



09 SHROPSHIRE THE WREKIN & THE ERCALL

▶ Distance: 7½ miles/12km ▶ Time: 3 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate

Looking back at views across Wellington and Telford.



PHOTO: SIMON WHALEY



CHOSEN BY...
SIMON WHALEY
Climb the volcanically shaped hill of

volcanic rock, that isn't a volcano. This classic route offers fantastic views across Shropshire, Wales and the West Midlands, before exploring its neighbourly little sister, The Ercall. Source of the rock that built the A5, the Ercall's quarries revealed dramatic geological ripples where waves from a sub-tropical sea once lapped. Today, it's home to bird's-foot-trefoil, favoured flower of the dingy skipper butterfly.

1 Start

From the car park, cross the road, turn R onto stone path,

then turn sharp L onto a wide, stone track. Climb steadily, bearing R, through mature woodland. At a junction, turn sharp R. Climb past Halfway House, then soon after turn sharp L. Pass through Iron Age earthwork embankments of Hell's Gate and Heaven's Gate, eventually reaching summit trig point and toposcope.

2 1½ miles/2.3km

Most locals turn round and return to the car park the way they came, so from here, the route becomes much quieter. Continue ahead, now dropping, passing rocky outcrop on L (leave path here to see Needle's Eye). Path drops steeply through woodland (care: tree-root-strewn path is

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking

Forest Glen Car Park, grid ref SJ638092

Is it for me? Steep climbs in places, wide tracks, some country lanes

Stiles 2

PLANNING

Nearest town

Telford

Refreshments Halfway House (up The Wrekin) has limited opening; halfwayhouseonthewrekin.com for details. Nearest pub The Huntsman of Little Wenlock; 01952 503300

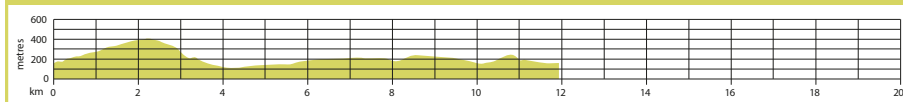
Public toilets

None on route

Public transport Nearest service (X4 Shrewsbury to Telford) stops about 1km away from point 5 at Wellington Ercall Lane bus stop (Mon to Sat)

Maps OS Explorer 242; Landranger 127

GRADIENT PROFILE



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► OS Explorer map 242 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

DON'T MISS...



According to folklore, any couple who pass through The Needle's Eye will have a long and trouble-free marriage, although should a girl look back, she will never wed.

slippery when damp). Cross over at junction, descend further, then climb to summit of Little Hill. Bear L onto small footpath opposite (ignore smaller path forking L almost immediately afterwards). Retain Shropshire Way, dropping over two more crossing tracks, to reach single track lane. Turn L.

3 2½ miles/4km

Pass Little Hill Farm and Bank Farm. Ignore road on R to Leighton. Pass Wrekin Scout Camp on L and later Gibbons Farm. Take signed footpath on L (opposite The Firs). Continue directly ahead, climbing through trees to gate at a field (livestock). Cross stile and follow R-hand boundary through field to gate opposite. Cross stile onto stone track. Follow past Wrekin Farm, pass through Wenlocks Wood, and continue to minor road.

4 4¾ miles/7.7km

Turn L. Take care, as this



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lane can be busy. Drop between the trees, to where lane bears L. (To shorten route, follow lane back to car park). Turn R, passing gate, onto track that climbs between fences, bearing L. Pass stone building on L, and at junction fork L. Climb through trees, eventually running alongside golf course on L. Later, the path turns L across the course (along line of silver birch trees), and drops into trees. Drop gently, retaining golf course on L, soon passing club house on L. Join tarmac drive.

5 6¼ miles/10.2km

After last green on L, take signed path on L, into wood.

Follow main path, crossing stream, then climb to junction. Turn L, and climb to another junction. Turn L, then drop through trees, retaining the Shropshire Way. Pass Erccall quarry on R then pond on L. Continue ahead on stone track, following Shropshire Way, dropping to the road. Turn L and follow road for 400m back to car park. **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

