

The Inn at Shipley and Ludstone, Bridgnorth, Shropshire



Challenging Terrain

3.5 miles
Circular
1.5 to 2
hours

170114



Access Notes



1. The route includes a few gentle climbs and descents throughout. The first 100 yards of the walk passes down a farm track which is part of a dairy farm and so can be very muddy at any time of the year – good waterproof boots are a must.
2. The paths are not particularly well-walked and so can be a little overgrown in the summer. There are a few sections of road walking and you will need to cross a couple of busy road junctions so take care of traffic at these points.
3. You will need to negotiate four stiles which are very tall and could prove difficult for the less agile! There are gaps alongside the stiles which should be suitable for most dogs to pass through. One field you cross may be holding cattle so take care with dogs.

The Inn at Shipley was opened in December 2013 and is an impressive red brick building with lovely beams and plenty of nooks and crannies inside.

A 3.5 mile circular walk from the Inn at Shipley in Shipley, Shropshire. The walking route explores the surrounding lanes and farmland, passing the beautiful early 17th century Ludstone Hall along the way.

Getting there

Shipley (in Shropshire) is located on the A454 between Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth. The walk starts and finishes from the Inn at Shipley which is on the A454 Bridgnorth Road and has its own car park.

Approximate post code **WV6 7EQ**.

Walk Sections



Start to B4176



Leave the pub car park via the vehicle entrance and turn left along the grass verge in front of the pub. Immediately after the pub, cross over the main road with care to turn right down the narrow farm lane (ignoring the gates each side which lead into fields).

Follow the lane for some distance. (Note: this lane is part of a dairy farm and the constant movement of cattle along it can make the first 100 yards fairly muddy – if you can persevere the surface does improve and the rest of the walk is less muddy).

At the end of the lane you'll pass between two properties, the beautiful Old Chapel House being on the left, to reach a junction of lanes. Turn right here passing Yew

You'll find this and many more walks at iFootpath.com. All iFootpath walks are available to download on the iFootpath iPhone App, allowing you to follow your real-time progress on the live satellite map as you are walking (no more getting lost!). You can also add your own comments, ratings and photos to each walk. If you notice any changes required to this walk please contact us at walks@iFootpath.com



tree Cottage on the right, heading downhill on the tarmac lane. Take care of any occasional traffic.

At the bottom of the hill you'll come to a T-junction with another road. Take care for this next section as the road junction here is fairly busy. Turn left along the road edge for just a few paces to reach the T-junction with the main B4176 road. Cross over with care to reach the grass verge on the opposite side.

1 → 2 B4176 to Ludstone Hall



Turn left along the grass verge. Continue only as far as the point where the chevrons in the centre of the road narrow and end, and a property's picket fence begins on the right. Here you will find a footpath sign and kissing gate slightly hidden in the hedge to the right. Pass through this kissing gate to join a section of enclosed path (which may be a little overgrown).

After a short distance, the garden fence on the left gives way and you'll emerge to the corner of a crop field. Keep straight ahead along the right-hand edge of this field and at the far end you'll see a stile in the corner. Cross the stile to reach a T-junction with a quiet lane and turn right along the lane.

You will come to a fork in the road with the beautiful red brick Danford Farmhouse ahead, keep right here and follow the lane as it climbs steadily. Continue over the brow of the hill and the lane then descends fairly steeply between sections of exposed red sandstone. A large Triassic red sandstone ridge runs north-south through the heart of Cheshire and extra folds of this rock also appear in this section of Shropshire.

On the right you'll pass the appropriately named Rock Cottage. Follow the lane as it swings left to reach a T-junction with another road. Keep left here and you'll come to a large lake on the left (Ludstone Pools). Opposite this you'll see the ornate Ludstone Lodge and the gated entrance to Ludstone Hall.

2 → 3 Ludstone Hall to Upper Ludstone House



Take a moment to admire the hall through the gates. The hall is a fine example of a well-preserved Jacobean mansion and the

grounds, which include formal gardens and a working farm, extend to some 170 acres. The existing house was built in 1607. The moat dates back to medieval times, it surrounds the house on three sides and meets a monastic fish pool at the rear. In the front courtyard you'll see many impressive stone statues including the roman god Mercury and a pair of lions guarding the front door. The grounds are open to the public once a year (usually the second Sunday in July) to raise money for charity.

Continue along the lane beyond the hall gates and immediately after a post box on the right, turn right over a (tall!) stile to join a wide grass footpath. The red sandstone wall of Ludstone Hall will be running immediately on the right. A little way along you will see another gate set into the wall, this gives you more views of the grounds including an ornate fountain.

At the end of the grass track pass over two stiles to reach a field (which may be holding cattle). Cross this field at about 1 o'clock and in the far corner you'll reach a narrow gate. Pass through this and turn right following the right-hand field boundary for some distance. Some way along, where the fence swings away to the right, the footpath keeps straight ahead across the remainder of the field to reach a wooden kissing gate on the far boundary. (Note: if there is a crop surrounded by electric fence in the way, as there was when we walked, simply follow the right-hand boundary around this to reach the gate).

Pass through the wooden kissing gate and you'll come to a T-junction with the B4176. Cross over with care to reach the wide grass verge opposite and turn left along this. Swing right and then right again onto the verge alongside the road signed to Upper Ludstone. Follow this road past a pub on the left and then the red sandstone Upper Ludstone House on the right.

3 → 4 Upper Ludstone House to End



Continue on the lane as it swings left climbing steadily. Half way up the hill you'll pass Acre Rise Cottage on the right with a large lake opposite. Keep to the left-hand road edge as the road swings hard right. Directly opposite Upper Ludstone Cottage, a large white-washed cottage on the right, turn left down the signed public bridleway.

Keep ahead passing the gateway to The Orchard on the left and The Coach House on the right. Beyond the properties continue as the footpath narrows between hedgerows. Follow this narrow path for some distance and eventually you will emerge out opposite The Old Chapel House (that you passed on your outward leg).

From this point you will be retracing your steps back to the pub. Turn left onto the farm track between hedgerows. Follow the track all the way back to the main road, cross over with care where you will reach the Inn at Shipley for some well-earned hospitality.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

