



The Devil's Chair, Stiperstones



# Route 1

## Bridges to Bishop's Castle

### Discover Shropshire

### Bridges

What a place, in its day the motorway services for the Bishop's Castle to Shrewsbury coach road. There was a forge, a coach house and a toll house. Now it's bypassed and gives a weary walker a haven of peace and quiet to sit with his ale and watch the brook run by.

### Stiperstones

This jagged ridge of bare stone tors abounds with myth and legend. Some say it's where Shropshire witches meet to sup with the devil as he sits on the rock called the Devil's chair.

The view from the top is as good as it gets. As one local said "it pulls the eyes right out of your head".

In summer the hills are aloud with the trilling song of skylarks and the evocative call of red grouse telling you to "go bak go bak go bak". Maybe they are trying to warn you about the witches.

### The Bog Centre

Take the short detour down to the Bog Centre. Once the building was the school at the heart of a thriving village. Lead has been mined here since Roman times. But now it's quiet. Visit it and find out more about what the village was like, enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of their famous "Bog Bake" cake.

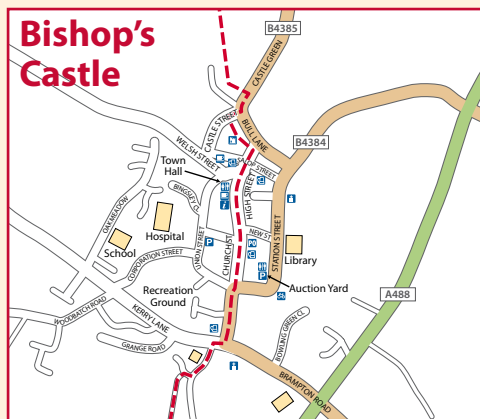


### More

Make sure to take the short detour and visit the hamlet of More. What a history for so tiny a place. A roman village nearby, a Norman motte and bailey and the remains of a medieval town. Go inside the church and look at the font. It's surrounded by a mosaic found when a Roman villa at Linley Hall was excavated.

### Bishop's Castle

How could this colourful little town ever be called rotten but it was. Until 1832 it was one of the "rotten boroughs" that returned two members of Parliament with so few voters that all could be bought. But its beginnings were far earlier, an Anglo-Saxon settlement and the site of a Norman motte and bailey. It is at the end of the Kerry Ridgeway. A drovers' road along which cattle, sheep and even geese were walked to market. The Drovers must have been a thirsty lot for there have been two breweries here since 1642!



### Cairns, Castles and Wild Edric

Walking the Shropshire Way from Bridges to Bishop's Castle will take you along paths and lanes travelled for thousands of years.

Think of the others that were here before you. You can see their signs everywhere:

- Ancient ways trod by Stone Age man bringing axes from Corndon hill.
- Cairns from the Bronze Age.
- The scars left from Iron Age mines.

The mounds and strange levels in the ground. These are all that's left of the once huge Norman forts and Roman villages that stood here.

### Wild Edric

Wild Edric was a Saxon noble who owned great tracts of Shropshire and the borders in the 11th Century. Then the Normans invaded and he fought them to save his land. But it was a losing battle and he joined the Normans. Legend has it that the witches hated this betrayal. They imprisoned him in the local lead mines and he is still there. Be carefully if you walk these hills at dusk. You may see a rider in a green cloak and feathered cap. This is Edric who with his fairy bride Lady Godda gallop the hills whenever England is threatened.



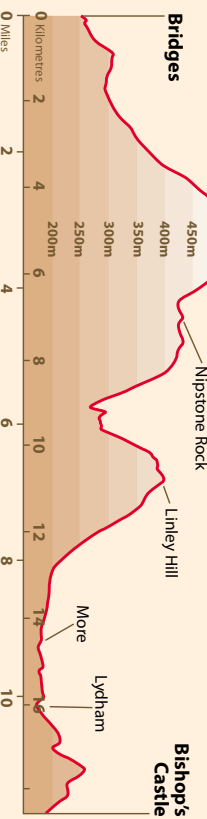
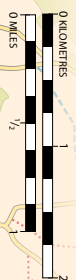
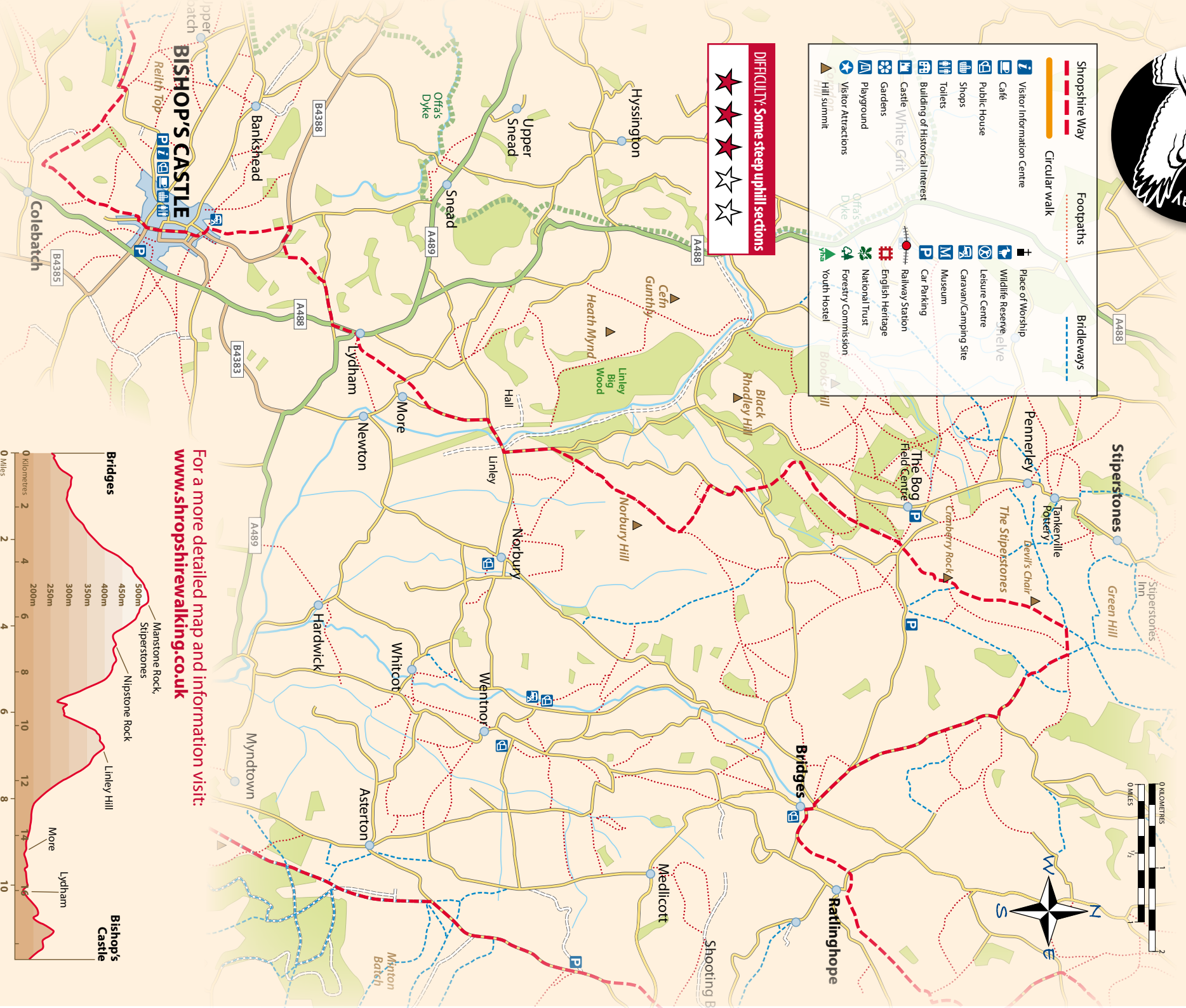


## Discover Shropshire

# Route 1

Shropshire Way	Footpaths	Bridleways
Circular walk	Place of Worship	Wildlife Reserve
Visitor Information Centre	Café	Public House
Shops	Toilets	Building of Historical Interest
Castle White Girt	Gardens	Playground
Visitor Attractions	Park	Railway Station
Hill Summit	National Trust	English Heritage
	Forestry Commission	Youth Hostel
	Car Parking	Museum
	Leisure Centre	Caravan/Camping Site
	Museum	Museum
	Youth Hostel	Youth Hostel

**DIFFICULTY: some steep uphill sections**



For a more detailed map and information visit:  
[www.shropshirewalking.co.uk](http://www.shropshirewalking.co.uk)