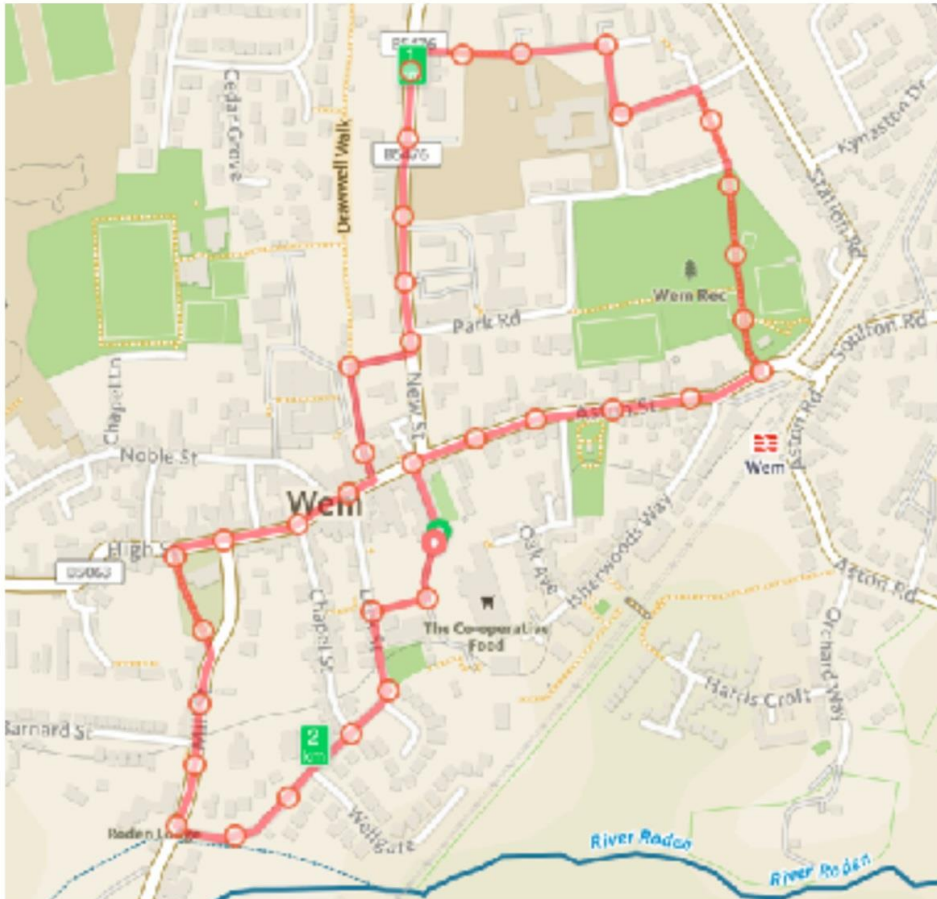


NORTH SHROPSHIRE STORY WALKS

WEM 1 - 2.2km

Toilets: Wem Car Park
Shops and cafes: Various Wem
Parking: Co-op car park



Suggested story on walk:

The Wem Ranters

During the 1700s a gang of lads lived in Wem called the Wem Ranters. They got up to all sorts of mischief and drunken deeds.

One evening they descended on a pub on New Street and started drinking the bar dry. After a few hours the boys drew a chalk circle on the stone floor and chanted a strange rhyme.... summoning the devil himself.

He appeared in the form of a gigantic black bull, snorting flames from his nostrils and stomping his monstrous hooves... but while the chalk circle still existed he couldn't escape the pub.

All the local Vicars were called upon to help rid Wem of the terrible beast but none knew what to do. And the great black bull was slowly rubbing out the chalk line...

At that point, Reverend Hotchkiss from Battlefield Church, finally arrived at the scene. He bravely entered the pub with a candle from Kings store to see in the darkness, and repeated the Lord's Prayer straight at the bull's face.

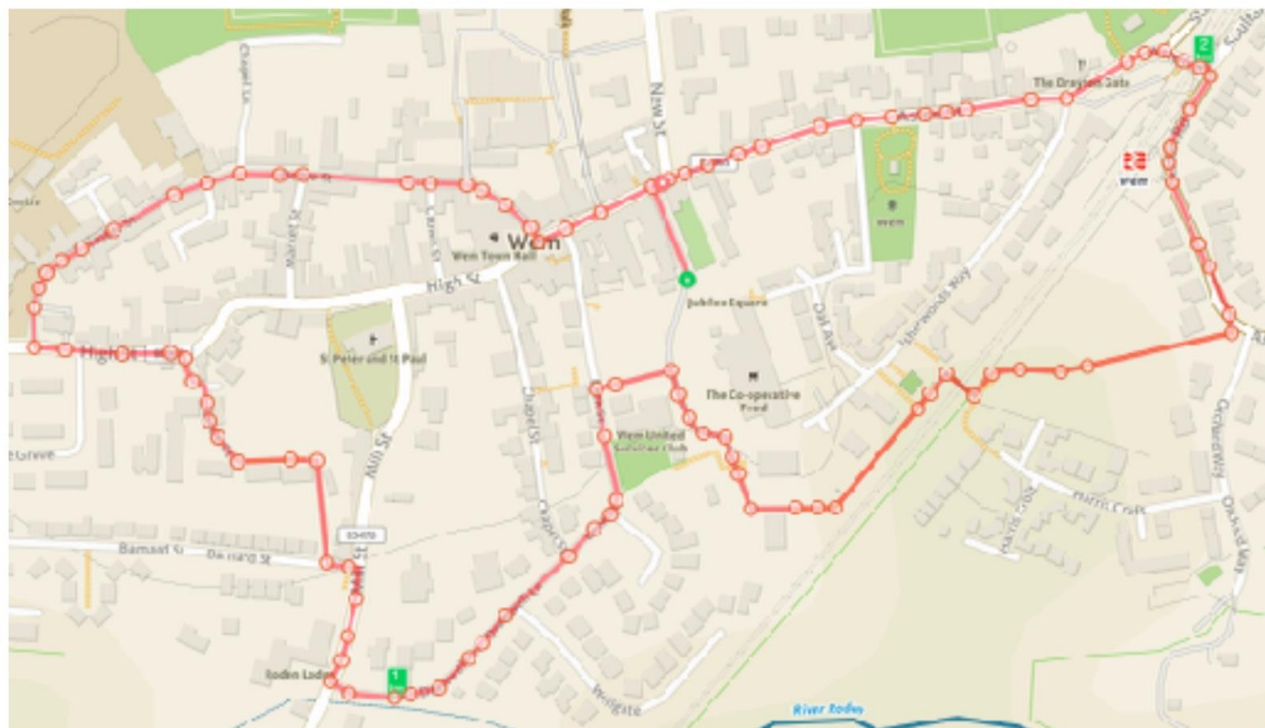
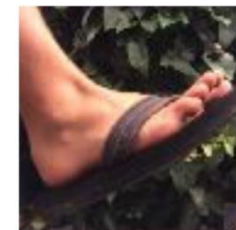
The ground opened up and the Devil was sucked back down in to the pits of hell where he belonged.

Reverend Hotchkiss became quite the local hero and eventually even served as headmaster at Shrewsbury School.

NORTH SHROPSHIRE STORY WALKS

WEM 2 - 2.5km

Toilets: Wem Car Park
Shops and cafes: Various Wem
Parking: Co-op car park



An easy circular walk around Wem. Steps over footbridge make this route unsuitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Suggested story on walk:

William Pantulf

William Pantulf, Lord of Wem, lived in Wem castle with his family.

His overlord was Roger Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, who was a very powerful man. William's friend Lord Hugo, fell in love with Roger's wife and she fell in love with him.

When Roger found out, he killed his wife, accused Hugo of the murder then threw him in to the dungeons before sending soldiers to arrest all of Hugo's friends...

William fled with his family to Wales. But he was followed. He fled to Ireland and Spain but he was again followed all the way. Eventually in Italy he was cornered in a Monastery.

The Abbot didn't want to give up William but he didn't want to annoy a lord as powerful as Roger either. William would face a trial by ordeal and God could decide.

William took a red hot iron bar out of a fire and held it in his bare hands. He was not harmed proving his innocence and he was allowed to return home to Wem.

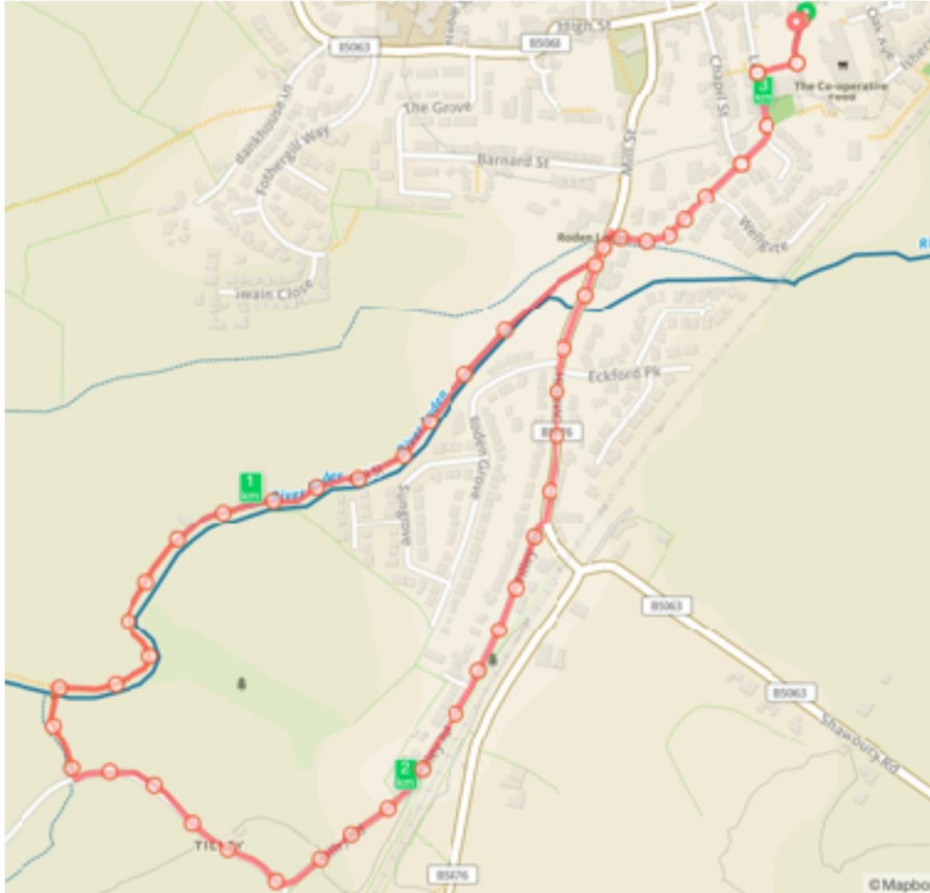


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NORTH SHROPSHIRE STORY WALKS

TILLEY - 3.1km

Toilets: Wem Car Park
Shops and cafes: Various Wem
Parking: Co-op car park



Suggested story on walk:

Nelly of Wem

Every market day old Nelly would come into Wem town to sell her wares. When the day was over she would go to pubs and spend her money on more than a few drinks.

One evening after doing particularly well at market, Nelly spent more money than usual in the pubs. She was certainly in no fit state to walk home.

Stumbling through the churchyard she found a warm safe place to have a nap.

Some time later... just a minute before midnight, several young men were also passing through the churchyard, with several ales in hand. Sitting down next to a freshly dug grave, they began loudly telling each other scary stories.

As the clock struck 12.... the men were met by a horrific sight. Out of the grave, a bony hand starting to claw its way out... followed by a sunken gaunt face moaning unintelligibly. Squealing like pigs, the men fled the churchyard, stumbling over each other and didn't stop running until they reached their homes and safely tucked up in their beds.

Back at the churchyard, Nelly pulled herself fully out of the grave and brushed herself down. Chuckling to herself she decided it was now time to go home.

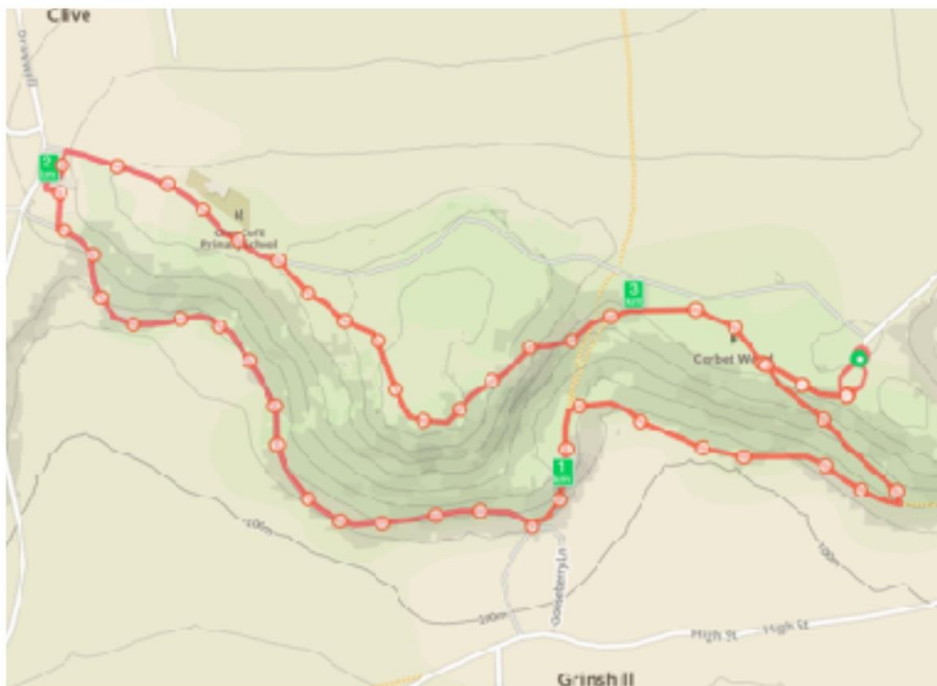
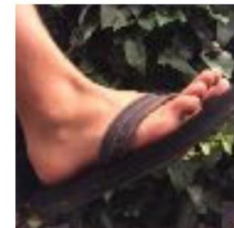


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NORTH SHROPSHIRE STORY WALKS

GRINSHILL- 3.3km

Toilets: N/A
Shops and cafes: Clive Convenience store
Parking: Quarry Car Park



A hilly circular walk through steep woodland. Path unsuitable for pushchairs or disabled access. Plenty of paths for making your own route up and having adventures!

Suggested story on walk:

The Stonecutter

There once lived a miserable stonecutter who always envied others. One day the king rode past and the stonecutter wished with all his heart to swap places with him. There was a flash and he was turned in to a king! It was a hot day and soon he began sweating. He looked up and wished he was the sun... and flash... so he was. Looking down the stonecutter was very happy until a cloud blocked his view. He wished he was the cloud. Flash.... his wish was granted and he floated through the sky. Suddenly he was stopped by a big stony hill. He wished he was the hill... and once again he was transformed. Straight away he felt an annoying niggling pain... there was a stonecutter chipping away. One last time he made a wish and.... FLASH. He was a stonecutter again and from that day onwards he was happy in his own skin.

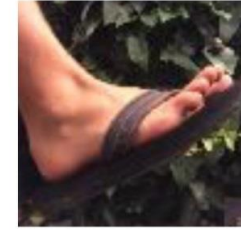


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NORTH SHROPSHIRE STORY WALKS

WHIXALL - 3.5km

Toilets: Manor Farm
Shops and cafes: N/A
Parking: Manor Farm



This route will take you out into the open expanse of the Moss. Make sure you dress appropriately for the weather. Boots are best for this walk as the path can get very boggy. All good fun if you don't mind getting muddy!

Suggested story on walk:

King of the Birds

All of the birds were having a huge argument. They couldn't decide which one of them should be crowned King. They were squawking, squeaking and generally scrapping with each other until a shadow was cast over all of them... and they fell into silence... The Eagle had arrived.

He declared that the bird that could fly highest into the sky should be King. The other birds were all too scared to argue.

Eagle took off and one by one his smaller challengers ran out of strength and returned back to the ground.

When the Eagle was a just a tiny dot in the sky and even he couldn't fly any higher, he felt something move on the back of his head. It was the Wren.

Little brown Wren, who had been clinging on to Eagle's feathers the whole time, flew that little bit higher into the sky and won the competition.

And so from that day onwards, the Wren has been King of the Birds.

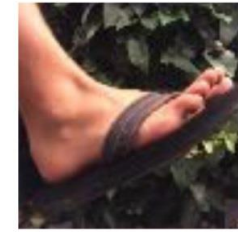


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NORTH SHROPSHIRE STORY WALKS

COLEMERE - 2.6km

Toilets: Ellesmere
Shops and cafes: Ellesmere
Parking: Picnic Spot



A pleasant circular walk around the mere through meadows and partially over boardwalk. Mainly on the flat with kissing gate and stiles. Keep an eye out for herons!

Suggested story on walk:

The Bells of Colemere

A monastery used to stand where the mere lies today until a mysterious spring burst forth. The water rose so quickly that the monks had to swim to the shore as the monastery was lost. On a windy night with a full moon you might just hear the bells ringing.

In another version of this story a church stood by the side of Colemere until Oliver Cromwell's army passed by and pulled it to the ground. The bells were thrown into the water and they still ring as a reminder of the sins of the awful Mr. Cromwell.