

Shropshire Way: linear walk using the local bus service

Little Stretton to Church Stretton

6 mile (10km) linear walk with some climbs up the Ashbrook Valley. Be prepared to get your feet wet.

Allow 3 hours

Grade ** (3 stiles)

OS Map: Explorer sheet 217

You start this walk in Little Stretton

Bus:

435 Shrewsbury to Ludlow: hourly Monday to Saturday

Key bus stops as follows:

- Shrewsbury Bus Station
- Church Stretton, Beaumont Road
- Craven Arms, opposite Tuffins supermarket
- Ludlow Assembly Rooms (around the corner from Ludlow Visitor Information Centre)

To look up bus timetables for this walk and for further information visit www.travelinemidlands.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:

- 435 Shrewsbury to Ludlow – Minsterley Motors 01743 791208

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. Two pubs in Little Stretton at the start of your walk.

Walk directions:

1. The bus from the Craven Arms direction stops by the Green Dragon public house; from Church Stretton it stops by the Crown Stores. From the entrance to the public house, go left and first left along a narrow lane to a first and second junction. Keep ahead at both and the road comes to a footbridge over the stream.
2. Once over, turn right over to cross a stile to enter a camping field. Keep ahead to another stile and progress ahead on a well-trodden path. Go over another stile and a footbridge over the stream to pass by cottages.

Shropshire Way: linear walk using the local bus service

3. The path now hugs the banks of the Ash Brook as it tumbles down the batch. It crosses from side to side up to a confluence of streams. At this point the path keeps right and then left to climb up steps to rise away from the water on the hillside. It then bends left to run along the hillside above the stream. The path eventually meets with the stream again and flows this up to the heather clad moor and up to the road.
4. Go left and in 20 metres turn right on a track (waymarked as the Pole Bank Walk). This rises up to a junction where you meet the Shropshire Way. Go right and the track reaches the Shooting Box where you cross the road and passes by a car park. The track soon joins another where you keep left and then continue ahead until you reach a junction of tracks and your way is waymarked as Carding Mill Valley.
5. Go right at the junction and keep right within metres to begin to descend into the valley. The bridle-path, known as Mott's Road at this point, drops more steeply into the valley to an upper car park. Continue to walk to the National Trust Pavilion Café in Carding Mill Valley.
6. Continue down the valley on the road and just after the coach parking area, leave the road to rise up on a path to meet Burway Road. Go left to pass by the cattle grid and walk along the road into Church Stretton. Go ahead at the main crossroads and progress down Sandford Avenue to the turn for Beaumont Road.