

to gate in corner of field which takes you onto a fenced bridleway leading across several fields.

8 After a double gate the bridleway becomes a concrete track which leads you down to the main road.

Short cut to return to Stiperstones village – turn left on road and take next left to follow lane to Bank Coppice and re-join route at point 4.

9 Walk left a little to cross road into the Hope Valley Nature Reserve car park. **Shropshire Wildlife Trust is restoring this site to native oak-ash woodland. Dormice live here, climbing up and between trees foraging for nuts, berries and insects.**

Follow main path up through the wood, turning left on sunken lane to the top woodland boundary. Turn left and continue along this path, crossing several board walks until you reach kissing gate in fence on right. Take this into large field and continue ahead. As you reach large water trough head leftish across field to stile in hedge. Go straight across field and through kissing gate, then across final field to stile and gate left of The Stables Inn at Hopesgate. **The Stables is an old Drovers' Inn dating from 1680. It originally catered to the needs of drovers moving their sheep and cows from mid Wales to market in Shrewsbury or beyond.**

10 From The Stables Inn turn left up the lane to crossroads and bear left for the village hall car park.

3km extension to Bromlow Callow and Abel's Harp
Several lanes or footpaths will take you to Pentirvin and onto Bromlow Callow and the Inn just below – now called Abel's Harp. 'The Callow' has acted as a landmark for centuries and is likely to have served as a shelter for those droving their sheep and cattle to market. The trees are a tranquil spot and the views from the top on a clear day are outstanding. There is a good path back through Hope Park to bring you back to the top end of Bentlawnt.



Both Bentlawnt and Stiperstones have a village shop and pub, so you can stock up on supplies or stop for a drink and bite to eat.

Parking: See map for choice of starting points and parking. Please park considerately and ask to use the pub car parks.

Public transport: 552/553 Shrewsbury – Bishop's Castle bus service stops at Hope on the main A488 or at Stiperstones village (Mon-Sat). The Shropshire Hills Shuttle Bus (summer weekends) also stops at Stiperstones village.

Bentlawnt Shop and Village Hall: 01743 891301
Snacks and basic supplies.

Stiperstones Inn and Village Shop: 01743 791327
www.stiperstonesinn.co.uk
Accommodation, food and bar. Snacks and basic supplies.

The Stables Inn: 01743 891344 www.thestablesinn.co.uk
Accommodation, food and bar. Open every day from 7pm, and from 12 noon at weekends. Contact to open for groups on other days.

Abel's Harp: 01743 892904 www.abelsharp.com
Accommodation, food and bar.

The Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme

A five year programme of work, starting in 2013, to raise awareness of, enhance and celebrate local history and wildlife. The Scheme is managed by a Partnership of professional and community representatives from Shropshire and Powys. The lead organisation is the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, hosted by Shropshire Council.

www.stiperstonesandcorndon.co.uk

email: info@stiperstonesandcorndon.co.uk



Meadows & mines, coppice & commons

Hope Valley's Hidden Heritage;
Stiperstones, Bentlawnt and Hopesgate.

12km or 7.5 miles, taking between 4 & 5 hours (short cut option).

Moderate terrain including several muddy tracks and some stiles.



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Stiperstones &
Corndon Hill Country
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME



Look at the map to decide which car park or bus stop to start the walk from. Then follow the directions from that point.

Starting from Bentlawnt Village Hall Grid Ref: SO 339 016

From **village hall car park** turn right to walk up lane, then left at crossroads, signed 'Bentlawnt'.

1 Continue into Bentlawnt, passing village shop on left and after about 100m turn left on bridgeway. Follow for 1km, ignoring all turnings off, and eventually turn left at T junction. Pass houses on your right and continue through gate to reach junction of footpaths. You want bridgeway on left which goes ahead through metal gate and runs to the left of the woodland.

2 Follow the bridgeway ahead across several open fields and into the edge of the birchwood. Continue into the birchwood and keep an eye out for a footpath waymark on your left which takes you across the field to some large trees above a stream. Pick your way carefully down the bank to cross stream and then bear right, across stile and

follow path which runs above the stream (can be muddy).

You emerge by the stream to cross footbridge and head up to the road over a further stile. Be careful as you emerge onto the A488. The house on the left is the old Tankerville Arms pub. **Much of the Hope Valley was once the site of a thriving mining industry which extracted lead, zinc, copper, barytes and other minerals. In 1875, this area produced over 10% of UK lead ore and up to the First World War produced about 25% of UK barytes. The area was first mined by the Romans who dug lead out of shallow levels and shafts.**

3 Cross road carefully to Oakage Riding Centre. Follow way marks to a permissive path between hedge and fence to stile at top. Head leftish and straight up steep bank to gate at top, then again over and up to a stile further up. Walk steeply up through a wood with holly trees to cross a track using two stiles.

Head round the hill, following way marks to a stile in fence above Bank Farm (good views of the Stiperstones ridge). Follow diverted path down the hill and a ramp, to cross lawn and reach the farm track which takes you down to a quiet lane.

Short cut to return to Bentlawnt – turn left along lane and continue down to A488. Opposite the main road is Hope Valley Nature Reserve. Cross road carefully and at gap in hedge enter Reserve on small footbridge. Follow path round to the right (can be overgrown in summer) and head for small car park. Re-join route at point 9.

4 Turn right and about 200m along lane take bridgeway gate in hedge on left. Head to top right corner of field to go through bridgeway gate and across footbridge. You emerge into a large field. Head rightish across field to small bridge over stream with two gates. Keep left along fence line across a boggy patch up to Lower Sankey. Continue ahead on path along hedge line leading to a wide path which climbs gently up and into Buxton Wood.

5 At top of the hill turn left and then immediately right to follow footpath down through wood towards Stiperstones village (bridgeway ahead also takes you into the village). Cross a single field before joining muddy track which takes you to the road. Turn left past school and walk a few hundred metres along to the Stiperstones Inn and village shop. **The Inn has been in the same family for over 40 years and is famous for serving dishes made with the whinberries (bilberries) which grow on the Stiperstones Ridge.**

6 From here turn right a few metres to the foot of Myton Dingle. Take the driveway up on the left hand side past house and large parking area to gate which leads into the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve. Go through gate and immediately up steep slope on the left bank. Climb up and contour round Oak Hill above a fence. **The Stiperstones is a National Nature Reserve, due to its outstanding combination of geological, landscape and wildlife features.**

The path later climbs a little to go round the back of a small valley before emerging by a small cottage where there are two small gates. Zig zag a little down to farm track and follow this down to road. Opposite is a tall tower, formerly the chimney and engine house of the Crowsnest lead mine, and now part of a private house.

7 Cross road and take bridgeway which leads left down track towards farm. Ignore first right turn into the farmyard but turn right after the buildings and make your way through farmyard and gates. Beyond the farm the bridgeway leads down to and across stream and then up a lovely tree lined track towards Hogstow Hall. In front of the Hall turn left onto grassy track between trees to a gate. Turn sharp right after gate (by radar mast)

