



A train ride, a country ramble down the Shropshire Way via a Norman Church, back to Wem.

A one stop train journey from Wem to Prees takes you on a country ramble. You join the Shropshire Way, go past the Grade 1 listed Norman/Gothic St Mary the Virgin church at Edstaston, before heading on down the Shropshire Way back to Wem station.

Category: Easy
Distance: 8.5 km/5.25 miles
Time: 2.5 to 3 hours
Stiles & Gates: 8 stiles and 21 gates
OS Maps: Explorer 241/Landranger 126
Start & Finish: Wem Railway Station Platform 1
Closest Sat Nav SY4 5AY
OS Map Ref: SJ 5175 2902

1

Catch the northbound **stopping** train from Wem station platform 1 to Prees station. [Note: Prees is a request stop]. Leaving Prees Platform 1, head South down the wide gravel track. After 50m, turn right through a kissing gate and proceed keeping the hedge on your right.

2

After 100m, turn right through a kissing gate and continue keeping the hedge on your left, to a gate. Go through the gate and head straight across field to the hedge and gate opposite. Go through the gate, then cross field to a double gate opposite, at 1 o'clock.

3

Go through the double gate and cross the field to a double stile at 1 o'clock. **DO NOT CROSS THE STILE** but turn left along the hedge. After 120m go through a gate to the right of a farm gate then turn right down the track to the road.

4

Cross the road [**Caution - Blind Bend**], go down the path directly opposite then turn left. Follow this track to a road. Cross the road and go through the kissing gate opposite, then through another gate. Cross the field to the opposite corner, keeping just left of the pond.

5

Through the kissing gate, turn left. Follow the path to the right of a dried up pond with oak trees and continue to the junction of 4 hedges. Go through the gate and cross the bridge, then turn immediately left. Go through the second gate, cross the bridge, then turn right. proceed along the fence/hedge line.

6

Go through a gate and continue straight ahead. At the marker post turn half left, cross the field to a bridge and stile in the hedge – *DO NOT CROSS*, but turn right before the bridge/stile along the ditch/hedge line. Go through a gate and continue straight ahead keeping the hedge on your left. Cross a ditch, go through the gate, then go straight ahead lining up on the signal tower.

7

Pass through the kissing gate and turn left down the Shropshire Way **[A]**. At the electricity pole the path opens up onto a grassy track. Go straight on and after 200m, at a 'crossroads', follow the path straight ahead through the wood. At the end of the wood pass through the fence on the left just before a timber boarded garage. Turn right and follow the driveway to the road.

8

Turn left at the road and follow it into Edstaston. At St. Mary the Virgin Church **[B]** turn right over the stile opposite the church main door following the path round the garage to a stile. Cross the stile and go along the fence line, continuing across the field to a stile on the far side.

9

Go over the stile and cross the field passing to the left of a pond with trees, to the end of the facing hedgerow with a bridge and stile. Cross the bridge and stile then go along the left-hand hedge line to a stile in the trees.

10

Cross the stile and go slightly right to a bridge and kissing gate. Cross the bridge, go through the kissing gate then straight across to a stile to the right of an oak tree and left of a farm gate. Cross the stile and follow the right-hand hedge to a kissing gate in the corner. Go through the kissing gate, turn left onto the road and then immediately right onto the road towards Loppington.

11

Walk 400m to cross the stile on the left just past a pond. Ahead, cross another stile then proceed in a straight line through five kissing gates (one is double) to a stile and bridge in the righthand hedge. Cross them, turn left and follow the enclosed path, eventually passing through a wooden gate onto a tarmac path.

12

Continue to the road and follow the pavement round to the left, through two offset barriers, to the next road. Go round the right-hand bend to a T-junction and turn left to the major road.

13

Cross the road, bearing slightly right, to go down the enclosed path opposite. Go down the path – ignore two paths joining from the right **[C]** – until reaching an offset barrier.

Go through this barrier and turn left, leaving the Shropshire Way, to the main road. Cross bearing left to go down Park Road. Continue straight on through the park and turn right at end **[D]** towards Wem station.

NOTES

A. The Shropshire Way is a 202 mile Long Distance Path through Shropshire in the form of a figure of eight centred on Shrewsbury with a spur North to Whitchurch passing through Wem.

B. St Mary the Virgin Church, Edstaston, is a Grade 1 listed early Norman chapel circa 1150. The beautiful entrance door, its carved surround and the interior wall paintings are well worth a visit.

C. The second turning on the right goes to Bowens Field car park (Free - 2023) and the swimming pool.

D. There is a card operated public toilet on the left before leaving the park.

ROUTE MAP

