

CASTLES GALORE O/S Landranger Sheet 137

Short Route. Richards Castle, Ludlow Castle, Wigmore Castle. 28 miles with steep climb out of Ludlow on return. Alternative return route.

Medium Route. Richards Castle, Ludlow, Stokesay and Wigmore. 40 moderate miles

Long Route. Add Bishops Castle and Hopton Castle, several long steady climbs and one short beastly one to make 73 miles. There are some short cuts worth 13 miles.

BERRINGTON HALL. National Trust property built in 1783 by Henry Holland for Thomas Harley. The park was laid out by Capability Brown. There is a tea room but you will have to pay an entrance fee to the grounds to access it. Group rate for Tandem 2011 for house visit.

RICHARDS CASTLE. Here there is a beautiful 14th C church with a detached tower and close by the remains of a very early Norman castle founded by Richard FitzScrob, a Norman noble who actually lived in the castle before William the Conqueror landed.

LUDLOW. Oh come you on a Monday - when Ludlow Market hums
And Ludlow bells are playing - 'The Conquering Hero comes'

So wrote A E Houseman who is interred in the churchyard. The Market is still here and the bells of St Laurence's still ring out in this fine historic town with its 500 listed buildings and medieval street layout. The 900 year old castle, built to keep the Welsh at bay, became the headquarters of the Council of the Marches and was the last Royalist fortress to fall in the Civil War.

WIGMORE. Built by the Mortimers who played a large part in our history and once one of the most powerful fortresses in the Marches. It has recently been 'restored' by English Heritage as a 'romantic ruin'.

SHROPSHIRE HILLS DISCOVERY CENTRE. Café accessible without payment.

STOKESAY CASTLE. One of the finest examples of a fortified manor house in England dating back to the 13th C. Not to be missed.

LEINTWARDINE. Formerly the Roman town of Bravonium sited at the confluence of the Teme and the Clun. The church is built on a Saxon site on top of Roman remains. Good butchers and an excellent fish and chip shop. A few doors past the chippy is the Sun Inn - a real time warp. Sadly Flossie Lane Britain's oldest landlady who some may remember, died in June 2009 at the age of 94. Her memorial is a misericord in the church.

ACTON SCOTT. Working farm museum with café. Well worth a visit.

CHURCH STRETTON. This busy little town once a 19th century health resort stands in the beautiful valley between the Long Mynd and Caer Caradoc.

MINTON. This hamlet is said by archaeologists to give a striking impression of what a Saxon settlement was like. It has a Saxon castle mound and the farmhouse and manor house encircle the village green.

BISHOPS CASTLE. Here the bishops of Hereford had a castle on land bequeathed by Egwin Shakehead who was cured of palsy at the Hereford shrine of St Ethelbert. Until 1965 it was the smallest borough in England. It is an utterly charming lazy unpretentious little market town well worth a potter round. The oldest inn, the Three Tuns, has its own Victorian tower brewery and the Six Bells by the church also brews.

HOPTON CASTLE. Given by Henry II to one of his supporters in 1165 this Norman fortress suffered more at the hands of the English than of the Welsh. In 1644 it was held for the Parliamentarians by 33 men commanded by Samuel More against a Royalist force of 5000. After a month the Roundheads surrendered and the mound became slippery with their blood as they were massacred by the Royalists.

CASTLES GALORE – Monday 22nd August
O/S Landranger Sheet 137

Route	Distance	Ref	Instructions	Map Ref	
SML	0.0	0.0	1	L at camp site exit	439644
SML	1.4	1.4	2	L at X, SP Yarpole, Bircher	453631
SML	2.5	1.1	3	SO at X	468640
SML	2.8	0.3	4	R, SP Leominster (chicken houses on R after turn)	471643
SML	3.8	1.0	5	R at T on to main road. Take Care.	485636
SML	3.9	0.1	6	L by Holy Well in Luston, SP Eye, Berrington Hall etc.	486634
SML	5.7	1.8	7	Entrance to <u>BERRINGTON HALL</u> on R	509641

To visit the restaurant you will have to pay entrance fee to grounds. Reduction for TC members for visit to house applies all week.

SML	6.2	0.5	8	L on to A49. (Retrace route from B. Hall after visit)	515644
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Please take great care because this is an accident black spot.

SML	6.3	0.1	9	L opp.farm on Rt hand bend with Yellow Chevrons	515647
SML	8.4	2.1	10	SO at X in Orleton (Shop L, Boot Inn R)	491671
SML	8.7	0.3	11	SO at X past Maidenhead Inn	487673
SML	9.7	1.0	12	BR, SP Portway, Wooferton	478678
SML	9.8	0.1	13	L, SP Goggin, Richards Castle	477683
SML	10.0	0.2	14	SO by Cullis Cottage SP The Goggin, Elton	477685
SML	10.4	0.4	15	R, SP Richards Castle, Ludlow	476691
SML	11.6	1.2	16	SO at X, SP Ludlow (or TL if you wish to visit <u>RICHARDS CASTLE</u> . Follow sign to 'Historic Church' (and castle!))	488701
SML	12.2	0.6	17	L by church on to main road	495707
SML	13.8	1.6	18	L along B4361 SP Ludlow	509725
SML	14.9	1.1	19	SO thro' lights, over R.Teme, and up hill thro' town gate, up Broad St. At top L and into Castle Square in <u>LUDLOW</u>	510747

Several good cafes and pubs. De Grey's at the top of Broad St is excellent for old world service.

MEDIUM AND LONG ROUTES GO TO REF 27.

The Short return route involves a climb of 650 feet in approx 1.8 miles. The views are worth the effort but if you feel this is too intimidating the only practicable alternative is to retrace your route over Ludford Bridge and then follow the B4361 and B4362 via Richards Castle and Bircher with your own variations.

S	15.2	0.3	20	L in front of Castle, along Dinham, down hill, over R.Teme, round sharp left bend and up hill.	
S	15.7	0.5	21	R at T on to main road. No SP	505743
S	17.7	2.0	22	Hazel Coppice marks the top of the hill!	
S	18.1	0.4	23	Take a breather in Vinnalls Car Park on left before long downhill thro' Aston (see church), Elton (see Hall), windmill above church just before Leinthall Starkes and into <u>WIGMORE</u> .	475732
S	23.2	5.1	24	L at X on to A4110 SP Kingsland, Leominster.	413691
S	27.0	3.8	25	L at Mortimers Cross , SP Ludlow etc.	425636
S	28.1	1.1	26	R, Lucton School .	438644

ML	15.2	0.3	27	L in front of castle, along Dinham, down hill, over R.Teme	
ML	15.5	0.3	28	R immediately after bridge SP Cliff Hotel. Ignore 'No through road'	504746
ML	16.6	1.1	29	SO through farm.	492753
ML	17.0	0.4	30	SO at gate. Ignore 'No unauthorised vehicles'	
ML	17.7	0.7	31	SO over 'Weak Bridge'	
ML	17.9	0.2	32	R to A49 . Cross A49 . Use Underpass. R then L , SP Racecourse, Golf Club.	482770
ML	18.4	0.5	33	L at level crossing. Follow railway line	487775
ML	20.8	2.4	34	R(SO) in Onibury by Apple Tree Pub. SP Norton. Good for a break.	455792

SHORT CUT - L down to the A49 at Onibury, across the railway and river then R, SP 'Rare Poultry Collection' (which is worth a visit for all ages). Then SO for Shelderton to Ref 42.

ML	23.1	2.3	35	L at X on B4368 SP Craven Arms. 460828	
ML	24.6	1.5	37	L in Craven Arms along A49 . SP Leominster.	433827
ML	24.8	0.2	38	L into SHROPSHIRE HILLS DISCOVERY CENTRE	

Here there is a good café. There is no admission charge for café users. If you wish to visit STOKESAY CASTLE carry on along the A49 for about ½ mile (there is a rideable pavement on right).

RETURN TO CRAVEN ARMS ON A49, HERE MEDIUM AND LONG ROUTES SEPARATE. MEDIUM ROUTE L AT 1st MINI-RBT. LONG ROUTE R AT 2nd MINI-RBT, GO TO REF 51

M	25.0	0.2	39	L on Clun Road SP Clun. Under Railway	433827
M	25.6	0.6	40	L on Park Lane (Roman Road) SP Rowton Shelderton	423827
M	27.1	1.5	41	SO at X towards Leintwardine . No SP	413804
M	28.9	1.8	42	SO SP Leinwardine , Ludlow	406776
M	29.4	0.5	43	L at T , No SP .	398771
M	30.9	1.5	44	R at T SP LEINTWARDINE , Down village.	404749
M	31.6	0.7	45	L imm.after bridge over R.Teme. Paytoe Ind. Est. on R	404738
M	32.8	1.4	46	BR at Paytoe Hall	412715

***NB.** Paytoe Lane reported very potholey. Alternative route over bridge and SO on **A4110** to **WIGMORE**

M	33.7	0.9	47	L , SP Leominster, WIGMORE	404707
M	35.0	1.3	48	SO on A4110 SP Kingsland, Leominster	413690
M	38.8	3.8	49	L at Mortimers Cross SP Ludlow etc.	425636
M	39.9	1.1	50	R , Lucton School .	438646

L	25.1	0.3	51	R in Craven Arms opposite 'Harry Tuffins Supermarket' on to B4368 SP Much Wenlock	433828
L	25.4	0.3	52	L , SP Halford and Halford Church	438829
L	25.6	0.2	53	R at Halford Mill	437833
L (?1.5m)	26.6	1.0	54	SO , SP Lower Dinchope , Westhope	448842
L	26.8	0.2	55	L at T , SP Westhope	451844
L	27.6	0.8	56	SO , (R leads to tower L to farm)	457854
L	29.0	1.4	57	L at T , SP Middlehope, Ticklerton	475863
L	29.5	0.5	58	BL , No SP (There was but Beryl says it's gone!)	477869
L	30.6	0.7	59	SO , SP Ticklerton	482879
L	31.0	0.4	60	BL keeping to major road to Ticklerton, Acton Scott .	483886

L	32.4	1.4	61	SO past farm SP <u>ACTON SCOTT</u> ,	483907
L	34.4	2.0	62	R at X just past Farm Museum, SP Ragdon	454900
SHORT CUT by carrying SO to A49, R past 'Lazy Trout Café' [stop for a cuppa if you wish] and immediately L along B4370 to Ref 71 saving 6 miles. Please take great care along the A49.					
L	36.2	1.8	63	SO at Ragdon Cottage SP Church Stretton	461923
L	37.0	0.8	64	Take Care - Very Steep Descent L at Main Road and <u>immediately</u> left along Hasler Road	468933
L	37.7	0.7	65	L at T with main road and SO at Traffic lights into <u>CHURCH STRETTON</u>	458936
L	38.0	0.3	66	L at X opp.Lloyds Bank SP Little Stretton – but SO and immediately on right is Hollybush Café – good stop. SO at mini RBT.	
L	39.5	1.5	67	R at Ragleth Inn, L at T, R at farm, no SPs and up horribly steep hill into <u>MINTON</u>	442918
L	40.7	1.2	68	SO in Minton SP Hamperley then R at T	430907
L	41.9	1.2	69	L at X by Hamperley Farm, SP Marshbrook	420893
L	42.3	0.4	70	R at T, No SP	425888
L	43.8	1.5	71	R at T on to A489, SP Bishops Castle	410871
L (?2.0m)	44.9	1.1	72	L at Plowden, SP Eyton, Lydbury North	381877
SHORT CUT here to Ref 79 on B4385 at Kempton saving 7 miles					
L	45.4	0.5	73	R in Eyton, SP Totterton	373876
L	47.0	0.6	74	R at T, SP Totterton, Bishops Castle	361878
L	49.4	2.4	75	SO at X into <u>BISHOPS C'STLE</u> , R past the 'Three Tuns' L opposite the 'Crown Hotel' and down the hill to the 'Six Bells' and the church, L at T.	323885
L	50.3	0.9	76	SO at X, SP Craven Arms (B4385)	326884
L	50.8	0.5	77	BR following B3485 to Craven Arms	331878
L	53.4	2.6	78	SO through Lydbury North	
L	56.3	2.9	79	R in Kempton opposite Barlow House	360830
L	56.7	0.4	80	Over River Kemp and BL, SP Purslow	357826
*Or SO for 1 mile to 'Old Wheelwright's Tea Rooms' at X. Then TR for 81 and L at X					
L	57.8	1.1	81	SO at X by 'Hundred House' SP Leintwardine	360810
L	59.5	1.7	82	R just after Twitchen, SP <u>HOPTON CASTLE</u>	373788
L	60.2	0.7	83	L at T, SP Hopton Heath, Bedstone	366781
L	61.6	1.4	84	R at T over railway, then R at T with main road, SP Leintwardine, Knighton	381775
L	62.0	0.4	85	L, SP Leintwardine B4385	382768
L	63.0	1.0	86	R at T, SP Leintwardine	397767
L	64.2	1.2	87	R at T, SP <u>LEINTWARDINE</u>	404749
L	64.9	0.7	88	L imm.after bridge over R.Teme Paytoe Ind Est on R	404738
L	66.3	1.4	89	BR at Paytoe Hall	412715
*NB. Paytoe Lane reported very potholey. Alternative route over bridge and SO on A4110 to WIGMORE					
L	67.2	0.9	90	L, SP Leominster, <u>WIGMORE</u> .	
Turn R in Wigmore if you wish to visit castle - there is no admission charge. 404707					
L	68.5	1.3	91	SO on A4110 SP Kingsland, Leominster	413690
L	72.3	3.8	92	L at Mortimers Cross SP Ludlow etc.	425636
L	73.4	1.1	93	R, Lucton School.	438646