

The 'Discovering Wellington' Project presents:

ALL ROUND THE WREKIN

A heritage cycle trail linking
the historic market town of
Wellington with Shropshire's
most famous landmark

'ALL ROUND THE WREKIN'

The Wrekin is one of the Midlands most famous natural landmarks and a source of pride and inspiration to generations of Salopians. The hill is a scheduled ancient monument and part of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with at least 3000 years of human history behind it, whose creation pre-dates life on Earth itself. Over the course of many centuries, The Wrekin has withstood feuding Celtic tribes, pillaging Roman invaders, tyrannical medieval monarchs and the ravages of the Industrial Revolution. More importantly, it has survived to tell the tale, so come with us now and discover some of the incredible stories from all round The Wrekin...



Out and About

The All Round The Wrekin trail is an 11 mile circular cycle route using quiet country lanes and existing parts of the National Cycle Network. The trail begins and ends in Wellington, The Wrekin's very own market town. Wellington's history is deeply intertwined with that of the hill and, during the

middle ages, it was even known as Wellington-Under-The Wrekin. The town is an excellent place to start your adventure, so just follow the map in the centre of the booklet and remember to follow the Highway Code at all times.



In The Beginning

The Wrekin was created over 566 million years ago during a period of mountain building called the Caledonian Orogeny and its rocks are older than those of both The Alps and The Andes. Contrary to popular belief, The Wrekin is not a volcano but is made up from layers of solidified magma and lava that are over a mile thick. When the hill was formed, Shropshire lay roughly where the Falkland Islands are today and some of its sandstones (known as Wrekin Quartzite) would originally have formed part of a beach. Although the tide has long since gone out, a rippling effect can still be seen in the rock today, just past the first bend on the main track up the hill.

Wrockwardine

Wrockwardine, 'the enclosure by The Wrekin', is an ancient settlement that has enjoyed considerable status during its long existence. It was a Royal Manor before the Norman Conquest and a Hundred meeting place, which was a unit of local government introduced in the 10th Century. As such, Wrockwardine held distinct rights of common over all of the Weald Moors, on The Wrekin and in the woods to the east of Wellington, in the area known nowadays as Wrockwardine Wood.

St Peter's Church

Cycling from Wellington along Wrockwardine Road, your first view of the village is likely to be the spire of St Peter's. The Church may have been founded in Saxon times but the earliest surviving parts of the existing foundation are of Norman origin and date from the mid 12th Century. At that time, St Peter's was rebuilt to its current 'cruciform' plan with a new nave, central tower and north and south transepts. Earlier, after the Norman Conquest, the Lord of The Manor, Roger de Montgomery, had granted the Church 'at Worgordina' (Wrockwardine) to Shrewsbury Abbey (which was dedicated to St Peter) as a gift.



Cludde Almshouses

The Almshouses, which stand opposite the junction of Wrockwardine Road and The Avenue, were erected in 1841, as a memorial to the local landowner Edward Cludde of Orleton Hall. The building was paid for by subscription from his 'tenants and neighbours' and 'endowed for the maintenance of two poor women in their declining years'. The stone tablet above the doorway pays testament to Cludde's good character in glowing terms, describing him as 'visiting the fatherless and the widows in their affliction and keeping himself unspotted from the world'.



Burcotgate Tollhouse

A Turnpike Trust was set up to maintain the section of Watling Street through Wrockwardine parish in 1726, when a gate was probably constructed near Burcot to collect tolls from people using the road. The tollhouse at Burcotgate, which is also known as the Umbrella House, was rebuilt in 1835 during Thomas Telford's project to bypass Overley Hill. The system of collecting tolls continued until the mid 1860s, when Watling Street was officially 'disturnpiked'.

Wellington

Wellington is a market town with a long and illustrious past dating back to Anglo-Saxon times, when a pre-Christian religious temple may have stood near to the site of what is now All Saints parish church. The town received its first Royal Charter in 1244, was garrisoned during the Civil War and became a prosperous centre for industry and agriculture during the Victorian era.

1244 and All That

At the beginning of the 13th Century, the population of Wellington was probably little more than a hundred people living in a few houses around The Green next to All Saints church. During 1244, in what may have been an attempt to promote urban and commercial development, Giles de Erdington



New Street

(the Lord of the Manor) successfully applied to the Crown for a Royal Charter that enabled him to hold a weekly Thursday market and an annual June fair. In Wellington itself, the most notable impact of the Charter was the physical expansion of the town, with Church Street being extended towards the current Market Square, which then stretched to Tan Bank. The three small streets now leading off The Square (Duke Street, Bell Street and Crown Street) all evolved over the course of several centuries, as market stalls in the area became established and eventually turned into permanent buildings. New

Street, which is still Wellington's main shopping thoroughfare, was also laid out after the charter, when merchants houses were built along the course of the road on long, narrow strips of land known as burgage tenements.

The Medieval Town

Of all the towns in east Shropshire, modern day Wellington is unique in retaining its medieval street layout, with all the roads in the centre of town emanating in a grid from the Market Square and the Church. Walker Street, Market Street (which was then known as Butcher Lane) and Newhall Street (later Foundry Lane – now buried under the Leisure Centre's car park!) were all established by the beginning of the 14th Century. Wellington's street names also help to reveal the identities of some of the trades and industries that went on in the town during medieval times. Ten Tree Croft (a footpath leading from Church Street to Bridge Road) is a derivation of the word Tentercroft, the place where dyers hung out their woollen cloth to dry on tenterhooks. The name Walker Street is also an indication of the importance of cloth manufacturing in the town during the medieval period. Here, the process of fulling took place, where workers quite literally walked on the cloth in order to make it heavier and more compact. Leather making was another important trade in Wellington and Tan Bank takes its name from the tannery that once existed there.



Church Street

Little Wenlock

Little Wenlock was originally an outlying estate of the Priory at Much Wenlock and the name itself may derive from the Celtic word 'gwyn-loch', meaning 'monastery' or 'white place'. During the 18th and 19th Centuries, the prosperity of the area was tied up with the fortunes of local industry. Settlements sprang up at Huntington Heath, Smalleyhill, Little Worth and New Works, developing from cottages built by miners and other workers who came to the coalfield looking for employment. By 1841, over a thousand people lived in the parish but after the industrial downturn of the late 19th Century, the number had practically halved.

Coals To Wenlock

Coal mining played a vital role in the history of Little Wenlock from at least the 14th Century. By the 1600s, the coalfield centred around the village itself, Coalmoor and New Works, which acquired its name from the large number of collieries centred around the area by the beginning of the 18th Century. Many



In Limekiln Wood

of these mines lay on the estate of the Forester family, who played an important part in the rapid industrialisation of east Shropshire. In 1777, George Forester leased his coalmines at New Works to Abraham Darby III and his Coalbrookdale

Company later extracted over 10000 tons of coal from the area, for use in the iron making process. The opening of Lawley Furnaces in 1822, bolstered production again but by the end of the 19th Century commercial mining had all but ceased in the Little Wenlock coalfield. The final colliery at New Works closed in 1901.

Making Tracks



The Wrekin from Spout Lane

So great was the demand placed on the collieries in the Little Wenlock coalfield, that some of the first primitive railways were constructed there, to carry coal and lime from the area in horse-drawn trucks. In 1749, William Forester laid a two-mile tramway across his estate from Coalmoor to Coalbrookdale to supply local foundries with raw materials and export coal to the numerous wharves on the River Severn. To be nearer to the source of materials required for iron making, Abraham Darby II opened a new foundry at Horsehay in 1755 and, after this date, new tramways were built to link mines with foundries rather than with the River Severn. A wagonway was constructed between Coalmoor and the Horsehay Ironworks for the Coalbrookdale Company in 1776 and another line from the Forester's limekilns at The Hatch was in existence by 1833. The path of one of these tramways can still be traced today, passing through the middle of Black Hayes and Limekiln Wood in The Wrekin Forest itself.

The Royal Forest of Mount Gilbert

A thousand years ago, the woodland around The Wrekin formed part of a Royal Forest providing food, timber and hunting for the Crown. Before the Norman Conquest, the forest covered an area between the Orleton Estate and New Works, but by the reign of Henry II, it extended over 120 square miles, stretching from Hadnall to Sheriffhales in the east and southwards towards Buildwas and Madeley. The forest also included Wellington Hay, an enclosure for deer, which ran from Watling Street to the Ercall Hill.

Norman Forest Law

The forests created by the Normans were very different from the kind we might expect to see today and were essentially independent power bases where the King could wield his authority and make money. Many contained large areas with no woodland cover at all and included whole towns and villages. A highly draconian set of rules and punishments were established to deal with any offences against the 'venison and vert' (Venison being Wild Boar and Deer and the vert their habitat; the forest itself) and severe restrictions were placed on anything that might interfere with the wild game, from the felling of trees to gathering firewood and acorns. In the very worst cases, anyone found guilty of illegally hunting venison ran the risk of being executed. In order to ensure that people obeyed the rules, systems of courts existed to enforce the law in each forest and were presided over by powerful royal officials known as Verderers or Foresters. The Forester family were the hereditary wardens of Mount Gilbert and it was their duty to 'walk the forest early and late', watch the venison and vert, and to present trespassers to the local court. The forest area eventually became so large that it had to be separated into three 'regards', known as the Bailiwicks of Haughmond, Wombridge and Mount Gilbert itself.



In the forest near Little Hill

Why Mount Gilbert?

After the Norman Conquest, the authorities attempted to rename The Wrekin in honour of a local hermit. In 1267, we find evidence of his existence when Henry III granted to 'Nicolas de Denton, heremite of Mount Gilbert', six quarters of corn 'to give the hermit greater leisure for holy exercises, and to support him during his life, so long as he should be a hermit on the aforesaid mountain'. However, de Denton was almost certainly not the last hermit living on the hill, as Thomas Gamel of Shrewsbury left a legacy of 18d for 'the hermit on the Wroeken' in 1355.

Life In The Royal Forest

After the imposition of Norman Forest Law, it would be easy to imagine The Wrekin as a no-go area for all but a privileged few. In reality, it was anything but and many people still depended on the forest for their livelihoods. Even in Wellington Hay, local people could graze their cattle for most of the year, in payment of a small fee known as an 'agistment'. The forest floor also provided an ideal habitat for the rearing of pigs, an important part of the medieval economy. In 1255, the 'men of Wellington' had to pay 2 pence to graze a 'yearling swine', and 1 penny for a six-month-old pig.

Decline

The Crown's constant need for money ensured that many illegal practices, such as Pourprestures (erecting buildings) and Assarting (clearing the forest for farming) were legally licensed. Unfortunately, this appears to have led some officials to abuse their powers. In 1255, a Jury of the local Bradford Hundred Court was called to examine why two Under Foresters were charging 'Cheminage' (an illegal toll) on teams of pack-horses passing through the Bailiwick of Haughmond. In nearby Haughton, the local officials also demanded dues of poultry, wheat and oats without warrant. By 1217, Forest Law became so unpopular in England that a Charter was drawn up to remove many of the recent additions to the Royal forests. During the reign of Henry II, one third of Shropshire may have been under forest jurisdiction but, by the 13th Century, this figure fell sharply.

At the forest assizes of 1250, many local settlements, including Wellington, Hadley and Dawley, were exempted from the 'regard' of The Wrekin Forest. These exemptions were often preceded by an official survey, known as a 'perambulation', where several officials walked the forest to determine its extent. After the 'Great Perambulation' of June 1300, the Norman Forest practically ceased to exist and only Wellington Hay remained as a 'Royal demesne', surviving until the 15th Century.

The Forest Today

Although there is little evidence of the extent of the Norman Forest of Mount Gilbert today, many of the names of surrounding settlements give a clue to their original location as forest villages. Place names ending in 'lee' or 'ley' (such as Malinslee, Ketley and Madeley) would almost certainly have begun as clearings within the forest area. In Wellington, the names of both Haygate Road and The Wickets Pub on Holyhead Road may indicate the positions of former entrance gates into the deer enclosure on Wellington Hay.



In the forest near Hazlehurst

Around The Ercall

As you cycle north from Little Wenlock and back towards Wellington, the other hills of The Wrekin range begin to come into view. Maddock's Hill, Lawrence's Hill and The Ercall have all suffered the ravages of extensive quarrying but remain as areas of great geological and scientific importance. In Ercall Lane itself, the woodland to your right is home to many rare plants and animals and has a history stretching back beyond the Norman Conquest.

The Ercall Quarries

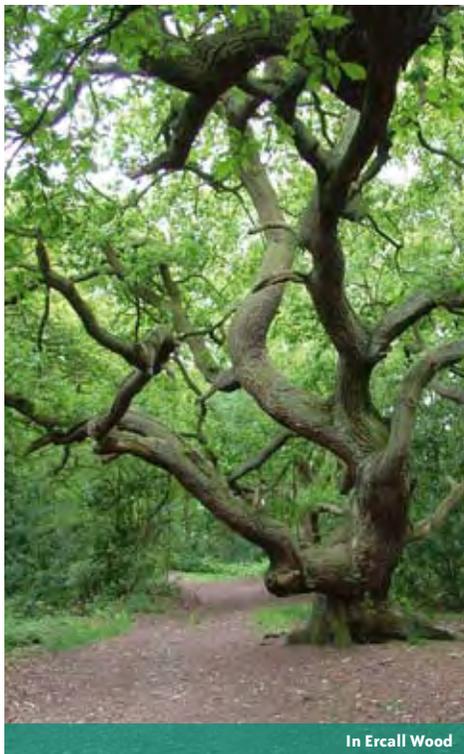
The Ercall Quarries are an internationally significant geological site, renowned for their exposures of Wrekin Quartzite and Precambrian Uriconian Volcanics. In the quarry, it is easy to see a change in the rock from the pink tinge of granite to a pale grey colour. This 'unconformity' marks the transition from the Precambrian to Cambrian period when life on earth became more numerous and varied. If you look carefully, it is also possible to observe ripples in the sandstone, formed on a beach around 540 million years ago.



The Ercall Quarries

Short Wood, Limekiln Wood and Black Hayes

Short Wood, Limekiln Wood and Black Hayes all contain areas of semi-natural, ancient woodland that formerly belonged to the Royal Forest of Mount Gilbert and Wellington Hay. Although the area has suffered the ravages of industrial activity over the course of many centuries, the woods still contain a rich botanic heritage. The Limekiln Wood contains over 150 different woodland plants including, Lily of the Valley, Dog's Mercury and Bird's Nest Orchid. The abandoned mine workings in the area have



In Ercall Wood

also been used as roosting sites by Daubentons, Pipistrelle and Long-Eared Bats. The northern part of the wood was given to the people of Wellington by the owners of the Dothill Estate during the 19th Century and is still in public ownership today.

Around The Wrekin

Here are some of the things to look out for as you cycle around the hill.

The Forest Glen

Until 1993, the car park at the top of Ercall Lane was occupied by the Forest Glen Pavilion. Erected in 1889, the building became a Mecca for locals and tourists alike, serving morning and afternoon tea in the summer and holding dinner dances during the evenings. In the Victorian era, visitors were transported here by horse and carriage from The Station Hotel in Wellington, which like the Pavilion was owned by the Pointon family. After its closure, the building was saved and re-assembled at Blists Hill Museum in Coalport and the site itself is now owned by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

The Wrekin Course and the Rifle Range

The Wrekin Course is the lane that runs from just passed Aston to The Ercall Pools. During the 18th Century, members of the local gentry ran horse races here, which is probably how the road got its name. Half way along the course is the site of the old rifle range, formerly used by the King's Shropshire Light Infantry among others. Although there are still signs in parts of the forest warning passers-by of the potential hazards of flying bullets, a rifle has not been fired here for many years...officially!

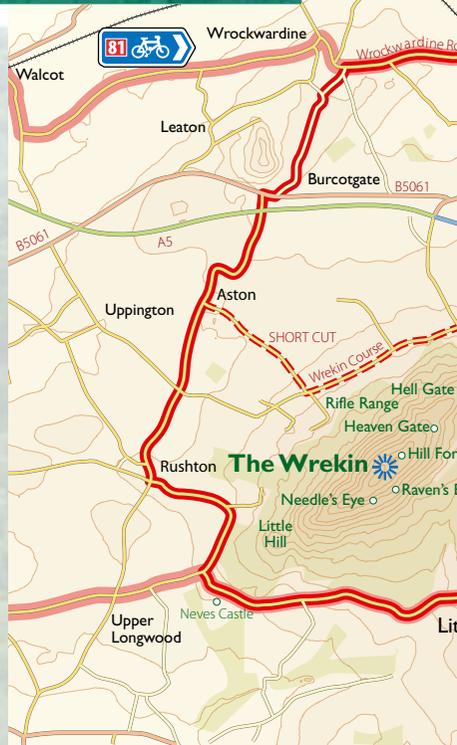
Aston

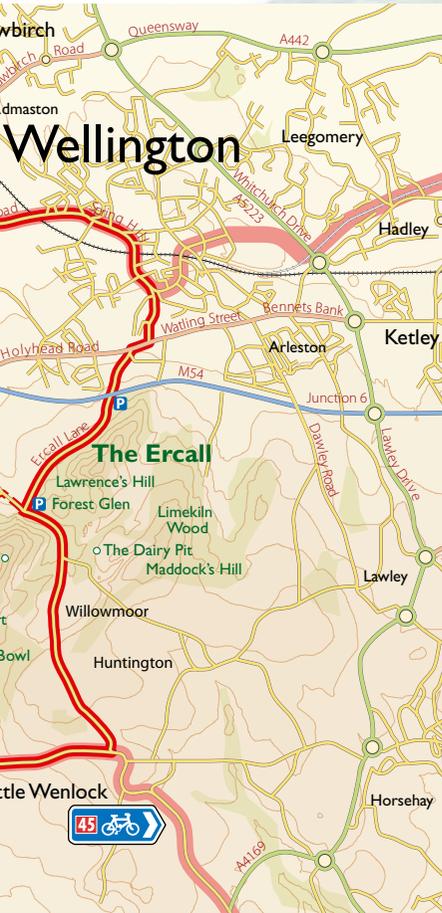
Aston was recorded as one of Wellington's five Berewicks at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086. A Berewick was an outlying holding belonging to the Manor and the term is derived from the old English word for 'corn farm'. During the middle of the 12th Century, the owner, Empress Maud, granted the settlement to Shrewsbury Abbey but the monks could only take possession after they had received a charter from Richard I in 1190.

Little Hill And Neves Castle

At the ripe old age of approximately 677 million years, Little Hill is the oldest of part The Wrekin range and contains rocks that, in geological terms, pre-date life on Earth itself. In the 19th Century, it was known as Primrose Hill, a name that fell out of use when the flower died out here.

Neves Castle takes its name from the small Motte and Bailey mound situated beneath Little Hill on the opposite side of Spout Lane. The site is of unknown origin and may not even have been a castle at all.





The Beacon

A beacon has stood near the summit of The Wrekin since at least Tudor times, when the antiquary John Leland declared that the hill 'standeth as a Pharos, barren of wood'. In his celebration of the defeat of the Spanish Armada, the 19th Century poet Lord Macaulay described as 'streamed on the wind, the Wrekin's crest of light' as it warned of the approaching enemy fleet. The Wrekin reprised this role during World War II, when an aircraft-warning beacon was erected on the hill.

Willowmoor

Although little evidence remains today, Willowmoor is the site of several Bronze Age barrows. In 1835, a large array of weaponry was discovered in one of the mounds, supposedly by a farm labourer digging a drain. Among the hoard were over 150 fragments of spearheads, an axe and some swords. Some of these artefacts can now be seen at the local history museum in Shrewsbury.

The Hatch

The area to the north of Willowmoor Lane played a significant role in the industrial development of east Shropshire from the 18th Century onwards. The Forester family opened several quarries to exploit rich deposits of limestone, an important raw material in iron making. In the early 19th Century, a tramway linked the limekilns with the Coalbrookdale Company's works at Horsehay and lime was also quarried at the Oldfield Works (north of the road between Little Wenlock and The Hatch Bank) and Cross Field, in Huntington Lane. The Hatch was one of the last operational lime workings in the area and closed in 1918.

The Dairy Pit

Just off the right hand side of the road between Hazlehurst and Lawrence's Hill are a group of artificial mounds surrounding a small pool known as the Dairy or Davy Pit. If you are feeling inquisitive and decide to take a closer look, beware!

According to local legend, the pool is home to a mermaid who likes nothing more than luring young men to a watery grave. The Dairy pit is also reputed to be haunted by Rutter's Ghost, the spirit of an 18th Century 'Crickler' or Packhorse Driver.



The Ercall Pools

The Wrekin Hillfort

People appear to have lived on The Wrekin since at least 1000 BC, when roundhouses were first constructed on the hill. The defensive walls of the hillfort were probably begun later, around 450BC, after these houses had been burnt down, possibly in act of tribal warfare. The outer and inner entrances of the hillfort, known as 'Hell Gate' and 'Heaven Gate', are still visible today on the northeast side of the hilltop and form part of what is a scheduled ancient monument.

The Cornovii

Until the invading Roman army reached the area, The Wrekin was probably the principal hillfort of the Celtic Cornovii tribe. Their kingdom stretched southwards from Meols, on the Wirral, to Titterstone Clee in south Shropshire, with a western border that was roughly equivalent to the current boundary between England and Wales. While The Wrekin may have been the tribe's principal hillfort, it is likely that the sparse population of the Cornovii kingdom lived over a far wider area, in low-lying



On the hill top, looking towards the Severn Valley

farmsteads across the Severn Valley. Due to its height, The Wrekin may only have been occupied seasonally or at times of uncertainty for the tribe. Apart from providing security for the Cornovii, the

hillfort may have served as an outward indication to others of tribal status, which would help to explain the large number of hillforts throughout their kingdom. It is likely that the tribe derived much of its wealth from agriculture and these hillforts may also have served as cattle stockades. Some forts probably had a religious function, demonstrated by the presence of shrines at some sites. A holy well, dedicated to St Hawthorn, was recorded on The Wrekin up until the 19th Century.

How Did The Cornovii Live

It has been argued that the Cornovii were neither as wealthy or culturally advanced as other Iron Age tribes in Britain. Their kingdom was largely



Hell Gate, looking towards the Ercall

landlocked and a rival tribe blocked trade routes to the south. While little evidence has been uncovered of the Cornovii possessing many material goods, there are many reasons to suppose that they were not as primitive as first thought. The presence of many lowland farms across the Cornovii kingdom suggests that the tribe had a well-developed agricultural economy and may have chosen to display their prosperity through the possession of livestock and land. The Cornovii also controlled three brine springs in south Cheshire, from which they could have derived considerable commercial benefits. The salt from these springs would have been used in processing leather and cloth and the salting of meat.

The Roman Invasion

Around the year 43AD, four legions of the Roman army invaded Britain with a view to taking over the island. Moving northwestwards along the course of Watling Street, the Legio XIV Gemina appears to have stormed the hillfort on The Wrekin in the spring of 47AD. A large 'vexillation' fortress (consisting of Roman legionnaires and non-Roman infantry and cavalry) was erected by the River Severn to the southeast of Eaton Constantine and may have housed some of the troops assigned to destroy the hillfort.

Romanisation

When the hillfort fell to the conquering Roman Army, it is unclear how the Cornovii tribe reacted. The attack itself may have been a symbolic demonstration of Roman military power and it is possible that the tribe could have viewed the invasion as a trading opportunity and a source of greater security. It was not always the policy of the Romans to alienate the local population, but rather to incorporate it into traditional Roman ways of trading, and many goods and services would have been acquired locally. However, the



Heaven Gate and the transmitter



On the hill top, looking towards Limekiln Wood

economic and cultural differences between the Cornovii and the Romans were initially very large. The Cornovii tradition of mutually sharing wealth and resources would have been totally at odds with Roman consumer society. Those dealing directly with the invaders would also have been expected to use money, which the Cornovii do not generally appear to have done beforehand. The existing Cornovii Industries associated with salt production would have also been taken over by the Romans, who erected forts at Middlewich, Nantwich and Northwich to protect their newly acquired interests.

Viroconium-Cornoviorum

The former population of the hillfort on The Wrekin probably migrated to Wroxeter, later known as Viroconium-Cornoviorum (Viroconium of the Cornovii) a name that may have been transferred from the former settlement on the hill. The town itself was founded around 90AD, when the Roman Twentieth Legion, whose fortress had been situated on the site, moved to a new military base at Deva (Chester). This development marked the transition from military control of the area back to the Cornovii, who then administered their affairs once again. Documentary evidence suggests that the site was still called 'Utriconian Cornoviorum' in the 7th Century, indicating the town's continued status as a tribal capital long after the Roman invasion had ended.

Myths and Legends of The Wrekin Hill

We now know that The Wrekin was almost certainly fashioned by the hand of a giant but opinion still varies as to how exactly this incredible event came to pass. The following story is, we believe, the most plausible explanation...



Looking towards Raven's Bowl

Here Be Giants!

Ercol and Madog were two troublesome giants who had been exiled from their own community. One day, while passing through the area, they both decided it would be an ideal place to set up home. Grabbing their spades, the two brothers dug a long trench and began to pile up the earth into a massive hill. When they got to the top, which being Giants did not take them very long, Ercol and Madog noticed the trench had filled up with water. Yes, apart from building The Wrekin, they had created the River Severn as well!

Rather than content themselves with this feat, sibling rivalry soon set in and the brothers began to squabble about who should get to live on the hill. After all, there was not room enough for both

of them! Ercol, who found arguing very tiresome, took his spade and attempted hit Madog as hard as he could but, before the giant could do anything, a passing Raven (who, like all civilised creatures, deplored the use of violence) flew up and pecked his eye! The results of what happened next can still be seen today...

The Needles Eye and the Raven's Bowl

With a great crash, Madog's spade fell to earth and gouged out 'The Needle's Eye' in the rock below. So upset was the giant by the bird's unexpected attack that a huge tear rolled down from his injured eye and formed a small pool nearby. 'The Raven's Bowl' or 'Cuckoo's Cup, as it is known, is reputed never to have dried up since! Yet, even then, Ercol and Madog continued to struggle grimly for supremacy of The Wrekin. In fact, they fought so hard that the grass around the Bladder Stone, near the hill's summit, refuses to grow back even to this day! Eventually, Madog got the better of his wounded brother and began to pile earth on top of him, until he had completely buried poor Ercol! And there he remains, imprisoned beneath the Ercall Hill, occasionally crying out for help to unsuspecting passers-by, but only at the dead of night...



The Needle's Eye

Are You Feeling Lucky?

Fear not, for Ercol and Madog's misfortune need not be yours. A trip up The Wrekin could potentially bring you a great deal of luck! For centuries, folklore and tradition have played a large part in many a trip up the hill...

Through The Needles Eye

When you reach the Raven's Bowl (a small depression in a rocky outcrop near the summit) drop a pin in it, and good fortune will follow you. If you are already lucky enough to be visiting the hill with a partner, you could take a trip through the Needle's Eye – but only from west to east, or it won't work. Make sure your companion is waiting on the other side of the cleft in the rock and, when you



The Cuckoo's Cup or Raven's Bowl

have climbed through (without stumbling) demand a kiss from them. A lifetime of wedded bliss is sure to follow, apparently. However, Ladies do beware! If you look back whilst passing through the Needle's Eye, you will never be married at all!

During the 19th Century, there also existed a custom whereby people visited the hill on Easter Day to 'See the Sun dance three times when he rose'. Quite what fortune this was supposed to bring remains a mystery, along with the details of the celestial body's gyratory movements!



On the hill top

The Wrekin Wakes

Until the 19th Century, The Wrekin played host to a festival of drunken debauchery and gratuitous violence every four Sundays in May. The Wrekin Wakes began as a vigil of prayer on the eve of a religious festival but eventually turned into something quite different. According to the reminiscences of one local person, writing in 1873, The Wrekin was 'covered by a multitude of pleasure seekers' who enjoyed 'all the etceteras of an English fair'. The grand finale of the event was a pitched battle for possession of the hill between local Colliers and Countrymen. However, this form of popular entertainment did not sit comfortably with Victorian ideas on morally productive leisure pastimes and the Cludde family of Orleton Hall eventually suppressed the wakes.

The Past, Present and Future...

After you've cycled round The Wrekin we are sure you will agree that it is a place worth protecting for future generations to enjoy - You can be part of helping to ensure that this happens.

How You Can Help

Wellington Local Agenda 21 Group is a voluntary organisation that aims to encourage local people to get involved in issues which impact on all of our everyday lives. Decisions made on our own doorsteps can make a real difference and the Local Agenda 21 process exists to help individuals and groups work together to find solutions to a range of problems affecting the local environment, from litter picking to developing sustainable transport projects.

The group maintains a long term commitment to helping support and protect the natural and historic heritage in and around Wellington and this includes The Wrekin. If you would like to learn more about our work and how you can get involved, visit us at:

www.wellingtonla21.org.uk

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Visiting The Wrekin

On Two Wheels...

If you are cycling in the area for the first time, Wellington is an excellent place to begin your journey. The railway station is located in the centre of the town with regular services to and from the West Midlands and Central Wales. Most local trains have capacity for up to two bikes (no tandems or tricycles) although a reservation may be required on some services. For more information visit:

www.centraltrains.co.uk or
www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk.

Secure cycle parking is available at various locations around the town centre, while help with spares and repairs can be found at Perry's Cycles, 33 Tan Bank. To find out more about the town's history, pick up a copy of our 'Victorian Wellington' walk booklet at the Tourist Information Centre in Wellington News, Crown Street.

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Borough of
TELFORD
 & WREKIN



Wellington
 LA 21 Group

Out and About...

To follow the 'All Round The Wrekin' cycle trail just consult the route map in the centre of this booklet. Some of the trail utilises existing sections of routes 45 and 81 of the National Cycle Network and further details relating to the network can be found by visiting www.sustrans.org.uk. Take care at all times along the trail and do follow the highway code. Ride single file where the road is narrow, slow down for passing walkers, horse riders and other vehicles and watch out for gravel or greasy roads after rain. The trail contains several steep gradients and busy junctions so always ride positively and decisively. For more information about The Wrekin and other local heritage attractions visit

www.wellingtonla21.org.uk