

11 SHROPSHIRE LUDLOW & MORTIMER FOREST

Distance: 10½ miles/16.5km Time: 4½ hours Grade: Challenging

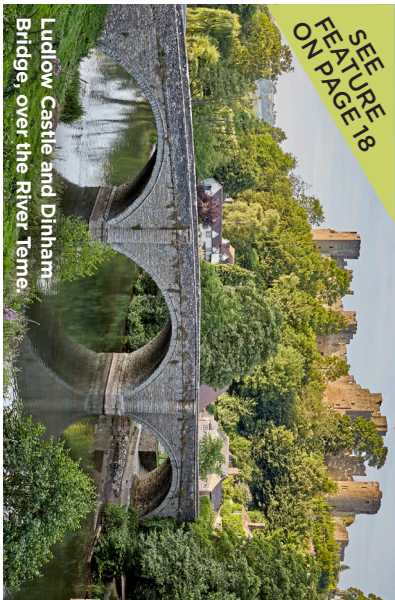


PHOTO: SIMON WHALEY

SEE FEATURE
ON PAGE 18

Ludlow Castle and Dinham Bridge, over the River Temme.



CHOSEN BY...
SIMON WHALEY

From Ludlow's bustling market, with its 12th century origins, this route runs around Ludlow's Norman Castle, once held by the Crown, into Mortimer Forest. This 20th-century-named forest covers three ancient Saxon hunting grounds where royals once caught their dinner. Eat the vistas, particularly from High Vinnalls and Whitcliffe Common, and look out for rare long-haired fallow deer.

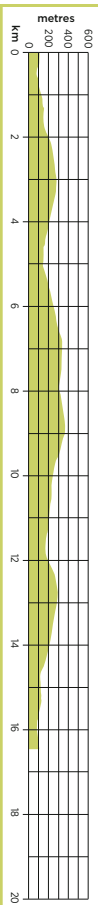
1 Start

From market, head towards castle, and turn R around castle perimeter. Take second path on R, signed Shropshire

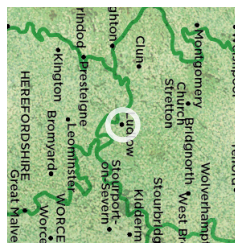
2 1¼ miles/2.1km

Cross over, passing through Mortimer Forest Whitcliffe car park, retaining MT track barrier gate, on wide forest track. Ignore crossing paths. Follow MT through forest and round to the L.

GRADIENT PROFILE



PLAN YOUR WALK



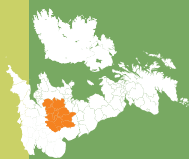
ROUTE

Start/parking Ludlow Market, grid ref S0510746. Parking Ludlow Smithfield, postcode SY8 1RN, or long-stay parking at Lower Galdeford SY8 1GT
Is it for me? Mostly forest tracks. Some steep climbs
Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Ludlow
Refreshments Ample choice in Ludlow. Try the Charlton Arms (01584 872813) or Church Inn (01584 874034)
Public toilets Castle Street (near market)
Public transport Shrewsbury to Ludlow bus 435 (Mon-Sat, minsterley motors.co.uk) Kiddermister to Ludlow 292 (Mon-Sat, diamondbuses.com). Ludlow railway station 0.5km from route start
Maps OS Explorer 203; Landranger 137

MIDLANDS



12 RUTLAND BRAUNSTON-IN-RUTLAND

Distance: 5¼ miles/8.5km Time: 2½ hours Grade: Easy

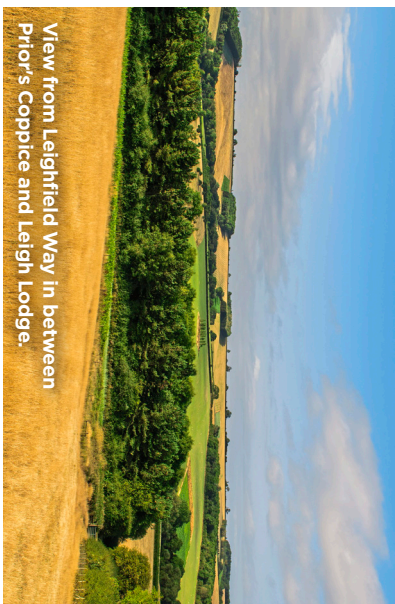


PHOTO: CAROL BURKINSHAW

View from Leighfield Way in between Prior's Copple and Leigh Lodge.



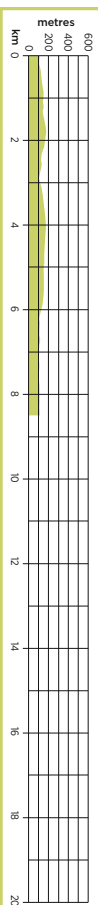
CHOSEN BY...
CAROL BURKINSHAW

Surrounded by rolling farmland, Braunston-in-Rutland lies on the Gwash, a tributary of the Welland, some two miles south-west of Rutland's county town of Oakham. Significant enough to be marked on OS Explorer maps as a tourist feature, a strange stone carving now stands in the village churchyard near the base of the tower. Known as the Braunston 'Goddess', it was discovered in the 1920s when the church doorstep was being replaced. Buried facedown, the sculpture was the doorstep! Its age and meaning continue to generate

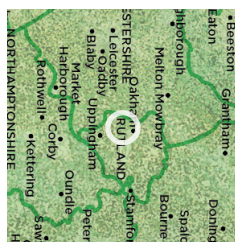
1 Start

With your back to Blue Ball pub (All Saints church opposite) go L along Cedar Street 15m to triangular

GRADIENT PROFILE



PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Considerate roadside parking on Cedar Street, Braunston (near church/Blue Ball Inn), grid ref SK832066, postcode LE15 8QS
Is it for me? Easy navigation across gently undulating fields (mainly sheep pasture) on good paths/tracks and quiet lanes
Stiles 10

PLANNING

Nearest town Oakham
Refreshments The Blue Ball Inn at start (theblueballbraunston.co.uk: 01572 722135)
Public toilets None
Public transport None
Maps OS Explorer 234; Landranger 141

junction. Turn R, signed for village hall, onto Wood Lane. The road gently heads uphill to sharp L bend where you

MIDLANDS

12 RUTLAND BRAUNSTON-IN-RUTLAND

OS Explorer map 234 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

stick forwards onto track. At the end of the buildings, cross footbridge and negotiate gate L into field. Walk across two fields diagonally towards Prior's Coppice to reach and climb stile.

2 ¾ mile/1.2km

Turn R on path in between woodland fringe and fence – two small ponds R in field – to reach track at end of trees. Enter field ahead – L of hedge end in front of you. Trace R-hand field boundary down to stile/track on edge of woodland. Divert L on track 15m and climb stile L. Strike diagonally R, rising to view of Leigh Lodge, and dropping to gate at far-R field corner beside this property. Go L short distance on track beside Leigh Lodge to T-junction.

3 1¼ miles/2.8km

Walk L up driveway for roughly one mile, passing Leigh Lodge cottages R, to meet Braunston Road. The site of the medieval Brooke village can be seen in the fields opposite. Walk R on lane, swinging L at Shorne Hill, to crossroads. Head L to junction in Brooke. The route curves L, with a lovely, long thatched cottage L, but it's worthwhile dropping R to admire this petite community and its church. Approaching R-hand bend, earthworks of Brooke Priory and a dovecote can be seen to R.

4 4¼ miles/6.8km

Just before private residence, which sits beside L kink in lane, enter field L to trace its R-hand border, which later curves L to marker post. Here, turn R over footbridge and then stile to grassy track. Divert L 5m and, via stile, enter field R. Bear diagonally L across field to next stile. Head R along field and go L in field corner to keep ahead across several fields and later

an enclosed path back to Wood Lane. Turn R to retrace your steps to a triangular junction and go L along Cedar Street to the start. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE!
walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING



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MIDLANDS

11 SHROPSHIRE LUDLOW & MORTIMER FOREST

OS Explorer map 203 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

Descend towards Mary Knoll Valley. Forest track turns sharp R. Pass rock face (R), then take second path on R (MT). Drop to cross stream, then climb to junction.

3 3 miles/4.8km

Turn L, then R onto narrow ascending path. At junction, turn R (MT), climbing through trees. Continue over crossing track, climbing towards open hillside. Fork L onto bridleway across Climbing Jack Common. At next junction, turn L, retaining bridleway. Drop to wide track. Turn R, then R again, onto stone track. Climb to fork, bear L to head to High Vinnalls summit.

4 5½ miles/8.7km

Follow path as it drops, bearing R. Take signed Vinnalls Loop on L. Drop to junction. Cross over, dropping to join a wide track. Ignore accessibility trail, then turn R onto stone track. Descend gently, crossing accessibility trail again, bearing R to crossing track. Turn L, over stream, then L again, alongside stream. Climb to junction and turn sharp R, climbing steeply through plantation. At junction, turn L onto wide track (used earlier). Where track turns R, continue ahead towards brick hut.

5 8 miles/12.7km

Turn R into the trees, using Climbing Jack waymarkers to

stone forest track. Cross over this onto narrow path. Drop to wide track. Paths messy here, but follow path alongside fence (on R). At bridleway junction, turn R, passing round mast (L). Continue past stables (R), dropping to junction. Turn R to road. Turn L for 30m, then R on narrow signed path. Drop through trees, to road, forking R at junction. Climb to path used earlier on L, but immediately fork R across Whitcliffe Common. Head across common, running parallel with

road. Join path that drops and bears L to boardwalk. Turn R. Follow to road junction. Turn L, crossing bridge. Climb Lower Broad Street. Pass through Broadgate, climbing Broad Street to Butter Cross. Turn L to return to market. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE!
walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

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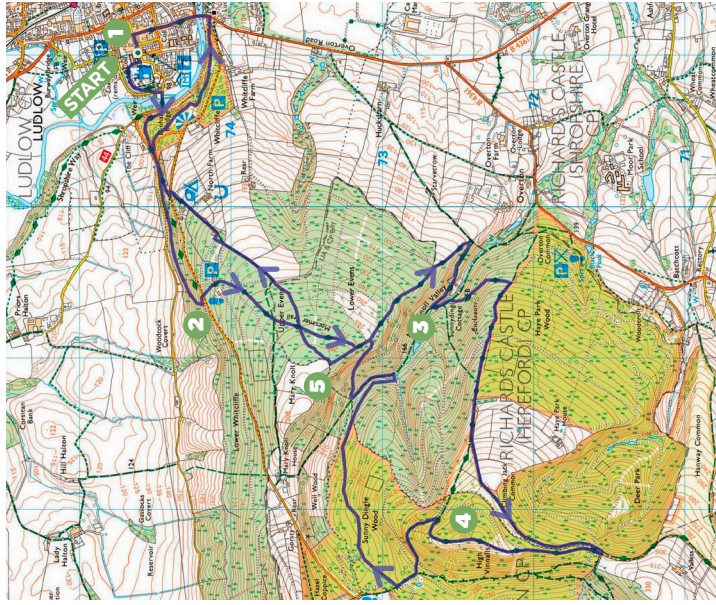


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MIDLANDS

