

THE SHROPSHIRE WAY

SOUTH SECTION



About
15 miles

Stage 1: Shrewsbury to Bridges

Kingsland Bridge



Leaving Shrewsbury over the River Severn via the Kingsland Bridge the route is now off road as far as the outskirts of the town. From Meole Brace village you pass through wooded sections of the Reabrook valley before climbing through Bayston Hill to Lyth Hill, where you will get your first prospect of the Shropshire Hills.

Lyth Hill Country Park

There is a gem to come on the walk from Shrewsbury, the broad expanse of the Lyth Hill Country Park. On the map it does not look impressive but its position offers perhaps the best panoramic views in the whole of Shropshire. From the east the view takes in the volcanic mass of the Wrekin, the old power station at Ironbridge, then Wenlock Edge. Next in view are the Lawley, Caer Caradoc and the Long Mynd. Last but not least are the jagged quartzite tors of the Stiperstones.

The long straight lane that runs along the crest of Lyth Hill is called the rope walk. Here 300 years ago flax and hemp were twisted together into ropes and used for shipping and mining. Mary Webb its most famous resident was inspired by this landscape. She lived for a while, close by in Spring Cottage.

Wilderley Hill

After passing a deer farm at the foot of Lyth Hill and treading some of Shropshire's many old green lanes, you will begin to climb steadily towards

Wilderley Hill. Whilst Wilderley might mean "the clearing belonging to Wilfred", the name is also descriptive of this wild expanse. Dangerous enough in wintry conditions for two ladies in the past to have lost their way and perished in the snow.

Cothercote Stone



Nearing the top of the hill look out for the Cothercot Stone dated 1791.

The Portway

The route now takes you along the ancient Portway for about a mile, reputedly Roman but probably earlier. After following this for about a mile south eastwards, we leave the Portway and head southwestwards towards the Darnford Brook. This area is known deservedly as the Golden Valley. Here you have a good chance of spotting dippers near the stream.

Bridges

With its Youth Hostel and the old Horseshoes Inn this is a popular place to stay or to seek refreshment.

Golden Valley





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