

MAP Stage 3 Little Wenlock to Wellington

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017



There are no bus services to Little Wenlock except one bus Tuesdays only via Horsehay & Wellington. There is limited free parking at the Village Hall on Wellington Rd. Customer only parking is available at The Huntsman: food is served all day, the pub welcomes walkers, and their dogs, in the Hiker's Bar

For downloadable map & gpx files go to: www.telfordt5050miletrail.org.uk



Grants from Telford T50 Legacy Fund and Envirogrant Veolia in partnership with Telford & Wrekin Council's Pride in the Community Programme, enabled the T50 50 Mile Trail to be waymarked.



TELFORD T50 50 MILE TRAIL Stage 3: Little Wenlock to Wellington



3

This most rural and scenic stage of the Trail starts in the village of Little Wenlock and meanders through the woods at the south side of The Wrekin before climbing to the 407m high summit with outstanding views (optional – the highest point of the Trail) then uphill over The Ercall Nature Reserve through more woods and into the market town of Wellington with a wide range of shops, facilities and excellent transport links.

To reach the walk start walk down Church Lane, directly opposite The Huntsman PH

1 Little Wenlock to Wenlocks Wood 2.3 miles

Turn down **Witchwell Lane**, opposite **St Lawrence Church**, and follow the lane around to the right. Go through the gate ahead, turn right through a second gate and follow the right field edge. This is part of the '**Little Wenlock Bench Walk**'. Go through a gate, cross a footbridge and continue to follow the wire fence. Go through the next gate past the bench of David Hutchison, the late former Chief Executive of Wrekin Council, after whom the Hutchison Way was named. Go through the gate onto **Spout Lane** and turn left.

Walk down the lane for about three quarters of a mile until you come to a house on the left "**The Firs**". Turn right opposite the house. Walk straight ahead along the woodland path. At the gate, cross the stile and follow the hedgerow on the right. Cross the stile and continue walking past the farm towards and then into and through **Wenlocks Wood**. There is a bluebell display here in early May, you may spot deer here too.



2 Wenlocks Wood to The Wrekin Summit 1.4 miles

At the edge of the woods, turn left at the public footpath sign, climbing over a small stile. Walk along the left edge of the field following the wire fence. Continue along the left edge of the next field. Go over the stile at the end of the field. Join the footpath after the stile and follow it to the right. Continue on this path taking you around the bottom of the Wrekin, passing the map of the area.

Where the path forks, take the left path up the hill, passing **The Halfway House** cafe with beautiful views of The Ercall from their garden, it is often open for light refreshments. Follow the main track as it bends to the left to go up the Wrekin (note the short waymarked post, you will turn at the same post on your descent). Continue uphill past information boards about the prehistoric hill fort to the summit of **The Wrekin and the toposcope at 1,335 feet/407 metres**. As the Wrekin can be seen from nearly everywhere in Shropshire you can see nearly all of Shropshire from here and many places beyond. It is a highlight well worth the climb.

3 The Wrekin Summit to The Ercall Summit 2.4 miles

From the toposcope (no waymark) retrace your steps down, at the fork keep left. Where the path starts to swing round to the right (waymarked short post) take the small path to the left at the corner. Near the bottom of the path, go around a large tree that has fallen across the path and at the edge of the woods, join the perimeter path and turn right. Follow the path down to join the road and turn right and walk along the edge of the road (**Wrekin Course**).

At the T junction cross the road and cross over the stile towards the **Ercall Reservoir**. Continue past the large reservoir on your right and keep to the left when the path forks. At the end of the path, turn right onto the wide grassy path. Follow the grassy path to the road and turn left. Walk along the side of the road and turn right through a gate into **The Ercall Wood Nature Reserve**. Follow the path into **Ercall Wood**. Notice the unconformity of the exposed quarry rocks on the left where the Ercall Granophyte and the Wrekin Quartzite meet. Stay on the central path, which passes just to the right of a large rock.



Continue uphill and eventually, where the path divides, take the bigger left path and continue straight up the steep ascent of **The Ercall**. You next reach a path junction where the main **Shropshire Way** turns right; you don't.

If you follow the Shropshire Way here you will miss one of the highlights of the trail, namely the viewpoint from The Ercall. Continue straight on (and up) and you quickly reach another path junction where you turn left. Note this point as you will be returning here on your way down. In a few minutes you will meet a fence which runs along the **summit of The Ercall**. Do not attempt to cross the fence as the drop is substantial and almost inevitably fatal. Walk along with the fence on your left and enjoy the views of The Wrekin and elsewhere. After about 70 yards turn right at a path junction. Carry on uphill and you will soon come to the point where you turned up the final part of the hill, continue straight on. Start to descend with lovely views to the right. These woods are noted for flowers, fungi, birds, butterflies and other insects.



4 The Ercall to Wellington Town Centre 1.5 miles

Continue downhill on the path and then turn left to rejoin the **Shropshire Way**. Turn right where the path gets close to the motorway and continue over the footbridge and along the path. Turn left at the end of the path, **Golf Links Lane (underpass)**, and follow the lane to the end. Cross the **Holyhead Road** at the pedestrian crossing. Turn left and then almost immediately turn right down a footpath. Continue down the footpath, cross the road, **Roseway**, and continue onto the public footpath still on the **Shropshire Way**. Turn left at the road, **Tan Bank**. Turn left and cross **Victoria Road** at the pedestrian island. Continue to the left down **Victoria Road** and turn right into the **Wellington Civic and Leisure Centre**, where there is a cafe and toilets and a large car park. To reach the bus and train station turn right out of **Wellington Leisure Centre** and walk down the pedestrian walkway, **Larkin Way**. (notice the **Peace Garden** on the left). Walk slightly right into the **Pedestrian Zone**. Walk through the **Market Square**. The turning to the **Railway Station** is on the right; follow signs to **Bus Station**.

