



Royal
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Shaping the landscape

A self-guided walk around Ludlow in Shropshire



Explore a different side of a Shropshire market town
Discover how icy torrents of water reshaped the landscape
Find clues to the power and extent of natural forces
See how humans have made use of the geological legacy

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the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks





This booklet is to be used alongside the audio commentary for this walk

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Cover image: Ludlow in frost from Whitcliffe Common © Shropshire&TelfordTSB, Flickr (CCL)

Shaping the landscape

Discover the dramatic impact of glaciers in Ludlow

There is much more to Ludlow than meets the eye. This walk tells the story of the most dramatic events ever to affect this picturesque Shropshire market town.

Visit beautiful viewpoints, stroll along tranquil riverbanks, explore medieval streets and enjoy lush meadows whilst discovering how the landscape was utterly transformed by natural forces.



This is the story of ice and water. Three glaciers came very close to this area and the water that melted from them reshaped the landscape. Rivers changed direction, gorges were cut out by torrents of icy water and vast amounts of sediment were dumped.

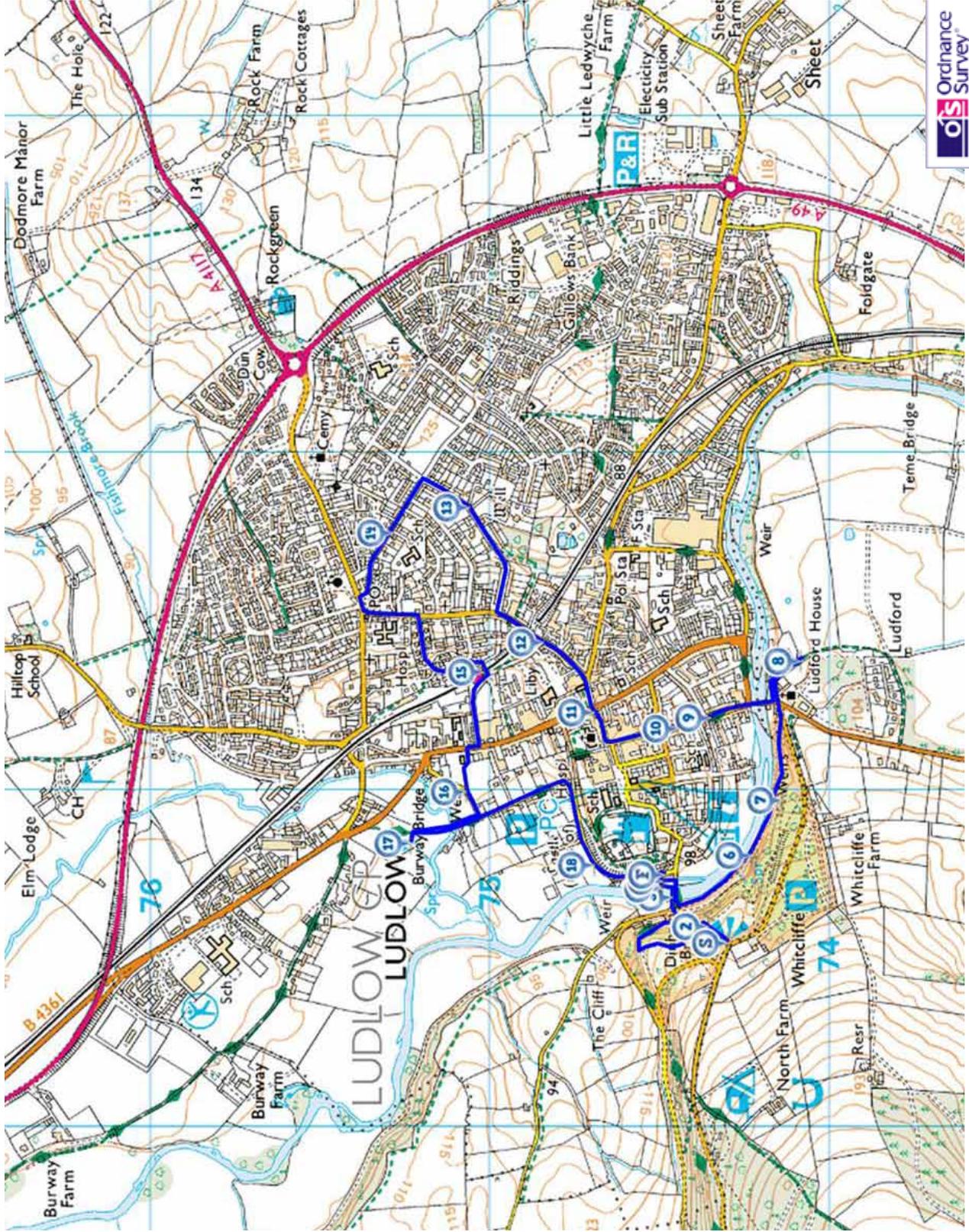


Along the riverbanks and across the town – in street names and road layouts, in sewers and churchyards, in building stones and cobblestones – there are clues to what happened tens of thousands of years ago.

Find out how humans have made use of the landforms created by melting glaciers and how the area's geological history still affects life in Ludlow today.

Top: Early morning mist along the River Teme in Ludlow © Ian Capper, Geograph (CCL)
Bottom: Cobbled verges in Upper Broad Street © Michael Rosenbaum

Route overview



Getting there

Car

Ludlow is on the A49 12 miles north of Leominster and 28 miles south of Shrewsbury. Whitcliffe Common is on high ground just to the west of Ludlow town. There is free parking at Whitcliffe Common either in the small roadside layby or an off-road car park in the wood about 200 metres from the start point.

- Coming from the north along the A49, bear left on the first slip road signposted 'Ludlow' and continue straight through the town. At the south end this main road crosses the river (narrow bridge controlled by traffic lights) and immediately after turn first right (signposted Wigmore); the viewpoint is 750 m from this junction.

- Coming from the south along the A49, bear left on the first slip road signposted 'Ludlow' and continue straight towards the town. 300 m after passing the 30 mph sign and before the river bridge take the first left (signposted Wigmore); the viewpoint is 750 m from this junction.

Train

The nearest railway station is Ludlow (just under 1 mile from start point). Ludlow is on the Welsh Marches Line with direct connections southbound to Hereford and South Wales and northbound to Shrewsbury, North Wales, Chester and Manchester. There are generally one or two trains per hour (Mondays to Saturdays), hourly on Sundays.

If arriving by train note that Stop 15 is at the station. If you wish first to walk to Stop 1 then turn left out of the station up the hill towards the town centre. At the traffic lights turn right along Upper Galdeford and at the end by the supermarket continue straight into pedestrianised Tower Street. At next road junction, cross straight over and follow King Street which becomes High Street.

Walk through Market Square towards the castle. In front of the castle turn left along Dinham with the walls on your right. Follow the lane around the perimeter of the castle. At the bottom, cross the bridge over the river. On the far side of the bridge, go through the gap in the stone wall on the left and take the footpath straight ahead up the steps. Follow the footpath upwards through the woodland. Immediately after the second set of steps, turn left along the footpath which brings you out at the open ground of Whitcliffe Common. Go up the grassy slope to the viewpoint at the information board.

Bus

Ludlow is served by various local and regional buses within the Welsh Marshes and West Midlands. Most are infrequent but there are 2-hourly services from Kidderminster, Shrewsbury and Hereford (Monday to Saturday only).

Alight at the Market Square, the terminus for most bus services (except those to/from Kidderminster, which leave from the Old Post Office in Corve Street). To walk from Market Square to the start of the walk follow the instructions given above.

Practical information

Location	Ludlow, South Shropshire
Start point	Viewpoint, Whitcliffe Common, Whitcliffe Road, Ludford, Ludlow (postcode of nearest building SY8 2HB)
Finish point	Dinham Millennium Green, Linney, Ludlow, SY8 1EG
Walk distance	3 ½ miles
Shorter option	Stops 13 and 14 can be omitted, thereby reducing the route by 1 mile
Level	Gentle – An easy walk around the town and riverbanks; there are steps in several places along the route (between Stops 2 and 3, between Stops 6 and 8, and at Stop 15)
Terrain	The walk is largely on pavements and well-defined tracks paved with gravel or floored by bedrock, for which strong shoes are adequate.
Conditions	The tracks floored by bedrock can be very slippery when wet. The town can be busy both with people and traffic.
Suitable for	Families Pushchairs / Prams - provided the parents can carry these up the few steps en route Disabled/Mobility impaired - there are steps as noted above; the steps at Stop 15 can be avoided by taking the footpath above the tunnel mouth at the south end of the station Dogs - although they need to be under control throughout
Refreshments	Ludlow has a reputation as a gastronomic centre so there is an excellent range of cafes, restaurants and pubs all with a strong emphasis on local produce. Particularly recommended are: Green Café - Castle Mill, Dinham Millennium Green (Stop 5 or after Stop 19) (closed Mondays) The Olive Branch - 2 Old St, Ludlow (Stop 11) – vegetarian The Café - 6 New Road, East Hamlet (between Stops 14 and 15)

Toilets

Castle Street car park north of the Market Square in the town centre (a slight diversion en route from Stop 10 to Stop 11)

Tesco and Aldi supermarkets (between Stops 15 and 16)

Linney Riverside Park (Stop 18)

Places to visit

There is plenty to see and do in Ludlow if you have the time to explore including:

Ludlow Castle (11th century) in its imposing position above the River Teme with its ruins dating back to the Norman, Medieval and Tudor periods



Ludlow Museum with exhibitions telling the story of Ludlow plus a celebration of Ludlow's contribution to international geology

St Laurence's Church dating back to the 12th century and with an impressive tower, affording an excellent panorama

Ludlow Market which has operated on the same site for over 900 years and offers shoppers a fantastic choice of products from small and artisan producers and sellers (regular markets on Mon, Weds, Fri and Sat; local farmers markets on second and fourth Thursday of the month, plus specialist markets on Sundays)

Titterstone Clee for those wishing to take in the bracing air of the hill tops to the east of Ludlow that are visible from Stop1; you can drive almost to the summit or else take the Kidderminster bus alighting at Clee Hill village and walking.

Tourist information

Ludlow Visitor Information Centre, Castle Street

Mon to Sat 10 am to 5pm (year round)

Sun 10.30am to 5pm (April to Oct only)

Tel: 01584 875 053

Email: ludlow.tourism@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

Websites: www.ludlow.org.uk www.shropshiretourism.co.uk

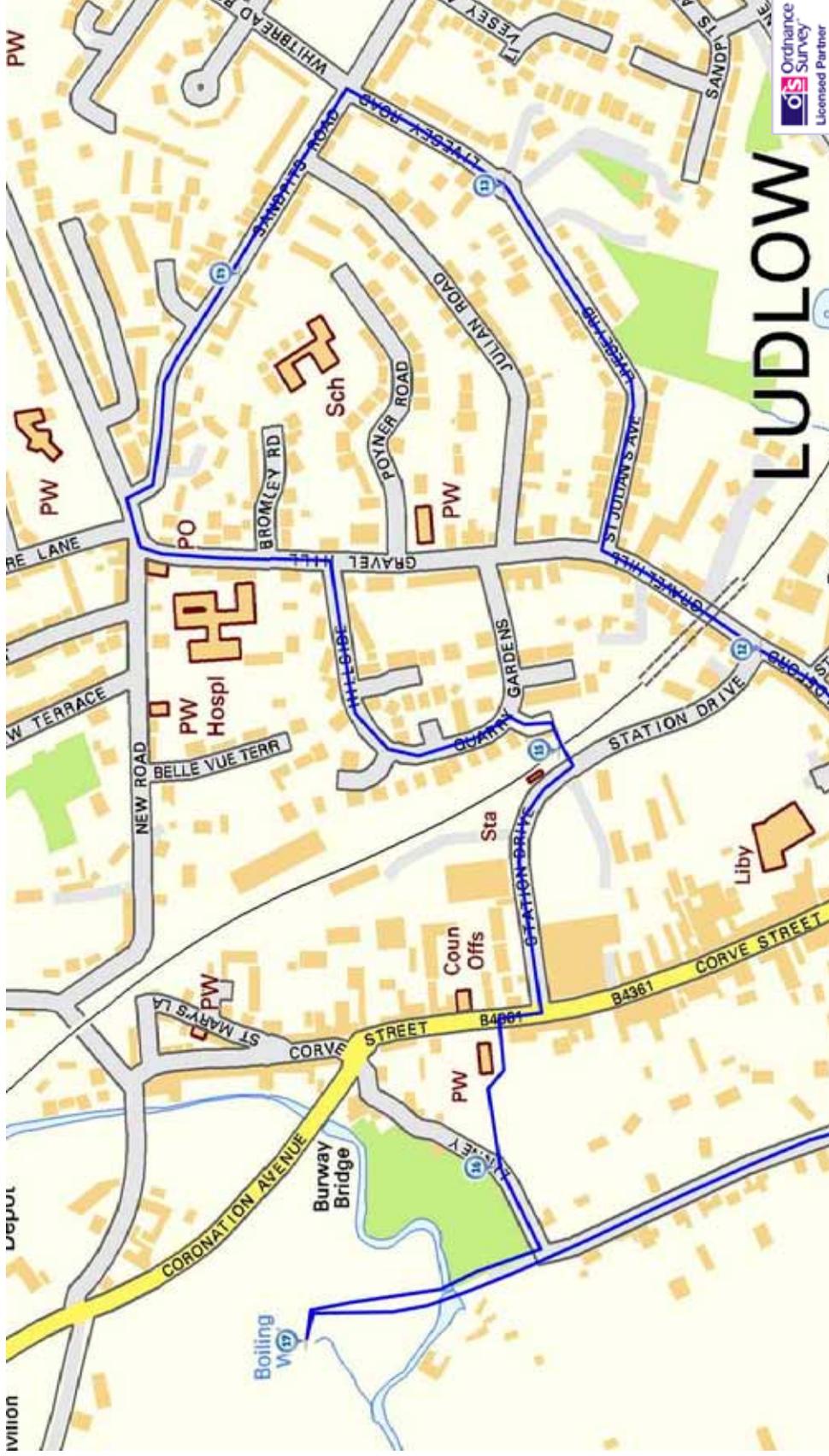
Detail of first and last part of route



Stopping points

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Start | Viewpoint on Whitcliffe Common | 8. | Ludford Park, end of Park Road |
| 2. | Viewpoint on Whitcliffe Common | 9. | Lower Broad Street |
| 3. | Dinham Bridge | 10. | Upper Broad Street |
| 4. | River bank beside former Castle Mill | 11. | The Bull Ring |
| 5. | Former Castle Mill | 18. | Linney Riverside Park |
| 6. | The Bread Walk | Finish | Dinham Millennium Green |
| 7. | Whitcliffe Quarry | | |

Detail of middle part of route



Stopping points

12. Junction of Upper Galdeford, Gravel Hill and Station Drive
13. St Julian's Well, Livesey Road
14. 19 Sandpits Road, opposite Poyner Close
15. Ludlow Railway Station
16. Linney, at rear entrance to St Leonard's churchyard
17. The Boiling Well

Directions

These directions are for use with the audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Ludlow

Viewpoint on Whitcliffe Common

Directions 1

Remain at the viewpoint and listen to Track 2.

2. Advance and retreat

Viewpoint on Whitcliffe Common

Directions 2

From the viewpoint, walk downhill across the common in the direction of the castle. When you reach the edge of the wood you will find a well-defined path. Turn left and follow it for about 150 metres to a T-junction. Turn right down the steps and follow the path downhill through the woodland.

The last part of the footpath goes down some rather steep and uneven steps, so take care! Go onto the bridge. Be careful as there is only a very narrow pavement. Stop in the centre and listen to Track 3.

3. Erosion and deposition

Dinham Bridge

Directions 3

Continue across Dinham Bridge and down onto Dinham Green below. Go across the Green to the corner of the Green Café. Stand on the riverside adjacent to the weir and listen to Track 4.

4. Human intervention

River bank beside former Castle Mill

Directions 4

Go back to the other side of the mill building facing the Green. If the middle door is open in the main building you can see the water wheel. Stop here and listen to Track 5.

5. Harnessing the flow

Former Castle Mill

Directions 5

Note: The Green Café is highly recommended. However, we come back to this location at the end of the walk so you may prefer to return for refreshments then.

When you are ready, retrace your steps back across Dinham Bridge. On the other side, turn left along the lower riverside path which is known as the Bread Walk.

This path, opened in 1850, was originally laid closer to the water but was damaged by floods 30 years later in another example of ongoing river erosion – and was reconstructed in its present location.

Follow the path for about 300 metres until you reach a prominent rock exposure with a bench at the far end of it, shortly before the path starts to rise gently. Stop here and listen to Track 6.



Rocky outcrop on the Bread Walk

6. Through the keyhole

The Bread Walk

Directions 6

Continue along the Bread Walk. Pass the end of the weir on the left and go up the uneven stone steps. At the top of the steps are two benches. Stop here, look back into Whitcliffe Quarry and listen to Track 7. Warning: The quarry has been disused for two centuries and stones may fall from the quarry face so do not approach the rock. Keep to the path!

9. Gates and gradients

Lower Broad Street

Directions 9

Go through Broad Gate to the left of The Wheatsheaf Inn onto Upper Broad Street.

Stop opposite the grand stone frontage of No.27 and listen to Track 10.



10. Clues in the cobbles

Upper Broad Street

Directions 10

Continue up Upper Broad Street. At the top, in front of the Butter Cross (the building with the clock tower), turn right along King Street.

Continue along the narrow street until it widens slightly and you are surrounded by several black-and-white timber-framed buildings. This is known as the Bull Ring. Stop here and listen to Track 11.



11. Sewer secrets

The Bull Ring

Directions 11

At the junction, cross carefully and go straight across into Tower Street which is pedestrianised. After a narrow section, the street widens.

Bear left here along Upper Galdeford. After about 150 metres, stop at the traffic lights at the junction and listen to Track 12.



12. Clues in the names

Junction of Upper Galdeford, Gravel Hill and Station Drive

Note: It is possible to make a short cut here, omitting Stops 13 and 14 and thereby saving about one mile of walking. If you wish to do so, turn down Station Drive. The railway station is on the right after about 150 metres. Go onto the footbridge over the railway line and continue with Stop 15.

Directions 12

To proceed with the full walk continue straight along Gravel Hill. After about 100 metres, just where the road begins to bear round to the left, turn right into St Julian's Avenue. After about 150 metres the road bends to the left and becomes Livesey Road. Continue for a further 200 metres uphill until you reach a big chestnut tree in the middle of the road (on a slight bend to the left). Stop here and listen to Track 13.

13. Sand and springs

St Julian's Well, Livesey Road

Directions 13

Continue up Livesey Road for about 200 metres. At the crossroads turn left into Sandpits Road. After about 200 metres look for a cluster of Victorian red brick houses on the right hand side. The last two (No.17 and 19) have their gable ends facing the road and are opposite the pedestrian entrance to Poyner Close. Stop here and listen to Track 14.

14. The road to the sand pits

19 Sandpits Road, opposite Poyner Close

Directions 14

Continue along Sandpits Road for about 250 metres to the T-junction with Henley Road. Looking right across to the large Roman Catholic church of St Peter (constructed in 1935 using local Oretton Limestone from the other side of Clee Hill) you can more clearly appreciate the level ground. This was once the valley floor!



Continued on next page

Once the valley floor

Directions 14 continued

Continue along Sandpits Road for about 250 metres to the T-junction with Henley Road. Looking right across to the large Roman Catholic church of St Peter (constructed in 1935 using local Oretton Limestone from the other side of Clee Hill) you can more clearly appreciate the level ground. This was once the valley floor!

Turn left onto Henley Road and immediately left again at the mini-roundabout into Gravel Hill. There is a convenience store and (opposite) the 6 New Road café. After about 200 metres, just past the entrance to Ludlow Community Hospital, turn right down Hillside. Note that the old hospital building is the former Victorian workhouse, built of local sandstone.

The road descends quite steeply: you are going down into one of the former brick pits that supplied many of the bricks for the Victorian expansion of Ludlow east of the railway line. The brick clay was obtained from the Raglan Mudstone Formation, at 400 million years much older than the Ice Age deposits we have been considering! Toward the bottom of the hill is a cul-de-sac on the left. Look over the fence of the house immediately below (No.29 Hillside) and you can make out the steep back of the gardens: the former quarry face.



Houses in former brick pit

As Hillside rounds the next bend it becomes Quarry Gardens. As it curves to the left and begins to go back uphill, turn right towards a row of garages. Go round the corner at the end of the garages onto the footbridge at the railway station linking the two platforms. Descend to the first platform (Platform 2) either by the steps or by using the ramp. Stop on the platform and listen to Track 15.

15. Cobble construction

Ludlow Railway Station

Directions 15

Descend from the footbridge onto Station Drive. If you cannot manage the steps, go back up the ramp and turn right to follow the footpath across the top of the tunnel mouth at the south end of the station, and then right again to reach the other platform.

Turn right along the road and follow it as it bears round to the left between two supermarkets. At the traffic lights just beyond, cross the road carefully and turn right for a few metres and then left through the stone arch into St Leonard's churchyard. Follow the path around the left side of the old chapel and through the churchyard. Go through the arch onto Linney, a narrow lane with high stone walls on either side. Stop by the arch and listen to Track 16.

16. The professor's pebbles

Linney, at rear entrance to St Leonard's churchyard

Directions 16

With your back to the churchyard gate, go straight ahead down Linney. Where the lane bends sharply to the left, turn right along a track. At the end go through the kissing gate and follow the path to a footbridge over the River Corve.

Follow the footpath across the field which takes you over another small footbridge and to another kissing gate. Go through the gate and turn left alongside the hedge. About 20 metres beyond you will find some wet ground which is a spring known as the Boiling Well. Stop here and listen to Track 17.

17. A raised bench

The Boiling Well

Directions 17

Retrace your steps across the field, over the bridge and back to Linney. At the corner of Linney continue straight ahead. After about 200 metres, the road bends round to the right and up a sharp hill. There is no pavement alongside the road around the bend so it is safer to use the ramp and steps on the left and join the pavement above.

Cross back over to the pavement on the right hand side of Linney; do not take the left footpath. Look out for tennis courts on the right, followed by the driveway to the rugby club. After this is a low wall overlooking the football pitch and children's play area. Stop here and listen to Track 18.

18. Water sports

Linney Riverside Park

Directions 18

Continue along Linney for about 200 metres. Stop when you reach Castle Mill and Dinham Millennium Green on the right and listen to Track 19.

19. A dramatic story of landscape transformation

Dinham Millennium Green

Directions 19

This is the end of the walk. You may like to stop for refreshments at the Green Café. To return to the start point, turn right at the end of Linney, go across Dinham Bridge and retrace your steps up through the woods to Whitcliffe Common. To go into the town centre, turn left at the end of Linney up Dinham which leads up to the castle.

Credits

This walk was created by **Professor Michael Rosenbaum** who provided the commentary and photographs. It was based on material previously published in the Proceedings of the Shropshire Geological Society, accessible online at www.shropshiregeology.org.uk

Michael would particularly like to acknowledge the work of **Dr Peter Cross** whose PhD studies in the 1960s did so much to focus attention on the fascinating glacial history of the area

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Ludlow and the Cleve Hills from Whitcliffe Common



Gravel banks in the River Teme



Mill Street weir



Whitcliffe Quarry



The edge of the Bromfield Terrace



The stone well house over St Julian's Well

All images © Michael Rosenbaum

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