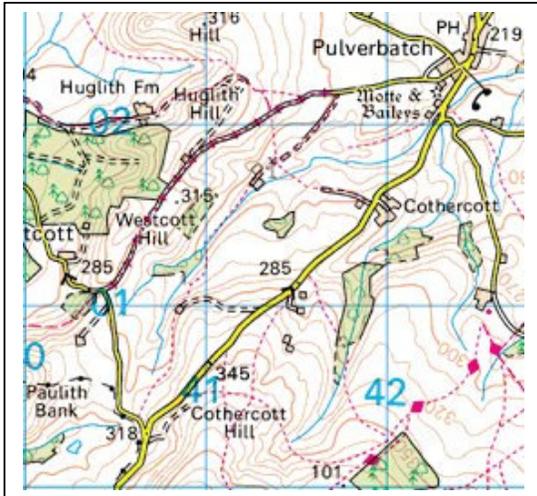


The White Horse to Cothercott Hill

A circular walk of about 3 miles. Allow around 2 hours. Some hills, and boots are required as it can be quite boggy on the way back. You may park in the pub car park or in the bailey for the castle (see below). There are often sheep in the fields so follow the Country Code



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Out up Puntley Lane, the old mediaeval road from Shrewsbury to Bishops Castle, past the motte and baileys castle that gives Castle Pulverbatch its name. At the top of the hill, pass the old mine workings of Huglith barytes mine hidden in the trees just off the track. Returning down part of an old tramway built, but never completed, to take barytes from Cothercott mine towards the railway line at Dorrington. Note the remains of adits constructed as part of the Wilderley copper mine. The Outrack was so called because it was the route out onto the hills for grazing stock.



Park in the White Horse car park. The pub serves excellent lunches and bar snacks every day except Monday.



Before you turn right out of the car park, look left at The Gate House, which was built as a toll house in the 18th century when the turnpike was built to Bishops Castle.



Head straight up the hill. Note Castle House (originally Castle Farm) on the right where once lived the Miss Gilpins, daughters of Rector, the Rev. William Gilpin, in Sukey Harley's day.



Take a few minutes to visit the 12th century Motte and Bailey castle just past the last houses and admire the excellent defensive position and good state of preservation of the remaining earthworks.



The road soon loses its metalled surface and appears much more like the mediaeval route between Shrewsbury and Bishops Castle that it is. It remains a Byway so there is the chance of occasional traffic or horses. Wildflowers bloom along the verges.



Pass the ruined farm buildings on the right and enjoy the view across the valley to the hamlet of Cothercott, recorded in the Domesday Book



At the top of the hill, hidden in the trees on the right, lie the old mine workings of Huglith barytes mine.



Do not be tempted to cross the fence as there are open voids under the vegetation.



Note the open views (to the right) of the Stiperstones and the conical Paulith Bank ahead.



Turn left on reaching a metalled lane and follow it until it turns right to join the main road.



A short grassed track on the left, just before the lane turns right, leads to a field gate and a stile. Cross the stile into the field and walk straight ahead.



(If you follow the lane up to the main road, Cothercott barytes mine lies directly in front of you at the junction.)



(The remains of the mill for grinding the barytes are to the left across the road.)



You will soon pick up the trackbed of the old Cothercott tramway intended to connect the mine with the railway line at Dorrington.



This photo shows where the first attempt at a tramway was deemed too steep and replaced by the upper one.



Follow the trackway down the valley, passing the ruins of Cothercott Hill Farm, originally a squatter's cottage for a miner and noting the mine adits constructed as part of the Wilderley copper mine high on the hill above.



When approaching the gate in front of you, where the tramway once went into the next field and performed a tight S bend to descend to the bottom of the slope (now ploughed out), turn left and follow the fence line down the hill (it can be very boggy here).



Cross the stile and walk along the bottom of the field.



On reaching a horse gate down by the stream, pass through the gate and cross the brook to continue northwards on its other side.



Cross two more stiles to reach the Outrack.



This cottage is being restored in traditional style.



The track is now stoned through three gates, before turning uphill, through two more field gates to meet Puntley Lane again.



Turn right and return to the White Horse for some well-earned refreshment but notice the view of Church Pulverbatch presiding over the Shropshire plain .