



Archaeology

As part of the extensive re-landscaping, three roads were moved away from Acton Scott Hall to enlarge its parklands. The course of one can be seen 25 yards south west of the Historic Working Farm's visitor car park. All that's left is a low bank and dip in the ground.

It was during this work that the remains of a Roman Villa were found by Frances Stackhouse Acton. When Frances excavated the site in 1844 she found fragments of painted wall plaster and parts of an under floor heating system.

Historic Working Farm

During the 18th century, significant investment was undertaken by Edward Acton, including the rebuilding of the Home Farm. This is the location of the Historic Working Farm, founded by Thomas Acton in the 1970s. His foresight preserved many traditional skills that might easily have been lost to modern day practices. It is well worth a visit to see what it was like to live and work on a Victorian Farm.

St Margaret's Church



The Church occupies an ancient site and is surrounded by yew trees over 800 years old. The 12th century tower houses a peal

of three bells, thought to be one of the earliest

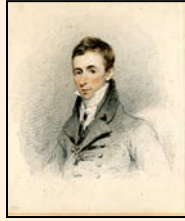


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European Regional Development Fund



in the country. As part of work undertaken by T.P. Stackhouse Acton, a new family transept was constructed, featuring a fine, rib-vaulted plaster ceiling.

To the north is a field called Tower Yard. A medieval Tower, probably a predecessor to the Elizabethan Acton Scott Hall, was abandoned in the 17th century. The stone of the ruins were re-used elsewhere and nothing remained by 1790. Now there is only a level patch of ground.



Lord Stackhouse 1820

High Trees

Amongst the improvements made on the estate by T.P. Stackhouse Acton was this hill top plantation. To the south-east of the wood, some earthworks can be seen. This is probably a defended site, possibly Iron Age in date. The name of the field, 'Burr field', also indicates this.

The dismantled Railway Line

The Buildwas to Craven Arms railway line was opened in 1867, crossing the Parish north of Henley. Once it thrived but eventually traffic dwindled and it was closed in 1951.

HM The Queen Elizabeth II spent one night on the Royal Train stationed in the cutting, during a visit to Shropshire shortly before her coronation. Villagers waved flags from the field above and the Queen, dressed in red, was seen to wave back.

The Carriageway

This tree lined lane is one of three new carriageways, built by T.P. Stackhouse Acton, each with its own Lodge and Gate. Visitors would have travelled nearly a mile along this route, taking in the picturesque landscape before reaching the Hall.

For further information about Acton Scott see www.actonscott.com



Circular Walk 3

The Country Squire's Stroll

Discover Shropshire

Walking the Acton Scott Circular takes you back to a quieter time. One where great Shire horses and farm labourers were the only horsepower. Through an ancient estate little changed since it was landscaped in the 'picturesque' manner 200 years ago. The land where the BBC2's 'Victorian Farm' was filmed.

The walk is in 4 parts:

- A short walk to the Church of St Margaret, suitable for all.
- An extension from the Church walk, taking in the Glebe lands.
- A longer walk including Iron Age earthworks, the dismantled Railway Line and Acton Scott Hall Carriageway.
- A short cut to the longer walk.

Acton Scott today

The landscape you see today has its origins in work undertaken in the early 19th century by Thomas Pendarves (T.P.) Stackhouse Acton and his wife, Frances. The landscaping work was undertaken in the latest style of the time, known as the 'picturesque'.

Prior to this, very little woodland existed and the estate would have looked very different.





Discover Shropshire

Circular Walk 3

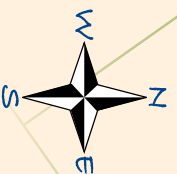
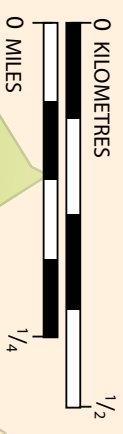
For a more detailed map and information visit: www.shropshirewalking.co.uk

DIFFICULTY: Can be wet under foot
★☆☆☆☆

3½ mile walk

Please note: The Historic Working Farm car park opens from 10am to 5pm Tuesdays to Sundays and bank holidays between April and November.

The Church car park is open every day from 8am to 6pm



Shropshire Way	Footpaths	Bridleways
Circular walk	Permissive Path	
Café	Place of Worship	
Public House	Wildlife Reserve	
Toilets	Caravan/Camping Site	
Visitor Attractions	Car Parking	
Telephone box	Disabled access route	
Open Access area	Railway Station	

ROUTE PROFILE

