

6 Keeping hedge to left the next stile is in the far left hand corner of field. Walk up hill keeping hedge on left. Pass gateway, (don't go through). Stile is on the left a short distance past the gateway. Cross field to next stile diagonally right. The next stile is slightly to the right by the edge of a wood. Walk straight across the next two fields over stiles until reaching a swing gate across the third field. Don't pass through this gate but turn left along the field edge and through another swing gate to the road. (The entrance to Haughton Farm is opposite).

To the left notice a small wood fenced off. This is the paupers' burial ground and is all that is left of the workhouse which stood where the house called "Green Gables" now stands.

7 Turn right along road and over disused railway bridge until reaching T junction. Turn left and take footpath on the right through gate to "The Mere and Woodland Walk". Turn left and follow path through woods along the mere.

At the sign for Welshampton turn left along the narrow path between the wooden fence on right and hedge. Where path meets tarmac track carry on in same direction. On approaching Crimps Farm turn right following track and pass through gateway at the bottom of a steep slope. Make way up slope, taking a breather at the top to look back on the expansive views of Ellesmere, Llangollen and Dinas Bran towards Wrexham and Minera Mountain. Keeping as near as possible to the fence on the right make way down slope to a swing gate from which the next is clearly visible. Notice the trig point on the skyline to the right. From this swing gate bear slightly right across field to next swing gate and then in same direction through the next field and upslope to a swing gate on the right just over brow. There is a copse of trees on left and an area fenced off for pheasants to feed. Follow the hedge down slope and around right bend and continue following hedge on right, passing two ponds on right, towards another swing gate in hedge on right. Follow the path on the left side of the hedge. (If path is overgrown walk above it along edge of field.) Follow the path to where the length of hedge ends and join track on left, turning right along track until reaching a metal barred gate that leads through a farmyard. Bear right crossing farmyard between farmhouse and barn conversions. On reaching road turn left passing village school on left and church on right. Continue along road towards The Sun Inn and start of walk.

The Nature Improvement Area and Landscape Partnership Scheme

The Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme is working to preserve, enhance and raise awareness of this precious landscape. The Partnership is mainly funded by a combination of money from Heritage Lottery Fund and a Government funded Nature Improvement Area; this project area covers the heartland of the wider Meres and Mosses region.

This work is being delivered by a wide partnership comprising:

Butterfly Conservation
Canal and River Trust
Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Environment Agency
Harper Adams University
Natural England
RSPB

Shropshire Rural Community Council
Shropshire Council
Shropshire Wildlife Trust



Please note that while the publishers take every care to be accurate, no liability or responsibility will be accepted in any circumstances whatsoever, should anyone experience any inaccuracies, loss, damage or injury. This leaflet/map should be used solely on this understanding.

WALK 5

Circular route Welshampton to Ellesmere
Parking available at Parish Hall, adjacent side road on A495 and at Sun Inn with proprietors' consent

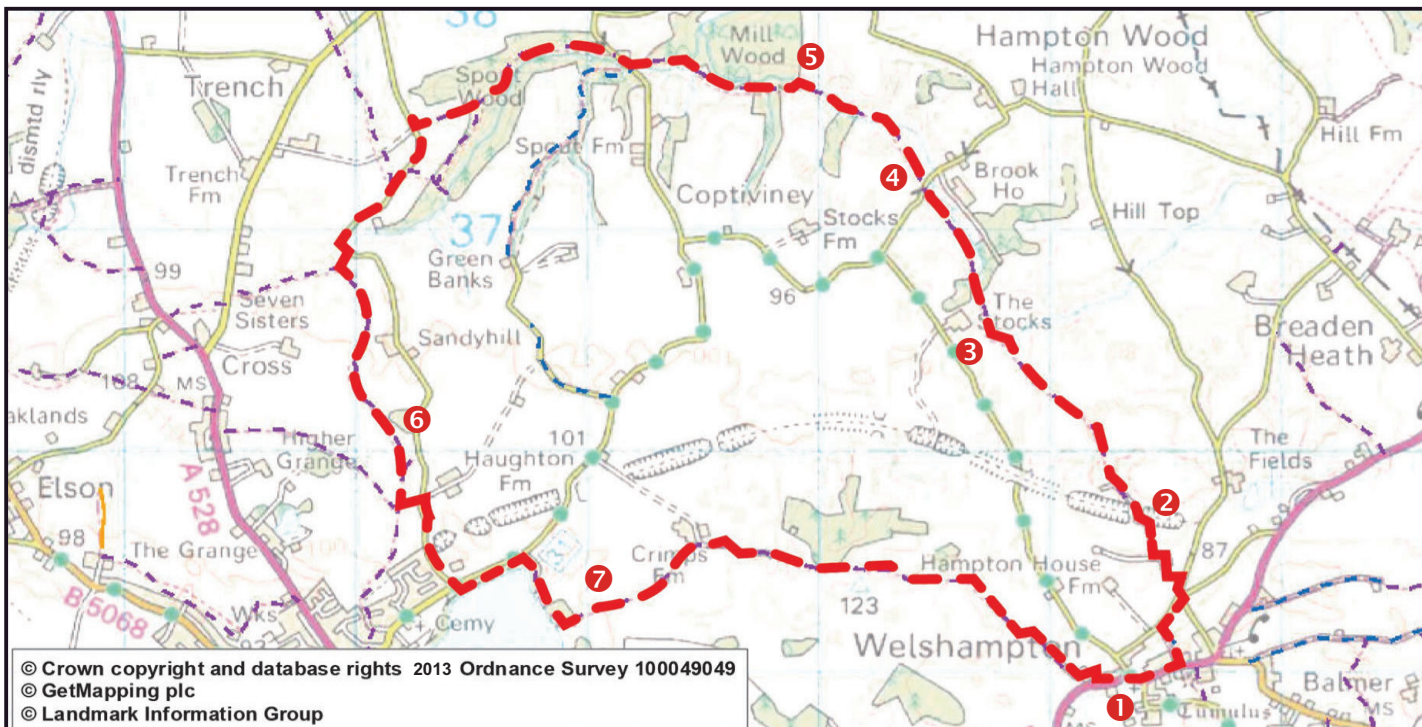
Fields and woods using paths and tracks (may be muddy) **23 stiles**

8¼ miles
4 hours +



Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council





1 See off in the direction of Ellesmere from Welshampton. Turn right down the bridle path **Taylor's Lane** just after the row of cottages that abut the pavement.

Notice the prehistoric burial mound on the opposite side of the road to the turning.

At the bottom of the path turn right along road, and where it is joined by two more roads, keep left. Take the next footpath signposted left down the track for Hawthorn House and follow the track past the house and outbuildings. Follow the track left and then right (do not go straight on), then over a disused railway bridge...

The Cambrian Railway was opened in 1863 and closed as part of the Beeching Plan in 1965. A few hundred yards to the east "The Welshampton Railway Disaster" occurred in June 1897.

2 ...and straight on along the track to a field. Here walk along the hedge on the right to a marker post at the end of the hedge about 50 metres from the field entrance. The first stile can be difficult to locate: from the marker post. Carry on crossing the field in the same direction.

The stile is situated in the hedge to the left of two oak trees growing very closely together and about 50 meters right of the field corner.

3 Cross the next field diagonally left, in the direction of a farm and outbuildings, to the next stile and then across this stile and down the field to the next one which is in the left hand corner of the field by an electricity pole. Walk across the following field slightly diagonally right, heading towards the far right of the farm outbuildings, to a stile, and through the next small field to an opening. It appears that there may have been a bridge here which has collapsed at some time over the shallow stream. Please take care walking through as it may be muddy and uneven. In the next field keep to the right of the stream.

There is now a permissive footpath along here as the official footpath on the other side of the brook is permanently waterlogged. At the far end of the field cross over stream through gate and head towards a wooden bridge to the left of a gate. Cross bridge, (may be muddy here), and walk along field path, faint in places, passing a sandy bank on the left with the stream on the right.

Go over the next stile and straight across the field to a roadside stile. Cross road and over stile opposite.

4 Walk diagonally approximately 45 degrees right, cross a small ditch in the field, to a bridge. Turn left over bridge walking along brook. Over next stile and, walking through field with the brook on the left, look out for an oak tree on the right. Opposite here there are two stiles either side of the brook. Cross the bridge here and walk diagonally right, passing a large tree on the right, in the direction of the wood.

5 Follow the perimeter fence on the right and pass through a wooden wicket gate. Walk through the wood along the track to the next wooden gate and through the field to stile. Keeping as close as possible to the edge of the wood on the right follow the perimeter until reaching a gate to enter the wood (can be very muddy here!) Follow the marker signs through the wood along the distinct tract to a stile and cross a small field to a stile and gate by road. Turn right for Spout Wood.

The spout comes from the Welsh "ysbyty" (hospital). This area was once part of the estate of the Knights Hospitaller of Halston and who were the patrons of Ellesmere Church.

The entrance is on the left opposite the bungalow and accessed by either the gate or stile. Follow the track for approximately 603m/660yds and where there is a fork in the route follow the track to the left beside stream. Shortly after this note a left turn over a bridge and up slope but look on right for a faint path diagonally up slope and take this turning. (Grid Ref: 40663766) On reaching top ignore stile ahead through trees but carry on track veering slightly to the left and past marker post. (Stable buildings can be seen to the right in field.) Follow path and over stile on right at the edge of the wood and cross field diagonally left to roadside stile.

Turn left along road. Ignore first stile on right. After passing a house called 'Tall Trees' on the left, cross next stile on right just after a left hand bend. Follow hedge line on right, ignoring first stile and then gateway, to a stile tucked away in far right hand corner of field. Keeping hedge to right hand side, look out for bridge with stile through hedge. Pass over bridge and stile and turn left.