



The Ratlinghope Ride

Castles, Ways and Churches

River Onny

The river Onny flows along the picturesque valley between the Long Mynd and the Stiperstones. The river begins as two tributaries, the West and the East Onnys. Each tributary is associated with abundant wildlife with sightings of otters becoming more common.



The Long Mynd







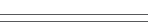
Even today the weather on these hills can take you unawares. You may get to hear the tale of the Reverend Carr, who set out from Ratlinghope Church on a winters evening in 1865. He got lost in the snow and spent the night in freezing temperatures wandering around the hillside. Fortunately he survived and recorded his experiences in a book called "A Night in the Snow".

Blue Remembered Hills

Although he had no intimate knowledge of the county, A.E. Housman (1859 -1936) wrote about Shropshire in his collection of poems 'A Shropshire Lad'. As a boy he had first seen the distant hills from his home in Worcestershire and this inspired him to write nostalgically of those 'blue remembered hills'.



KEY to maps

-  Ride Route with direction number
-  Jack Mytton Way
-  Bridleway
-  Footpath
-  Byway
-  A Road / B Road
-  Other road

-  Public House
-  Telephone
-  Car Parking
-  Visitor Information
-  Cafe / Shop
-  Church
-  Public Toilet
-  Buildings

INFORMATION

Horseshoe Inn, Bridges: 01588 650260
 Bottle and Glass, Picklescott: 01694 751345
 White Horse Inn, Pulverbatch: 01743 718247

Design and artwork: www.MACreative.co.uk

Prehistoric remains, medieval churches, one of the oldest roads in England and wonderful views of the Stiperstones and Long Mynd make this a great ride.

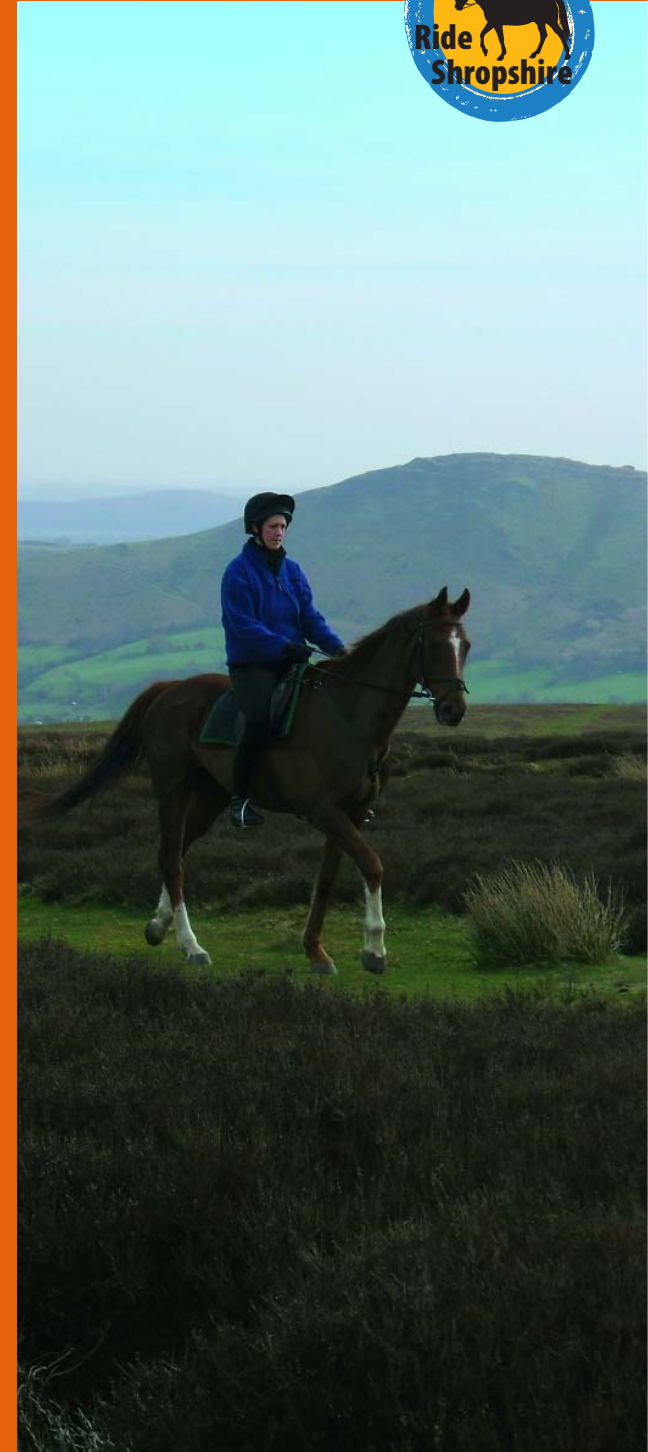
Whether it's at the start or end of your ride visit St Edith's in Church Pulverbatch. See the circular churchyard; a sure sign that this was a prehistoric site.

On the ridge line above Picklescott you are on the Portway. From this ancient road you see burial mounds and on the top of Ratlinghope Hill, to the south, the earthworks of the Bronze Age castle ring. All signs of Man's work 3000 years ago.

In medieval times these hilltop ways and tracks were used as drover's roads to drive herds of Welsh cattle to market. They used the hilltop routes to avoid toll roads in the valleys and be gentler on cattle's feet. Long distances walked on paved roads meant they had to be shod!

The church in Ratlinghope village also has ancient origins. In the 12th century there was a cell of Augustinian monks here. The original church has gone and the one you see was rebuilt in 1788. But a warning! Don't ride here in the failing light of the evening! Many have seen a ghostly funeral procession travelling this stretch of road.

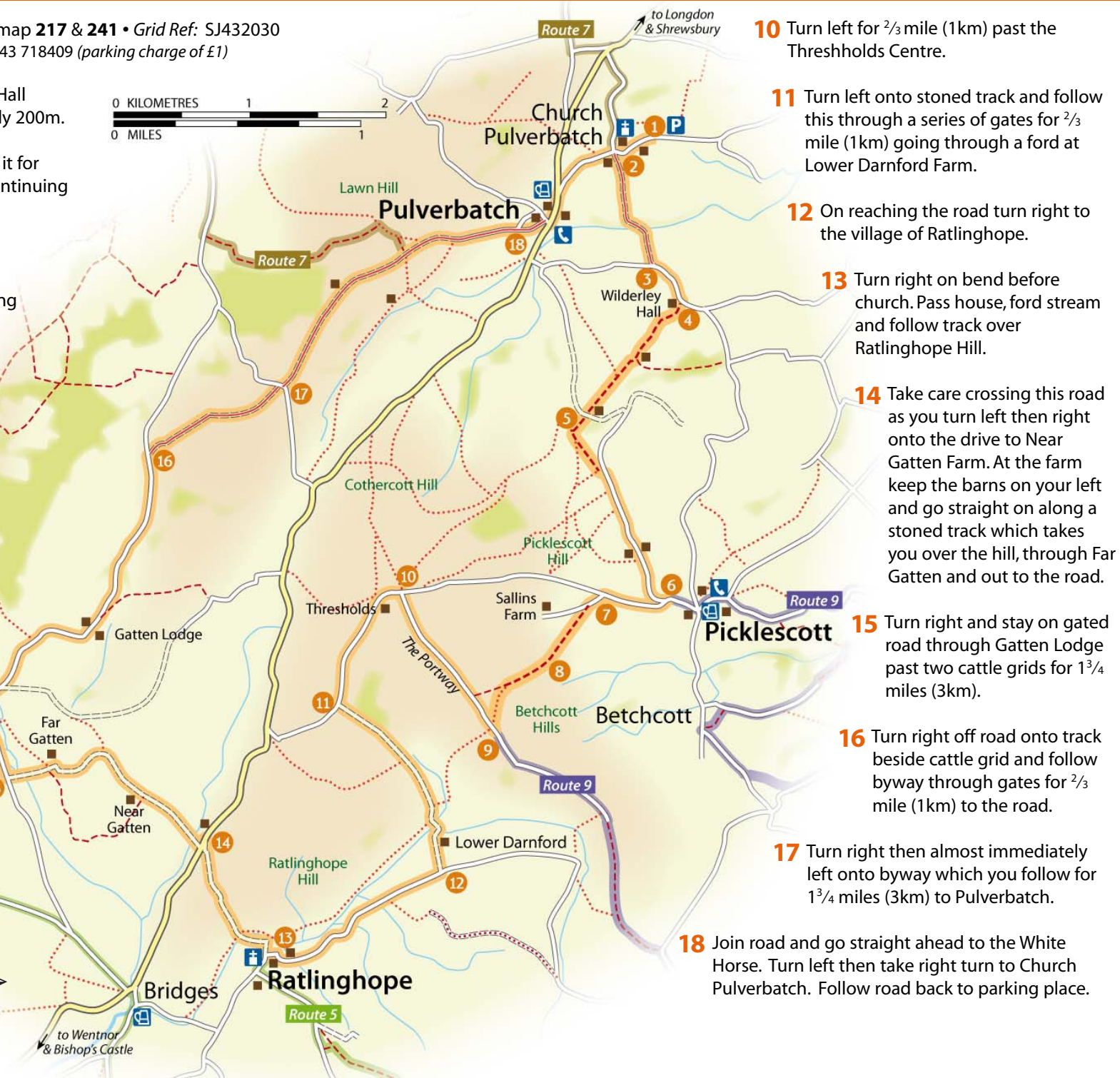
As you drop back down into Pulverbatch at the end of the ride make time to see the motte and bailey. One of the best preserved in Shropshire and a fitting end to a wonderful ride.



Start: Church Pulverbatch Village Hall OS map **217 & 241** • Grid Ref: SJ432030

Telephone beforehand: Mrs L Russell: 01743 718409 (parking charge of £1)

- 1 Turn right out of Church Pulverbatch Village Hall car park and follow the road for approximately 200m.
- 2 Take the hedged lane on your left and follow it for $\frac{2}{3}$ mile (1km) passing through stream and continuing uphill to road.
- 3 Turn left uphill to Wilderley Hall Farm.
- 4 Turn right immediately after the farm following a stoned track uphill to gate which leads into a large field. Keeping the fenceline on your left continue uphill to a gate.
- 5 Cross the lane, through the gate and keep left following the hedgeline which takes you down to a wicket gate. Continue uphill to gate onto a stoned track. Turn right and follow the track for 1 mile (1.5km) down to the road.
- 6 At road junction turn right for $\frac{1}{3}$ mile (0.5km).
- 7 Turn left onto Sallins Farm drive then left again through gate onto track and follow this up to cottage.
- 8 Continue ahead uphill towards lone trees then bear diagonally left across field to wicket gate.
- 9 Turn right along the tarmac lane, The Portway, for $\frac{2}{3}$ mile (1km) to the road.



- 10 Turn left for $\frac{2}{3}$ mile (1km) past the Thresholds Centre.
- 11 Turn left onto stoned track and follow this through a series of gates for $\frac{2}{3}$ mile (1km) going through a ford at Lower Darnford Farm.
- 12 On reaching the road turn right to the village of Ratlinghope.
- 13 Turn right on bend before church. Pass house, ford stream and follow track over Ratlinghope Hill.
- 14 Take care crossing this road as you turn left then right onto the drive to Near Gatten Farm. At the farm keep the barns on your left and go straight on along a stoned track which takes you over the hill, through Far Gatten and out to the road.
- 15 Turn right and stay on gated road through Gatten Lodge past two cattle grids for $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles (3km).
- 16 Turn right off road onto track beside cattle grid and follow byway through gates for $\frac{2}{3}$ mile (1km) to the road.
- 17 Turn right then almost immediately left onto byway which you follow for $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles (3km) to Pulverbatch.
- 18 Join road and go straight ahead to the White Horse. Turn left then take right turn to Church Pulverbatch. Follow road back to parking place.