

Going Loopy near Ludlow

3 loops to choose from. **The Ludlow Loop**, 7½ miles: a more challenging route with great views and a fun 2 mile downhill ride through the forest:

- 1 **The Charlton Arms Hotel** (next to Ludford Bridge on the river Teme) serve food, and provide locked storage for cyclists if required. From the hotel, continue up Overton Road (B4361) taking the first right turn into Whitcliffe Road (signposted Burrington, Wigmore). The road climbs steeply for ½ mile to Whitcliffe Common lookout point.

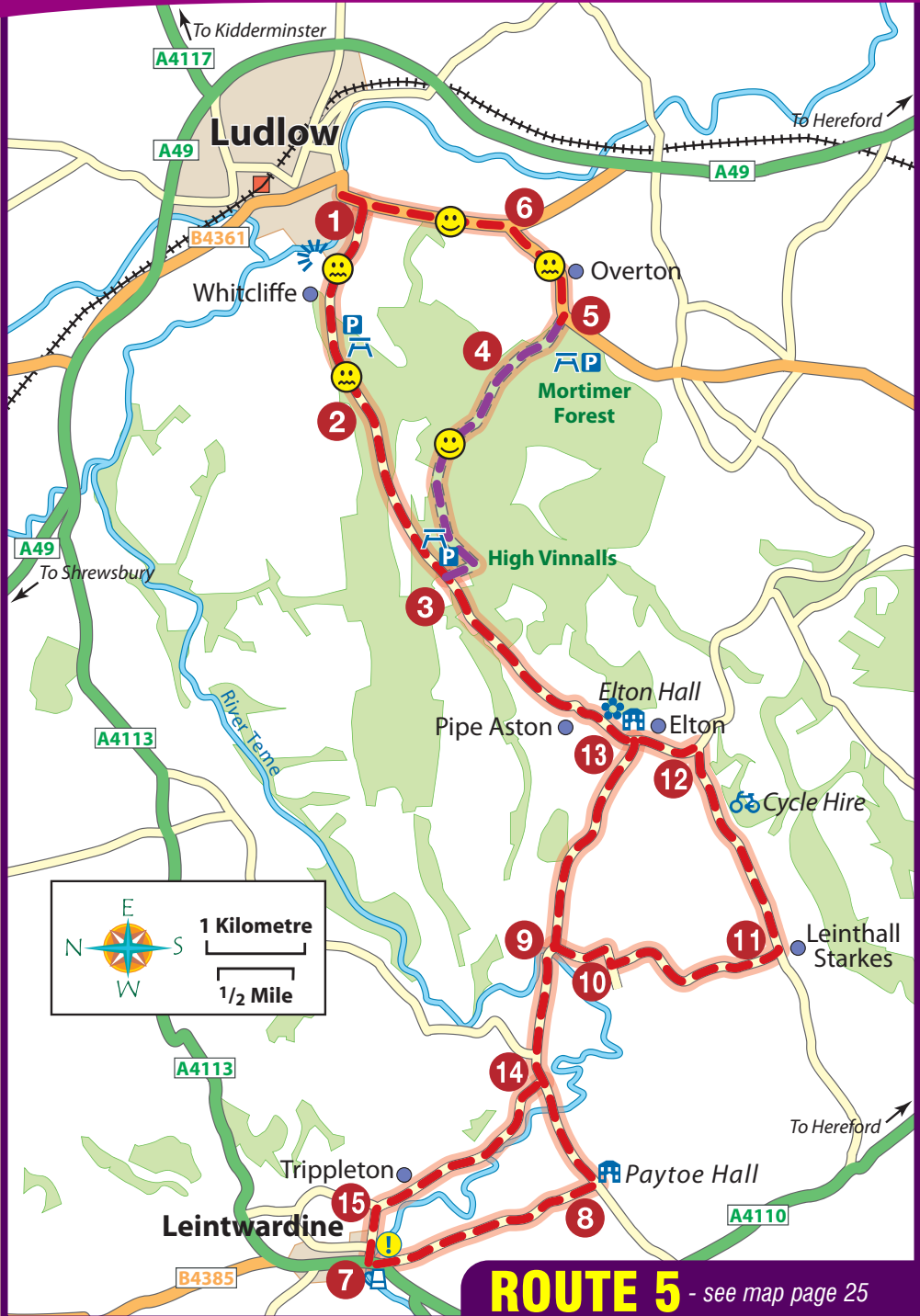
Whitcliffe was once part of a large Medieval common where people gathered hay and firewood, and grazed their animals. The rocks under your feet are 425 million years old. At this time Ludlow was under a shallow tropical sea! There are panoramic views, and lots of benches. *What can you see?* The hill straight ahead is the highest point in Shropshire; **Brown Clee** (1771 ft). The hill to the right is **Titterstone Clee** (it looks taller, but is actually smaller than Brown Clee). **Ludlow Castle** was built in the late 11th Century as the stronghold of Roger De Lacy. The Castle fell into decay in the late 15th Century. In 1811 the ruins were bought by the 2nd Earl of Powis, whose family still own it.

- 2 Continue along the road climbing uphill. The Mortimer Forest Office is on your left. The road continues uphill to Hazel Coppice (right), then downhill.



View of Ludlow from Whitcliffe Common

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- 3 **Vinnalls Car park** (on left) at the bottom of the hill. (Forestry Commission car park with picnic tables and information board). From the Vinnalls car park take the road into the forest, taking the first left down the wide track (which is initially signed the Climbing Jack trail).

Follow the path through the **Mary Knoll Valley**. Keep straight ahead at any junctions and do not take any turns off the main route. The path is downhill all the way – so take care in wet weather and avoid loose stones.

Mortimer Forest: Most of the forest is owned by the Forestry Commission. Do follow the Forest Cycling Code www.forestry.gov.uk and keep clear of logging areas and forest machinery. The forest is part of an ancient Saxon hunting ground.

- 4 Keep the stream on your left. Continue past signs to the Mortimer Trail, past a small barn and house (left), past the sign for “Sunny Dingle”. The track levels out but becomes more uneven.
- 5 You will eventually come to a Forestry Commission barrier where the path joins the B4361. Turn left, climb up the long hill to Overton. There is a pavement running along the road on the left which continues all the way to Ludlow. After Overton, the road is mainly downhill.
- 6 Turn left at the main junction signposted B4361 Ludlow (octagonal house on the corner). Ride past the **Lower Barns** business park (on right), and the high stone walls (on right) until you reach the **Charlton Arms Hotel** (on left) 1

The Leintwardine Loops:

A 10 mile picturesque ride through quiet hamlets.

The Roman settlement of Bravonium (AD70) lies underneath Leintwardine. It started off as a settlement with shops and houses. In AD160, the Roman army moved in, and established forts in the area. St Mary Magdalene church. The foundations are Saxon and Norman but the main part of the church dates from the 13th and 14th century.

Most of the main facilities in **Leintwardine** are along the High Street (A4113). This includes: Post Office, petrol station with shop, bank with cash point, Community Centre with public car park and toilets, **The Lion Hotel** tel. 01547 540203 sells food and welcomes families. It has a beer garden overlooking the river Teme.

The Leintwardine Loops Start here

- 7 From the **Lion Hotel** cross over the bridge (take care, the A4113 is busy) and take the first left turn signposted Paytoe. Ride past Paytoe Lane Industrial Estate.

Route instructions continue overleaf ▶

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- When you reach the black and white house turn left (signposted Ludlow and Burrington) past the pond (left). Continue along the road riding over **Critfin Ford Bridge**. The road climbs uphill for a short section. Bear right (signposted Burrington and Ludlow) and enjoy a short downhill section.
- Cross over the stone bridge and take the right turn just after the bridge (signposted Leinthall Starkes).

- The road zigzags. Take care to bear left around the corner and not straight ahead to the Willows. The road climbs up for ½ mile then down. Look ahead. *Can you see the windmill on the hill?*
- Turn left at the T-Junction at **Leinthall Starkes** turn left (signposted Ludlow). You'll see the windmill in the trees above the road to your right. Continue along this road passing **Petchfield Farm** on your right. **Wheely Wonderful** provide bike hire (Adults & Children). Open Easter to October 9am-5pm (see page 47).

- Take the left turn to Ludlow passing through the village of **Elton**.

Elton Hall (right), famous for its gardens of follies and statues. Look out for Highland cattle and Hebridean sheep in the fields.



- (To complete the Ludlow Loop, turn right through Pipe Aston to Vinnalls **3**). If returning to Leintwardine, take the left turn (signposted Burrington and Leintwardine). Continue along this road (ignoring the right turn to Burrington), straight on over the bridge **9**. The road is narrow, ride single file and watch out for cars. Keep straight on (ignoring the 2 right turns to Downton).
- Bear right (signposted Leintwardine). There are views of Leintwardine ahead and meanders of the River Teme to your left.
- Turn left signposted Leintwardine. The Lion Hotel **7** is straight ahead. To reach the community centre, turn right at the Lion Hotel onto the A4133. The community centre is on your left (after the petrol station)