

The papers covering 200 years of family involvement show some interesting insights into the ownership, with others, of 5,500 acres of Shropshire countryside. It includes a “goodly chunk of Titterstone Clee Hill summit” and the care taken to protect the view of the hill from the hall, three miles away. “Such a quarry shall be opened only at the place agreed with the Leasor and marked on the plan. Such a quarry shall be worked as far as possible so that the workings shall not be visible from Downton Hall. No spoil or waste soil, stone or other material shall be stacked in or near the opening of the said quarry except so far as shall be necessary for the construction of a platform for the effective working of the quarry. Such a platform not to exceed a height of 4 feet . . .” .

In 1891 it had up to 2000 men working, an output of 12,000 tons increasing to 300,000 tons by the end of the century of iron, limestone, coal and dhustone sets and cobbles. Some of the hard gravel was sent out to the war torn areas providing ballast for temporary, narrow gauge railways transporting shells and men to the front line. Royalties with were paid of course on every ton extracted. Mary’s father was Second Lt. Edward Hotham Rouse- Boughton of the 15th Kings Hussars and just before his 21st birthday in August 1914 he had been despatched to join the British Expeditionary Force out in Belgium. Shortly after the German Kaiser launched an attack led by a General Von Klucks with well over 160 thousand men and 550 guns against the allied forces with 80,000 soldiers defending the Mons Canal. The French with a million strong had withdrawn and the British felt very exposed in the first major offensive of the First World War.

“ After we had retired for about ten minutes we heard firing all around us and eventually behind us, the [German] infantry deployed all around us and we halted by a small farm by a cross roads being unable to retire. The situation seemed very serious and in fact hopeless . . . I cannot describe this march of about four miles. At one time our guide said we were three hundred yards from the Germans. However we got through safely.” Rouse – Boughton writing in one of his letters from the front; he survived and died in 1963. Keith Pybus in his research uncovered this detail and he found that Edward had not been at home and able to celebrate his birthday on the 23rd August. His father, William, had planned regimental band, firework displays (day and night), boxing, punch and judy, and vast lunches and teas but all came to nought.

So, Keith having decided to make the walk route from the Titterstone summit to private Downton Hall and to tell Edward’s story, made sure he took a birthday cake along to play its part,100 years late.

The Hall is a private country house, not generally open to the public.

Ludlow Parish Path Partnership cleared the footpaths, modified part of the way, improved the signage and made it into a circular route using existing footpaths.

Walk more ... feel the difference

Whatever your age or fitness, you can benefit from doing a bit more physical activity. Try to get out and walk as much as possible within your own limitations.

Build walking into your daily routine

Any activity is better than none, but to get the most benefit you need to do at least 150 minutes of moderate activity (such as brisk walking) in bouts of 10 minutes or more – one way to achieve this is to do 30 minutes on at least 5 days of the week.

Moderate activity is anything which involves:



Feeling a little warmer



Breathing a little faster



Having a slightly faster heart beat

You should still be able to talk – but not sing! If you can’t carry on a conversation then you are going too fast.



Why not join a Walking for Health Group?

Walking in a group is a great way to start walking and stay motivated, make new friends and find out more about your local area. For details about the local Walking for Health groups go to **www.walkingforhealth.org.uk** and use the ‘walk finder’ to search for the walks in your area.



Ludlow Parish Paths Partnership

Ludlow Parish Path Partnership (P3) is a group of volunteers who, in conjunction with the Outdoor Partnerships Team of Shropshire Council, help maintain public rights of way in and around Ludlow. They meet monthly to clear vegetation, to keep footpaths open by waymarking routes and assisting landowners by repairing stiles and installing gates. They have produced this series of leaflets to encourage people to utilise the valuable heritage of paths.

Follow the Country Code and ensure you are properly equipped with suitable footwear and clothing. Check the weather forecast and let friends know of your intentions and whereabouts before you set out.

Information on walking in Shropshire: **www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk**
Information about cultural, sporting & countryside activities: **www.discovershropshire.org.uk**
Ludlow Visitor Information Centre: Assembly Rooms, Mill Street, Ludlow 01584 875053
www.visitsouthshropshire.co.uk / www.ludlow.org.uk / www.shropshiretourism.co.uk
How to get to & around Ludlow: **www.shropshire.gov.uk**

Contact Shropshire Council to report a problem with a path:Tel: 0345 678 9000 / Web: www.shropshire.gov.uk
Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this publication was correct at the time of printing.
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To find the full series of World War I Walks please go to: <http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk/walking/war-walks/>



Explore Shropshire



Ludlow Country Walks

WWI Commemorative Walk

from Titterstone Clee Hill car park
4.5 miles along a circular ramble by Bitterley and Dhustone hamlet.

Length: Approx. 7.2 km or 4.5 miles.

Time: 3 to 4 hours.

Start & Parking: Titterstone Clee Hill car park at end of Dhustone Lane off A4117, about 5 miles from Ludlow, or Bus Service 2L option.

Walk Grade: Moderate - a few stiles, some rough walking and a height difference of nearly 700 feet.

Walk 11



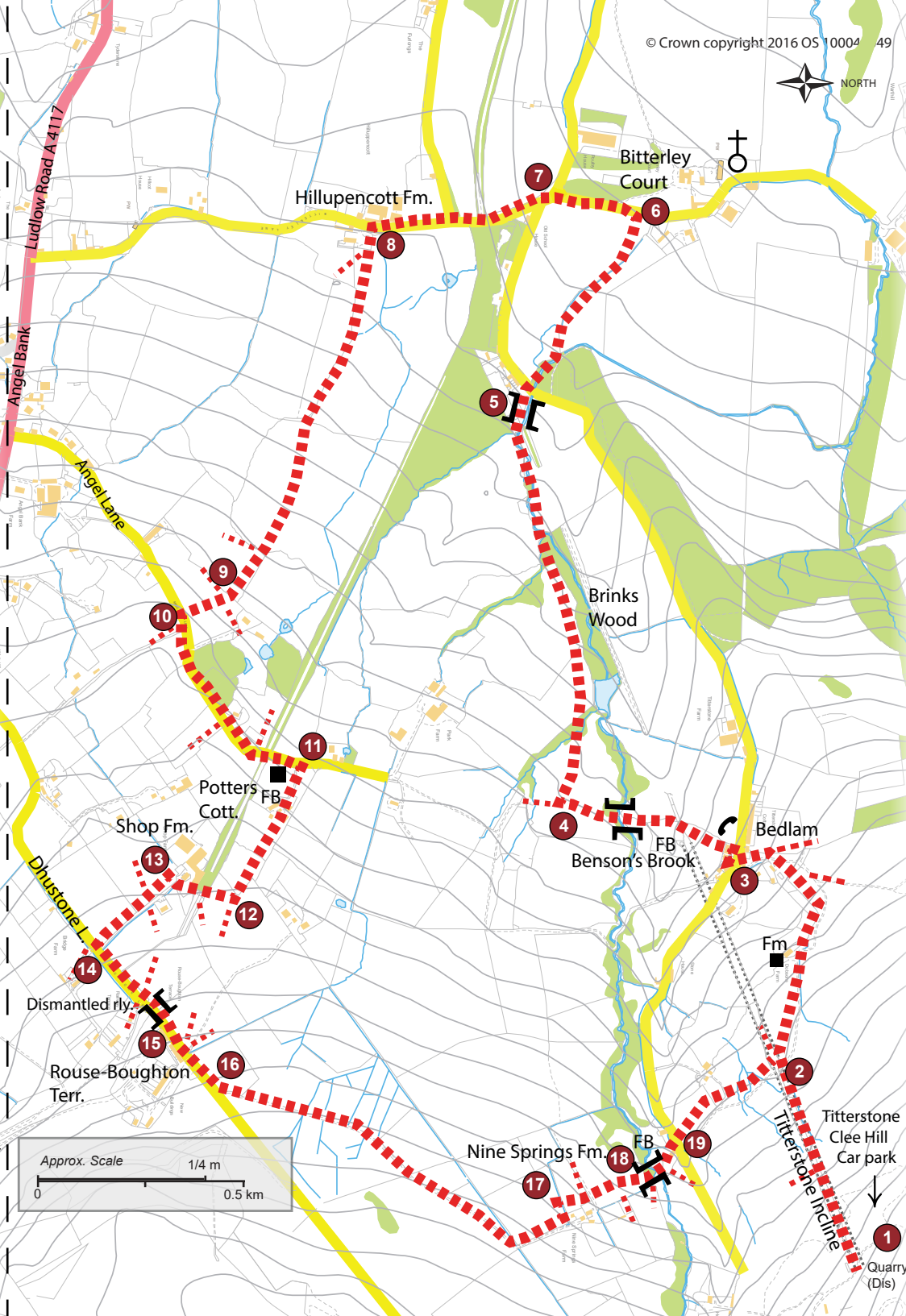
Titterstone Clee Hill by Michael Holland

WW1 Commemorative Walk led in Sept. 2014 by Keith Pybus, modified to create a circular walk with good views, farmland, common land and historical scars of industry. Colour waymarked ●

Walk prepared by Ludlow Parish Path Partnership Group

- 1 G.R.SO 595776 From Titterstone Clee Hill **car park** take footpath down Incline signed Shropshire Way Main Route for about 360m, just under 400 yds.
- 2 Leave Incline at **waymark post** (steps down to left and back under Incline) to take grassy bridleway. Follow track bearing left past waymark post towards farmhouse. Join vehicle track to grassy bridleway on right -
- 3 **Titterstone (Bedlam)**. Turn right 45m. Look for footpath on left shared with path down steps through front garden (opposite fingerpost) past house, beside garden hedge on right down to steps, stile and wicket gate.
- 4 Lower down, pass dhustone walls, path becomes wetter as it descends bank to bridge. Cross and climb bank. At **waymark post** go right along lower end of meadow between trees to wicket gate and path above Benson's Brook in wooded valley. With care look right at remains of dam. Can be slippery and dangerous.
- 5 Path leads over a bridge to a **wicket gate** on lane. Cross to enter small wood. Turn left at track, go through two field gates. Cross field to fieldgate and lane, just below
- 6 **Bitterley Court** (Bitterley Church is to the right 70m -optional).
- 7 Turn left past Bitterley Court, across **road junction** and up to cross a bridge, and on to
- 8 **Hillupencott Farm** on right of lane. Turn left through field gate and head up large meadow to fieldgate and on to a double stile in the hedge.
- 9 Cross. Continue up field to a **stile near white cottage** on left, Woodlands Cott. There are 2 paths: go straight up field to a double stile in hedge. Turn left on
- 10 **Angel Lane** and walk about 450m (500yds) to a
- 11 **wicket gate** on right with little bridge in hedge just after Potters Cottage. Walk through garden on a diverted path, by left hedge, up two small meadows with wicket gates, straight up a low hillside.
- 12 At top the route continues alongside tall **hedge** on right. Then, bear right through meadow to a bridleway gate
- 13 in to **yard of Shop Farm**. Cross the yard, pass through fieldgate and turn left on bridleway in meadow
- 14 to fieldgate and **Dhustone Lane** and left along the Lane across rail bridge to Dhustone hamlet.
- 15 Walk past **Rouse Boughton Terrace** (see notes) up Lane.
- 16 On left by fingerpost, climb **stile over stone wall** to bridleway
- 17 to **Seven Springs Farm and Cottage**. Here turn left through fieldgate into field past Cottage, straight down to wicketgate and joined by Shropshire Way Main Route from left.
- 18 Descend to **bridge** crossing Benson's Brook and up to lane.
- 19 Cross **lane**. Ahead follow grassy track to Incline. [Note: if using bus option, walk up Incline for a view (optional), then rejoin route at point 2]. Otherwise, turn right up Incline and back to car park, about 630m or 1/4 mile.

BUS OPTION – Check – **Traveline** Tel. 0871 200 2233 – Plan your journey – Live times – Ludlow to Angel Bank. From Compasses Inn, Corve St., Ludlow, catch 2L Kidderminster bus and tell driver you wish to alight at the Angel Bank, opp. Farden Lane Junction stop G.R.SO 574759. Walk about 150m(160yds) to Angel Lane on left. Along it (use hi-viz jackets- narrow lane) walk about 450m (490yds) to link with route at point 10 a double stile in left hedge. On return, retrace steps from point 10 and wait for Ludlow Bus on opposite side of road. Be sure to indicate with clear hand signal that you want bus to stop.



General Information :

Titterstone Clee Hill --- height : 533m or 1,749 feet above sea level (Brown Clee, highest spot in Shropshire : 540m or 1,770 feet approx. 5 miles tonorth). Shaped by many years of quarrying the olivine basalt, is known as “Dhustone”, there is also iron, limestone and coal.

Historical: The local workforce probably numbered up to two thousand and they would be added to by men and their families drafted in military style companies from other neighbouring counties.

Point 1 - The Bitterley Incline, named Titterstone Incline on the O.S. Map, was a means of transporting quarried stone in wagons with metal cable controlling them down to the railway yard at Bitterley.

Point 3 – Bedlam is a hamlet built at a height above 300m in the 19th century for the quarry workers and their families. A memorial remembers 3 men who died from the area in WWI.

Point 4 – Benson's Brook – A dam built created a reservoir on the brook which drove turbines from 1881 which probably produced electricity to operate plant machinery in Bitterley Yard.

Point 6 – Bitterley Church is dedicated to St Mary and was built in the 12th or 13th C. In the grounds are the graves of eight servicemen who died in WW1 and a stone cross reputed to date from the reign of Edward II (1284 – 1327).

Point 8 – Hillupencott Farm is the site of an old hamlet from the 16th century when a manor of Hints was held by Richard Sheppard, described in 1599 as ‘husbandman’.

Point 14 (also at 7, 10 and 12) – The old railway bridge approaching the Rouse- Boughton Terrace : the line here with its embankments was part of the Ludlow and Clee Hill Railway which operated using cables to move wagons down to Bitterley Yard for one and a quarter miles and then conventionally with standard gauge for 5 miles to the main line at Ludlow.

Point 15 – Dhustone - Rouse Boughton Terrace and New Buildings were built as cottages for the quarrymen working nearby. After WWI three ex-servicemen also lived in the terrace.

Miss Mary Rouse-Boughton lived alone in one room in a handsome brick, Grade II* Georgian, three- storey building that is Downton Hall. Its rooms were shuttered and closed for 50 years. In the stable tack room was an electric fire left on for 20 years “in case Miss Mary's saddles should get damp”. She left £5.6 million. Living and business generate paper work, letters, bills, notes and receipts and we are indebted to Miss Rouse-Boughton for assiduously keeping every little bit, enough to fill 190 boxes. It is now in the County Archive.