



Stage 5: Craven Arms to Ludlow

Stokesay Castle



Stokesay Castle

Stokesay Castle is a unique 13th century fortified manor house and well worth a visit. The great hall is much as it was 700 years ago. Preserved by English Heritage it is in a picturesque setting with adjacent church and meadows.

Don't miss out on visiting the church. It was largely re-built in 1654, and is one of very few that were constructed during the Interregnum of the Commonwealth. A very fine 17th century interior complements its exceptionality.

The short climb to the small village of Aldon is reputed to have been a coffin road being the only access from the village to the church at Stokesay. The lush descent into the valley below is known as Aldon Gutter and converges with Brandhill Gutter below.

Stokesay Court

Glimpsed through the trees on your left as you walk towards Wittytree. Described by Pevsner as 'the most grandiloquent Victorian mansion in the county' it was built at the close of the 19th century for the then owner of Stokesay Castle, the fabulously wealthy, ex glove manufacturer, John Derby Allcroft. After waiting 16 years to acquire the land on which the house was built, he died within 6 months of taking possession.

The house and grounds are perhaps better known today as the location for the 2007 Oscar winning film 'Atonement', based on Ian McEwan's book of the same name.

Bromfield

Bromfield has a church with a wonderful painted ceiling, an interesting Gatehouse and the site of an old mill



The weir at Bromfield

complex. There is also a gourmet restaurant and food centre on the A49 nearby. The Church has been a Priory and private house in its time and do read the inscription on the Lych Gate – Bishop of New Zealand and Lichfield?

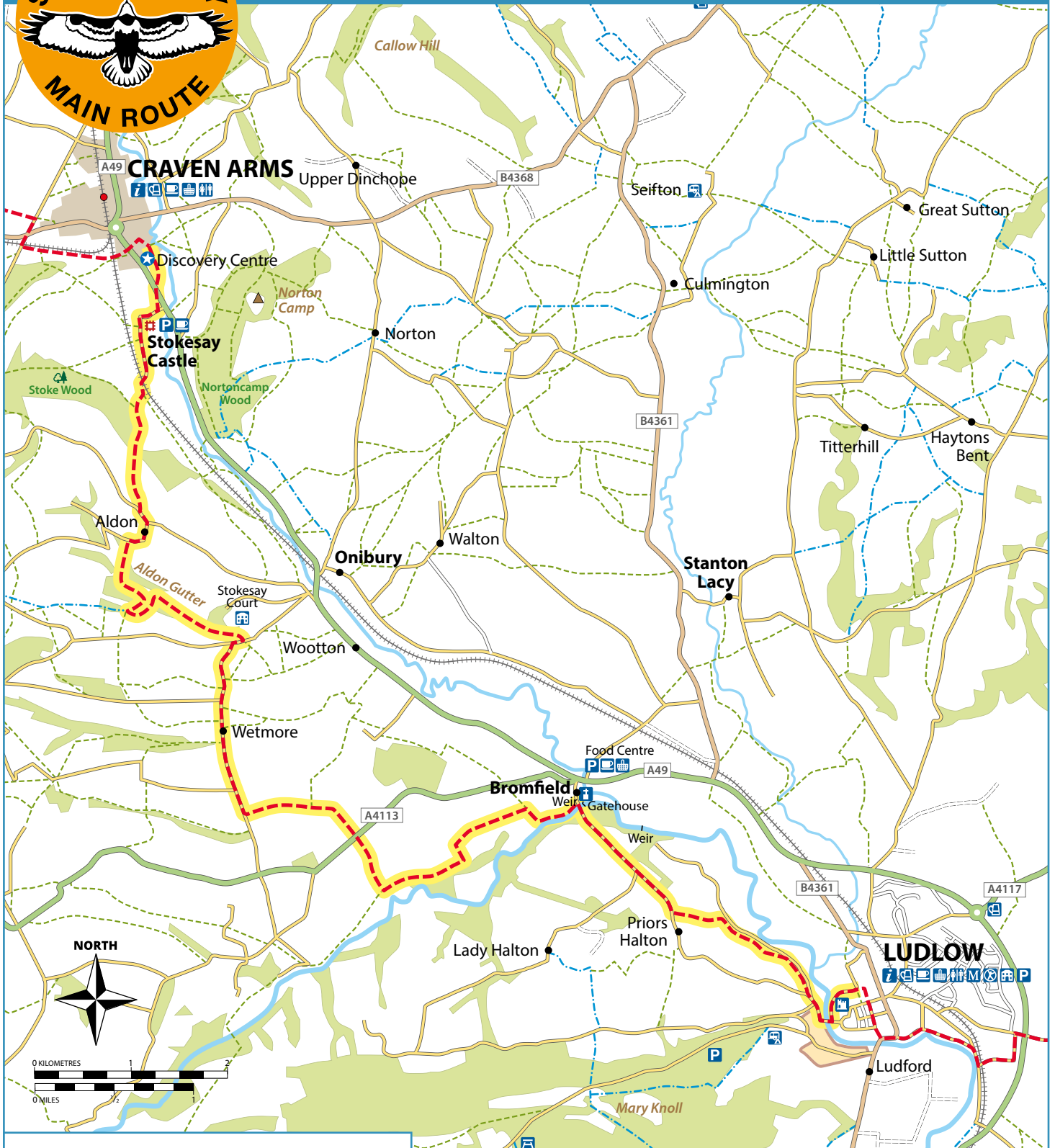
The route now follows the Teme valley eventually providing an impressive view of the castle on the approach to Ludlow. Crossing Dinham Bridge and entering through the wall is an ideal way to enter this historic town. Ludlow – as Betjeman said – “The most perfect town in England” planned 900 years ago by the Normans and steeped in history at every turn. It has a fine castle, historic church and many half-timbered buildings. There are good restaurants, small shops and public transport links too.



Ludlow Castle from Dinham Bridge



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Shropshire Way	Footpaths	Bridleways

