

Explore the finest of Shropshire's countryside

'Wild' Humphrey Kynaston the Robin Hood of Shropshire

Humphrey Kynaston, a notorious highwayman known as 'Wild' Humphrey, was descended from a Welsh Prince. He was born around 1468, to Lady Elizabeth Grey, the granddaughter of Humphrey Plantagenet, Duke of Gloucester, and second wife of Sir Roger Kynaston, Constable Keeper of Myddle Castle. Humphrey became Constable on his father's death, but, through his dissolute and riotous manner of life, he fell into debt, and Myddle castle fell into ruin. His horse, reputed to have been called Beelzebub, the devil's horse, was said to have been shod backwards to confuse pursuers. Humphrey, following a skirmish in Oswestry, along with his half brother Thomas, and Oliver and Richard Kynaston, was accused of felony in December 1487, and he became a notorious outlaw. These were unsettled times, with the Wars of the Roses still ongoing, and the Welsh Marshes a lawless no man's land.

In December 1492 Humphrey, now of Nesscliffe, rode to Stretton Dale, (Church Stretton) with his half-brother Thomas Kynaston of Shrawardine, and Robert Hopton of Hopton, Nesscliffe. There, they killed John Heughes. Many aided and abetted them, and in their escape they were lodged and fed at Pontesbury, Shrewsbury and Nesscliffe. They were tried and convicted for felony and murder in 1493, but escaped capture. The under Sheriff tried to capture Humphrey by removing some of the planks from the stone pillars of Montford Bridge, but he spurred his horse, and leaped the gap, escaping to Nesscliffe where he, with his horse stabled alongside, is reputed to have lived in the cave there reached by climbing 24 steps cut into the rock face. They were given food and fodder by those around: it is said 'by the rich through fear, and the poor through gratitude'

Later pardoned by Henry VIII, legend has it that he died in the cave at Nesscliffe. His will of 1534 requested that he be buried in St Mary's Church, Welshpool.

For more information on riding in Shropshire, visit
www.shropshireriding.co.uk

For more information on walking in Shropshire, visit
www.shropshirewalking.co.uk



Humphrey Kynaston Way Long Distance & Circular Routes



Humphrey Kynaston Way – Long Distance & Circular Routes











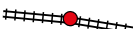












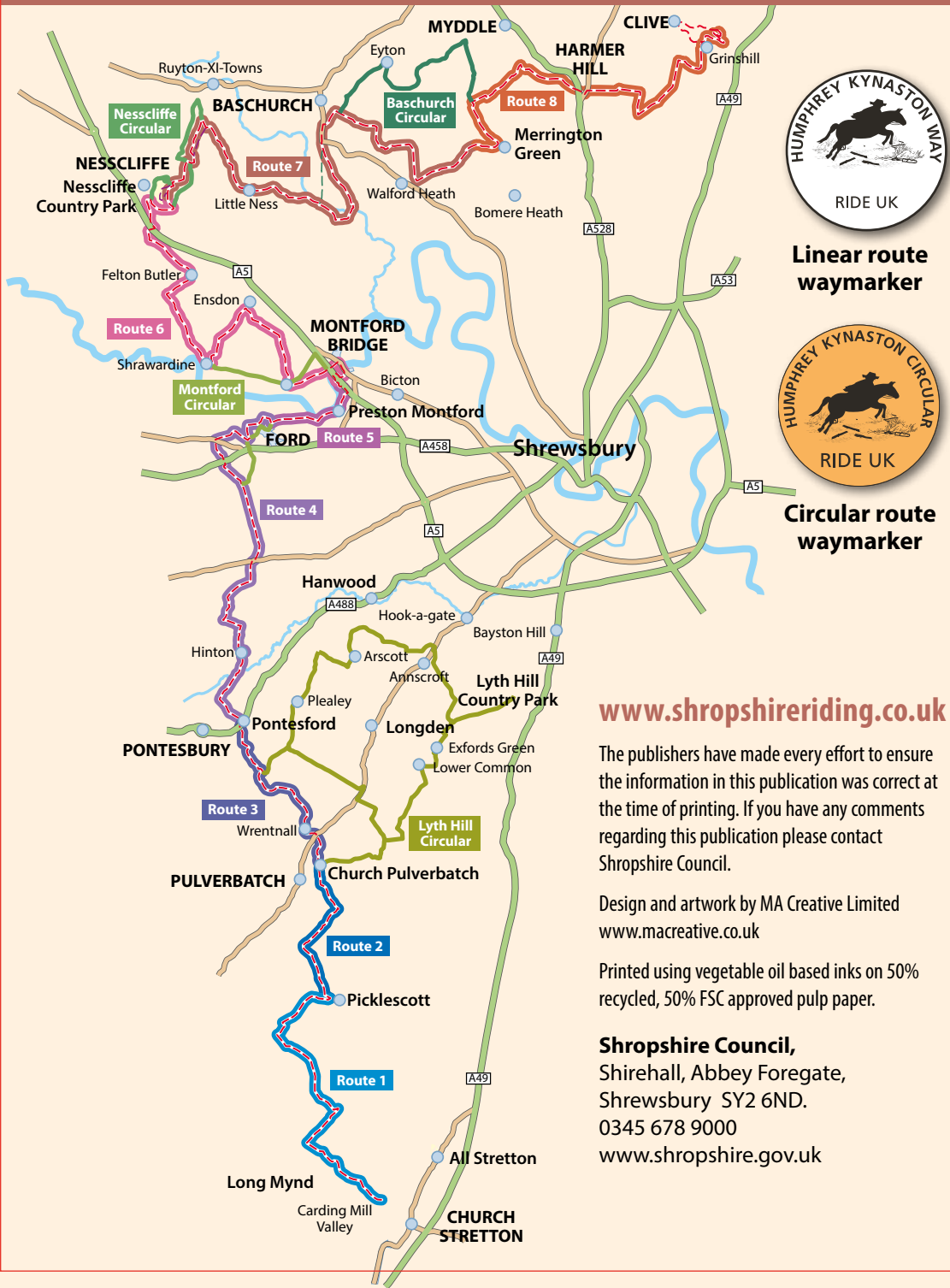
- Be safe - Plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



Humphrey Kynaston Way

Key to map symbols

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|
|  | Humphrey Kynaston Way Route |  | Carpark |
|  | Continuation of HK Way |  | Public House |
|  | Circular or Alternative Route |  | Church |
|  | Bridleway |  | Local Shops |
|  | Footpath |  | Castle or monument |
|  | Railway |  | Camping Site |
|  | A-Road |  | Public Convenience |
|  | B-Road |  | Café |
|  | Other Road |  | Information Centre |
|  | Unclassified Road |  | Caution advised |
|  | Track | | |



Linear route waymarker



Circular route waymarker

www.shropshireriding.co.uk

The publishers have made every effort to ensure the information in this publication was correct at the time of printing. If you have any comments regarding this publication please contact Shropshire Council.

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The routes were only made possible by the hard work of Zia Robins and local volunteers of the Nesscliffe Hills and District Bridleways Association Parish Paths Partnership group, with funding from Natural England's Paths for Communities project.

The routes vary from 2.4 miles up to 14 miles and you can combine routes and use links to create your own tailor made journey. Please note that the Church Stretton to Pontesbury sections can be linked to Ride Shropshire South Shropshire Hill routes 5, 7, 8 and 9.

Parking places have been identified, some by kind permission. Please check availability before setting out.

For horse riders allowing approximately 3 miles an hour gives a relaxed ride, with time to take in the views.

Although created primarily as routes for horse riders the routes are equally suitable for cyclists and walkers. **Cyclists please be aware your sudden appearance may startle horses. When approaching from behind please give a verbal warning and remember that when using a public bridleway, cyclists must give way to walkers and horse riders.**

For more information on these routes and other promoted routes in Shropshire with map, guidebook downloads, useful information and feedback forms please visit: www.shropshireriding.co.uk

Note the maps in the guidebook are not definitive but extracts from Ordnance Survey maps can be downloaded from the website.

Route 1 Cardingmill Valley to Picklescott 5.3 miles / 8.5 km
Route 2 Picklescott to Church Pulverbatch 2.6 miles / 4.2 km
Route 3 Church Pulverbatch to Pontesbury 3.2 miles / 5.1 km
Route 4 Pontesbury to Ford 6.3 miles / 10.1 km
Route 5 Ford to Montford Bridge 2.4 miles / 3.9 km
Route 6 Montford Bridge to Nesscliffe 8.8 miles / 14.1 km
Route 7 Nesscliffe to Merrington Green 9.7 miles / 15.6 km
Route 8 Merrington Green to Grinshill 7.3 miles / 11.8 km
Lyth Hill Circular 14 miles / 22.5 km
Montford Circular Short route 4 miles / 6.5 km Long Route 5¾ miles / 9.2 km
Nesscliffe Circular Short route 3¼ miles / 5.2 km Long Route 5¾ miles / 9.2 km
Baschurch Circular 8½ miles (13.7 km)