



A path through the wooded slopes of The Wrekin



# Route 16 Ironbridge to The Wrekin

Discover Shropshire

## Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site

Ironbridge Gorge was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1986 in recognition of the area's unique contribution to the birth of the Industrial Revolution. The town was named after the first Iron Bridge built by Abraham Darby III in 1779.

Today the area between Buildwas in the west to Jackfield in the east is a mecca for tourists who flock to visit the famous bridge itself, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Enginuity and the many other museums and attractions within the site. Nevertheless, there are many quiet walks to be enjoyed in the surrounding area notably a circular route around the top of Lincoln Hill providing spectacular views from the old Rotunda site. The famous Rope Walk lies to the north of Coalbrookdale forming part of the Shropshire Way.

## Little Wenlock Benchwalks

Having followed the woodland paths upward from Coalbrookdale you emerge into open countryside and approach the village of Little Wenlock. This is the second highest village in Shropshire at 720 feet above sea level and the Benchwalks provide opportunities for all to sit and savour the wonderful surroundings of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



**Walking north from Ironbridge & Coalbrookdale you rise steadily uphill through woodland and open fields towards the iconic landmark of The Wrekin.**

## The Wrekin

The Shropshire Way takes you up and over the very top of one of the Midlands' most famous natural landmarks at a height of 1,335 feet. If you prefer, there are established low-level and midway paths which offer less strenuous alternative routes around The Wrekin.

For those taking the main path the climb is steep in places but affords access to wonderful panoramic views from the top. Just below the summit can be found the famous rock formations of the Needle's Eye and Raven's Bowl (aka the Cuckoo's Cup) – but tread carefully and try not to disturb the sleeping giants when you visit them.

The Wrekin has almost certainly been occupied for over 3,000 years. After passing through the inner and outer entrances of the Cornovii hill fort known as Heaven's Gate and Hell's Gate, the path descends through woodland passing the Wrekin Cottage (or Halfway House as it is generally called these days) on the way to the northern entrance at Forest Glen.



**Acknowledgements:** Thanks to the Wellington Walkers are Welcome group for their assistance in designing this leaflet and to them and the Telford & East Shropshire Ramblers for the practical work carried out way marking and maintaining the route.  
[www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk](http://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk)  
[www.ramblers.org.uk/telford-east-shropshire](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/telford-east-shropshire)

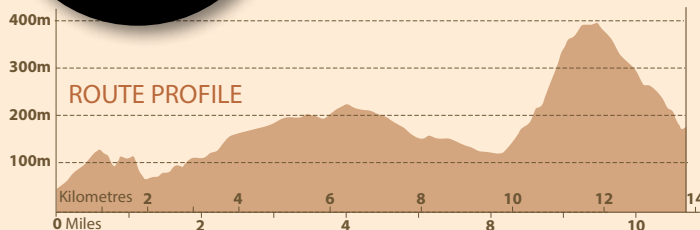






# Discover Shropshire

# Route 16



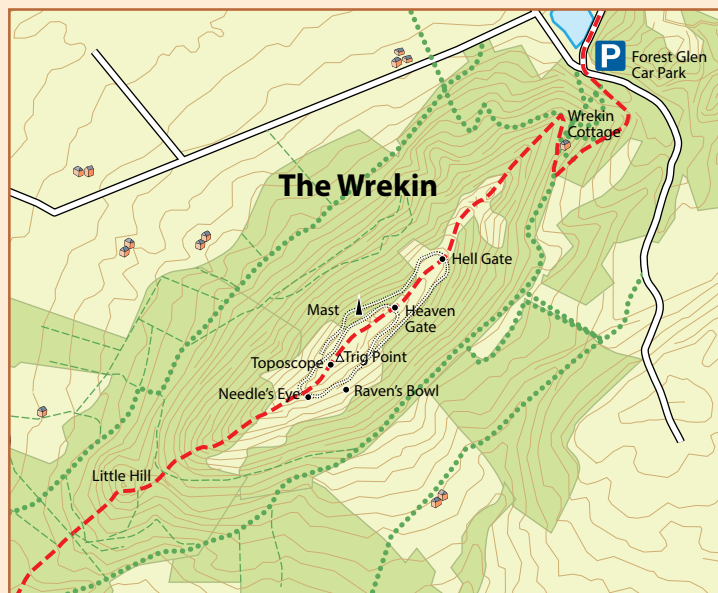
Shropshire Way	Footpaths	Bridleways
Visitor Information Centre	Place of Worship	
Café	Caravan/Camping Site	
Public House	Museum	
Toilets	Car Parking	
Building of Historical Interest	English Heritage	
Castle	National Trust	
Gardens	Forestry Commission	
Walking routes	Youth Hostel	

**DIFFICULTY: Some steep ascent and descent over uneven paths.**

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**Distance 13.6 km/8.5 miles**

For a more detailed map directions and information visit:  
[www.shropshirewalking.co.uk](http://www.shropshirewalking.co.uk)



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