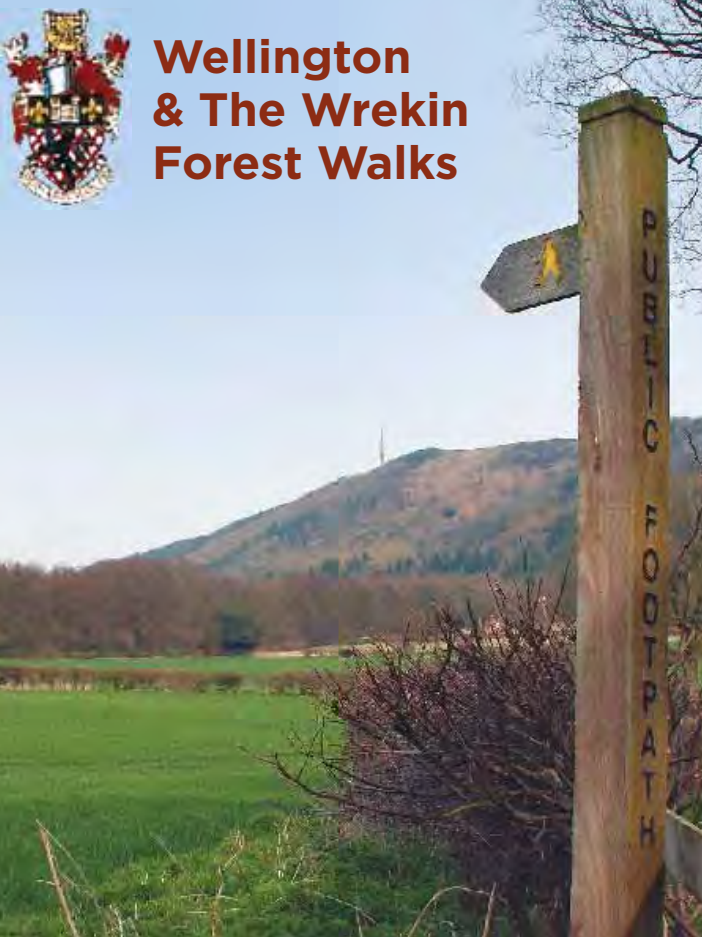


Wellington & The Wrekin Forest Walks



Wellington is a "Walkers are Welcome" Town
www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk

Walk Key

- A** To the Top of The Wrekin
- B** Around The Wrekin
- B** Alternative route
- C** Ercall Wood Nature Reserve
- C** Alternative Route
- D** Limekiln Wood
- D** Alternative route

Ordnance Survey® Explorer Map 242, Telford, Ironbridge & The Wrekin
The walk routes featured on this map have been overlaid on the Ordnance Survey (OS) Explorer Map 242, scale 1:25,000. Further key information can be found by purchasing this OS Map or visiting www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright 2011. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100050156.

Suggested Walks from Wellington Railway Station

A To the Top of The Wrekin

From the station ticket office take the road up towards W.H.Smith. Turn left and go through Market Square, keeping to the left of the black and white building. Go along Crown Street. Carry straight on up Tan Bank. Cross Victoria Road and continue through the pedestrian access into the next section of Tan Bank. After about 30 metres take the brick footpath on the right. Cross the next road (Roseway) and take the footpath immediately opposite. Carry on past the allotments on your right and Sunnycroft (maintained by the National Trust) on the left. Cross Holyhead Road by the pelican crossing going ahead into Golf Links Lane. Continue until just before the bridge under the motorway.

Take the signed public footpath to the right. Continue until you reach the next bridge over the motorway. Cross over the M54 to where Ercall Wood begins. There is a small car park on the left. Take the path on the left of the road. This takes you along the edge of The Ercall Wood Nature Reserve. The path joins Ercall Wood Lane by the Buckatree Hall Hotel. Walk carefully along the road until the next road junction. This area at the foot of The Wrekin is called the Forest Glen. Cross the road and go through a large gate into the wood. Take the track which leads gently up.

Follow the main track as it bends right to the Halfway House. At busy times light refreshments are on sale here.

Go through another gate and continue on the path up the hill, which turns to rise steeply up the ridge. At Hell Gate you enter the hill fort. The track climbs to Heaven Gate, from where it is almost level to the top. Here you'll find a trig point and a toposcope. In good weather the views are magnificent. Return the same way or take any of the other routes on the map.

The total length of this walk, in one direction is approximately 3.5 miles (5.5 km). The walk climbs 1,000 feet (300 metres).

B Around The Wrekin

Follow the first two paragraphs of the description of Walk A.

At the sharp bend where the main track turns right up the hill, leave the main track and go straight on. After about a mile, take the right fork onto the signed permissive path (do not take the descending left fork). Cross the path that goes very steeply up to the summit. (Alternatively, turn right here to ascend to the summit and then follow the main route down to the Forest Glen.) Go straight ahead, on the gently descending permissive path. At the next junction turn right, by the permissive path signpost, onto the public footpath. Where the path forks, take the left fork. Continue straight on, crossing the stile through the old rifle range, eventually joining the road. Turn right onto the road, continue to the T junction, cross the road, climb the stile and go through the kissing gate. Continue on the path on the left of the reservoir. Turn right onto a wide track and reach the road. Turn left to the Buckatree Hall Hotel, then retrace your steps to Wellington.

The total length of this walk is approximately 7.5 miles (12 km).

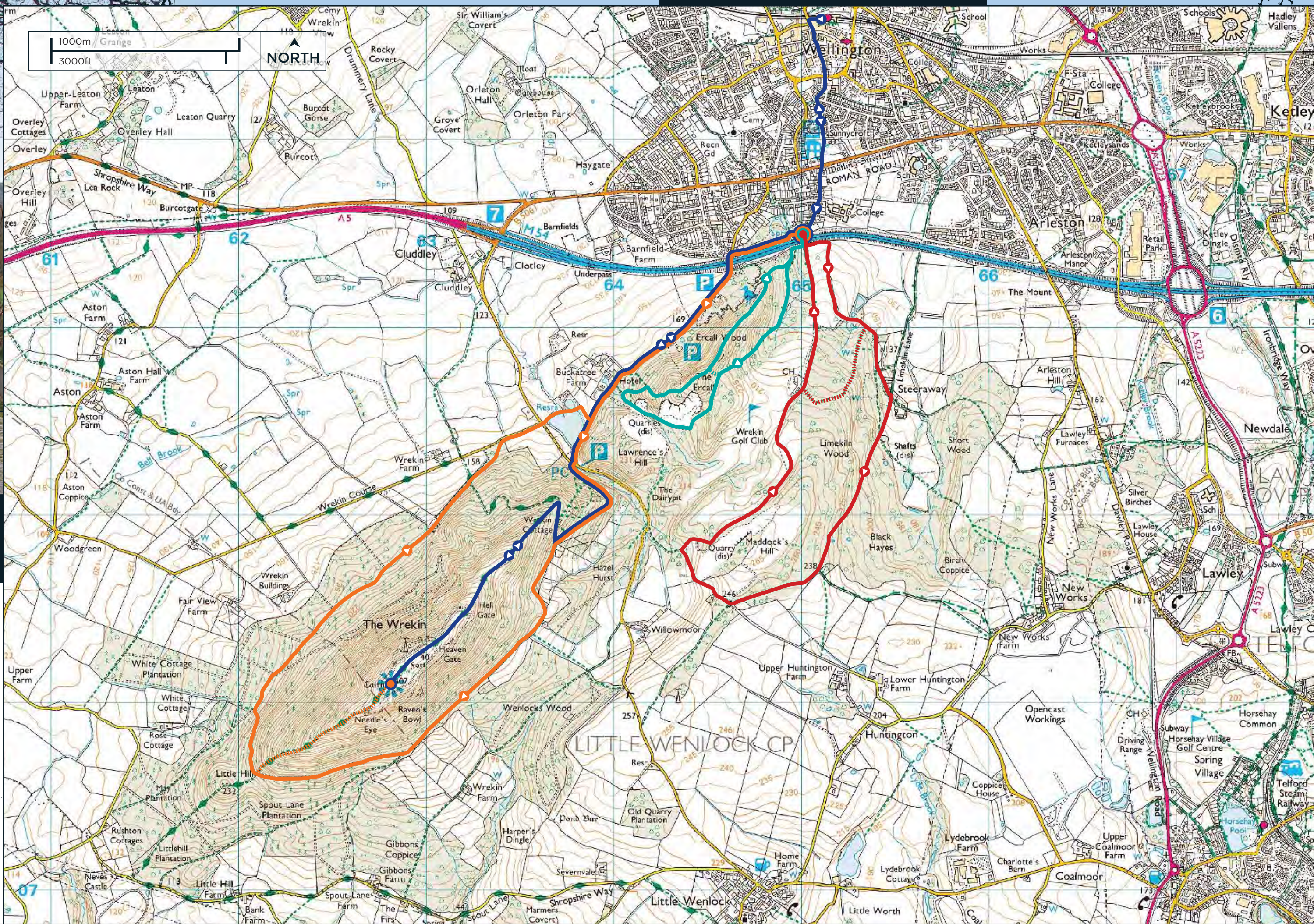
C Ercall Wood Nature Reserve

Follow the first paragraph of Walk A to the motorway bridge.

Continue under the bridge. Immediately turn right to follow the signposted footpath. Go over the footbridge. Bear left into the wood and fork left again where there is an Ercall Woods Walk green waymark on a tree. Keep to the wider main path which rises slowly along the side of the hill. Near the top there is a path which descends steeply from the right. (Alternative shorter walk avoiding the very steep section: turn right here, continue uphill to the ridge and turn right. Continue following the instructions from C1 below.) Bear left here onto the descending path, following another green waymark. Continue between a slab wall on the right and a large concrete drainpipe on the left. Follow the path around the bend and take the left fork to descend into the quarries, still following the green waymarks. Continue on the path through the quarries. About 25 metres before the gate onto the road, there is a path on the right which leads down steps to a footbridge. Take this path, cross the footbridge and go up the other side. (To the left a path leads to the Buckatree Hall Hotel.) Turn right to continue the walk. After a short distance bear left up the hill. Where the path levels turn right and follow the very steep path uphill to the summit. Follow the green waymarks, bearing left at the top and (C1) continue straight on down the ridge. Keep following the green waymarks, bearing right to descend to the footbridge. Re-cross the footbridge and retrace your steps to Wellington.

The total length of this walk is approximately 4 miles (6.5 km).

See reverse for the Wellington town map



Points of interest

The Wrekin Hillfort

Like most Shropshire hills, The Wrekin has its fort, begun in the Bronze Age around 3500 years ago, rebuilt by Celts about 500 BC. It is believed to have been the 'capital' of the tribe the Romans called Cornovii, who lived in Shropshire and Cheshire, where a body was found in a marsh some years ago. Although the hillfort has not been used for 2,000 years it is still visible. It is a Scheduled Monument and the home of our ancestors, so please treat it well. See 'Archaeology of the Welsh Marches' by Stan Stanford and 'The Wrekin Hill' by Allan Frost.

The Wrekin Hills - Geology

Some of The Wrekin's rocks are very ancient and were formed when there was only microscopic life on Earth. They began thousands of miles south of the Equator and drifted here over hundreds of millions of years. The truth is even more fantastic than The Wrekin Giant story, which most locals can tell in one version or another. The older rocks are igneous, raised up by gigantic faults, moving over the Earth's surface propelled by plate tectonics. Our Wrekin is millions of years older than the Himalayas, Alps or Andes and may once have been higher. Rocks include Gneiss, Granophyre, Camptonite, Dolerite, Schist, Rhyolite, Tuff, Quartzite, Sandstone, Shale, Basalt, Limestone, Coal Measures, Conglomerate, Keele Beds, Gravel, Sand, Clay and Scree. That's a huge variety. See 'Geology in Shropshire' by Peter Toghill.

The Woodlands - Ownership

The Wrekin and Little Hill, Gibbons Coppice, Wenlock's Wood, Hazel Hurst, Maddocks Hill, Black Hayes and Short Wood are all privately owned. The Borough Council owns the north sides of The Ercall and Limekiln Wood, both of which are nature reserves. The south side of The Ercall and Lawrence Hill belong to Shropshire Wildlife Trust; naturally that's a nature reserve too. All the paths marked are either public or permissive; if you don't stray you're quite legal but remember that owners, farmers, foresters and golfers have rights as well as we do.



The Wrekin Hillfort
Image supplied by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

Other Routes

There are many other routes from Wellington, particularly in the area depicted on the map. For example, a route going over the summit of The Ercall, around the base of The Wrekin to the ridge path, back over The Wrekin and then possibly over The Ercall again is to be recommended. There are other approaches to The Wrekin, via Limekiln Lane or via Cluddley. It is feasible to walk in a day from Wellington to Ironbridge and back via The Ercall and The Wrekin, possibly returning on the Ironbridge Way via Leegomery.

Hutchison Way

Hutchison Way is a 19 mile (30 km) route from Wellington to Newport. It is named in memory of late former Chief Executive of (the then) Wrekin Council, David Hutchison. It is waymarked using named maroon arrows on a white disc. The route starts outside Wellington Town Civic and Leisure Centre. It goes to the foot of The Wrekin, as in Route A, skirts the base of The Ercall and continues via the Golf course to Steeraway Farm. It then heads off in the direction of Telford Town Centre.

Silkin Way

Silkin Way is a 14 mile (22 km) walking and cycling route, partly on the line of old railway tracks, running across Telford from north to south. It starts at Bratton, just north of Wellington and goes through Dothill, passing just beyond the Princess Royal Hospital on its way to Leegomery. It eventually arrives via Telford Town Centre, at Coalport in the Ironbridge Gorge.

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