

Points of interest

The Wrekin Hillfort

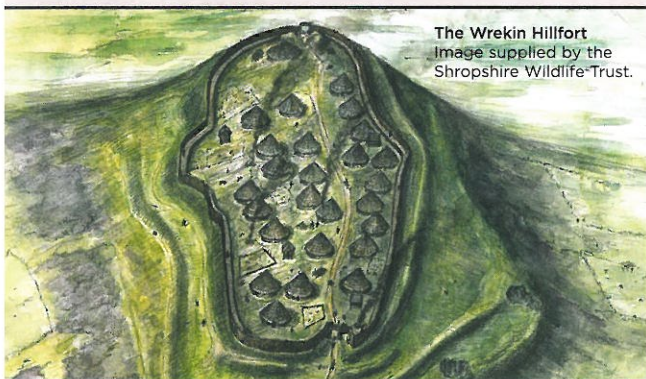
Like most Shropshire hills, The Wrekin has its fort, begun in the Bronze Age around 3500 years ago, rebuilt by Celts about 500 BC. It is believed to have been the 'capital' of the tribe the Romans called Cornovii, who lived in Shropshire and Cheshire, where a body was found in a marsh some years ago. Although the hillfort has not been used for 2,000 years it is still visible. It is a Scheduled Monument and the home of our ancestors, so please treat it well. See 'Archaeology of the Welsh Marches' by Stan Stanford and 'The Wrekin Hill' by Allan Frost.

The Wrekin Hills - Geology

Some of The Wrekin's rocks are very ancient and were formed when there was only microscopic life on Earth. They began thousands of miles south of the Equator and drifted here over hundreds of millions of years. The truth is even more fantastic than The Wrekin Giant story, which most locals can tell in one version or another. The older rocks are igneous, raised up by gigantic faults, moving over the Earth's surface propelled by plate tectonics. Our Wrekin is millions of years older than the Himalayas, Alps or Andes and may once have been higher. Rocks include Gneiss, Granophyre, Camptonite, Dolerite, Schist, Rhyolite, Tuff, Quartzite, Sandstone, Shale, Basalt, Limestone, Coal Measures, Conglomerate, Keele Beds, Gravel, Sand, Clay and Scree. That's a huge variety. See 'Geology in Shropshire' by Peter Toghill.

The Woodlands - Ownership

The Wrekin and Little Hill, Gibbons Coppice, Wenlock's Wood, Hazel Hurst, Maddocks Hill, Black Hayes and Short Wood are all privately owned. The Borough Council owns the north sides of The Ercall and Limekiln Wood, both of which are nature reserves. The south side of The Ercall and Lawrence Hill belong to Shropshire Wildlife Trust; naturally that's a nature reserve too. All the paths marked are either public or permissive; if you don't stray you're quite legal but remember that owners, farmers, foresters and golfers have rights as well as we do.



The Wrekin Hillfort
Image supplied by the
Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

Other Routes

There are many other routes from Wellington, particularly in the area depicted on the map. For example, a route going over the summit of The Ercall, around the base of The Wrekin to the ridge path, back over The Wrekin and then possibly over The Ercall again is to be recommended. There are other approaches to The Wrekin, via Limekiln Lane or via Cluddley. It is feasible to walk in a day from Wellington to Ironbridge and back via The Ercall and The Wrekin, possibly returning on the Ironbridge Way via Leegomery.