

# SHROPSHIRE WAY

## NORTH SECTION



About  
12 miles

### Stage 15: Nesscliffe to Shrewsbury

The River Severn at Montford Bridge



After crossing the bridge over the A5 and passing through the hamlet of Wilcott, the route rises to a minor crossroads. There is Motte hidden in the trees on the right and views towards The Breidden Hills as you continue down the lane to Felton Butler. The Shropshire Way soon joins the Severn Way once again with a glimpse of the river at Shrawardine before heading to the river crossing at Montford Bridge.

#### Montford Bridge

The important Holyhead Road was the first major civilian state-funded road building project in Britain since Roman times. This was as a result of the Act of Union with Ireland in 1800. The turn-pike roads were requisitioned and responsibility for establishing the new route was awarded to the famous engineer, Thomas Telford. He designed his first river bridge for the crossing here. Mail

coaches and stage coaches could now go directly from London to Dublin. The toll house at Montford Bridge is a remnant of turn-pike days, but the village is now by-passed and the A5 has a new bridge to the West.

#### Towards Shrewsbury

The route now takes a short cut across the meanderings of the Severn over this lowland area, emerging once again on the old Holyhead Road before the descent into Shrewsbury. The path follows the river bank to Doctors Fields, a meadow at the foot of a flight of steps to The Mount. This is where Charles Darwin would have wandered as a boy. His birthplace is a house high above overlooking the river.

The final meadow is Poplar Island. Before the weir was built further downstream, the river was navigable to here. There is a long depression in the ground known as Barge Gutter where barges had access to turn.

#### Shrewsbury School

The Shropshire Way leaves the Severn Way at Porthill Bridge to remain on the south-west bank and pass by Shrewsbury School. This imposing building dating from 1765 was first a founding hospital and then a workhouse. In 1871 Shrewsbury School moved here from its older building in the town centre. Bear right after the boathouses to arrive back at Kingsland Bridge.



Shrewsbury School in winter

# Stage 15: Nesscliffe Hill Country Park to Shrewsbury

