

# HILLWALKING IN SHROPSHIRE

32 HILL AND COUNTRY WALKS

by John Gillham

**CICERONE**

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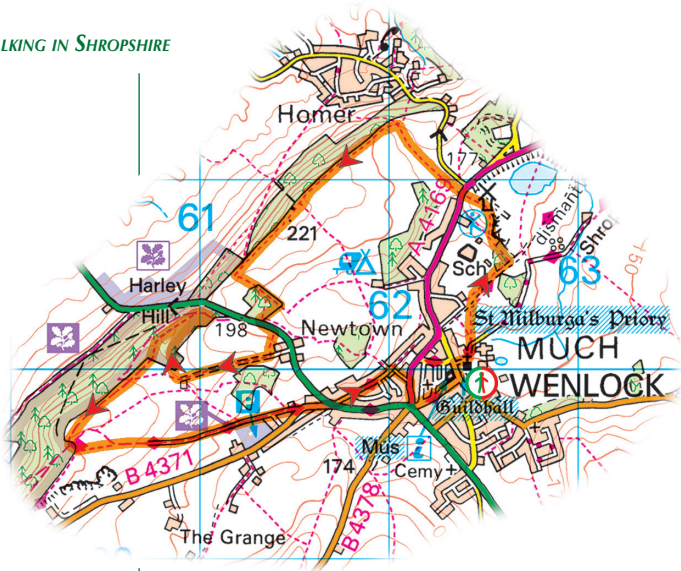
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*Front cover:* On the south summit of the Lawley looking to Caer Caradoc (Walk 25)



*The old windmill  
above Much Wenlock*

Beyond the mill the path goes through a kissing gate before descending through trees to the Ironbridge road (A4169). The continuing path lies across the road, staggered slightly to the left. Go through the gate and follow the clear path. After traversing two more fields it comes to





**Wenlock Edge.** Climb left along the Edge on an enclosed path. Ignore the first path on the left (after 650m) but take the second left. This heads towards woodland, then enters it, tracing the inside edge of the plantation before turning right along a dirt track that comes to the busy A458 road.

Turn left along a narrow hedge-lined path keeping you off the busy A458 road. Turn right at the footpath signpost to cross the road with care.

On the far side of the road by the Edge Adventure Centre's drive continue through a kissing gate onto another hedge-lined path, which through a gate joins that drive, where you turn right. As the drive nears the main house go through a kissing gate on the right to follow a narrow path with a tall hedge on the right. On reaching the corner of woodland turn right along a signed permissive path through those woods (marked with amber dashes on current OS Explorer maps). Stick with the main path until it joins with the bridleway coming in from the A458 road. Turn left along it. Fork left off the bridleway onto a signed footpath where the bridleway starts to descend Harley Bank.

*The Wrekin from  
the Wenlock Edge*

*On the Blakeway Hollow track*



In spring the view may be coloured by the vivid yellows of oil-seed rape. The path at this time will be decorated by wild violas, wood anemones, primroses, bluebells and wild garlic.

The undulating, sometimes stepped, path gives flickering views of the village of Harley through the trees. ◀

Where the signed path becomes a bridleway and comes to a field edge near Stokes Barn, go through the gate on the left and turn right along an enclosed path between the adventure centre's field-edge and the top of the Edge. Do not use the bridleway crossing the field but stay with the edge path, which soon joins the wide Blakeway Hollow track. Turn left along this winding track, which can be muddy for the first 100m but soon transforms into a delightful stony track heading back towards **Much Wenlock**. The track becomes a tarred road through housing near its end. Ignore the right fork street here.

Turn left along the Church Stretton B-road, past houses to join the A458, where you should turn right. After a few paces fork left onto Southfield Road, which runs parallel to the trackbed of the old Much Wenlock to Craven Arms railway. Turn right on a tarred footpath on the nearside of a bridge over the old railway, then right along the road before turning sharp left onto High Street by the Gaskell Arms Hotel in **Much Wenlock**. Follow this back to the Square or your car park.