



Rivers, Meadows and a Historic Village

Wem Walk 5 follows the River Roden then passes through the picturesque village of Tilley with its many interesting buildings - including the Tilley Raven Pub! The route then crosses fields and meadows before passing close to the Ruewood Nature Reserve before returning to Wem back along the River Roden

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

Category: Easy
Distance: 9 km/5.5 miles
Time: 2.5 to 3 hours
Stiles & Gates: 26
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. Just after the second kissing gate turn left over the brick bridge and go through the farm gate. Bear slightly right, go through a gate and along a clear path, through a second gate onto the road. Turn left towards Tilley.

3

Go through Tilley village **[B]**, past the Tilley Raven PH and when the road bears left go ahead up the No Through Road. Cross the railway line through two gates - **[With Care!]** - and turn left to a stile.

4

After the stile head diagonally across the field to a gate and the road. Cross the road, walk up the metalled drive, past the duck pond heading to the right of the black and white cottage. Pass through the gate. Follow the power lines, pass between two ponds and through a kissing gate. Cross the lane and go over the stile opposite - you are now on a short section of the Shropshire Way **[C]**.

5

Bear right along the hedge, continue ahead past the power pole and cross over a stile. Go along the enclosed path, cross the road, pass through the kissing gate. Bear slightly left to pass through a kissing gate in a hedge. Bear left 45 degrees to a kissing gate on the field boundary – you now leave the section of the Shropshire Way. Don't go through the gate but turn right along the field boundary to the road.

6

Cross the road and go down the lane opposite *[Access to Tilley Park Farm]* and over the railway bridge. The metaled road now becomes a wide farm track. Continue along the track for 500 yards to a kissing gate on your right.

7

Go through the kissing gate and follow the hedge on your right. Cross a farm track into the trees, cross the stile and turn right. Follow the hedge on your right, go through a kissing gate. Keeping the hedge on your right, go round two sides of the field. Go through the farm gate and down a green track - **CAUTION:- Badger holes ahead**. At the end turn right through the farm gate. *[Note the disused water pump]*.

8

Follow the hedge until it reaches a farm gate. Don't go through but turn left along a farm track that bears away from the right hand hedge to a kissing gate in the opposite hedge. Go through the kissing gate then ahead on the 'Permissive Path' to another kissing gate. Go down the steps, over the bridge *[River Roden tributary]*, through another gate and along an enclosed path. Go through the next kissing gate and turn left up the road.

9

After a quarter of a mile turn right down the lane signposted 'Commonwood'. Go past Rue Wood Farm, round the right-hand bend and after a short distance go over the stile on your right. *[The entrance to Ruewood Nature Reserve **[D]** is a few paces further along the lane, on the right]*.

10

Follow the wide ditch on your left, past an isolated stile to a plank bridge over a ditch with a stile. After the stile follow the enclosed path along the River Roden on your left. Go through two kissing gates onto a farm track, turn left. Pass over a brick bridge and turn immediately right along the other side of the River Roden.

11

Follow the track until it reaches a kissing gate – you are now going back along your earlier outbound route. Pass through the next kissing gate and continue until you reach the road and the mill. Cross the road and go down Drawell Lane. When the road swings left, just before the bowling green, go ahead down the enclosed path. This brings you out into the bottom of the car park. Turn left back to the starting point.

NOTES

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

B: Tilley. There are ten listed buildings including the timber framed 'Tilley Manor', 'Tilley Farm' and 'Brook Cottage', circa 13th/14th centuries. See the notice board on the right in the village summarising the Heritage Lottery funded dendrology survey – "The Tilly Timber Project 2018".

C: The Shropshire Way:- A 202m long distance path through Shropshire in the form of a figure of eight centred on Shrewsbury with a spur north to Whitchurch

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

ROUTE MAP

