



# 09 SHROPSHIRE RIVER ONNY & HOPESAY HILL

▶ Distance: 7 miles/11.5km ▶ Time: 3 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



Views of the Shropshire Hills from Heath Wood.

PHOTO: SIMON WHALEY

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Free parking at Onny Trail Car Park, grid ref SO430844

**Is it for me?** Disused railway lines, some steep sections, open hills, woodland tracks and country lanes

**Stiles** 11

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Craven Arms

**Refreshments** None on route (nearest: The Plough Inn, Wistanstow - 01588 673251)

**Public toilets** None on route

**Public transport** None. Service 435 (Shrewsbury to Ludlow - Mon to Sat) stops at Wistanstow, about 1km north of route

**Maps** OS Explorer 217; Landranger 137



CHOSEN BY...

**SIMON WHALEY**

Walk where trains once ran along the

Craven Arms to Bishops Castle railway line, as it passed through the picturesque Onny Valley. Today, it's quiet enough for kingfishers, dippers and red kites. Meander through some of Shropshire's unfrequented rolling hills, then head up Hopesay Hill (NT) and spend all afternoon gazing at the view. Don't forget your picnic.

## 1 Start

From the car park, take the signed kissing gate into the field, and follow the disused railway line between embankments. Continue

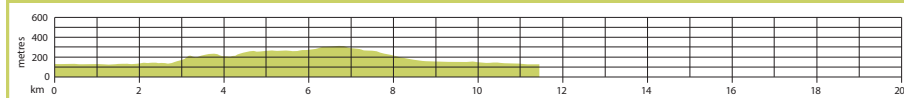
through a gate, then drop R, into a meadow alongside River Onny. Continue to a stile. Cross track, climbing steps opposite. (Those using the bus to Wistanstow (1km) can join route here.) Take kissing gate, and keep R through meadow. Cross stile into next field, following river on R. Cross stile and rejoin disused railway track. Continue ahead, along permissive path, taking a stile beside metal gate. Follow track to another stile by gate at a path junction. Ignore path on L, and continue ahead, along trackbed, passing under Glenburrell bridge.

## 2 1¼ miles/2.8km

Where railway crossed river, take path on L and climb

to a kissing gate. Continue along fence line on L. Bear R to stile on L. Cross and climb

## GRADIENT PROFILE



09 SHROPSHIRE  
RIVER ONNY & HOPESAY HILL► OS Explorer map 217 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

## DON'T MISS...



The Glenburrell bridge is the only remaining bridge crossing the Bishop's Castle railway to survive. It was renovated by members of the Bishop's Castle Railway Society.

to kissing gate opposite. Pass property on L and climb to kissing gate beside outbuilding. Climb to stile opposite. Cross into woods and climb (steeply) to wide forest track. Turn R. Drop and bear L. At junction with property, turn L. Climb gently, then bear R to a stile by gate. Continue along track, which bears R and drops. Follow track L into next field. Pass a property on R, then climb gently. Take gate up into woods to a junction with a lane. Turn R.

**3** 3 miles/4.8km

Follow lane to junction at Round Oak. Turn L, passing properties and ignoring minor lane R to The Fish. Continue ahead, climbing gently. After entrance to Wart Hill on L, take the kissing gate on R (beside byway) to enter Hopesay Hill (NT). Climb along L boundary. Pass through kissing gate and continue climbing. Ignore next two footpaths on L. After



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passing summit, drop gently, to path junction.

**4** 4½ miles/7.3km

Turn L, through kissing gate, signed to Craven Arms. Follow boundary on R, dropping to stile in corner. Cross onto track, then drop to field. Keep R, dropping to kissing gate. Enter field, cut across, eventually picking up boundary on L. Drop to stile beside cottage. Cross into large grazing area. Cut across to kissing gate opposite (passing Sibdon Castle Farm on L). Take kissing gate, cross bridge and kissing gate into next field, bearing L to kissing gate. Cross tarmac lane and

take kissing gate opposite into field. Head across, bearing gently L to opposite corner. Cross stile and drop to lane.

**5** 5½ miles/9km

Turn L. Follow narrow lane to junction, and cross straight over. Follow this lane to next junction, then turn R to return to the car park. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON  
OS MAPS ONLINE:  
[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



© Country Walking September 2020

DATE WALKED


TIME TAKEN


YOUR RATING

