

Shropshire Way as a Long Distance Path



Shropshire Way - History

1978

- Original concept to link Sandstone Trail through Shropshire to Offa's Dyke Path
- Circular route from **Wem** through Shrewsbury and around South Shropshire
- Spur from Wem to Grindley Brook North of Whitchurch
- Buzzard waymark designed by Bob Parry



Shropshire Way - History

Who was involved?

- Broseley & Much Wenlock R.A. Group
- East Shropshire R.A. Group
- Shropshire Rambling & Hill Walking Club
- South Shropshire R.A. Group
- Wem Walkers
- Whitchurch Walkers
- Woore & District Walkers
- In consultation with S.C.C.

Shropshire Way - History

How was it done?

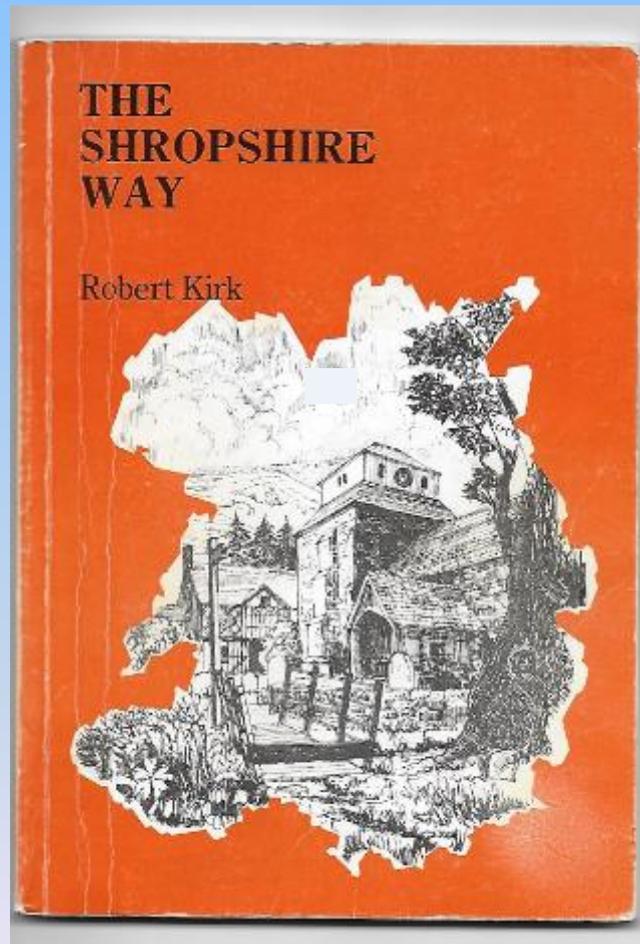
- Two years work by members of the clubs
- Establishing Rights of Way
- Clearing blockages
- Installing waymarks
- Completed in **1980** to mark Ramblers Assoc. footpath Heritage Year

Shropshire Way - History

What were the objectives?

- To devise a long distance path from Whitchurch and around South Shropshire
- To include recognised historical locations and beauty spots
- To divide the route into sections manageable in a day
- To end each day where there was accommodation
- To publish a Guide Book - Robert Kirk **1983**

Shropshire Way - History





Much Wenlock, The Guildhall.

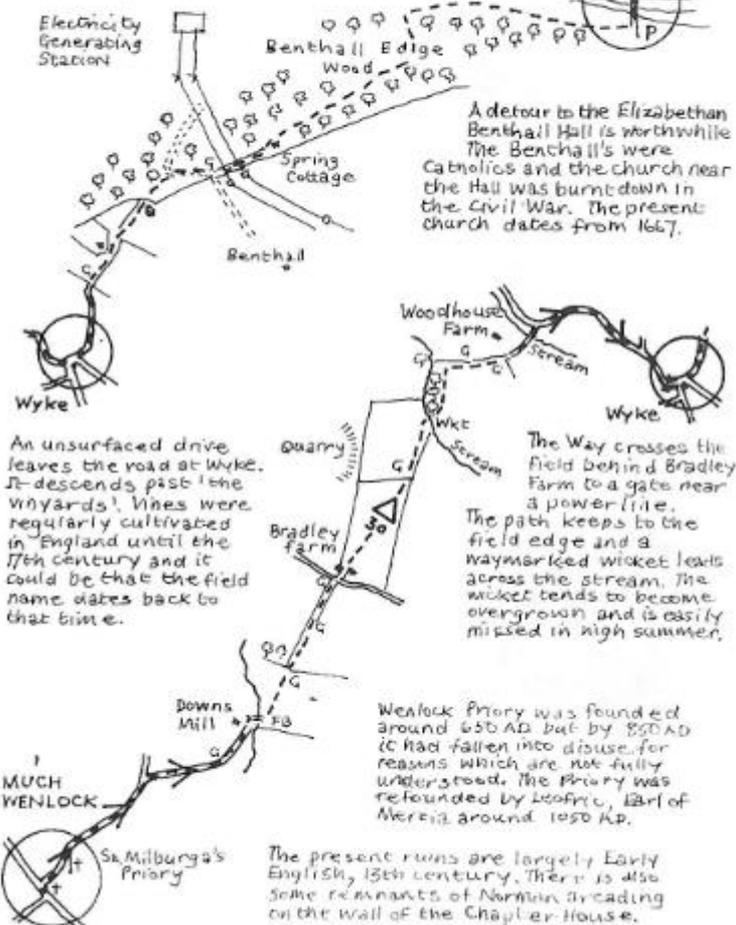
The church has a plaque in memory of Dr. Brookes a local doctor and Greek scholar. He founded the Wenlock Olympian Society which held its first games in 1850. In 1867 he formed a National Olympic Association. A further twenty-nine years passed before the first international olympic games were held.



Holy Trinity Church.

MUCH WENLOCK TO IRONBRIDGE

East of Spring Cottage the Way joins Benthall Edge Nature Trail near its mid point. It is more direct to follow the numbered posts in reverse order



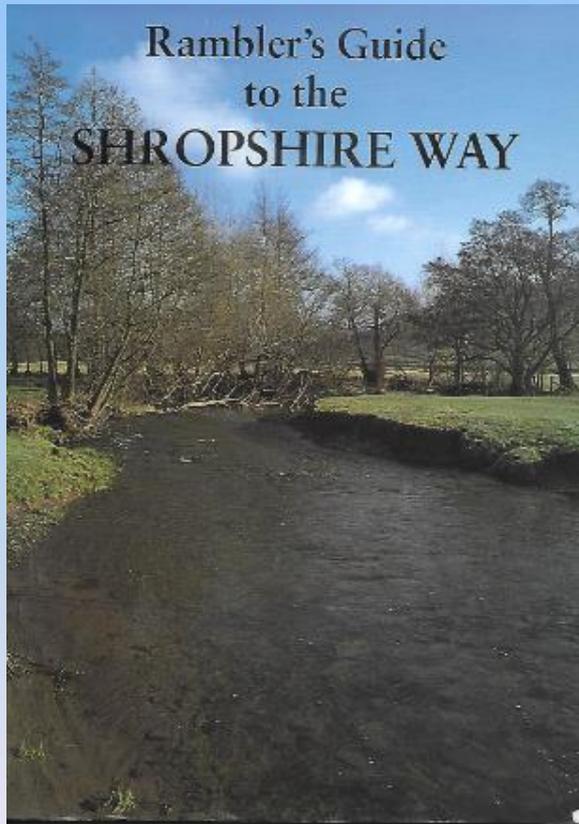
Shropshire Way - History

1991 - 1995

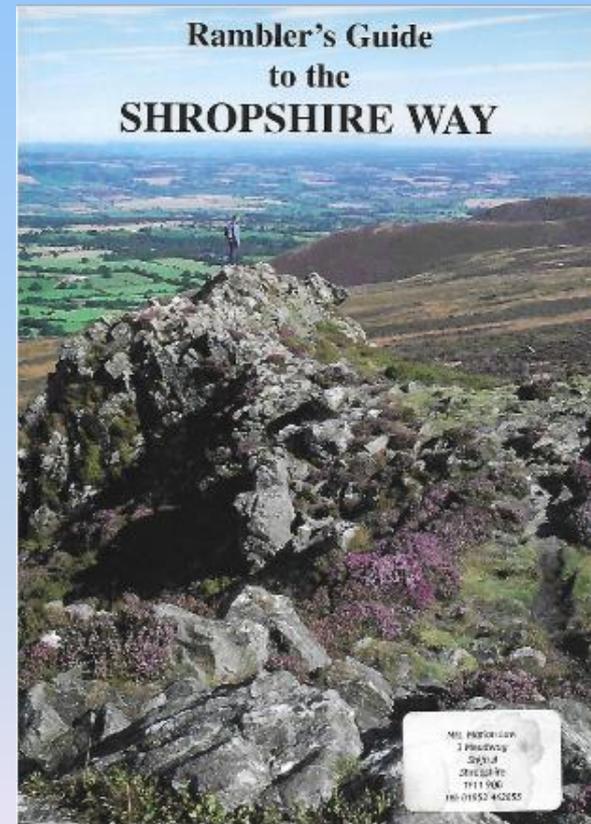
- Route updated as Shrewsbury to Shrewsbury 140 mile circular (via Wem)
- Clun extension incorporated in the Main Route to include Stiperstones, Bishops Castle, Clun and Hopesay Common
- New Guide Book published by Shropshire Area Ramblers Association

Shropshire Way - History

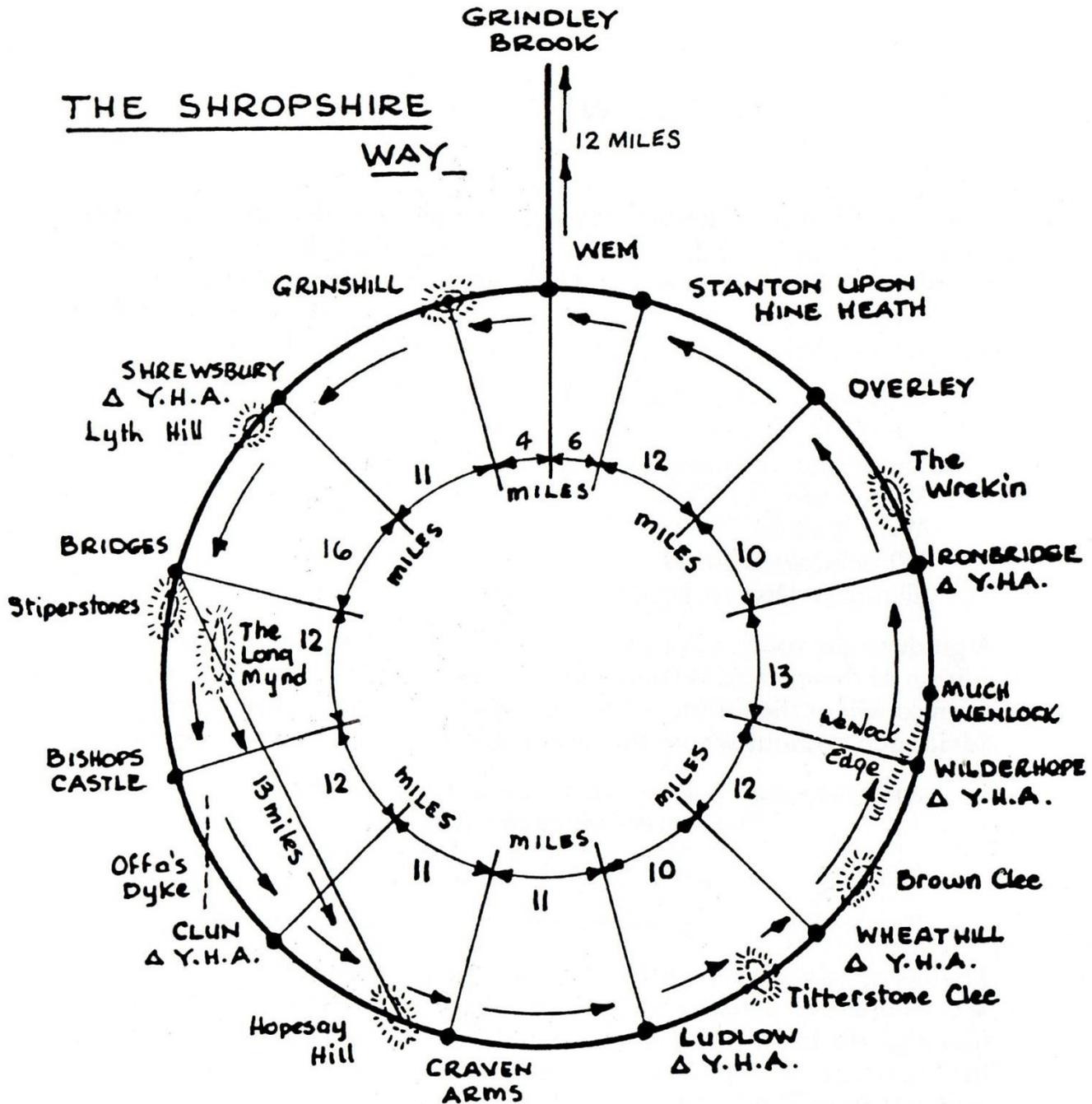
1995 second edition



2004 fourth edition



THE SHROPSHIRE
WAY



Shropshire Way - History



House on Crutches, Bishop's Castle



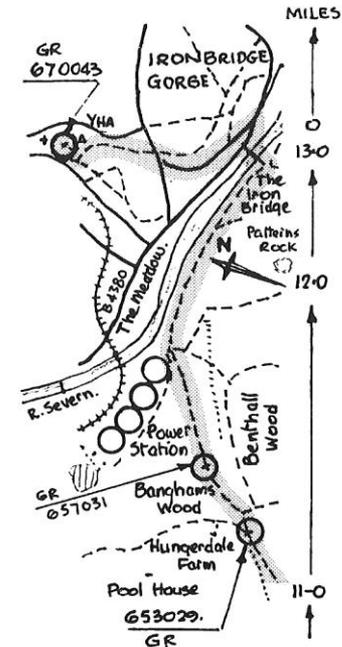
Ironbridge and River Severn

Bear right uphill and go through a gate near the top, then turn sharp left and go along a track through woods. Pass under two sets of overhead electricity cables to reach a cottage at GR 657031. Behind the cottage, turn left downhill and then follow a wide track east along the ridge of Benthall Edge to Patterns Rock, where there is a good view over Ironbridge (GR 664034).

Ironbridge takes its name from the bridge, the first in the world to be built of iron, across the gorge which was constructed in 1779 by Abraham Darby, an ironmaster. Two hundred years ago the banks of the Severn at Coalbrookdale were alive with industry and the area was famous for iron products and for delicate Coalport China. Today the region is the home of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust which includes Blisits Hill Open Air Museum, Coalbrookdale furnace and the Tar Tunnel.

From the viewpoint turn left downhill down many steps and follow path to the bottom. Here turn right and follow the path to an old railway bridge. Turn left under the bridge and right along the road to the Iron Bridge at GR 672034. From here to the Youth Hostel at GR 670043, cross the bridge and take the Church Steps, between Lloyds Bank and the Tontine Hotel, to reach St Luke's Church. When you reach Church Hill, turn left and follow the lane to its junction with Lincoln Hill. Turn right and, on reaching the entrance to Limeburners, turn left and proceed to the Rotunda, a noted viewpoint.

Descend the steps towards the river and at the bottom turn right; after 10 yards keep right. At the next cross path, turn left and descend to a footpath sign and follow the lane down to a road called 'Paradise'. Turn right and the Youth Hostel is a short distance on the right of GR 670043.



Shropshire Way - History

2007/2008

- SCC survey highlights the importance of walking to tourism
- Shropshire Way needed maintenance and way-marking
- SCC launch Shropshire Way projects
- Shropshire Way Association established

Shropshire Way - History

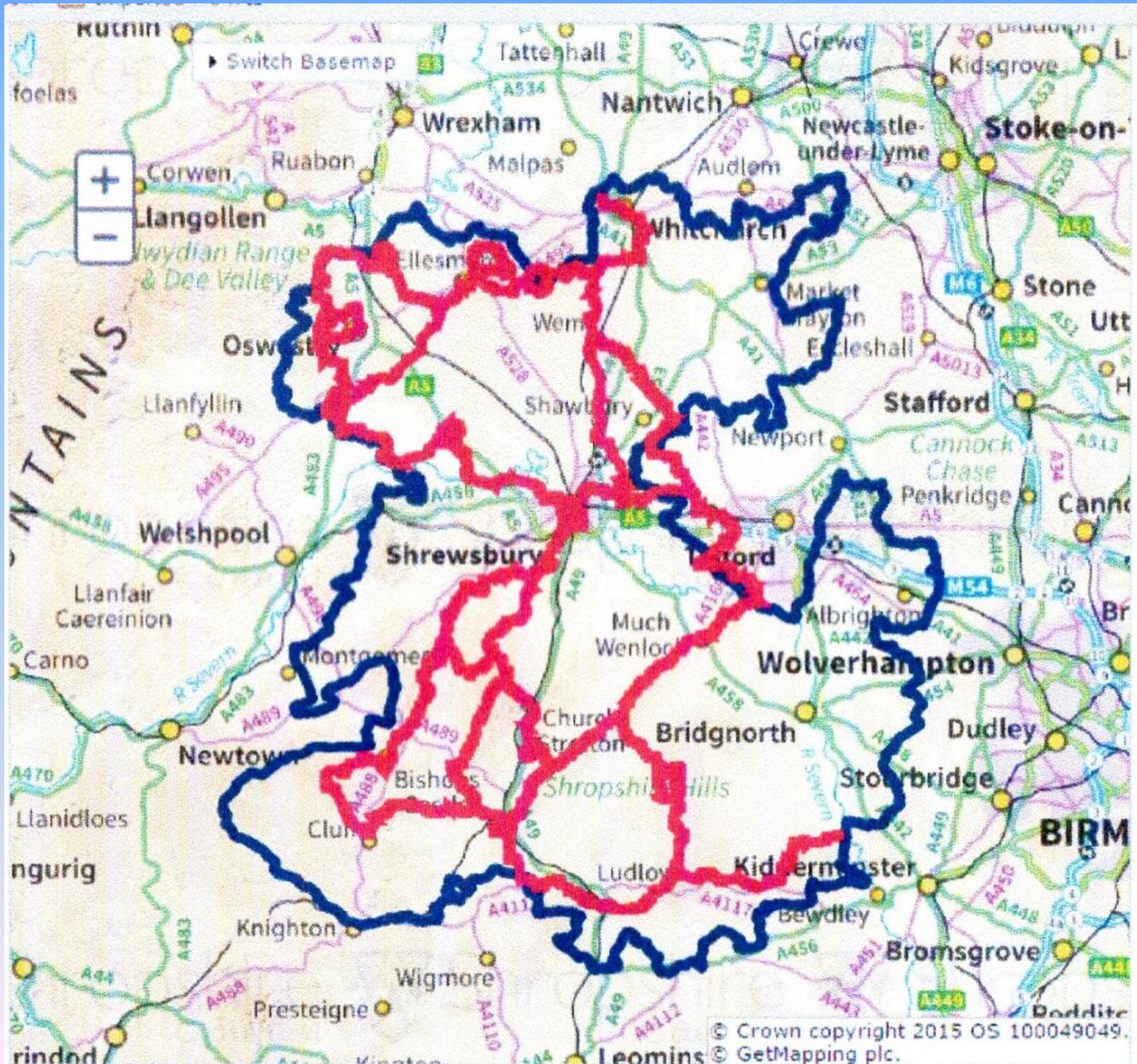
From 2008 to 2014

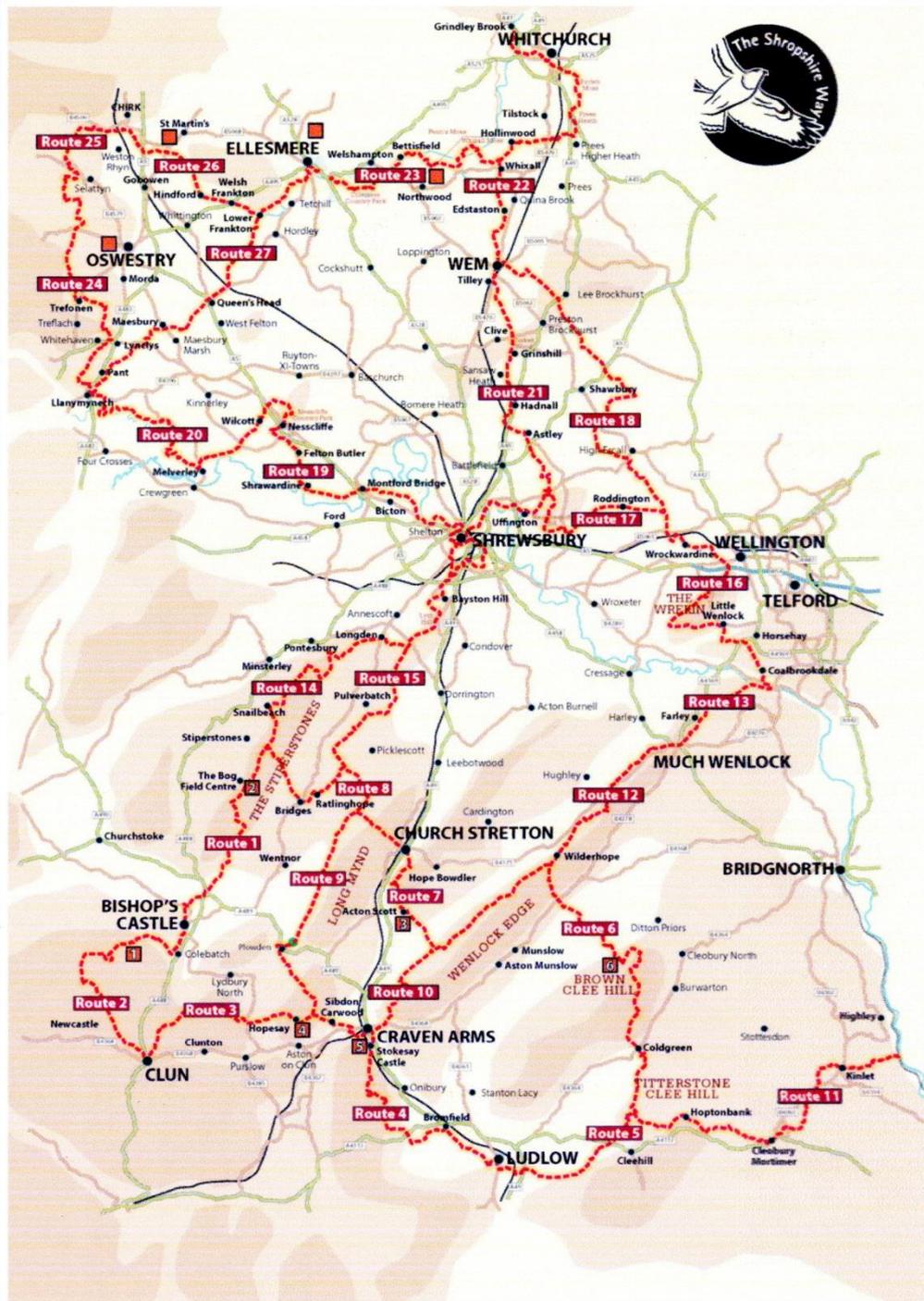
- Maintenance work done on many miles of Shropshire Way paths
- SC recognise the value of walking to local economy
- **Funding obtained for improvements**

Shropshire Way - History

BUT

32 loops were created and the Shropshire Way became a Shropshire Web.....





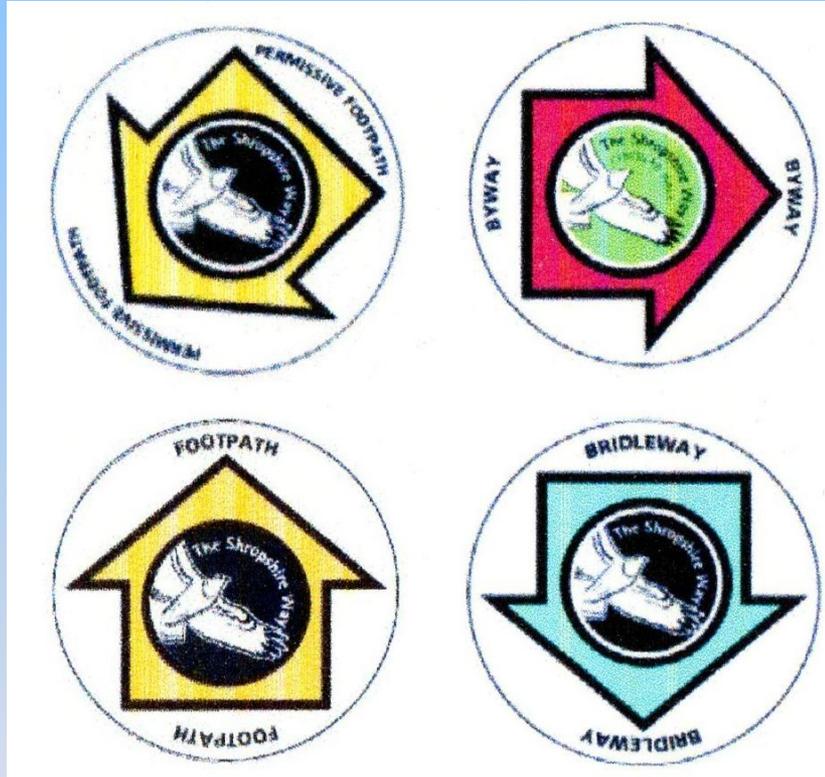
Shropshire Way in 2015

Resulting problems

- No clear long distance path
- Confusing way-marking – Shropshire Way everywhere?
- Finger posts with Shropshire way in 3 directions
- No separate symbol for loops
- Original vision had been lost

Shropshire Way - 2015

The clear buzzard logo has gone



The Shropshire Way which way?

Shropshire Way 2015 - time for action

- Issues raised at Central Walking Forum
- Meetings held with Shropshire Council
- Presentation to Shrewsbury Ramblers AGM and members of Shropshire Council
- Initial proposals:
 - to identify a Main Route as a long distance path
 - to use the original buzzard waymark
 - to issue a new guidebook and/or website
 - to reconstitute the Shropshire Way Association

Shropshire Way

SHORT BREAK

Shropshire Way 2015 - time for action

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Shropshire Way Main Route Project

January 2016

Shropshire Council agreed to work with us to define a single long distance route

Key points:

- Use parts of existing loops
- Make Main Route distinct from the loops
- Use volunteers to minimise cost
- Address the OS mapping

Shropshire Way Main Route Project

- Formation of a new Shropshire Way Association
- Inaugural meeting February 2016
- Constitution signed June 2016
 - Chair Audrey Menhinick
 - Treasurer Marion Law
 - Committee John Newnham, Peter Carr

Summary Aims: to define and act as custodian of the Shropshire Way Main Route

Shropshire Way Main Route Project

Funding obtained

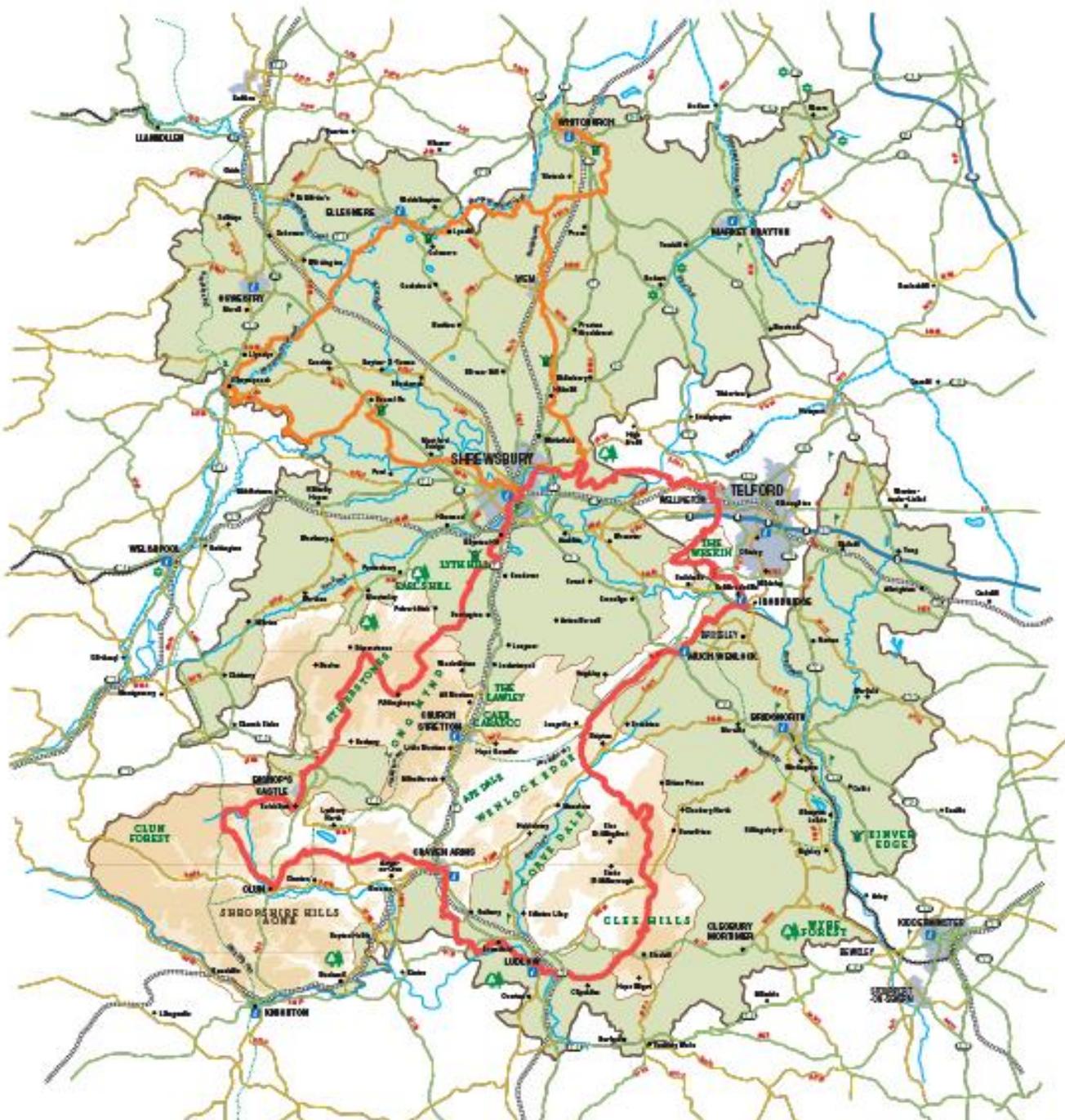
- Application to Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust resulted in £5000 grant
- Two anonymous donations received
 - one for waymark purchase
 - one for guide book / website

Shropshire Way Main Route Project

1. Establishing a Main Route

- a) Decision to include the north of the county
- b) Four options put to public consultation
- c) A figure of eight centred on Shrewsbury was chosen for the Main Route





Shropshire Way Main Route Project

2. New waymark requirements

- a) Clear design using concept of the original buzzard
- b) Easily distinguished from existing waymarks
- c) Incorporate a directional arrow
- d) Unique colour easily seen from a distance

A New Waymark



Shropshire Way Main Route Project

Decision taken to focus on Southern section first

- Start and finish in Shrewsbury
- Route of original Shropshire Way but including Wellington
- Paths in fairly good order whereas some issues on the Northern section

Shropshire Way Main Route Project

Implementation of Southern Section

- 1) Conduct path surveys
- 2) Carry out repair and maintenance work
- 3) Install waymarks, finger posts

The Outdoor Teams get to work.....













WELLINGTON

COMMUNITY CLOCK

No vehicles

Except for loading by



Wed & Fri
6 am - 8 am

The Shropshire Way

The Shropshire Way

Welcome EVENTS IN MARKET SQUARE 2017

Monday 27th April	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 16th June	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 28th April	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 19th June	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 29th April	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 26th June	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 30th April	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 3rd July	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 1st May	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 10th July	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 8th May	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 17th July	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 15th May	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 24th July	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 22nd May	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 31st July	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 29th May	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 7th August	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 5th June	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 14th August	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 12th June	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 21st August	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 19th June	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 28th August	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 26th June	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 4th September	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 3rd July	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 11th September	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 10th July	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 18th September	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 17th July	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 25th September	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 24th July	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 2nd October	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square
Monday 31st July	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square	Monday 9th October	10.30 - 11.30am - Market Square

For Any Information Please Email info@wellingtonnewscentre.com

O



B
R
D



Memoria
Hall



The Shropshire Way



Shropshire Way Main Route Project

**Southern section of the main route
can now be followed continuously.**

Waymarking 85% complete

Some fingerposts to be replaced

Shropshire Way Main Route Project

Website vs Guide Book

- Decision to produce website first
- www.shropshireway.org.uk



SHROPSHIRE WAY ASSOCIATION

Home

History ▾

Plan Your Walk ▾

Accommodation

Public Transport

Useful Links

Contact



Shropshire Way Association

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Plan your walk



South Route



View the map

 Enterprise for teams



▸ The South Route

The North Route

Circular Walks



South Route

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South Route Sections

- 1 Section Name One  Enterprise for teams
- 2 Section Name Two

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autem lautatque nimi, sit pliciur, se sit, sequam quunt optatio. Nimin conseni odite laborempor



South Route Sections

- 1 Section Name One
- 2 Section Name Two
- 3 Section Name Three
- 4 Section Name Four
- 5 Section Name Five
- 6 Section Name Six
- 7 Section Name Seven
- 8 Section Name Eight
- 9 Section Name Nine
- 10 Section Name Ten

South Route Links

Southern Section Stages

	Distance in miles
1. Shrewsbury to Bridges	15
2. Bridges to Bishop's Castle	12
3. Bishop's Castle to Clun	12
4. Clun to Craven Arms	11
5. Craven Arms to Ludlow	10
6. Ludlow to Burwarton Pole	11
7. Burwarton Pole to Wilderhope	10
8. Wilderhope to Ironbridge	12.5
9. Ironbridge to Wellington	11
10. Wellington to Shrewsbury	16

Shropshire Way Main Route Project

Future Plans

- Website Development
 - Route stages with downloadable pdf's
 - Accommodation details
 - Baggage carriers
 - Other information e.g. geology of landscape
 - Advertisements

Shropshire Way Main Route Project

Future Plans

- Northern Route
 - Surveys
 - Repair and Maintenance
 - Installation of Waymarks
- Guide Book
- OS mapping

Shropshire Way Main Route Project

Thank you to all involved:

SWA committee and members

Shropshire Council Outdoors Team

Volunteers from all parts of the County

Mike Ashton of MACreative - Graphics

WWAW for inviting us here this evening

Wrekin College for this venue

Shropshire Way Association

AGM

2nd December 2017

14.00

Discovery Centre Craven Arms