right and in 300m turn left over a stile. Follow the waymarked path over 3 fields. In the 4th field (level with ruined house) cross the stile on left (may be blocked by fallen tree – if so use nearby gate) and turn right to continue in the same direction crossing another stile. Climb slightly left handed to stile into a copse. Climb left through trees into field. Cross stile and turn left. At gate turn right and in 100m cross stile on right (the one with the orange marker) to Earnstrey Hall. Follow drive to road.

Next section usually has cows in fields – if you have a dog avoid cows by turning Left then right on road

Cross road, over stile, and cross 2 fields. In 3rd field turn left. Cross 3 fields to gate onto road by house. Turn right. In 200m turn right over stile and drop on sunken track to cross 2 bridges. Turn right after 2nd bridge to follow edge of sunken track uphill. At field corner turn left to follow fence to road. Turn right to T junction. Turn left on road and fork right (sign Cockshutford) to 'phone box (now a library).

In 100m turn left through gate uphill on track. Where Shropshire Way turns left, continue on track uphill to second gateway. Fork left on grassy track with fence on your right. Through gate to follow wet path to wireless masts, trig point and toposcope on Abdon Burf.

You are now on the highest spot in Shropshire.

Stage 2 Abdon Burf to Clee St Margaret Village Hall SO567 846

Distance 5Km 3 miles

Retrace your steps to the gate and turn left (you are now back on the Shropshire Way) following the fence and waymarks. In 900m as you approach gate look to your left to see in the heather a memorial to the 23 Allied and German airmen who lost their lives on the Clee Hills 1939 – 45.

Through gate. In 130m at the lowest point between the 2 hills (Abdon Burf and Clee Burf) turn right, downhill on grassy path that cuts left handed across the hillside. At path junction fork left on the higher path continuing across the hillside to join a tarmac track. Turn right on track 400m to Nordy Bank hillfort (prominent earthworks to left of track). Where track turns sharply right, follow grassy path through the ramparts of the hillfort.

Walk through the hill fort to the far side to exit through one of the gaps in the ramparts. Head downhill (West) to where right-angled corner of field juts out onto common land and walk down fence line to gate onto lane behind houses. Turn right and at road turn left. Village Hall is 100m on your right.

Checkpoint Clee St Margaret Village Hall.

Stage 3 Clee St Margaret to Tugford SO556 870

Distance 3.5 Km 2.2 miles

You join the Jack Mytton Way in Clee St Margaret and follow its rather faded waymarks – a blue horseshoe with a rider jumping through – to Tugford

After the village hall there is a choice between walking along the road – or a more adventurous path

Leave village hall and turn right. *Either* Continue on road to turn right (sign Ludlow) to ford. *-Or -* Cross stile on right after Fort St Margaret. Walk to bottom right hand corner of field, through gate. Follow waymarks round building and over bridge and drop left to ford. Turn right.

Continue on road for 150m to turn right on track (sign “no motorbikes”). You are now on the Jack Mytton Way. Follow enclosed track to gate into field. Continue downhill to further gate and path crossing stream. Through metal gate and up field with hedge on your right. Through metal gate and continue uphill with hedge on your left. At next gate cut diagonally across field to house. Through gate by house and up field to road at staggered cross roads.

You are now at Heath. To visit the Heath Chapel, a 12th Century chapel and grade 1 listed building, turn left 80m to gate on right The chapel is usually open and is well worth a visit. Return to the crossroad and turn left.

Follow road North with chapel enclosure on your left for 100m and turn left into field. *The lumps and bumps in the field are all that remains of the deserted*

village of Heath. At next gate turn right with fence on your right crossing 2 fields. In third field drop diagonally downhill to join track but be careful here. You do NOT follow the track all the way downhill but head across the grass to a corner in the woodland where you join a woodland track eventually dropping to a field and down to the road near Tugford.

Stage 4 Tugford to Holdgate

Distance 3 Km 1.8 miles

Turn Right to walk through the village of Tugford. *To visit the church at Tugford Turn right through a white metal gate to cross a small meadow – the church is usually open and it is worth walking round the outside to see the unusual tomb recesses.*

Keep on the “main” road as it bends left. Keep ahead, ignoring the turning to Tugford Farm. At the top of the rise go through gate on your right with public footpath post. Cross field to stile. Cross 2 further fields through gaps in hedge. Head to left of green building to stile onto road. Turn right to follow this quiet lane back to Holdgate.

Well done and thank you for supporting Holdgate Church