



From the centre of town, Wem Walk 4 follows the River Roden, passing close to the Ruewood Nature Reserve. It crosses meadows, joins a short section of the Shropshire Way before returning to town.

*Letters in brackets refer to the notes at the end of these directions.*

**Category:** Easy  
**Distance:** 9.5 km/6 miles  
**Time:** 2.5 to 3 hours  
**Stiles & Gates:** 23  
**OS Maps:** Explorer 241/Landranger 126  
**Start & Finish:** Town Centre Car Park  
Closest Sat Nav SY4 5AA  
OS Map Ref: SJ 514 288

1

With the public toilets to your back head right leaving the car park into Leek Street. Turn left and follow the road as it bends to the right. Proceed straight ahead to reach a road (Mill Street). Cross the zebra crossing to your immediate right then turn left along the pavement for about 50 metres. Opposite a mill building (now apartments) and before the River Roden **[A]** turn right down the wide track.

2

Follow the track with the River Roden on your left, through 2 kissing gates and past a brick bridge on the left until reaching a farm track. Turn left over the bridge. After a few paces go through a kissing gate on the right into a meadow and cross to a kissing gate in the right hand field corner.

3

An enclosed path now follows the River Roden on the right to reach a stile and plank bridge over a ditch. Follow the field edge (past a disused stile) with a wide ditch on your right to reach a stile. Ruewood Nature Reserve is a few paces to the right **[B]**

4

Turn left and follow the lane to a T junction, turn left (sign posted Wem). Follow this lane for a quarter of a mile until reaching a kissing gate on the right. An enclosed path leads to a gated footbridge over the Sleaf brook *[River Roden tributary]*. Enter a field and cross straight ahead to a kissing gate onto a farm track. Turn right up the track.

5

Follow the track until it reaches gates in the hedge, then turn right before the gates and keep the hedge on your left until you reach a farm gate in the corner of the field - *[Note the disused water pump on the right]*. **CAUTION:- Badger holes ahead.**

6

Turn left up the green lane and at the end pass through a field gate into a large field. Keeping the hedge on your left go round the edge of the field. At the top of the field turn right still keeping the boundary on your left. Cross into smaller field to a kissing gate in the corner. A few paces beyond the gate cross the stile on the left and cross the farm track. Go directly ahead keeping the hedge to the left until reaching another kissing gate leading to an unmetalled road [*access to Tilley Park Farm*].

7

Turn left following the road to cross a railway bridge until reaching the Shrewsbury Road. **Cross with care** into a large field, keeping the field boundary to your right go ahead until you meet a Shropshire Way kissing gate on your right. Turn 45° left to a kissing gate in a hedge, then ahead to a second kissing gate onto the access road for Trench Hall School. Cross the road and follow the footpath over 2 stiles [*waymarked Shropshire Way*] to reach a lane.

8

Turn right along the lane then over the crossroads towards Barkers Green. Take care crossing the road, it's not great visibility on the right.

9

At the sharp right hand bend turn left between two houses along an enclosed path. Go through the kissing gate, bear right and cross the field and through a second kissing gate onto Weir Lane. Turn left.

10

At the end of the lane turn left through the kissing gate and walk along the path behind the house to cross the river footbridge.

11

Continue to the left hand corner of the field, pass through the kissing gate. Continue ahead, between the field fence and the gardens, passing through another kissing gate and along the track onto Aston Road.

12

Turn left towards Wem. Just beyond Orchard Way take the footpath on the left across a field signed 'Leek Street'. On the far side pass through the kissing gate, cross over the railway bridge and take the tarmac path back to the starting point.

# NOTES

**A:** The River Roden rises at Wem Moss and discharges into the River Tern at Walcot.

**B:** Ruewood Nature Reserve is managed by Shropshire Wildlife Trust and home to many interesting plant species including the rare Meadow Rue buttercup.

# ROUTE MAP

