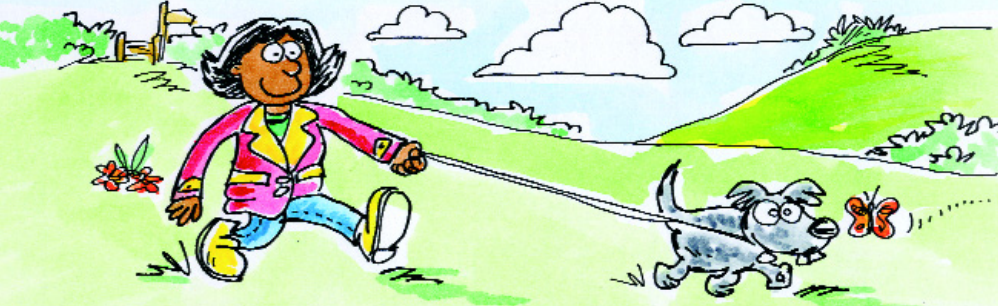


Where to Walk

The map overleaf gives you some suggestions. Popular trails such as the Shropshire Way and Offa's Dyke Path are clearly waymarked on the ground and guide you across some of the best bits of the Shropshire Hills.

If you are looking for a shorter, circular walk there are lots of walking guides and leaflets which are available from local Tourist Information Centres. These include walks from the towns and villages, as well as the favourite walking spots such as the Stiperstones, Long Mynd and the Wrekin.

The countryside sites such as Forestry Commission Land are also popular places to walk, picnic and play.



With new Rights come new Responsibilities...
...not only to take care of yourself and fellow walkers, but also the land and its plants and animals

Where you can go and what you can do

From the 31st October 2005, you can walk, picnic, bird-watch, run and climb on access land.

There is no new right to ride a horse or bicycle (except on bridleways crossing access land), drive vehicles (except on byways open to all traffic or other legal routes crossing access land), camp, hanglide or paraglide, use a metal detector, use boats, collect stones, plants or wood, light or cause fires or swim in any non-tidal rivers. Existing access rights are not affected.

You must observe general or local restrictions and obey any byelaws. You must not damage any walls, gates, fences or stiles, leave litter, disrupt work on the land, or deliberately disturb livestock, wildlife or habitats.

Please use the public rights of way network or other signposted routes to get to and from access land – look out for the access symbol.

When you see this symbol it shows where land may be open for public access on foot. Access rights for other activities may also exist.

This symbol shows there are no public access rights beyond the point where it is displayed, (public rights of way are not affected).

The right of access on foot also applies to wheelchair users. Where possible, gates have been provided to allow access although please note that access land is often very rough and steep terrain.

Dogs on Access Land

The rights on access land extend to walking with dogs. However they must be on a short, fixed lead of no more than 2m long between 1st March and 31st July to limit the disturbance to ground nesting birds and at all other times around livestock. Please follow local information signs.

- On access land used for the rearing and shooting of grouse, there is likely to be a total exclusion on dogs. Please visit www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk or ring the Open Access Helpline on 0845 100 3298 for current information. There is a five year exclusion on dogs on Black Rhadley, Heath Mynd and Cefn Gunthly (OS Explorer Map 217).
- Dogs may also be excluded for up to 6 weeks a year on land used for lambing
- Your rights to take dogs on public rights of way are unaffected by access land restrictions, but dogs must be kept under close control on public rights of way, preferably on a short, fixed lead.
- Dog restrictions do not apply to trained guide/hearing dogs or dogs that are on the land with permission of the landowner.

Dogs and cattle

Access land is generally used for sheep grazing but you may come across cattle on the surrounding Rights of Way network

- Cattle may be inquisitive and approach you, especially if you have a dog.
- For you safety, avoid walking through a herd of cattle and never come between a cow and her calf.

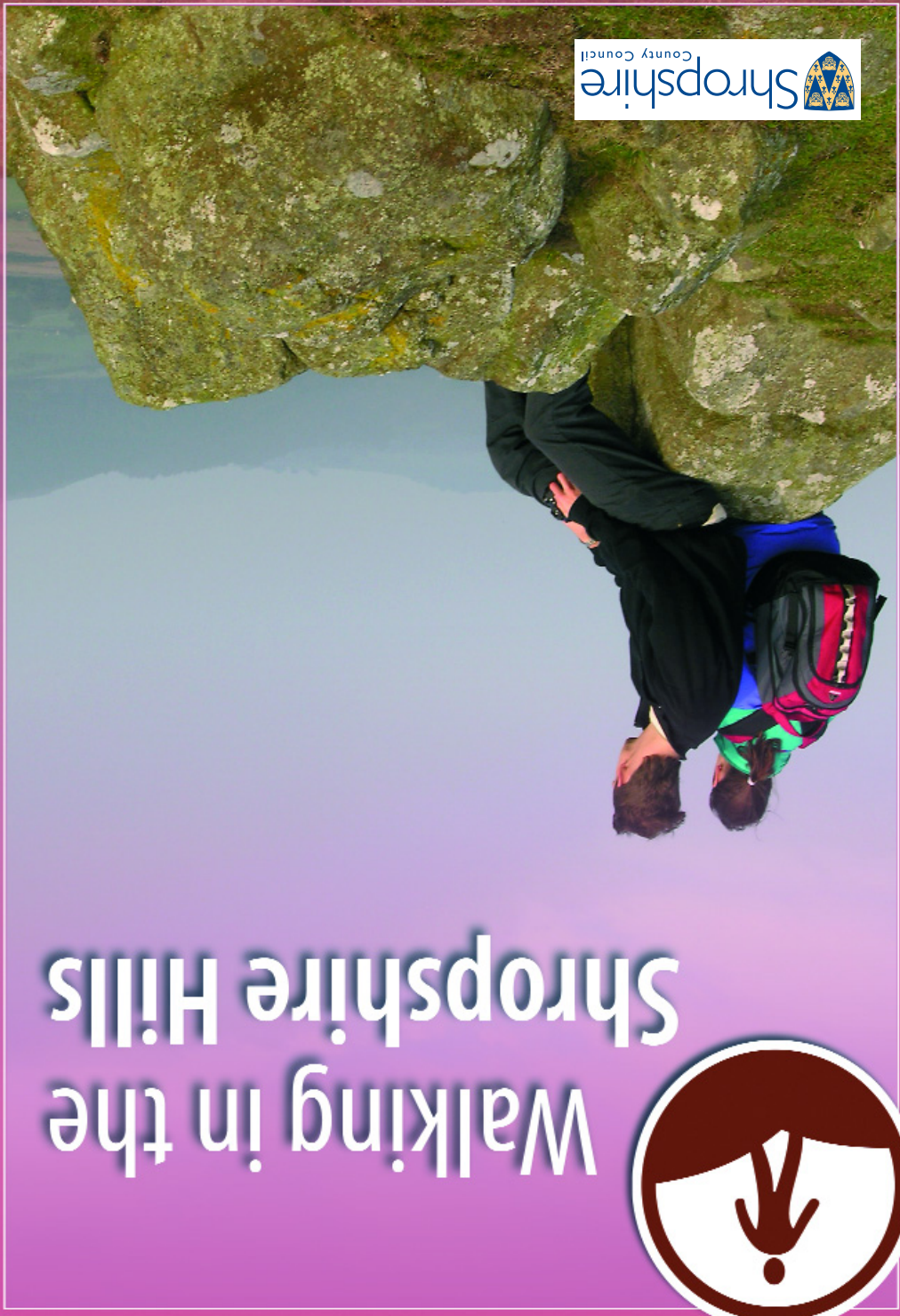


Some areas may be restricted

Access land is not necessarily available to walk on at all times. Long-term restrictions may be in place for a wide range of reasons, including nature conservation, land management, public safety and fire prevention. In addition landowners have the right for local, temporary restrictions, for any reason, for up to 28 days a year. Many people depend on access land for their livelihoods and at times they may need to carry out this work requiring temporary restrictions.

Whenever possible, restrictions and closures will be shown on www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk or given via the Open Access Helpline on 0845 100 3298. Information on local restrictions may also be posted at the main access land primary information points or at main points of access onto specific areas of land.

Open Access only applies to areas of open country and registered common land. It does not include a right of access to lower lying farmland, buildings, livestock pens, quarries and other active mineral workings, aerodromes, areas within 20m of a dwelling or building or the land attached to them i.e. its garden.



Safety on Access Land

Be careful. Access land may involve rough and challenging terrain.

- Take a map and compass, spare clothing, food and drink.
- Tell somebody where you are going and when you are going to be back.
- If you are inexperienced or unsure of your ability, never walk alone.
- Check the weather forecast before you leave, but beware the weather can change quickly.
- Keep an eye out for potential dangers such as mine and quarry workings.

Always follow the Countryside Code

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



DISCLAIMER The publishers have made every effort to ensure the information in this publication was correct at the time of printing. If you have any comments regarding this publication please contact Shropshire County Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury • Tel: 01743 251000

Designed: MA Creative 01743 231261
Cartoons by Malcolm Whittall
Photos: Danny Beath & Stephanie Hayes



Walking in the Shropshire Hills

The Shropshire Hills are a protected landscape designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It is a landscape of contrasts which invite exploration. Whether you enjoy hiking the hills, strolling through superb scenery or rambling along river valleys, there are walks to suit all tastes and abilities.

And the new open access land, highlighted overleaf, enables you to freely explore more of this wonderful area on foot. Use the OS Explorer maps to plan your walk or follow one of the many walks which are detailed in various trail guides and leaflets.



Discover for yourself

A rich cultural heritage has evolved within this landscape. Situated on the border of England and Wales, the Shropshire Hills have seen centuries of human strife. The legacy of these struggles is etched into the landscape in the Iron Age hillforts that crown many hilltops and the great border earthwork of Offa's Dyke.

There is also a wealth of wildlife. The hills, river valleys, woods and farmland are home to a multitude of birds, animals, flowering plants, mosses, fungi, lichens, innumerable butterflies and other insects. Look out for buzzard, raven and the occasional red kite soaring above the hills, while hidden in the valleys you may glimpse the secretive roe or fallow deer.



For information about Open Access and up to date restrictions please see www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk or call Open Access Helpline on **0845 100 3298**

 **OS Explorer Maps:**
201, 203, 216, 217, 218, 241, 242

Open Access land will be shown on the new Explorer maps in a light yellow colour and woodland with access in a yellowish green.

Walking is good for you!

Walking five times a week for 30 minutes helps keep you healthy.

Please use public transport where possible

For public transport enquiries contact



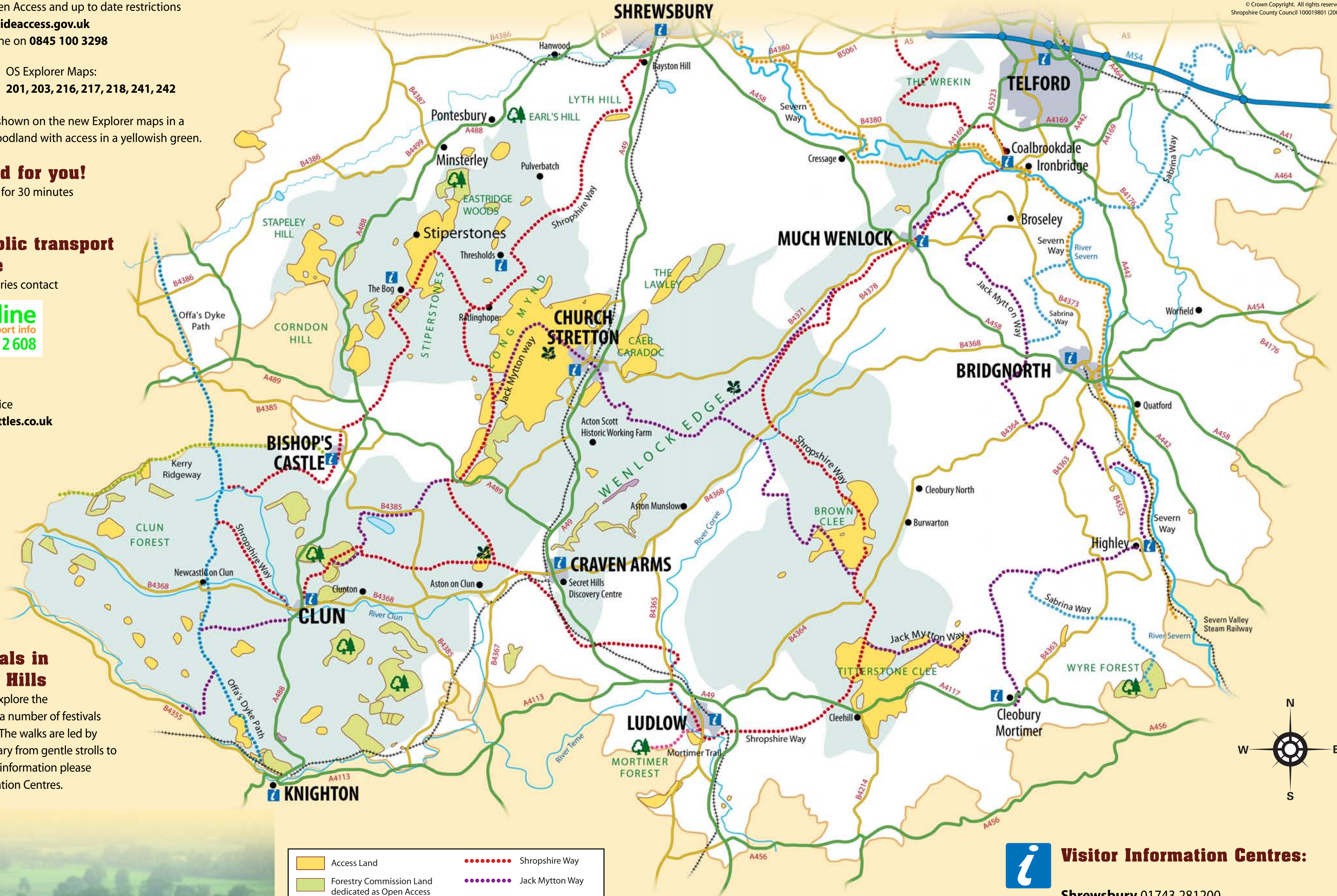
www.traveline.org.uk

or for the Shuttle Bus service

www.shropshirehillsshuttles.co.uk

Walking Festivals in the Shropshire Hills

are another great way to explore the Shropshire Hills. There are a number of festivals held throughout the year. The walks are led by experienced leaders and vary from gentle strolls to strenuous hikes. For more information please contact the Tourist Information Centres.



	Access Land		Shropshire Way
	Forestry Commission Land dedicated as Open Access		Jack Myton Way
	Private Landowner Dedications		Sabrina Way
	AONB Boundary		Severn Way
	Visitor Information Centre		Mortimer Trail
	Forestry Commission Sites		Kerry Ridgway
	National Trust Areas		Offa's Dyke Path

Other walks in Shropshire:

Information on the promoted routes and other walking in Shropshire can be found by visiting www.shropshire.gov.uk



Visitor Information Centres:

Shrewsbury 01743 281200

Church Stretton 01694 723133

Bridgnorth 01746 763257

Ludlow 01584 875053

Knighton 01547 529424

Telford 01952 230032