

SHORT WALKS

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SHROPSHIRE HILLS

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landscape



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WALK 4

THE LAWLEY

Rising steeply from the Church Stretton plain, The Lawley is a shapely ridge of ancient volcanic rocks. This walk traces the spine of the hill over its several false summits – although The Lawley is dwarfed by neighbouring Caer Caradoc to the south, it still commands impressive all-round views. The return route follows a gentle path back along the base of the ridge. This is a popular walk, and the car park is small, so you will need to arrive early.

OS information

 SO 505 990
Explorer 217

Distance

3.8 miles/6.1km

Time

2½ hours

Start/Finish

The Lawley car park

Parking

SY5 7QJ
The Lawley car park

Public toilets

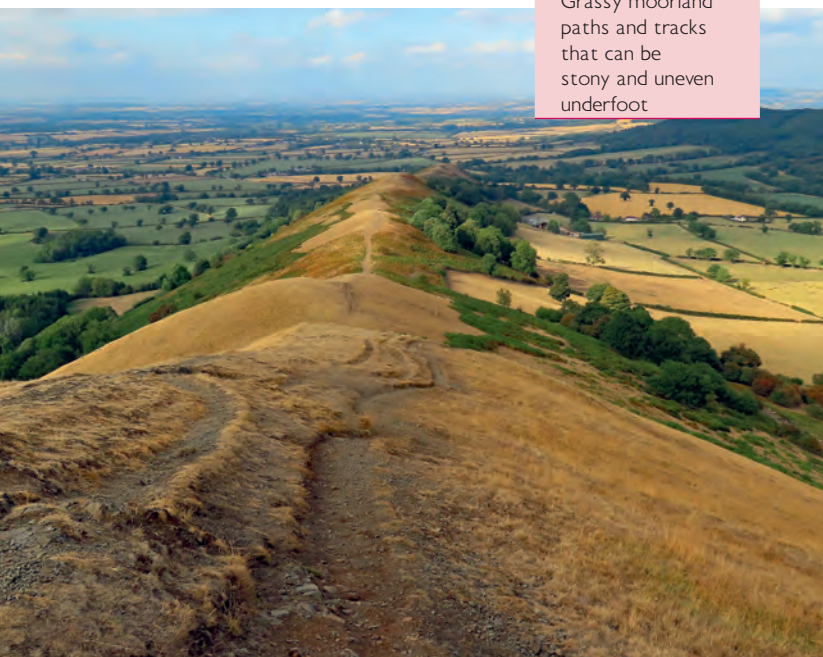
None

Cafés/pubs

Nearest is The Pound, Leebotwood, SY6 6ND

Terrain

Grassy moorland paths and tracks that can be stony and uneven underfoot



Hilliness

Steady ascent **2** to **3** and along the ridge to the summit, followed by a steep descent to **4**

Footwear

Year round 



Public transport

Bus service 780, Long Mynd & Stiperstones Shuttle (weekends) to the stops at **1** and **4**.
boultonofshropshire.com



Accessibility

None, but do try the Stiperstones easy access trail from The Knolls car park, **4**

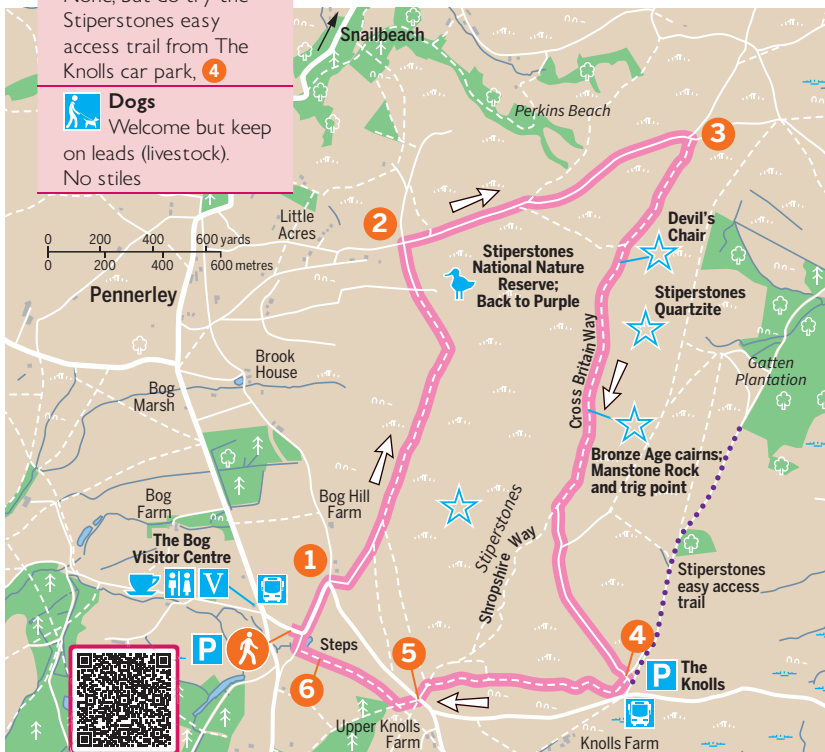


Dogs

Welcome but keep on leads (livestock).
No stiles

Did you know? The Seven Whistlers is one of several legends associated with Stiperstones. The Whistlers are six birds, traditionally geese, who constantly fly around the world searching for the missing seventh member of their flock. The legend states that when they finally find their companion, the world will end.

Local legend According to legend, Stiperstones is haunted by Wild Edric. Sometimes seen as a spectral hound with red eyes, Edric was a Saxon noble who made peace with William the Conqueror. As punishment for what was considered a betrayal of Britain, Edric was banished to the mines. He and his followers are released at times of national peril. A giant fish guards his sword at Bomere Pool (near Shrewsbury), to be given up to his true heir.



STORIES BEHIND THE WALK



★ **Church Stretton** Although there is evidence of ancient occupation in the surrounding hills, Church Stretton wasn't settled until Saxon times. The *Domesday Book* records 35 households in 1086, and King John granted a market charter in 1214 – a market is still held here each week. The town's population expanded during the 19th and early 20th centuries with the rise of tourism, and most of the town centre is now protected within the Church Stretton Conservation Area.

★ **The fire of 1593** Most of the medieval buildings in Church Stretton were constructed from timber. The huge fire of 1593 ripped through the town centre destroying nearly all of the buildings. Only two survived: the stone church and the brick-built Bucks Head Inn. The town was rebuilt to its original plan in the early 1600s.

★ The fire of 1593

☕ Bucks Head Inn
The Narrows



Easthope Road car park

☕ Kings Arms

Bridge over the railway
Watling Street South



Church Stretton

A49
Clive Avenue

Snatchfield Farm

1 mile

- Begin in Lion Meadow and, facing the church tower, walk towards the mini roundabout in front of the Bucks Head Inn.
- Turn **left** onto High Street and walk to an alley (left) immediately before the Kings Arms.

- 1 ➤ Turn **left** down the alley, known as The Narrows.
 - Follow the path **straight across** two residential roads and over a railway bridge.
 - **Cross** the main road (A49) and keep **ahead** up the passageway opposite to reach Watling Street South.



NATURE NOTES

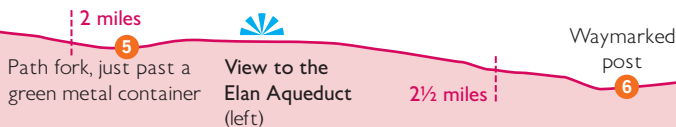
Following the decline in quarrying, the abandoned buildings and spoil heaps have been reclaimed by nature. Look for red admiral butterflies and flocks of colourful goldfinches, which are surprisingly common here. Other grassland-loving birds abound, such as pied wagtails and speckle-breasted meadow pipits, breaking cover with their 'quick, quick' call.

Peregrine falcons have made a comeback in the Clee Hills, choosing nesting sites high in the quarries. Sadly, there have been a few incidents of poisoning in recent years, but work is underway to protect them. These birds can reach speeds of up to 200mph as they

dive in pursuit of prey.

Brown-tail moth caterpillars form silky web-like structures on hawthorn bushes, where they live communally until they are ready to pupate. Although attractive, they are best admired from a distance as their long hairs can irritate the skin.

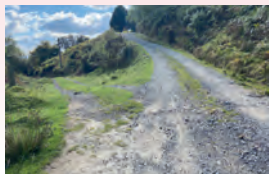
Grassland fungi to look out for in autumn include yellow fieldcap, fly agaric and the parasol mushroom.



- 4** — **Cross** the road to a bridleway signpost opposite and turn **right** onto a gravel track.
- Gradually descend to a bend and cross a small bridge over a river.
 - Keep **ahead** to a fork, just past a green metal container.



- 5** — Bear **right** and climb towards houses. Keep **right**, pass round the side of a house and continue **ahead** onto a grass track.
- When the track splits, take the **left-hand** (lower) path and gradually descend towards houses until you reach a waymarked post.



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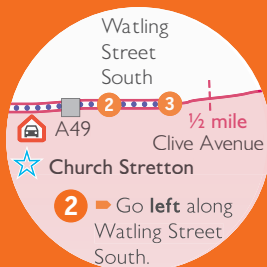
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