

The Hutchison Way Walking Route

Hutchison Way is a route linking Wellington to Newport via Telford Town Centre. Historical and natural features are linked with the modern developments which have created the interesting mosaic that forms this distinctive local area.

The route is based on a mixture of public rights of way, lanes, trackways through open spaces and paved footpaths providing the opportunity to explore many interesting places. It would be useful to carry an OS map, preferably the New Explorer 1/25000 sheet 242. The historical towns of Wellington and Newport, Ancient woodlands, and landscapes created from old industrial remains are just a few of the experiences awaiting discovery.

Some of the paths along this route may be muddy so please wear suitable clothing.

David Hutchison, the late Chief Executive of Telford & Wrekin Council was the inspiration and strong supporter of this route. A keen walker and a man committed to the Telford area, David Hutchison's vision was to create a network of footpaths across the district enabling people to walk through this varied landscape.

It was decided that the most fitting tribute to David was to name this route 'The Hutchison Way'.

Wildlife in the area

A section of the Hutchison Way route travels through a copse of trees and into open farmland. Although small, groups of trees like this provide important feeding, shelter and breeding areas for a variety of birds and small mammals.

Birds seen in this area include wrens, little owls, buzzards, greater spotted woodpecker and in winter, redwings and fieldfare are common visitors to the open fields.

Bird cherry, guelder rose, crab apple and the wild service tree have been planted in this area as they are both attractive and provide nectar and berries to benefit wildlife.

The wild service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) was once a common tree in Britain but now found only in ancient woodland. The tree had many uses (hence its name) including quality timber and edible berries that were also made into the alcoholic drink called chequers.

Wellington Leisure Centre



Wellington is an ancient settlement, famous for its market which was regulated in 1244, when it was given a market charter. This allowed the Lord of the manor to charge tolls and in return he ensured the market was properly organised.

Errcall Wood



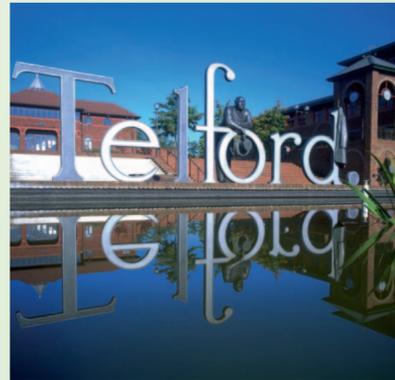
Buckatree Hall



Wrekin Golf Club



Telford Town Centre



The first phase of Telford Town Centre was opened in October 1973. The undercover shopping centre has over 145 stores. Around the shopping centre is a cinema, ice rink, bowling alley and town park with gardens and play areas.

The Clock Tower



Priorslee



Site of a 12th century chapel. Priorslee Hall was built by the Jordan family but in the early 19th century became the headquarters of the famous Lilleshall Company.

Granville

Granville Country Park was once a hive of industrial activity. In 1822 the Lilleshall Company built the Lodge Furnaces to smelt iron from local coal and iron ore. The furnaces remained in blast until 1888 when they were closed down.

The Incline



Lilleshall



Here there is a wooded area containing the old limestone quarries and ruined kilns which belonged to the Earl of Gower, founder of the Lilleshall Company. He built a series of canals to connect with Donnington Wood Canal for the purpose of bringing coal to his lime works and for carrying away lime and limestone. The levels between the canals were different so an inclined plane was built at Hughes bridge.

Church Aston



Newport

The town was planned and laid out in the 12th century. It was given a Borough Charter by Henry I for its valuable ponds and meres used as fisheries, hence the three fishes used as the town emblem for Newport.

Station Road, Newport



Walking and Cycling in Telford

This route is one of a range of routes produced by Telford & Wrekin Council. Other route maps are available from Telford Travelink in Telford Town Centre bus station or by calling 01952 200005. Maps are also available from libraries and tourist information points.

Public Transport

481 Telford Town Centre to Newport and Stafford: this service runs up to half hourly.

44, 55 Telford Town Centre to Wellington: these services run up to every 10 minutes.

For up to date timetable information call **Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.**

For timetables contact **Telford Travelink on 01952 200005** or pop in to Telford Travelink at Telford Town Centre bus station.

Walking and Cycling maps and bus timetable are also available from www.telford.gov.uk