



Church Pulverbatch to Pontesbury

Happy valley, hills and hideaways



Green lane from the Oaks to Oaks Wood

Our way takes us north through the small hamlets of Wrentnall and Oaks, then on the hedged green lane to Oaks Wood, where an old lane led to Habberley. Earls Hill, formed from volcanic rock, rises majestically above us, its Iron Age hillfort commanding the surrounding countryside.

We drop down to ford the brook in Happy Valley, beautiful at all times of the year. A bridleway follows the brook downstream to another ford, and up the steep rocky track to Radlith. We take the other steep path out of the



Earls Hill Barn above Happy Valley

valley, past Earls Hill Barn. The route skirts the bottom of the adjoining Pontesford Hill, where a spring falls down to the Lydd Hole. Myths and legends abound with tales of dipping your finger in the water to find your future loved one, and of searching for a golden arrow on Pontesford Hill on Palm Sunday.

A Fulling Mill once stood on the Pontesford Brook in the deep valley between Oakwood and Pontesford Hill, later converted into a leather mill. It was known as Skin Mill Cottage in the 19th century, was disused in 1905, and now only its rubble foundations remain.

Ducks now break the mirror surface of tranquil pools.

Pontesford, with its quaint cottages, lay on the route to the lead mines further up the valley. It was once a busy mining area with lead smelting houses. The Nags Head Colliery closed in 1867, with just the Nag's Head Inn, after which it was named, a reminder of those times. Remains of a mine building can be seen in a cottage to the west of the green lane to Hinton.

It was near here that Humphrey Kynaston was given refuge by family members on his escape from Stretton.

www.shropshireriding.co.uk



Pool by Earlsdale on the track from Happy Valley to Pontesford



Cottages on the lane from the Nature Reserve carpark to the main road, Pontesford.



The start of the track from Pontesford to Happy Valley



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Start: Church Pulverbatch Village Hall

OS Landranger 126, Explorer 241 Grid ref: SJ 432 030

Telephone beforehand: Mrs. L. Russell 01743 718409
(small parking charge)

- 1 Turn right out of Church Pulverbatch Village Hall car park and follow road for 200m to rejoin linear Humphrey Kynaston Way
- 2 Turn right by church and follow road for ½ mile (800m) to staggered crossroads.
- 3 Go right and then immediately left up road, keeping right at junctions through Wrentnall for 1 mile (1.5km)

- 4 Where road bends right at Oaks take left track in front of houses and then turn right onto hedged track.
- 5 Where track enters woodland keep ahead then to the right and take left path down hill round left and right hand bends and on down across stream.
- 6 Take left bridleway path uphill past cottage and on through gates along fenced track past Earlsdale to tarmac lane and left to T junction.
- 7 Turn right and go down road to junction with A488. Take care busy road.
For Nag's Head Inn, turn left on A488 for 400m.