

WAGONER'S WANDER

Welcome to the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Climb to the summit of Ragleth Hill to be inspired by panoramic views and the piping call of Skylarks!

Distance: 5 miles

Time: 2-3 hours

Terrain: Pleasant walking through farmland and along quiet country lanes. One short, steep climb onto the summit of Ragleth Hill. Can be wet in places.

Short cut: 4 miles, excludes Ragleth Hill

Start/finish: Acton Scott Farm Museum car park

Map: OS Explorer 217

now start your walk

Your walk starts from Acton Scott Historic Working Farm Museum, which recreates life on an upland farm at the turn of the century.



you can see traditional crafts at the farm...

Throughout the farming season you can see ploughing, sowing, reaping and harvesting. Crafts are demonstrated daily, with weekly visits from the Farrier, Woodsman, Blacksmith and Wheelwright. In the Bailiff's cottage the ladies of the house re-create domestic life on the farm.

- 1** From the car park go left on to the lane. Stop at the cross roads.

To your left is a large boulder. This probably marks the southeast corner of the Mediaeval oak wood from which Acton Scott gets its name.

In Anglo-Saxon "Acton" is thought to mean oak wood village. Large features such as rocks, trees and streams were often used to mark boundaries. *How many years has this stone sat here?*

Turn right (signposted Ragdon 1½ miles) and stay on the lane passing Castle Hill Cottages for approximately three-quarters of a mile.



...and taste cooking the in a Victorian kitchen

The cottages get their name from a folly tower built by the Actons in the early 1800s. An ostentatious fancy built by a family that can trace their ownership of the Manor back to before the Norman invasion in 1066! Unfortunately no trace of tower can be seen today.

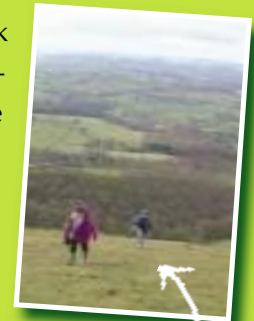


cracking views of Ragleth along the lane

Keep on the lane as it bends to the right, passing The Hough Farm, then cross the stile on the left in the hedge.

If you wish to take the shorter version turn to the SHORT CUT, otherwise continue below.

The existence of the oak wood is further demonstrated along the lane where the fields still bear the old names such as 'Oak Leasow'. The bluebells and dog's mercury, growing in the hedges also indicates that this area was once woodland.



a bit of a slog but well worth it!

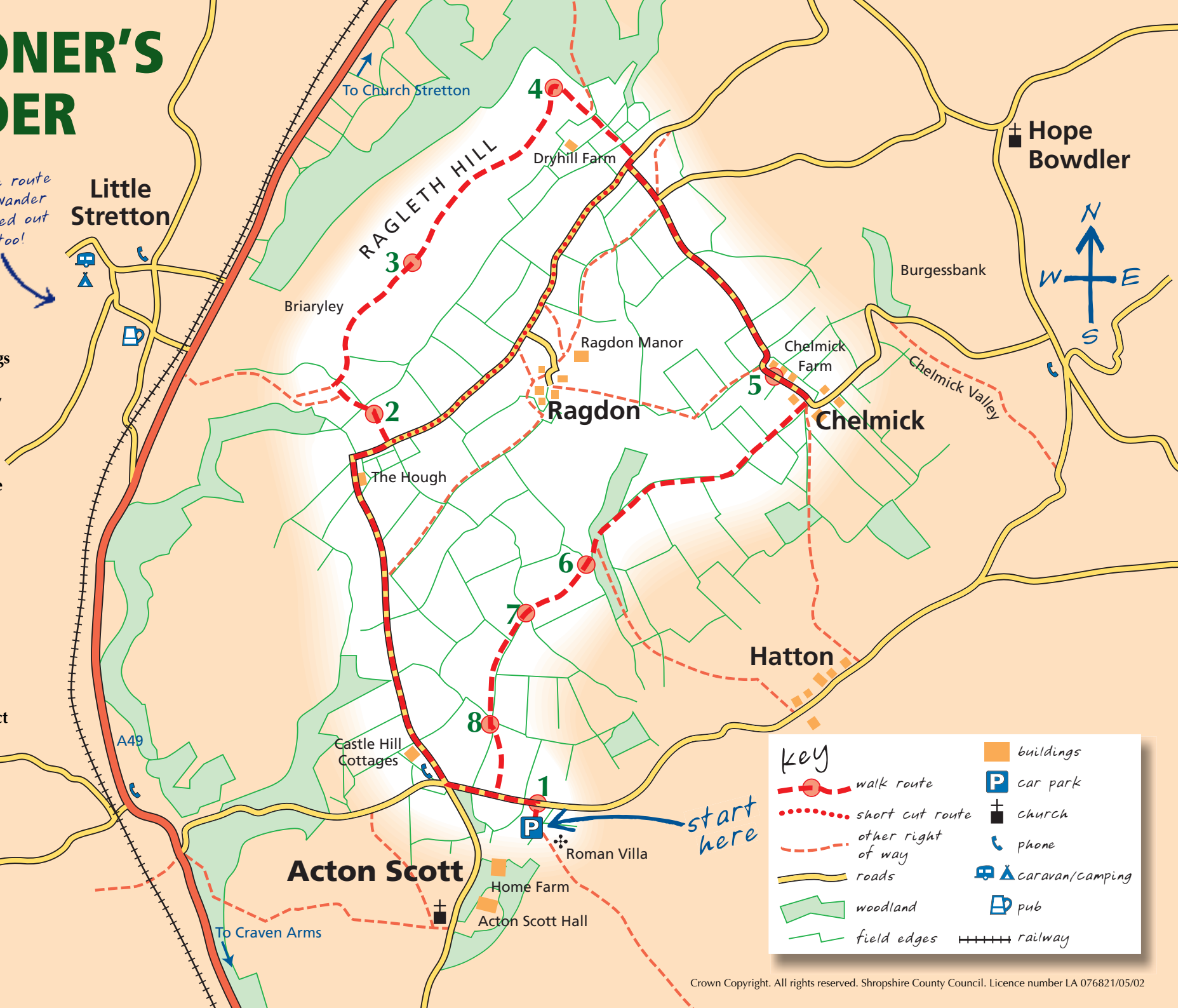
- 2** Continue up the field edge to cross a stile in the fence ahead, then down the field to cross another stile. Bear right uphill, crossing another stile, then continue climbing onto Ragleth Hill.

WAGONER'S WANDER

This map shows the route of the Wagoner's Wander 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
	short cut route
	other right of way
	roads
	woodland
	field edges
	buildings
	car park
	church
	phone
	caravan/camping
	pub
	railway

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:

Acton Scott Amble – Enjoy the 6½ mile wander, exploring the ancient Acton Scott Estate and the charming Chelmick Valley.

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



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In the Middle Ages, Ragleth was also covered in oak woodland. This would have provided wood and timber for the local villagers, and somewhere to graze their animals, especially pigs.



3 Follow the well-defined path over Ragleth Hill.

What a view! Ahead the Long Mynd on your left is separated from Caer Caradoc on the right by the Church Stretton Fault. The rocks of the Mynd and Caradoc are some of the oldest in Shropshire, around 560 million years old.



Carved by the ice sheets of the last Ice Age, the valley has been guarded by the fortress crowning Caer Caradoc since the Iron Age. From Ragleth you can clearly see the earth workings of the fortification thought to be the last stronghold of Caractacus, the famous guerrilla leader who fought the Romans in 51AD and from whom the hill gets its name.

The Romans finally captured Caractacus and took him to Rome in chains of gold where the Emperor Claudius



nice one centurian!

was so impressed with him that he released him and made him a free citizen!

The Romans also left their mark in the shape of the Roman road “Watling Street”, which passes through the Stretton valley. It is from this that Church Stretton gets its name as the “town on the street”.



4 Pass the northern peak and descend the hill following the path as it curves to the right. Cross the stile by the gate to eventually join a track. Turn right onto the lane, then left (signposted Chelmick).

5 At Chelmick, pass Chelmick Farm on the left then take the first track on the right next to the village green. Notice the huge old pollarded Ash tree in the middle of the green. You are now on the Marches Way a long distance footpath from Cardiff to Chester, passing through Shropshire.



be ready for some muddy tracks!

Look to your left and you will see Wenlock Edge, made famous in A.E. Houseman’s “Shropshire Lad”. This long, wooded escarpment is made of

limestone 420 million years old that formed in a warm shallow sea. The land you are standing on now was south of the equator and underwater! The rock is rich in fossilised corals and shells.

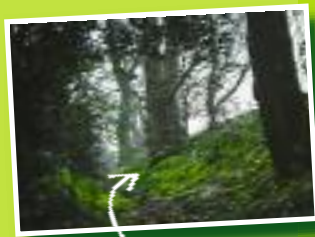
Go through the gate ahead and follow the edge of the field around to the right. With the hedge on your left carry on to descend into Rag Batch a small wooded valley crossed by a lively stream.



6 Cross the ford at the bottom then go through the gate on the left. Bear right across the field to join the hedgeline ahead of you. Go right at the bottom of the field, then left, to cross a bridge and through a gate.

7 Continue up the sunken path then field, keeping the hedge on your left. Descend another sunken path and go through the bridlegate.

The sunken path indicates that this track predates many of the surfaced roads around Acton Scott. Imagine the Wagoner returning along this old lane from a day at market in Church Stretton or



sunken lanes are full of flowers and birdies and stuff

Shrewsbury. Many of the trees in the hedgerows and woods would have been used to make his wagon. Elm, Oak and Ash for the wheels, ringed with an iron wheel rim smelted using coppiced Hazel. You can still see these trees in the hedges along with Holly, an excellent winter fodder for the Wagoner's horses.



8 Cross the stile next to the second gate on the left. Follow the track up the hill and go through the gate ahead. Turn left to the Museum car park.

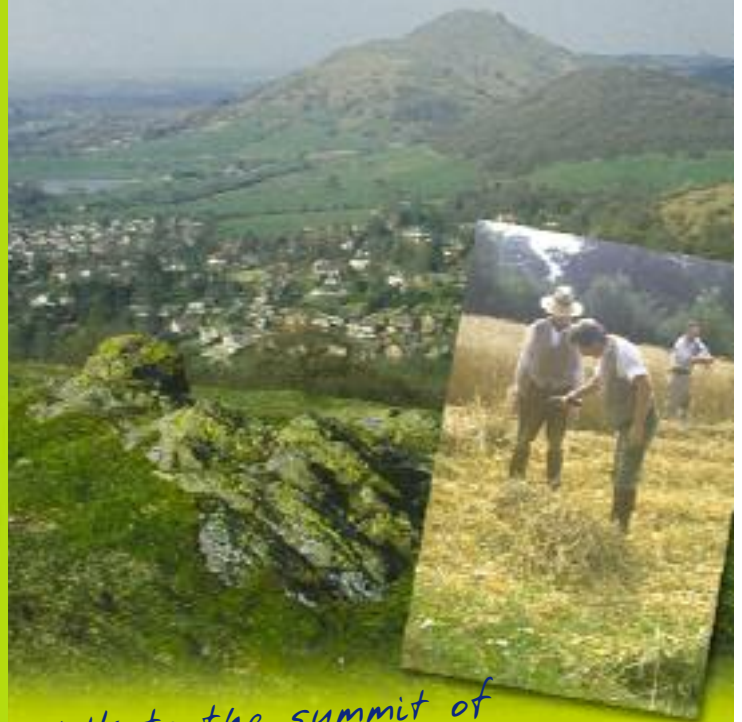
SHORT CUT

Do not cross the stile on the left in the hedge but continue along the lane for approximately one mile, passing a lane on the right to Ragdon. Go right at the next junction, signposted Chelmick. Go to point 5.

look for primroses and bluebells in spring



Wagoner's Wander



Walk to the summit of Ragleth Hill and enjoy inspiring views of the Stretton Hills and Wenlock Edge.