

# Further Information

## Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre

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discoverycentre@shropshire.gov.uk  
www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk

### Travel information

Mainline railway stations are at Shrewsbury, Church Stretton, Craven Arms and Ludlow. For bus and train information call **0871 200 3333**

### Guidelines for walkers

- Always wear suitable clothes and footwear. Pay attention to the weather and dress accordingly
- Please keep your dogs under close control at all times. We recommend they be kept on a lead on farmland
- Take care in fields with livestock, especially if dog walking. Take extra care when crossing fields with cows and calves
- Leave gates as you find them
- Always try to keep to waymarked paths, unless on designated access land
- Respect the countryside; protect wildlife, plants and trees. Take your litter home. Do not light fires or make unnecessary noise

### Other Secret Hills walks

**Riverside Ramble** – a relaxing amble along the River Onny

**Three Woods Walk** – wander deer haunted woods on ancient paths past hidden fortresses and views of Stokesay Castle.

**Wart Hill Wander** – climb to fine views and ancient hillforts. Explore the Onny along an old railway.

**Secret Hills Cycle Rides** – the best way to explore the beauty of the Shropshire Hills is by bike. Six superb routes for all levels of ability.

**Discover Shropshire** – To explore more of Shropshire's beautiful landscape and to find out more about its people, nature and history go to [www.discovershropshire.org.uk](http://www.discovershropshire.org.uk)



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Hills and Long Mynd are to the left of the Edge.

Looking right you'll see across Corvedale to Brown Clee and Titterstone Clee. Brown Clee is the highest point in the Shropshire Hills.

- 7** Continue as the path now descends steeply to reach a stile next to a gate at the corner of the field. Cross the stile and turn right on to a lane.

If you can't face another climb, take a shorter route back to the Discovery Centre from here, jump to point 15.

- 8** Follow the lane, ignoring the first left turn. Take the next left to climb up to Lower Dinchope.

As you enter Lower Dinchope pause to read the memorial on your left against the wall of the low brick building. It tells of the success of the champion Welsh mountain pony 'Grove Sprightly'

- 9** Bear right at the T junction to cross the stile to the right of the field gate.

Follow the left hand field edge and at the corner, continue on across the field bearing slightly right towards the junction of the hedge ahead and the remnants of an old hedgerow.

- 10** When you reach the hedge turn

right and climb up the hill to cross a stile in the corner of the top of the field.

- 11** Turn left and follow the path for a short distance then turn sharply right at a hairpin bend. Climb up the track and after a short distance turn left. The path continues to climb in a straight line before reaching another sharp bend to the right followed shortly by a sharp bend to the left.

- 12** The path climbs gently then steeply uphill. Just after the path goes downhill take the flight of steps to the right. Turn right at the top before a final climb to turn left along the top of the wood. You will see Founders Folly ahead of you. Continue on to the tower.

On a clear day the view from the path

leading to the folly is superb, looking northwest across the Wenlock Edge toward the southern end

of the Long Mynd. To reach this point you have climbed steadily over 210 metres (approx 630 ft) Take time to admire the view and get your breath back, its mostly



# HILLS & DALES HIKE

Climb to lonely tower once owned by a famous film star and discover one of the best views in South Shropshire.



Allow **4 hours** to complete the walk. Allow 2½ hours for the shorter route.

**HOW FAR?**

Complete route **6 miles / 9.6km**  
Shorter route **3 miles / 4.8km**



Challenging climbs but not too muddy generally.



Remember to take refreshments.



**1** **START** behind the Discovery Centre. Walk into the Onny Meadows. Go left at the first junction and follow the surfaced path to the kissing gate.

Go straight ahead to pass a black and white house keeping right to follow the narrow lane to a white metal bridge across the River Onny.

Stop on the way to admire the 16th century timber framed houses in Newton. The Onny is one of the major rivers of the Shropshire Hills. When crossing you might catch a fleeting glimpse of brown trout, a favourite food of otters. If your lucky you may also see a kingfisher.

**2** **Cross the river and head across the field (with the bridge at your back) bearing right of the left hand electricity post to reach a stile in the opposite hedge.**

**Please keep your dogs on a lead and take care to keep away from any farm animals present.**

**3** **Cross the stile and follow the path that runs along field edge, before bearing left at the bottom to bring you out onto the Corvedale Road.**

To your right is a lane where you may notice signs of a stone dam which once held the waters of Whettleton fish pool. By the mid-nineteenth century it had become a withy bed,

silted up and colonized by willow trees. It is still known as the 'Withy' today.

**Take care crossing the road** ⚠

- 4** **Cross the stile in the hedge opposite. Follow the field edge as you climb the slope to reach a stile in the field corner.**
- 5** **Cross the stile and climb up the hill across the field to another stile. Cross this stile and go straight ahead up the hill towards Halford Wood.**
- 6** **Climb up the steep bank under the trees bearing right to reach a stile at the top of the hill. Cross and turn left bearing right away from the wood to the crest of the hill.**



Most people stop here to admire the view. This is the first of two excellent viewpoints on this walk.

The grid pattern of Craven Arms reveals its more modern origins. It became a thriving market town in the 19th century, but only once the railway had arrived. Whettleton and Newton are much older; the 'ton' exposing their Anglo-Saxon origins.

With your back to 'The Arms' you'll get a good view of Flounder's Folly. It's quite a climb, but worth the effort. Left of the Folly is the Wenlock Edge. This limestone ridge or 'cuesta' runs from here to Ironbridge. The Stretton

downhill from here.

Flounders Folly was built by in 1838 by Benjamin Flounders, a wealthy ship and land owner from Yorkshire. At the time local people said that he used the tower to see his ships docking at Bristol and Liverpool. In more recent years it was owned by Dame Julie Christie, the striking British actress best known for her part in the epic film Doctor Zhivago.

The tower is now owned by a trust and has been recently restored. It is often open to the public. For opening times go to [www.floundersfolly.org.uk](http://www.floundersfolly.org.uk)



- 13** Pass the tower and follow the wide track to take a sharp left hand turn and descend a broad track heading down the hill to eventually reach the road (past the metal barrier).
- 14** Turn left and follow the lane for about a mile to eventually reach Lower Dinchope. Go right past Grove Sprightly down the hill and keep going, retracing your steps to point 8 above Ireland Cottage. From here you can either go back climbing steeply over Halford Hill (point 7) or...
- 15** Cross the stile on the right and cross the field to follow the left hand field edge to reach a stile on the left.

- 16** Cross the stile and descend bearing right on the faint path through Berrymill Wood to reach a stile.
- 17** Cross into the field and follow the right hand hedgerow to another stile into a field with a pool on the left. Follow the right hand hedgerow over the hill, to eventually follow a track bearing left to a stile ahead.
- 18** Cross the double stile and follow the left hand hedgerow to reach Halford Lodge. Bear right at the enclosure to find a path that leads between the lodge and the old school house to the road.

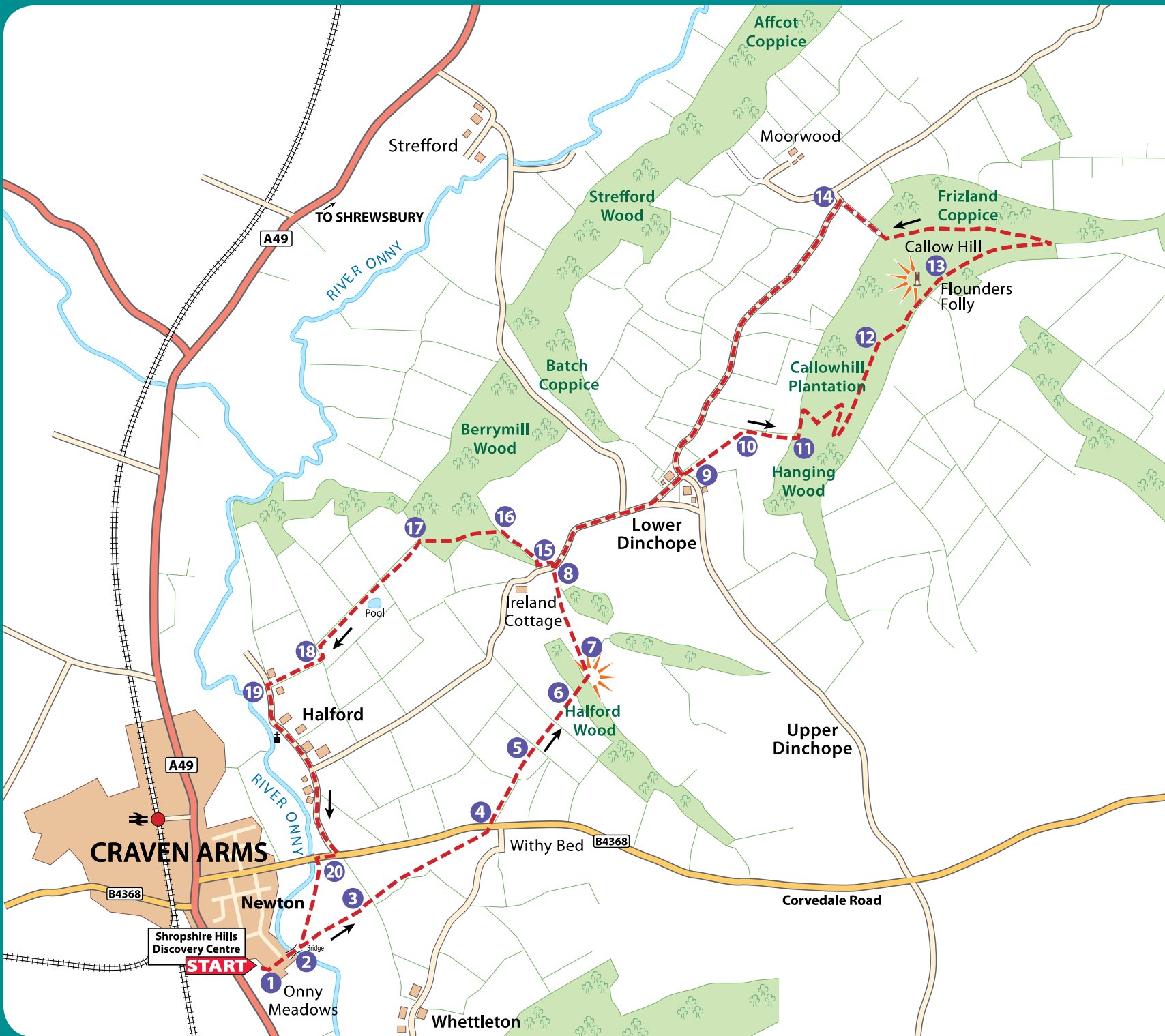
You've arrived in the small village of Halford. On the left is the old school and on the right the school master's house.

Halford was once on the main coach road to Bishop's Castle. Imagine coaches and horses clattering up the lane past the school to cross the Onny at the new inn now known as 'Newington'.





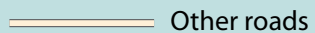

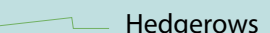
- 19** Go left and follow the lane through the village past the church (worth a look) to reach the Corvedale Road. Turn right.
- 20** At the bridge go left over the stile and follow the river back to the White bridge and go back through Newton to the start.

# HILLS & DALES HIKE





This walk mainly follows footpaths and is waymarked with **YELLOW** arrows. Blue arrows show the right of way is open to walkers, riders and cyclists. Red arrows are for byways which are also open to motorised vehicles.

-  Walk Route
-  Short Cut
-  Caution: *take care on busy roads*
-  Viewpoint
-  Castle
-  Public House
-  A-Roads
-  B-Roads
-  Other roads
-  Railway
-  Woodland
-  Hedgerows