

SHROPSHIRE WAY

NORTH SECTION



About
11½ miles

Stage 11: Haughmond Hill to Wem

Although traversing the relatively flat Shropshire plain, this route has a surprising number of places from which to enjoy good views over the surrounding countryside.

The way first circles Haughmond Abbey to the West before heading North along a lovely green lane towards Ebury Hill.

Astley and Hadnall



Norman doorway, St Mary's church in Astley

Parts of St Mary's church at Astley date from the 12th century and it has an interesting Norman doorway in the South wall. In the village of Hadnall the path passes alongside the remains of a moat where a timbered

building once stood. This was demolished in the early eighteenth century but the site is preserved and is a scheduled ancient monument.

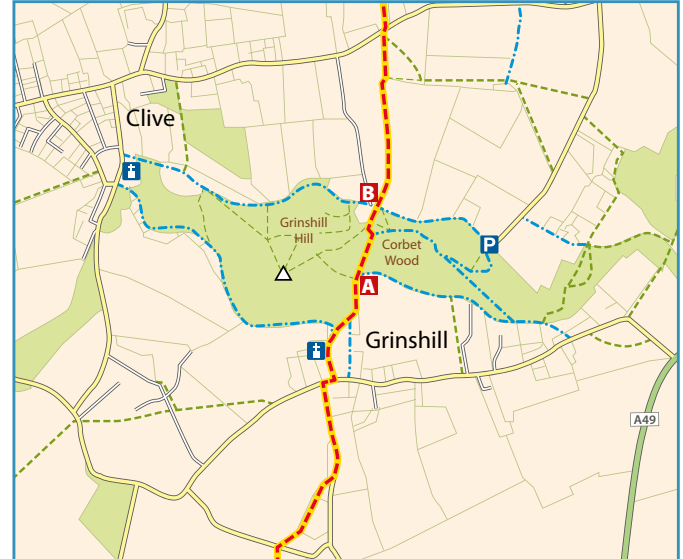
Grinshill

Famous for its two types of sandstone, the Grinshill Quarry is still active today. The red sandstone was used to build many local



Corbet Wood

churches, while the white sandstone is of unusual hardness and has achieved national fame by being used not only on Shrewsbury Station but also on prestigious buildings in London such as Downing Street and Chequers.



Shortly after passing Grinshill Church, the way on to the hill is very steep and can be slippery. An easier ascent can be made by continuing Eastwards and making a zig-zag path from point A to B instead – see inset map. Another short detour to the summit from point B will be rewarded by a great view.

Wem

Although an ancient market town, Wem boasts few half-timbered buildings since many were burnt down in the Civil War of the 17th Century. The town's main claim to fame is for sweet pea growing. Henry Eckford of Wem first introduced his variety in 1882. Wem's other famous product was beer and a famous inhabitant was William Hazlitt, critic and essayist.



Wem High Street



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