



explore open access land



Walking on Brown Clee

Abdon Burf and Clee Burf are the twin summits which make up Brown Clee, the highest point in Shropshire. The walk to the top is a steady climb, but worth it for the panoramic views of the Shropshire Hills, which are a protected landscape, designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

With the new rights to walk on Brown Clee, there is plenty to explore, take a look at the map overleaf.

A hill steeped in heritage

This great twinned hill, which rises gently from the surrounding farmland has witnessed our ancestors working this land since the Neolithic period, over six thousand years ago.

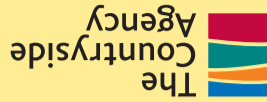
Jump ahead 3,000 years to the Bronze Age and our ancestors chose the summit of Abdon Burf as a place of burial, while in the Iron Age a hill-fort was constructed here because of its obvious defensive position.

Today, standing on Abdon Burf, it is difficult to picture the hill-fort and burial cairns as intensive mining in the 1900's has reshaped this hill. However, look south, across to Clee Liberty Common and you will come upon Nordy Bank, the site of another Iron Age hill-fort which is well preserved.

Much more visible on Brown Clee is the remains of a thriving industrial past. Both this hill and its neighbour Titterstone Clee were once a hive of activity with people mining the coal and ironstone which cap both summits. Look out for the bell-pits and spoil tips which litter this hill.

Look out for meadow pipits, wheatears and stonechats often seen flitting across the hill, while buzzards and ravens soar overhead. Merlins are occasionally spotted, along with Ring Ouzels which are on passage in Spring. A Great Grey Shrike has wintered on Brown Clee in previous years.

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 by **MA Creative** • 01743 231261
Cover photo: *Abdon Burf* – **Gordon Dickins**
Inside Photo: *Brown Clee at dawn* – **Danny Beath**
Cartoon by **Malcolm Whittall**



- ◆ 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



Always follow the Countryside Code

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Keep an eye out for potential dangers such as mine and quarry workings.

Safety on Access Land

Dogs on Access Land



- ◆ Dogs 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.
- ◆ Dogs may also be excluded for up to 6 weeks a year on land used for lambing and in areas that are important for ground nesting birds.
- ◆ 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 your 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. Landowners have the right for local, temporary restrictions, for any reason, for up to 28 days a year.

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.

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. The access trail which runs from the car park near Nordy Bank to the summit of Clee Burf is a clearly defined stoned/surfaced track which may be suitable for wheelchair users. However, please note that it is steep in places. This access trail has been allowed with the kind permission of the landowner.



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



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.



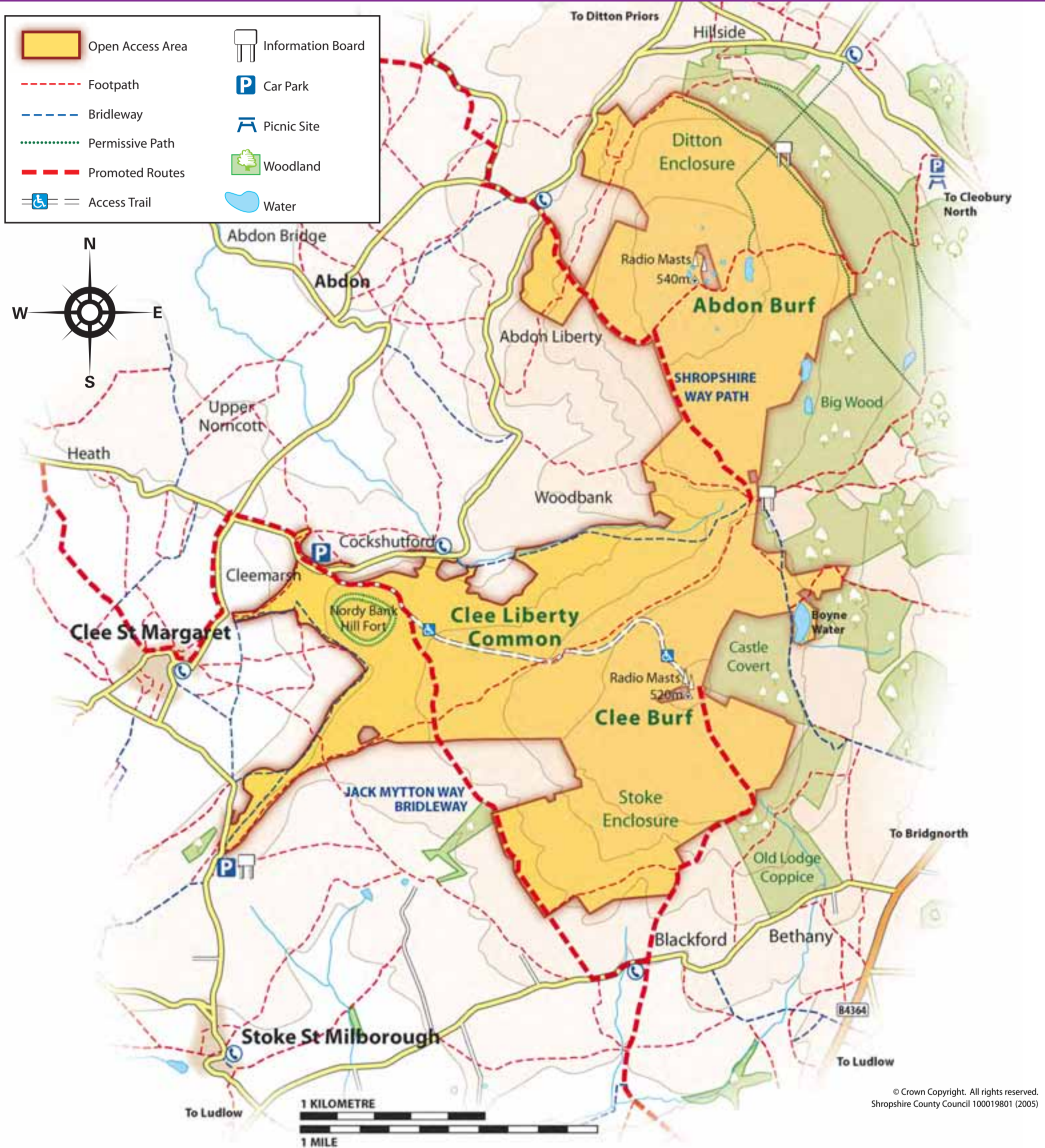
Please use the public rights of way network or other signposted routes to get to and from access land – look out for the access symbol.

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.


Where you can go and what you can do
You can walk, picnic, bird-watch, run and climb on access land. There is no new right to ride a horse or bicycle, to drive vehicles, camp, hang glide or paraglide, use a metal detector, collect stones, plants or wood, light or cause fires or swim in any water bodies. Existing access rights are not affected.

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

Walking on Brown Clee



 Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 217

 The nearest Tourist Information Centres are in **Ludlow, Bridgnorth** and **Cleobury Mortimer**.

Other walks in Shropshire: Information on promoted walks and other walking in Shropshire can be found by visiting www.shropshire.gov.uk



For information regarding Open Access restrictions please see www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk or call the **Open Access Helpline** on **0845 100 3298**

Nearest Pubs: *Howard Arms, Ditton Priors, Boyne Arms, Burwarton, Three Horseshoes, Wheathill*

Walking is good for you!

Walking 5 times a week for 30 minutes helps you keep healthy.

Please use public transport where possible. Bus routes serving the area are:

- 714** from **Ludlow** to Abdon and Clee St Margaret
- 716** from **Ludlow** to Clee St Margaret and Stoke St Milborough
- 142** from **Bridgnorth** to Stoke St Milborough



www.traveline.org.uk