

Shropshire Way: linear walk using the local bus and train service

Pulverbatch to Church Stretton

7 miles (10km) linear walk over The Portway and Long Mynd.

Allow 5 hours

Grade ***

OS Map: Explorer sheets 217 & 241

You start this walk in Pulverbatch

Buses:

546 Shrewsbury to Pulverbatch: hourly Monday to Saturday

435 Church Stretton to Shrewsbury: hourly Mondays to Saturdays

To look up bus timetables for this walk and for further information visit www.travelinmidlands.co.uk or contact Traveline 0871 200 22 33

Dogs are allowed on the buses at the driver's discretion; please contact the bus company direct for further information:

- 546 Shrewsbury to Pulverbatch – Arriva 0844 800 4411
- 435 Shrewsbury to Ludlow – Minsterley Motors 01743 791208

Train:

Daily train service from Church Stretton to Shrewsbury approximately every hour on Monday-Saturday and two hourly on Sundays.

For further train information contact **National Rail 08457 48 49 50** or www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk

National Trust tearooms, toilets and gift shop in the Carding Mill Valley. There is also a choice of cafes and pubs in Church Stretton where you end the walk.

Walk directions:

1. From the bus stop by the White Horse public house in Pulverbatch take the Bishop's Castle Road, to the right, as it descends the hillside. It is difficult to see cars on the bend so it is probably better to cross and walk on the left hand side. Near the bottom of the hill cross a stile on the left and walk across a small pasture to a footbridge. Go over a bridge, navigate through wet ground, and

Shropshire Way: linear walk using the local bus and train service

cross another stile into a field. Head slightly right over the field to steps leading up to a stile; this leads onto a road. Turn left.

2. The road curves right and before a dwelling go right through a gateway to enter a large field. Your way is slightly left to skirt the oak trees and onward to a stile next to a barred gate. Head slightly left in the next field to go through a barred gate. Keep ahead to cross two stiles guarding a footbridge over a drainage ditch. Go ahead to the field hedge opposite where there's a finger post; here you meet the Shropshire Way which you follow to Direction No.5.
3. Turn right here to follow the hedge up to The Beeches. Cross a stile, track and then go through a barred gate. The path continues ahead at first then bends right to meet a straggled line of hawthorn bushes. Turn left here to a stile which is crossed. The next section is something of a challenge as it winds its way through wet ground as you rise toward a wood. It runs more or less parallel to the hedge on the right. Cross a stile next to the barred gate nearest to the wood. Climb up the hillside next to the wood and at the top head slightly right across the field to stile in a hedge. Cross it to enter the next field and walk in a similar direction, keeping to the left of the boundary marker stone. This gives out onto the road; the Thresholds Centre is to your right.
4. Cross the road and follow the track ahead, known as the Portway. This gives out at a barred gate and becomes a lesser track passing through another two barred gates as it rises along this edge which offers superb views. The green track passes between two pools and continues to pass by a wood to then dip down. As the track bends left go right up a lesser path up to the road. Turn right and at the car parking area at Duckley Nap bear left along a main track signposted to Shooting Box.
5. In about half a mile you come to a junction of paths and it is easy to miss your turning for the Carding Mill Valley so be vigilant! Go left at the waymark post and then within a few paces ease right to descend Mott's Road into Carding Mill Valley upper car park and walk down to the Pavilion. Continue ahead and after the coach parking area leave the road on the right and follow a track to rise up to The Burway. Go left on the road by the cattle grid and walk down to Church Stretton. At the crossroads go ahead to walk down Sandford Avenue to Beaumont Road for buses or to Church Stretton Railway Station.