



Nesscliffe to Merrington Green Commons to common

View from The Cliffe to Hopton and Welsh Hills



Shrubbs Common on Hopton Hill is reputed to be the smallest Common in the England. Once mostly grassland with grazing rights, the Jones family built a squatters cottage in the middle in the early 1900s, and lived there for 19 years. Some of the bluebells and flowers are escapees from their garden. We pass through and up onto The Cliffe Common and its sandy bridleways. Watch out for the flash of the green woodpecker and colourful jay. The ridge route gives panoramic views all over Shropshire, to the Welsh mountains, and north to the Cheshire Plains. A plaque marks the site of the WWII Home Guard look out post. This is a lowland heath with heather and whinberries. Beside our route, at the north end of the Common, are the remains of the turf sided Cliffe Cabin, built by squatters.

The onward route takes us through Little Ness, where the Pinfold and pond lay to the east of the Village Hall, then to Adcote, once home to the Darbys of Coalbrookdale, past Adcote Mill, and on past the old lane to Flanders Ford, too deep for all but horse riders now, and the stepping stones are long gone. We travel on to Yeaton with its two mills on the River Perry, to Baschurch. Here we turn onto Dyas Lane, where we pass by the old Coffin Stone, and cross the

War Brook to Walford Agricultural College's land. The Shropshire Farm Institute opened at Walford in 1949 on 750 acres, pioneering part time courses in Agricultural subjects. Today, it also has an equestrian centre. We go through Old Woods to Merrington Green Common, where Commoners would once have come to graze their stock, gather firewood, and get marl to improve their land.

Coffin Stone, Dyas Lane, Baschurch

Coffins used to be carried from Walford to Baschurch Church, with plinths to rest them on along the way. The restored Coffin Stone, with its flat top, can be seen to the south side of Dyas Lane. Another Coffin Stone lies to the west of the grass triangle off Nobold Lane, Baschurch.

Merrington Green

The Merrington Green marl pits are now havens for wildlife. The one that lies to the west of the Hollins Lane, is fringed by marsh horsetail (*Equisetum palustre* from the latin for horse – *equus*). Poisonous to equines, these plants are descended from some of the oldest plants known to man. Dragonflies can be seen darting over the pool, with their rainbow colours flashing in the sunshine.

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Cliffe Cabin, built of turf on The Cliffe



The Millers Cottage, Adcote Mill



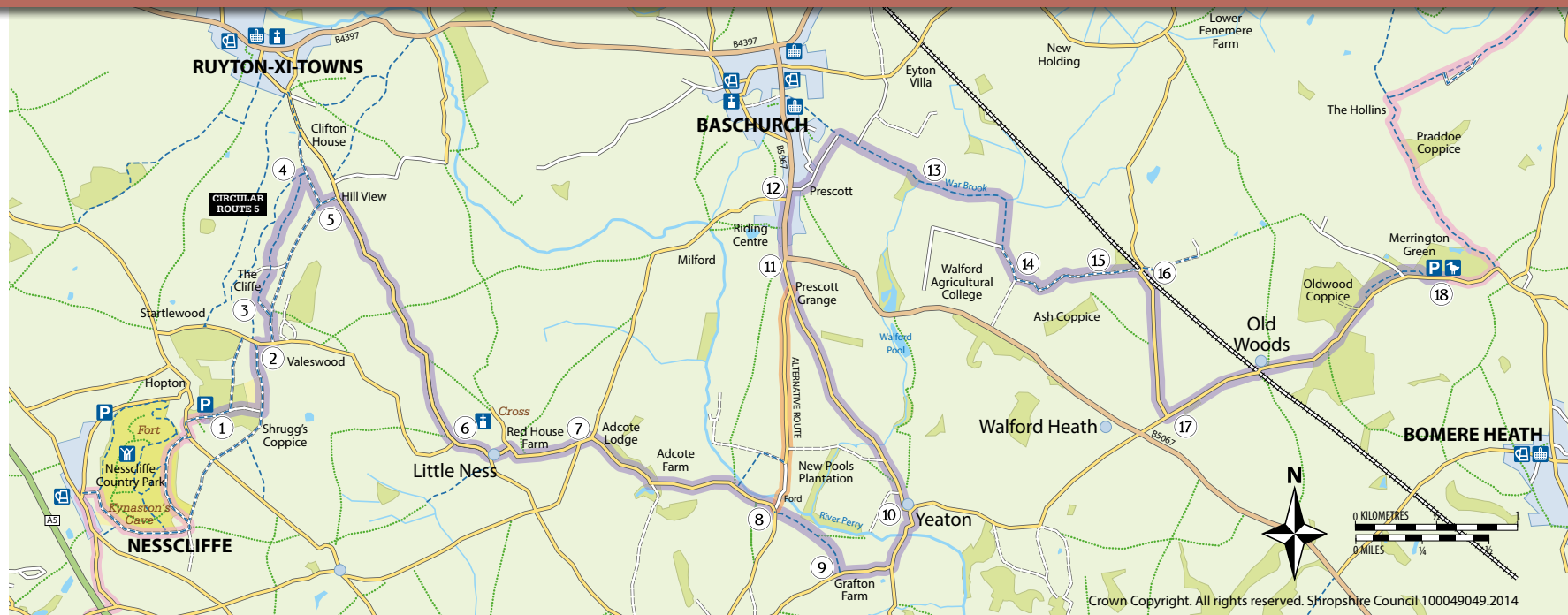
Coffin Stone



Start: Hopton Hill Pine Carpark, Nesscliffe Hills Countryside Heritage Park

OS Landranger 126 Explorer 240 & 241 Grid ref: SJ 390 199

- 1 Go east out of car park and follow stoned track/bridleway round left bend. At field on right turn right down earth bridleway signed The Cliffe. Follow to T junction. Turn left along bridleway passing houses on your left and on down to road.
- 2 Turn right and after 100m turn left up track to the Cliffe. Fork left up track, and then left by bench up to Viewpoint and picnic table.
- 3 To continue return down to bench and pass to right of oak tree on bridleway down through wood and on across track and up to ridge of Cliffe follow past benches bearing right to T junction of bridleways by sandstone wall.
- 4 Turn right and follow track downhill and turn left at next junction out to road.
- 5 Turn right and follow lane for 1¼ miles (2km) keeping left at junction and past Little Ness village Hall.
- 6 Where the road bends right, turn left. At T junction by War Memorial turn right and follow lane round left bend and down to road junction.



- 7 Turn left on Baschurch Road and then after 100m turn right to Adcote, and follow lane past Adcote School and Adcote Mill and on to sharp right bend.

For short route to Baschurch if River Perry not in flood, suitable for horse riders only – At right bend in lane go left down track, through river, up field through double gates, and ahead up lane to join road to Baschurch. To continue avoiding river crossing.

- 8 Go through wicket gate ahead and follow left field edge, through wicket gate and on round next field edge to wicket gate to lane.
- 9 Turn left. Follow lane for ⅓ mile (500m) to T junction. Turn left to Yeaton, over bridge and up road.

- 10 Turn left at road triangle and follow lane to Baschurch.

Alternative route rejoins from the lane on the left just before roundabout.

- 11 At roundabout go ahead taking care as busy road section. Go over small roundabout, on past Milford Road, then turn right onto lane.
- 12 Follow Dyas Lane round to left. Where bridleway goes left to Baschurch, turn right and go ahead down track, past reservoir to crossing of War Brook.
- 13 Cross grassed bridge and follow fenced track round left bend, alongside War brook, round right bend with hedge on left and up between gates to next field. Then keep ahead for 200m to junction of tracks.

- 14 Turn left and follow track cross field and then with hedge on left on to field gate.
- 15 Go through gate and follow track up to gate to lane exiting south of railway bridge.
- 16 Turn right on lane and follow to T junction.
- 17 Turn left and follow lane through Old Woods over railway bridge and between woodland.
- 18 Turn left across grass area onto path through woodland keeping right at junction with tarmac path and follow path across lane and then across farm track to Merrington Green carpark. 2m height barrier to car park from road. Wide verge on south side of road.