

➤ By bicycle ...

➤ A four-day circular ride through some of Britain's scenic green hills and quiet lanes ...



- A: Shrewsbury
- B: Lyth Hill
- C: Snailbeach
- D: The Devil's Chair
(The Stiperstones)
- E: Mitchell's Fold (Stapeley Hill)
- F: Church Stoke
- G: Stokesay Castle
- H: Norton Camp
- J: The Butts (Bromfield)
- K: Stoke St. Milborough
- L: Wilderhope Manor
- M: Church Stretton
- N: Longnor
- O: Wroxeter Roman City
- P: The Wrekin
- R: Child's Ercall
- S: Hawkstone Park
- T: Colemere
- V: Ellesmere
- W: Old Oswestry
- X: Oswestry
- Y: St. Winifred's Well
- Z: Nesscliffe

Day One

From Shrewsbury to Bridges Youth Hostel or Bishop's Castle

Via Lead Mines, Snailbeach and the Stiperstones (17 miles) or with optional route via Stapeley Hill and Mitchells Fold (37 miles). *The land of the hero, Wild Edric, the Devil and Mitchell, the wicked witch.*

Day Two

From Bridges Youth Hostel or Bishop's Castle to Church Stretton or Wilderhope Youth Hostel Via Stokesay Castle, Norton Camp, The Butts, Stoke St. Milborough (maximum 47 miles). *Giants, Robin Hood and a Saint*

Day Three

From Wilderhope Youth Hostel or Church Stretton to Wem Via Longnor, Wroxeter Roman City, The Wrekin, Childs Ercall, and Hawkstone Park (maximum 48 miles) *Ghosts, sparrows and King Arthur, a mermaid and more giants.*

Day Four

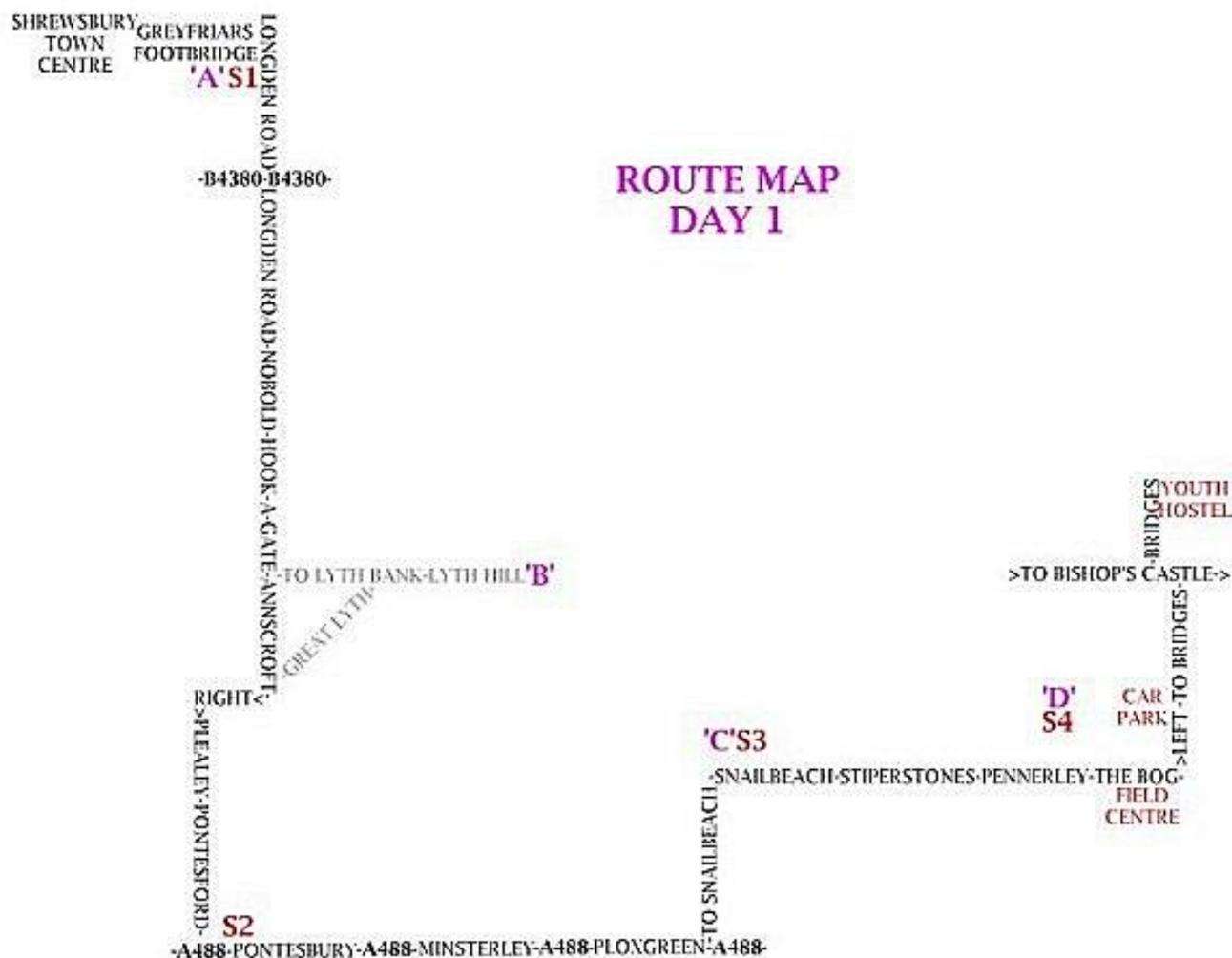
From Wem to Shrewsbury Via Colemere, Ellesmere, Old Oswestry, St. Oswald's Well, St. Winifred's Well, Nesscliffe and Montford Bridge. (total max. 44 miles) *Lots of water, two wells and a highwayman*

The cycle route was devised by local CTC member, Rose Hardy. Mythstories would like to thank her for sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with her fellow cyclists.

The maps provided act as a guide but the authors strongly recommend the use of O.S. Landranger Maps 126 (Shrewsbury and surrounding area), 127 (Stafford, Telford and surrounding area) and 137 (Ludlow, Wenlock Edge and surrounding area).

Day One - Depart Shrewsbury to Bridges Youth Hostel or Bishop's Castle

Go out of the Town Centre over Greyfriars Footbridge (**'A' on Map**) and turn right along Longden Road. *S1 - All for a cake*. Continue over the roundabout and on through Nobold and Hook-a-gate.



Just before Annscroft there is an option to turn left down a steep hill, then up again to Lyth Bank to see author Mary Webb's cottage (Spring Cottage) and enjoy a glorious view from Lyth Hill. (**'B' on the map**). Mary Webb used many of the myths and legends of Shropshire in her works. Return via Great Lyth to Longden Road and continue straight, over to Plealey.

Cycle on through Annscroft to the crossroads. Go right, then shortly left to Plealey and then straight over to Pontesford. At the A488 go left into Pontesbury. *Dominating the view to the South you will have noticed Pontesford Hill and Earls Hill, the site of S2 - The Golden Arrow.*

~ **Rest Point** Pontesbury provides toilets, shops, café and pub ~

Continue through to Minsterley. Keep on the A488 (signed Bishop's Castle) to Ploxgreen, where you go sharp left by a tiny bridge on a very narrow lane up to Snailbeach Lead Mines. (**'C' on the map**) - 12 miles. *This is the home of Wild Edric and the Tappers - S3.*

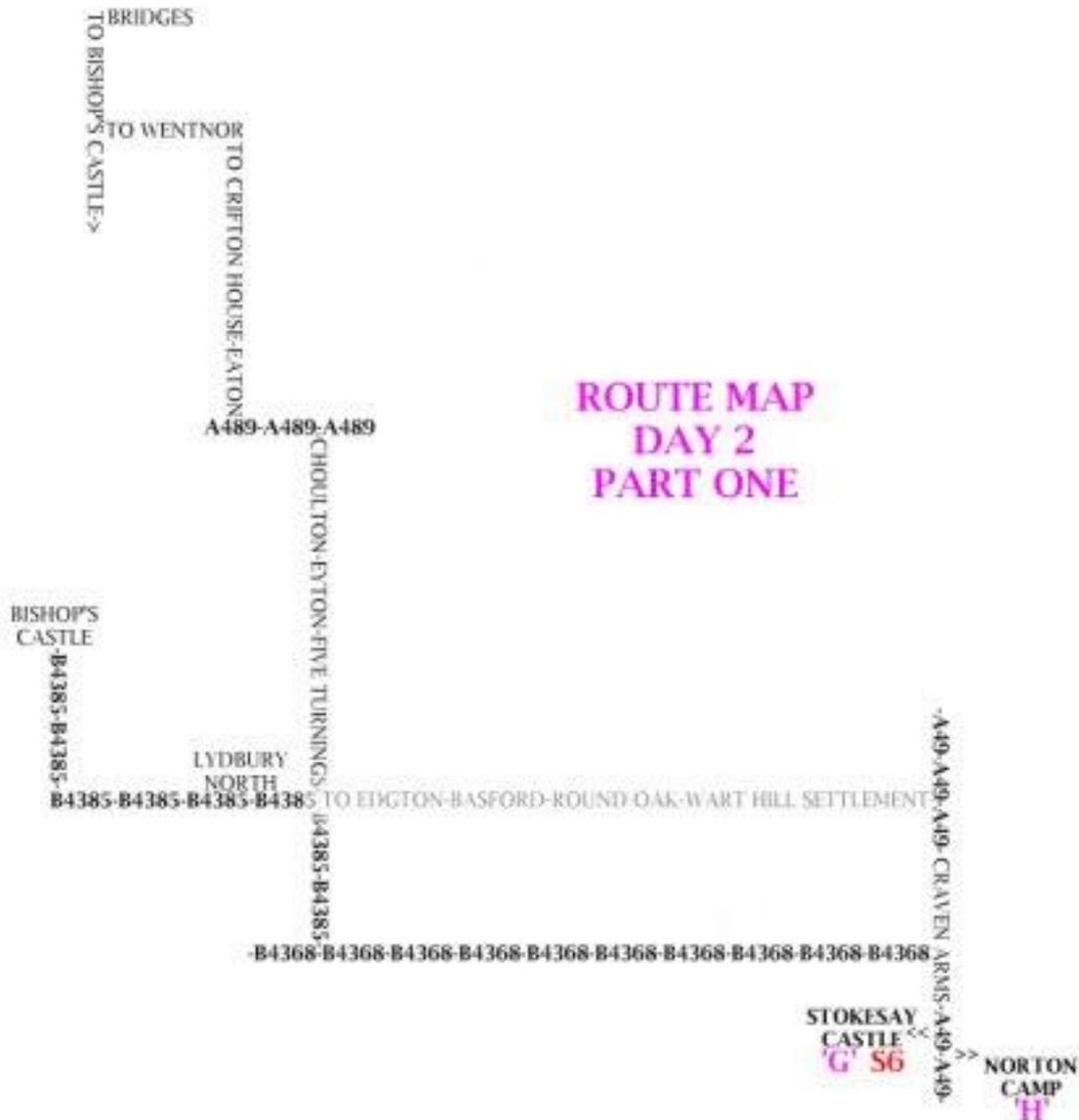
~ **Rest Point** There is a car park on the right and toilets. The restored lead mines are on the left ~

After visiting the lead mines, cycle on through Stiperstones Village and Pennerley. Turn left at the Bog Centre. During summer school holidays this is open as a Tourist Information centre with wonderful fruit cake, I hear. Continue on to the Car Park, which is on the left-hand side of the road. Walk up the track to the Devil's Chair. (**'D' on the map**) - 16 miles. *As you may well imagine, this wild and desolate spot has given rise to many myths, some can be found at S4 - The Devil's Chair.*

Day Two - Depart Bishop's Castle or Bridges Youth Hostel to Wilderhope Manor Youth Hostel or Church Stretton

From Bishop's Castle

Take the B4385 south to Lydbury North. If the traffic is light, continue on to Craven Arms along the B4368. However, if traffic is heavy the hillier route offers quiet lanes, so after Lydbury North take the second left up to Edgton over to Basford and Round Oak (passing Wart Hill Settlement on the left at 324m height) to join the A49. Turn right into Craven Arms. - max. 11 miles.



From Bridges

Take the 'main' road south, take the third left turn to Wentnor, go right and straight on to join the A489 at Eaton. Turn left here, then in ¾ mile right up the lane to Choulton. Turn right here to Eyton, where you turn right and left to Five Turnings. Here turn left and at the crossroads** continue straight on to the B4385 heading south. At Little Brampton turn left on the B4368. After Aston on Clun take the left fork, keeping on the B4368, to Craven Arms. - max. 15 miles

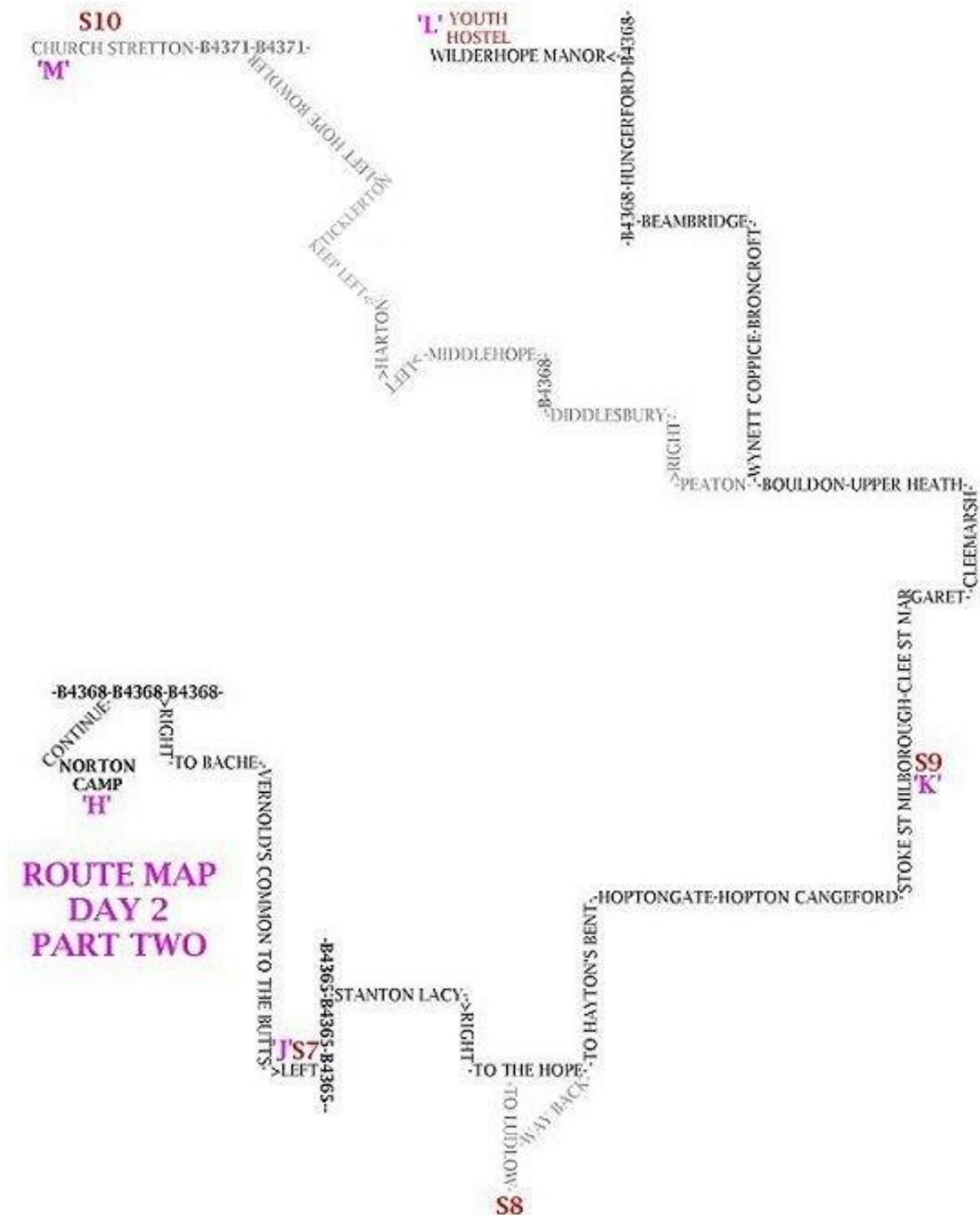
**Alternatively, if you prefer the hillier route which is described above, turn left at the crossroads to Edgton

~ **Rest break** Craven Arms has The Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, shops, pub, cafes, toilets and a railway station ~

From Craven Arms keep south on the A49 for ¾ mile and turn right to Stokesay Castle (English Heritage - admission charge). TAKE CARE - the A49 has very heavy, fast traffic. If you are worried use the pavement on the right-hand side of the road out of Craven Arms. Cycle to the church and walk through the churchyard to the Castle ('G' on map). The church is also worth visiting.

Stokesay Castle and Norton Camp were once home to two giants. *S6 - The Treasure of Stokesay.*

~ **Rest break** There are picnic tables and toilets outside Stokesay Castle during opening hours ~



Return to the A49, cross over, head right and, in only ¼ mile, take the first lane on the left to Norton Camp, on the right-hand side of the lane (**H' on map**). As you can see from your OS map there are plenty of footpaths that will take you on a strenuous walk up the hill to Norton Camp. Then continue along the lane to B4368 where you turn right. In 1 mile, at the crossroads, go right, then take the left fork for Bache, then right through Vernolds Common to the Butts at Ludlow Racecourse near Bromfield - 7 miles max. (**J' on map**). *S7 - Robin Hood's Arrow*

Go left to the B4365 and go left then first right for Stanton Lacy. After the church go right Option to Ludlow, at the next crossroads go right and continue straight for 2 miles.

S8 - The Flying Prince. Leave Ludlow by the same road, but when it forks take the right past Whitbach Farm to rejoin the route below. - Max 4 miles.

If you are not visiting Ludlow continue straight on up The Hope to Lodge Farm. Turn left to Hayton's Bent, right to Hoptongate, left through Hopton Cangeford then left and left again to Stoke St. Milborough for St. Milburgha's Well. The well is to the left of the main road, as it goes up the hill on the way out of the village. (**'K' on map**) - 7 miles max.

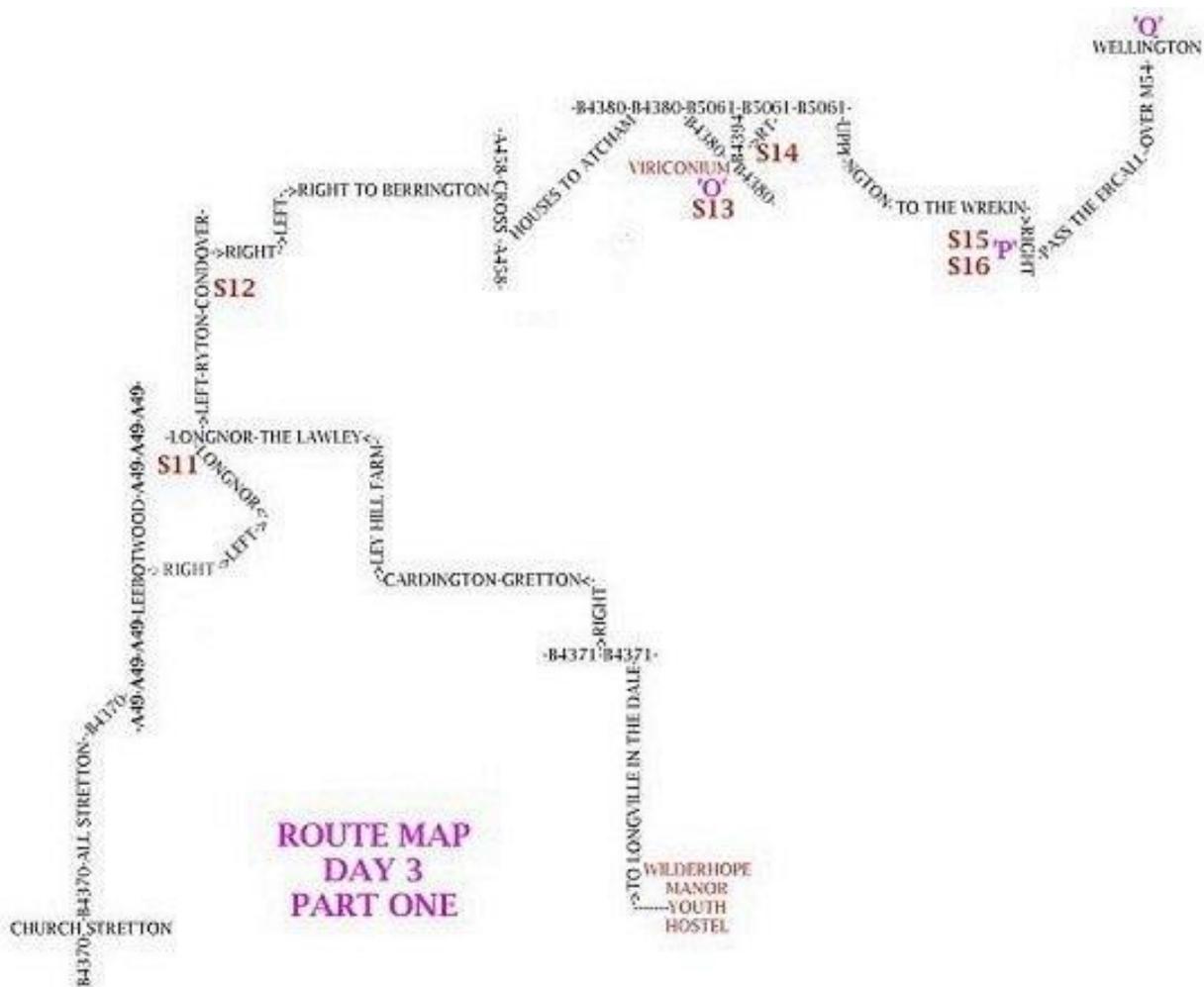
S9 - And The Water Gushed Forth

Keep right for Clee St. Margaret, where you turn right. The road turns sharply left through Cleemmarsh then turn left at the crossroads to Bouldon

If staying overnight at the Youth Hostel, keep right for Wynett Coppice, Broncroft and turn left for Beambridge. There go right on the B4368 through Hungerford and take the next left to Wilderhope Youth Hostel (**'L' on map**) - 10 miles.

If you require bed & breakfast you will need to go to Church Stretton. Proceed to Bouldon. Then continue on to Peaton, where you turn right and shortly left for Diddlebury. Go right on to the B4368 and shortly afterwards left along the lane to Middlehope. There keep left. In one mile turn right to Harton, where you keep left to Ticklerton. At Ticklerton take the lane which suddenly appears on the right up through the village and sudden left between two buildings and continue on to the B4371 at Hope Bowdler. There go left up and down on the B4371 into Church Stretton via the traffic lights. (**'M' on map**) - 14 miles *Caer Caradoc dominates the views to the right from the B4371 as it approaches Church Stretton.* **S10 - A Hiding Place**

Day Three - Wilderhope Manor Youth Hostel or Church Stretton to Wem



Depart Wilderhope Youth Hostel

Return to the lane and turn right to Longville in the Dale. Turn left on to the B4371 and then on the bend turn right. CARE! In half a mile turn left to Gretton, where you go straight over to Cardington. Keep right, and right again past Ley Hill Farm and then take the second left, leading around the bottom of the hill (The Lawley). Continue, going straight over the crossroads, to Longnor - 9 miles, very hilly.

Depart Church Stretton

Leave by the B4370, going north through All Stretton to the A49, where you go left. In $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles take the next right in Leebotwood. Go up to the T-junction and turn left. When you reach the crossroads, in about a mile, take the left turn to Longnor. Keep left in the village. - 6 miles

Continuing out of Longnor village, you can see Longnor Hall (**'N' on map**) off to your left, before you reach the A49. *S11 - the White Lady*

Retrace your route into the village, where you turn left to Ryton and go straight on for Condover *S12 - the Bloody Hand*

~ Rest Break Post office and shop in Condover ~

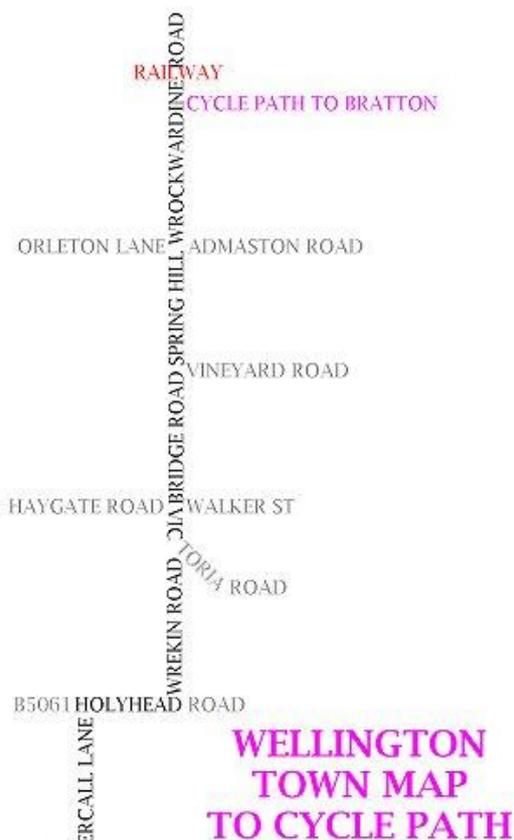
In Condover, go right to the Church. CARE as turn is virtually on the bend! Soon after the church, take the lane on the left and go first right and straight over at the crossroads to Berrington. Go on to the A458. Turn right on to the main road, then shortly left to Atcham. Here, turn right along the B4380 and next right following the B4380 heading towards Wroxeter. In about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile you will reach Viroconium, the Roman City. (**'O' on map**) 9 miles. *S13 - The Disappearing City*

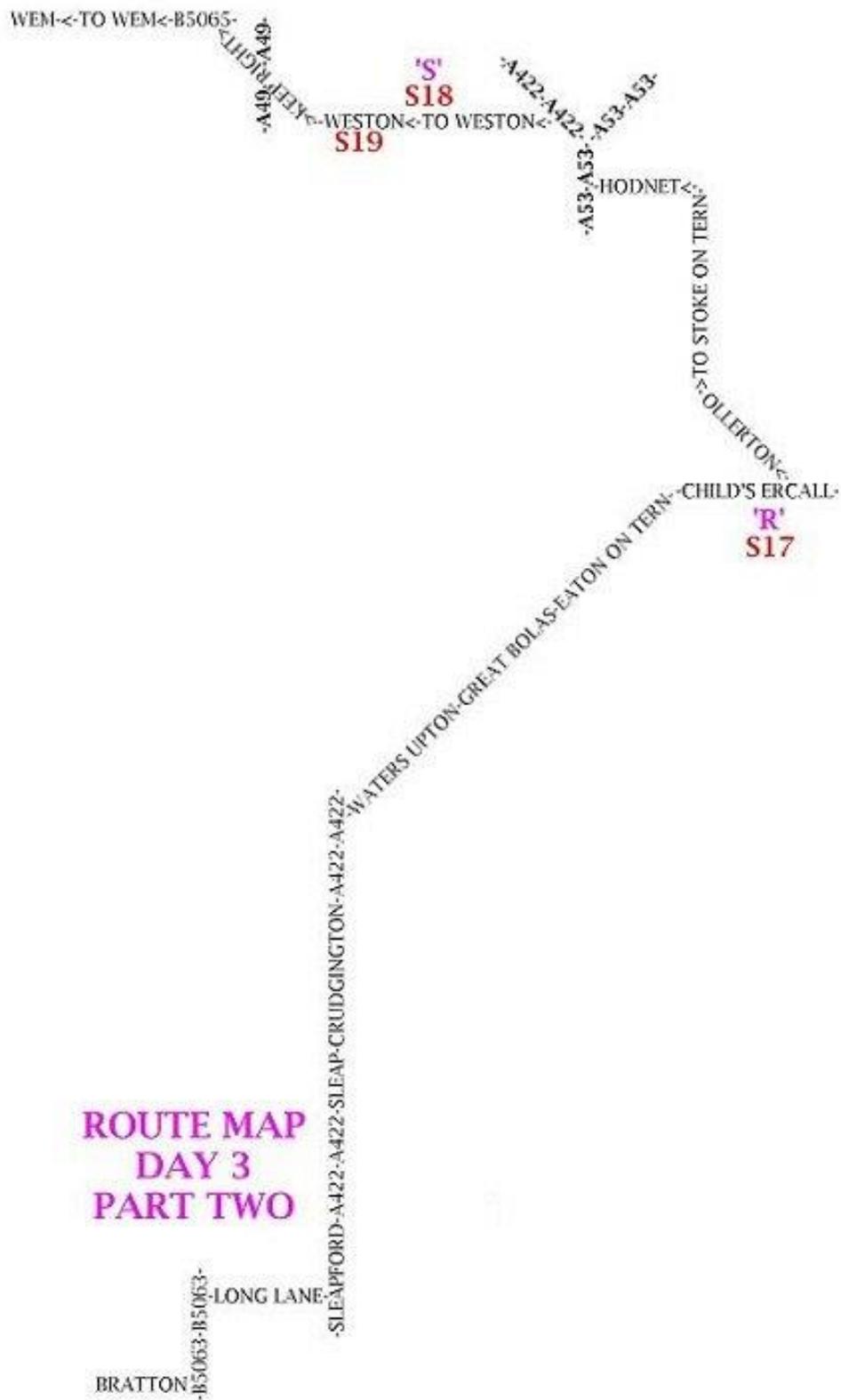
~ Rest Break Viroconium, (English Heritage - admission charge). Visitor Centre and toilets ~

After visiting Viroconium take the B4394 going North and soon take the minor lane on the right to the old A5. *S14 - The Treasure Hunter*

Turn right and next right through Uppington, round the village to the crossroads and on to The Wrekin. The lane goes through a danger area, avoid if the flags are flying. At the T-junction turn right. (**'P' on map**). You can climb the hill, which has inspired so many stories. *S15 - The Giant and The Cobbler S16 - The Needle's Eye and the Raven's Bowl*

Turn left alongside The Ercall and go over the M54 into Wellington town. (**'Q' on map**). Follow the street map below to the cycle route, which is an old railway, now resurfaced, to Bratton.





Go left on the B5063, taking the first right – Long Lane – to Sleaford.
 ~ **Rest Break** café in Sleaford ~

At Sleaford go left on the A442, over the crossroads then next right to Waters Upton, through the village to Great Bolas, right at Eaton-on-Tern to Child's Er call (**'R'** on map) *S17 - The Mermaid of Child's Er call*

Leave the village by the lane going west to Ollerton. Before Ollerton fork right, go straight over at the crossroads and in about a quarter of a mile follow the road around a sharp right hand turn and on to Stoke on Tern. Turn left to Hodnet.

~ **Rest Break** shops and pub in Hodnet. Hodnet Hall Gardens (Open Sundays and Bank Holidays April to September privately owned - admission charge) have tea room and toilets ~

Turn right on the A53, left in the village on A442, then left on lane to Weston. Before you reach Weston you will see Hawkstone Park on the right. (**'S' on map**). *S18 - The Fox's Knob*

~ **Rest Break** Hawkstone Park (privately owned - admission charge) has café and toilets ~

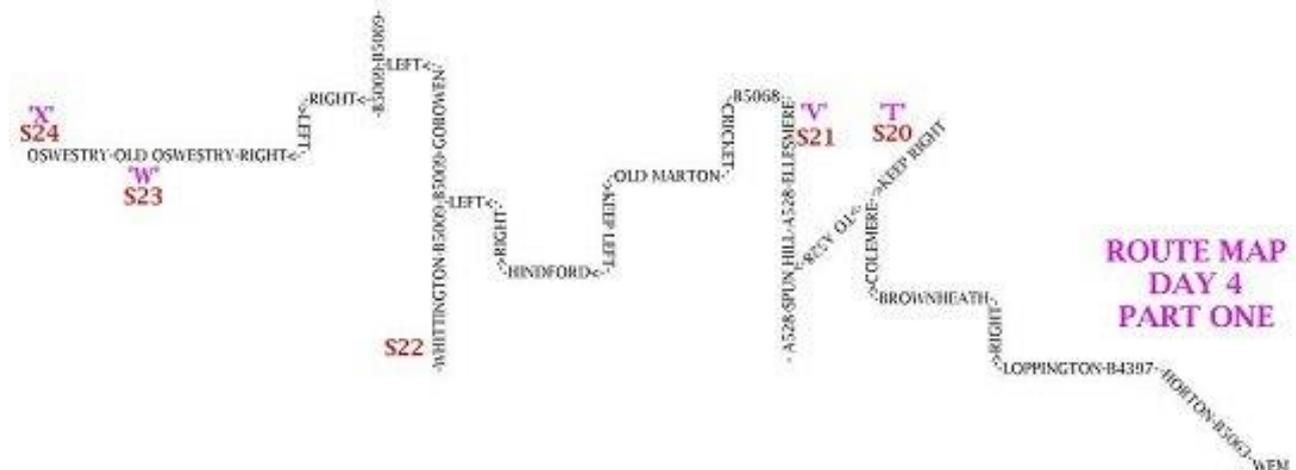
Continue on to Weston and stop at the village church. *S19 - Killyards*

Continue, keeping right, straight over the A49 and turn left on the B5065 to Wem.

Wem is a small town offering many facilities. It has a wealth of small pubs and Bed & Breakfast accommodation. It is the home of Mythstories, museum of myth and fable at The Morgan Library on Aston Street where you can find a wealth of stories and hear live storytellings of tales from Shropshire and elsewhere.

Day Four - Wem to Shrewsbury

Leave Wem by the B5063. In 2 miles turn left on the B4397 to Loppington.



~ **Rest Break** shop and pub in Loppington ~

Turn right at the pub then, shortly, turn left to Brownheath, and then right to Colemere. Keep right until the mere (lake) appears on the left-hand side. (**'T' on map**) *S20 - The Bells of Colemere*

~ **Rest Break** car park and picnic area ~

From the mere-side car park turn right and follow the road out of Colemere to the A528 at Spunhill. Turn right and continue straight up and over to Ellesmere. The mere appears on the right hand side. (**'V' on map**) - total 10 miles *S21 - Not A Drop More*

~ **Rest Break** café, information centre, refreshment kiosk, etc. ~

From Ellesmere leave by the B5068. Take the first left to Cricket and once in Cricket turn right, then right again to Old Marton. Keep left, then right to Hindford.

~ **Rest Break** pub by canal ~

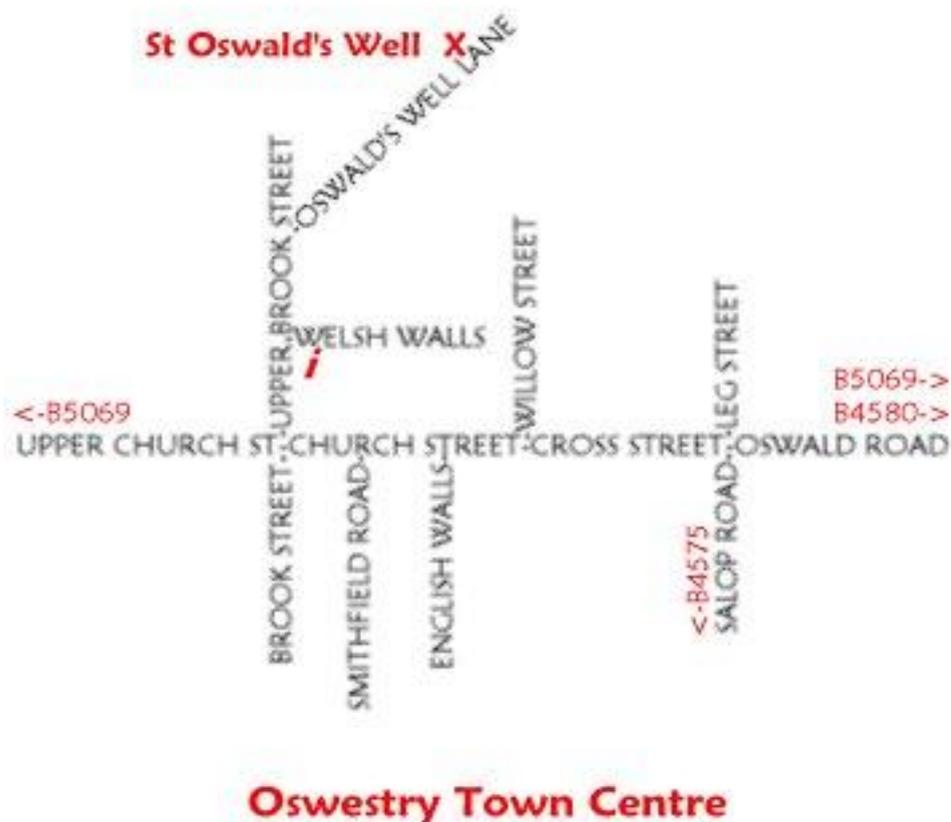
Turn right. In one mile turn left to steep hill up to the B5009, ** where you go straight over ** option to visit Whittington. Turn left down the B5009 to view the remains of Whittington Castle *S22 - Robin Hood: A Shropshire Lad?* Return to ** - 3 miles total

~ **Rest Break** Derwen garden centre on the right offers café daily except Christmas day ~

Return to the crossroads and turn left into Gobowen, keeping left at a fork in half a mile. At 'T' junction by railway station turn left on B5069 then in a quarter mile turn right. At the crossroads

go left and in quarter of a mile at bend go right within 1 mile Old Oswestry fort appears on your left. (Map point 'W') *S23 - Gogmagog and his Giants*

From the Hill fort continue into Oswestry town centre (Map point 'X'). Follow the street map below to St. Oswald's Well. *S24 - St. Oswald's Well*



~ **Rest Break** Oswestry is a large town with pubs, shops, cafés and toilets ~

Leave the town on the B5069 south to Morda. As the school appears on the right, take lane on left (almost hidden)*. At Weston turn left. *If you miss the lane, turn left at Morda crossroads and go straight on at Weston. Then turn right to the main road. Cross with care. Take the A483 going right then left to Maesbury

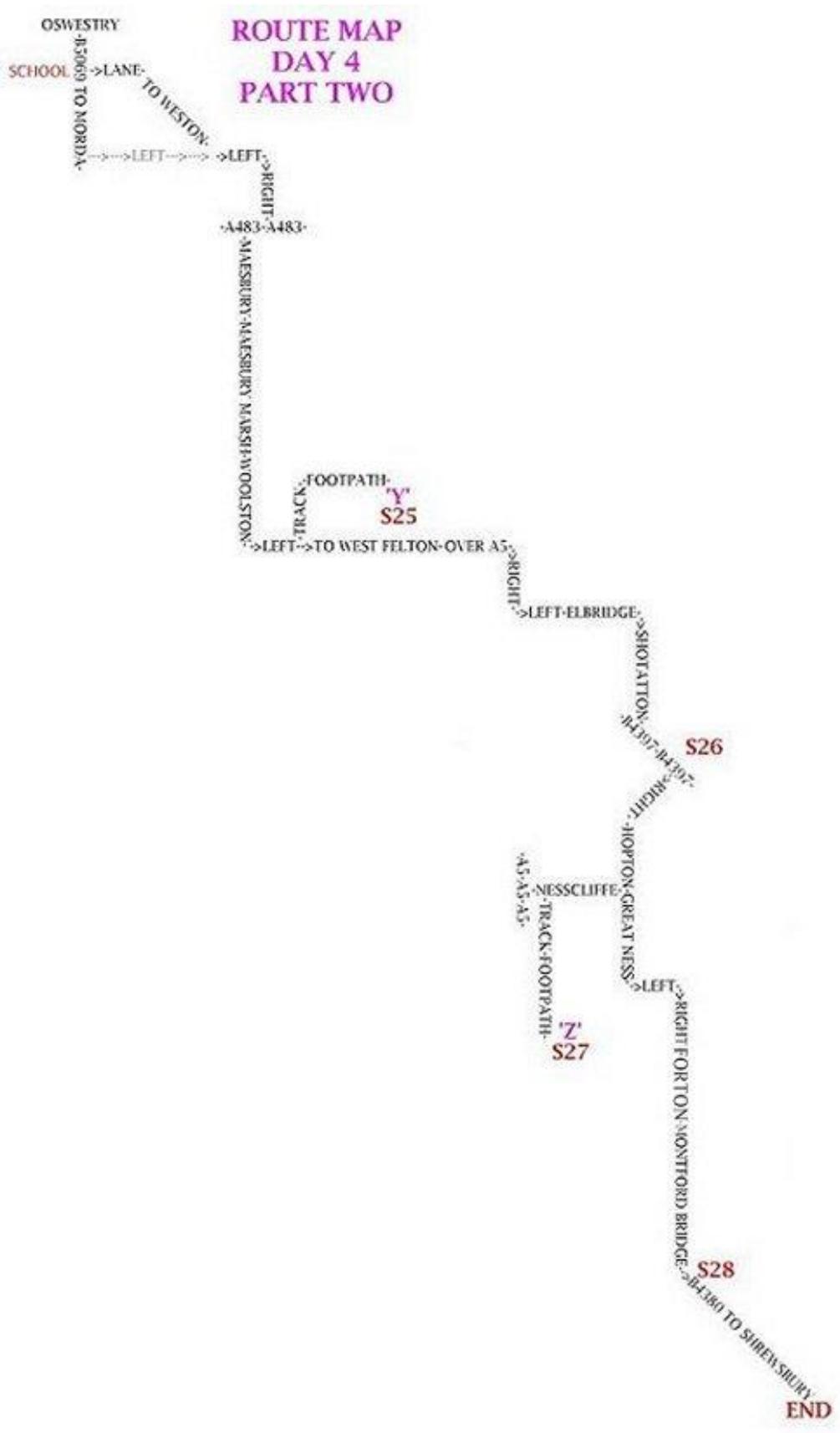
~ **Rest Break** The Original Ball Public House is 1 mile on the right ~

Continue to Maesbury Marsh, then Woolston. As the road goes sharply right turn left then left into track. At the end of the short track in the right hand corner a footpath leads to St. Winifred's Well. (**'Y'** on map) - 16 miles. *S25 - St. Winifred's Well*

Leave the track going left to West Felton, over the new A5. Turn right in the village along the old A5 almost to the end. Just before it rejoins the A5 go left and keep on the delightful, narrow lane to Elbridge. Here turn right at the Crossroads. CARE! Vision to the left is poor, LISTEN for traffic! Turn left on B4397. At this point Grug Hill appears to your left. *S26 - Robin Hood's Chair*

Turn right, then left to Hopton. Take the second right to Nesscliffe. Just before the A5 a track appears on the left. Go through the gate, lock your bike further up the track. Signs appear soon to the Highwayman's Cave. Walk up the steps to view. (**'Z'** on map) - 7 miles *S27 - Humphrey Kynaston*

Return back along the lane and take the first right to Great Ness. At the staggered crossroads keep left, then right at next crossroads on to Forton and into Montford Bridge. *S28 - Beelzebub's Massive Leap.*



At the B4380 turn left - Shrewsbury is approximately three miles. For the town centre turn first left at the traffic lights. Shrewsbury is the county town with Bed & Breakfast accommodation, Hotels, railway station, etc.

WELL DONE - YOU'VE MADE IT!