

ACTON SCOTT AMBLE

Welcome to the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Explore the Acton Scott Estate and discover the sleepy hamlets of Chelmick and Hatton.

Distance: 6½ miles

Time: 3 - 4 hours

Terrain: Easy walking through farmland, woodland and along quiet country lanes.

Short cut: 2½ miles, (1 - 2 hours)

start/finish: Acton Scott Working Farm Museum car park

Map: OS Explorer 217 *now start your walk*

Your walk starts from Acton Scott Historic Working Farm Museum where you can experience daily life on an upland farm at the turn of the century.



harvest is still hard work on the farm

1 From the car park, turn left on to the lane to pass Acton Scott Farm and village hall.

Close to where you are standing is a Roman villa, one of only twenty or so known in Shropshire. You are standing near an



where he stood, now you stand

2 Cross the stile and bear left across the field to cross a stile in the far corner. Go on up the field then right and through the wicket gate into the church yard.



Acton Scott church yard is a haven for wildlife



take time to walk around Acton Scott church

outpost of the western most province of the Roman Empire. Zooming forward in time to the Norman Conquest of Britain, you will find the Manor owned by the Acton family. The Actons are one of the few ancient English families who can trace their ownership of the land to before 1066!

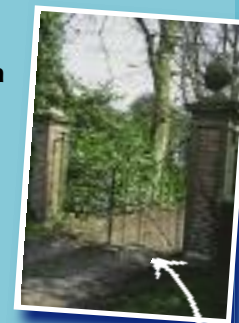
Carry on at the crossroads to reach a stile on the left in the hedge.

From the top of the field there is an excellent view north to Ragleth Hill. The *Wagoner's Wander*, the second walk in this series, leads you to this wonderful viewpoint.

There has been a church in Acton Scott since at least 1252. In 1820 the Actons added a north aisle to serve as their family pew. A path leads directly from this to the 17th-century brick gate

piers for access to the private grounds of Acton Scott Hall.

3 Follow the path through the churchyard to emerge on to Henley Lane. Go right and continue down the lane, past the Coachman's Lodge to join the track on the left, next to a cottage.



look out for these fancy gates to Acton Scott Hall

From the lane there is a splendid view south to the wooded escarpment of Wenlock Edge made famous in A.E. Houseman's "Shropshire Lad". This long, limestone ridge was formed 420 million years ago. Imagine, where you are standing now was not only underwater but south of the equator! The rock of the Edge is rich in fossilised corals and sea shells.



can you spot Flounder's Folly on the hillside?

The tower on the hill beyond, is Flounder's Folly, built in the 1830s by Benjamin Flounder of Ludlow; from its top you are supposed to be able to see the River Mersey, sixty miles away!

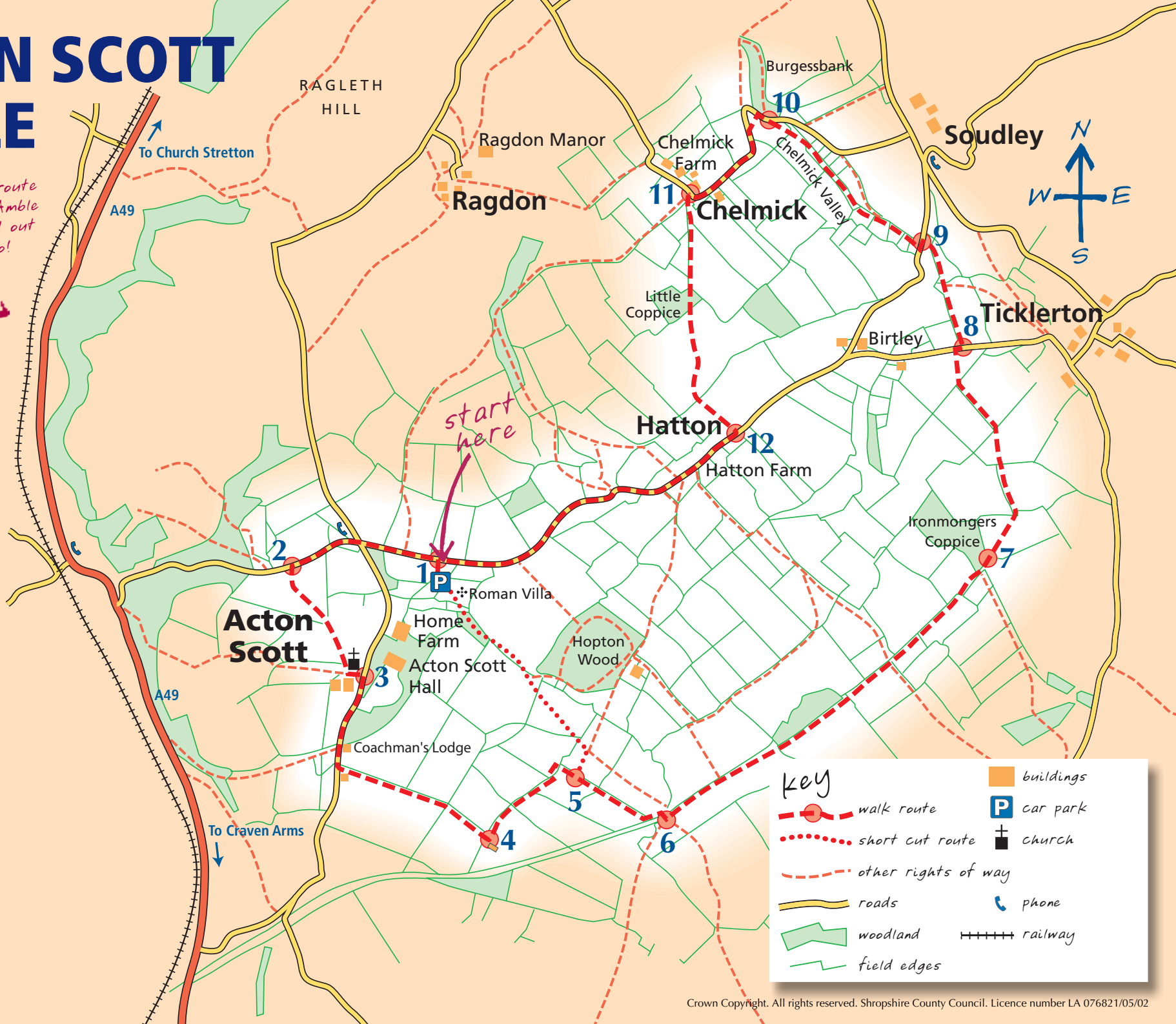
Looking north you can see the early 19th Century pleasure ground and shrubbery around Acton Scott Hall. The stonewall marks the line of the carriage drive, which would have allowed those arriving at the Hall wonderful views across the estate to Wenlock Edge.

ACTON SCOTT AMBLE

This map shows the route of the Acton Scott Amble but it's well marked out on the ground too!

Guidelines for walkers

- Please keep your dogs under close control. We recommend they be kept on a lead on farmland.
- When walking your dog, please take care when in fields with livestock. Take extra care when crossing fields with cows and calves.
- Please leave gates as you find them.
- Always keep to the waymarked paths.
- Please respect the country code: protect wildlife, plants and trees. Do not drop litter, light fires or make unnecessary noise.
- Always carry refreshments and wear suitable footwear.
- Pay attention to the weather and dress accordingly.



key

	walk route		buildings
	short cut route		car park
	other rights of way		church
	roads		phone
	woodland		railway
	field edges		

FURTHER INFORMATION

Acton Scott Historic Working Farm Museum,
Wenlock Lodge, Acton Scott, Church Stretton,
Shropshire, SY6 6QN
Tel: 01694 781306/7 Fax: 01694 781569
www.actonscottmuseum.co.uk
Email: actonscottmuseum@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

Secret Hills, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre,
Ludlow Road, Craven Arms, SY7 9RS
Tel: 01588 676000
www.shropshire-cc.gov.uk/discover.nsf
Discover the wonders of the Shropshire Hills from the splendour of the scenery to the complexity of their history and heritage.

Travel Information

For bus and train information call: 0870 608 2608

Other walks:

Wagoner's Wander – Walk to summit of Ragleth Hill and enjoy inspiring views of the Stretton Hills and Wenlock Edge.

Secret Hills Walks – Discover the secrets of the Shropshire Hills. There are four great walks to choose from all starting from Secret Hills, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre.

In the Shadow of the Stiperstones – Four inspiring walks exploring the rugged beauty of the Stiperstones.

These walks have been produced by



Published by Sustainable Managed Access Project. Photos by Gordon Dickins, Nigel McDonald and Mike Ashton. Designed by MACreative (01743) 231261.

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 the Sustainable Managed Access Project, Shropshire Hills Countryside Unit, Shropshire County Council, Shirehall, Abbey Forgate, Shrewsbury SY2 6ND.

Stay on the track, with open fields on your right and then go through a gate, to the left of a farm building and then turn left.

cattle have been over-wintered here for more than 100 years



This farm building is an "outbarn" of the 1860s (see the gable-end date stone). Cattle would have been over wintered here and their manure spread over the surrounding fields as fertiliser in the following year.

4 Follow the hedge line through two fields then through another gate on the left, on to a fenced track. Stay on the track, as it bends to the right, to follow an avenue of trees.



5 If you wish to cut your walk short at this point and return to the car park turn to the SHORT CUT. Otherwise continue below.

6 At the bottom of the track take the path on the left, through the trees then right crossing two stiles in close succession.

A good quality stone bridge and the foundations of a ruined cottage lie close to where the Buildwas to Craven Arms railway, which opened in 1867, once ran.

Go left and follow the field edge to eventually enter a small wood ahead.

Cross three stiles and a footbridge to emerge into a field. Go left and follow the field edge crossing numerous stiles to eventually enter a wood, known locally as Iron-mongers Coppice.



The curiously named Ironmongers Coppice is a remnant of the ancient woodland that once covered the land.

look out for bluebells in the springtime

7 Cross the stile out of the wood then bear left across the corner of the field to cross a footbridge over a stream.

Bear left up the field edge to cross a stile. Cross the corner of the next field and cross the stile in the hedge. Follow the left-hand hedge to another stile then bear right to cross a stile onto a lane.

In the fields here traces can be seen ridges and furrows; remnants of Ticklerton's Mediaeval open fields. These were probably enclosed about 1600, which means the hedges you are following are at least 400 years old.

8 Cross the stile opposite and carry on downhill to cross a footbridge and a stile. Continue on, then left, crossing three stiles to reach a lane.

9 Cross the lane and go through the wicket gate to join the Jack Mytton Bridleway,

along the Chelmick Valley, to reach another lane.

The Jack Mytton Way, named after a locally famous horseman, is a 70-mile bridleway from Highley to Llanfair Waterdine.

In the 19th century there were eight squatters' cottages down the Chelmick Valley, and several remain. Most would have been built and occupied by farm labourers. A watermill stood at the north end of the valley in the 17th Century, near the modern fishing pools.



Chelmick Valley

10 Continue on the lane for a short distance, go through a gate on the left and climb steeply up the field to rejoin the lane.

(If you do not wish to climb the steep field you can follow the lane to rejoin the route at the top of the hill).

Continue up the lane to the hamlet of Chelmick.

11 At the village green take the track on the left, which goes downhill in between houses (Chelmick Barn on the left). Go through the gate and bear right across the field down into a wood, known locally as Little Coppice.

Little Coppice, with its coppiced hazel and mature oak trees gives an excellent idea of traditional

woodland management. In coppicing the hazel is cut at ground level every ten years or so for a wood crop. Mediaeval woods looked much like this.

Continue down through the wood in the same direction, crossing two fields to join a farm track. Go up the track to meet a lane.



ask for the Wagoner's Wander, the other walk in this series

12 Turn right and follow the lane back to Acton Scott Farm Museum.

SHORT CUT

Leave the track by crossing the stile on the left. Head for the middle of the field, over boggy ground, then go left to eventually cross a stile in the hedge.

Descend across the corner of the field to cross a stile next to a gate. With the fence on your left, carry on to cross a stile into a wood. Go right, up the edge of the wood, to cross a stile into a field. Bear left across the field and cross the stile into the car park.



to the south is the distinctive Wenlock Edge

Acton Scott Amble



Enjoy this 6 1/2 mile wander, exploring the ancient Acton Scott Estate and the charming Chelmick Valley.