

For Your Information

The town of Bridgnorth and the surrounding area boasts numerous and often unique attractions and activities:

The Severn Valley Railway (01746 762052) is one of the finest preserved steam railways in Britain offering regular services beside the River Severn to Kidderminster. (01299 403816)

Castle Hill Railway (01746 762052) offers a less energetic alternative to climbing the 178 Stoneway Steps from Low Town to High Town.

The Northgate Museum provides fascinating insights into the town's rich past displaying local artefacts.

Daniels Mill (01746 762753) one mile out of town on the B4555 is a working corn mill powered by a huge water wheel.

Guided Tours of the Town (01746 767147) are available from April to October. These leave from the Visitor Information Centre at 2.15pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

Severn Park is an extensive recreational area next to the River Severn in Low Town. It has a children's play area and a picnic area with parking nearby. This is a departure point for interesting and varied rambles to the High Rock and the Hermitage as well as along the River Severn.

Bridgnorth Sports and Leisure Centre (01746 761541) has an indoor pool, sauna, solarium, badminton, tennis and squash courts.

Tasley, on the outskirts of the town has a livestock market every Tuesday and on the first and third Wednesday of the month, bric-a-brac, furniture and antiques.

There is a wide range of **Antique Shops and Centres** in both Low and High Town.

Half day closing Thursday. Main street market Saturday.

Churches:

Church of England, St Mary's Church, East Castle Street
Roman Catholic, St. Johns Church, Northgate
Baptist Church, West Castle Street
People's Hall Evangelical Church, St. John's Street
United Reformed & Methodist Church, Cartway

ShropDoc (out of hours medical service) 0844 4068888

Visitor Information Centre

Tel: 01746 763257

www.visitbridgnorth.co.uk

Email: bridgnorthtourism@shropshire.gov.uk

BRIDGNORTH CLIFF RAILWAY



Since 1892 the oldest and steepest inland funicular in Britain has travelled up sandstone cliffs linking the fascinating High and Low Towns of Bridgnorth, enjoying glorious views of the beautiful Severn Valley.
Open 362 days a year. Journeys every few minutes from 8am to 8pm in summer.
Opens 12 noon Sunday. Closes 6.30pm in winter. Group rates available.
Phone: 01746 762052 or 762124
www.bridgnorthcliff railway.co.uk

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Tel: 01902 376 200

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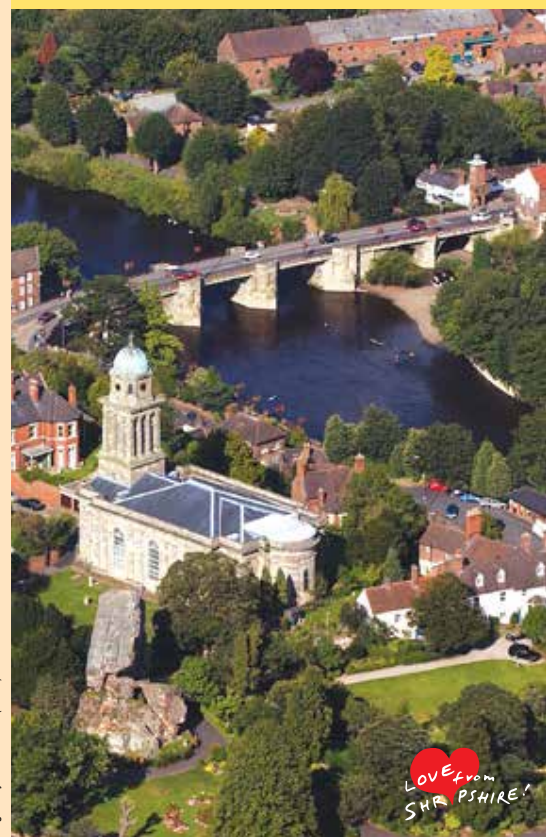
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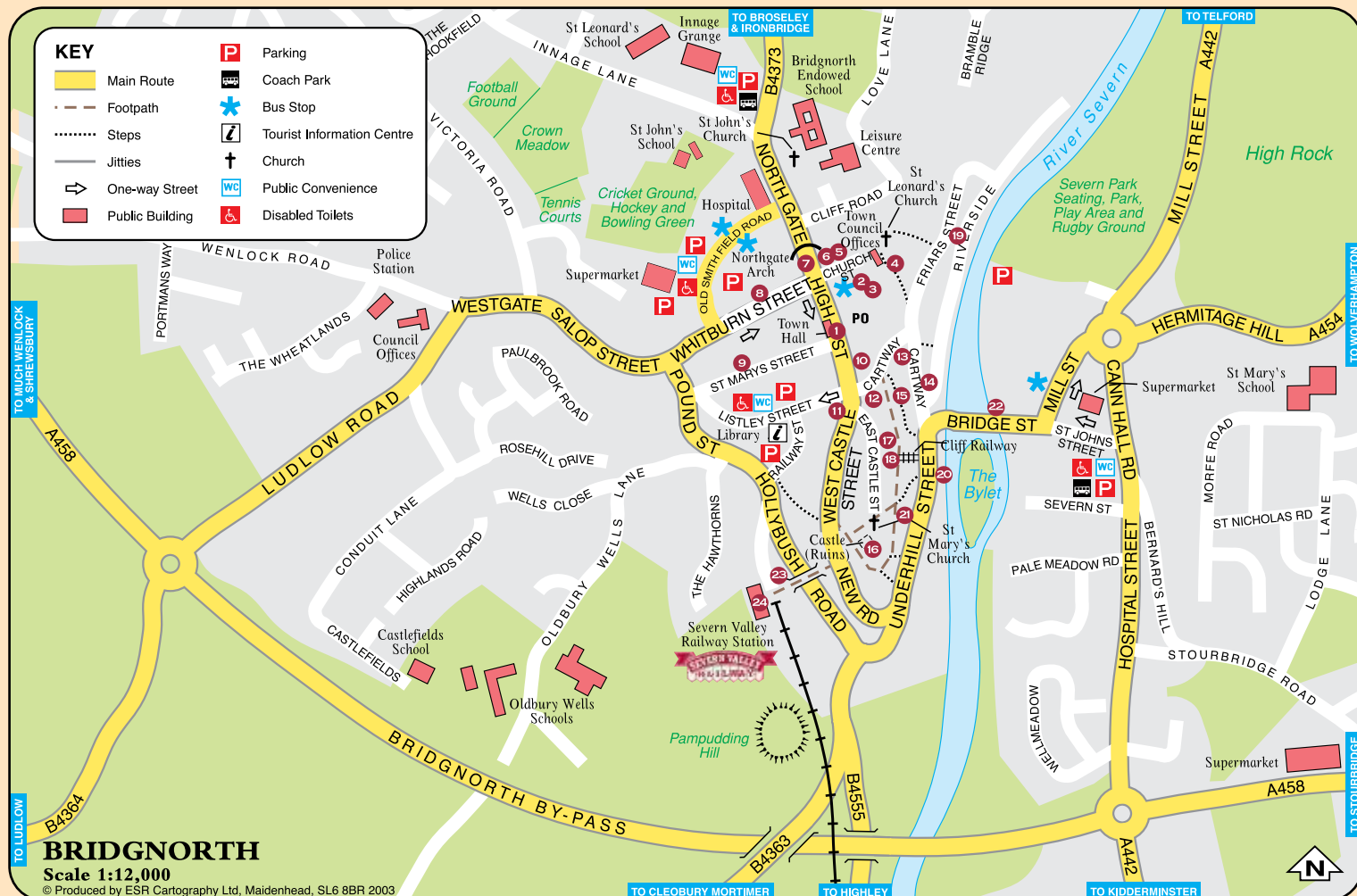
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Your map of Bridgnorth



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www.visitbridgnorth.co.uk





1 Town Hall

The Civil War caused extensive damage in Bridgnorth. The Town Hall is one of many timber framed buildings built just after the war. Completed in 1652 the sandstone arched base has since been faced in brick and the building was extensively altered in 1887.

2 Church Street to St Leonard's

The almshouses on the left of the street were established in 1503 and rebuilt in 1792. St Leonard's Church is built on the highest part of the town and has a fine church close. The original church dated from before 1250 but the present red sandstone building is almost entirely Victorian.



3 Palmer's Hospital

These almshouses date from 1687 and were rebuilt in 1889 with a stone ground floor and "half timbered" upper floor.

4 Grammar School

In St Leonard's Close there is a terrace of three brick houses built in 1639 each with stone mullioned windows and diagonally set chimney stacks. Originally one was the school house, one was for the school master and one was for the Vicar of St Leonard's and later used for dormitories.



5 The Old Grammar School

The institution of a Grammar School was founded around 1500 in the former chapel of St John the Baptist. The present building on the site dates from 1785.



6 Richard Baxter's House

In 1640-41 this house was occupied by the famous puritan preacher who was at one time curate of St Leonard's.



7 The North Gate

This gate is the only one of five in the town's original

fortifications remaining and most of it has been rebuilt. There is a museum in the large room over the arches. Adjacent buildings date from the 17th century with modifications of a later date.

8 King's Head

This is an important timber framed building with three gables and diagonal struts.



9 St Mary's Street

Central of the three streets off High Street which formed the planned new town of the mid 12th century. Brick facing conceals timber framed buildings on narrow fronted "burgage plots", with side passages leading to long gardens containing workshops and cottages.



10 The "Swan"

A mid 17th century coaching inn with yard behind. Adjacent is a 19th century painted brick building and opposite

another timber framed building to which four caryatids were added after 1888.

11 New Market Buildings

Italianate style, built in 1855 to house street market traders but they resisted the change. The narrow street at the front used to lead through the Postern Gate to the castle outer bailey.



Welcome to Bridgnorth



The ancient market town of Bridgnorth straddles the magnificent River Severn: It comprises Low Town and, atop dramatic 100 foot sandstone cliffs, High Town. The two are linked by seven sets of historic steps, the famous cliff railway and by Cartway, a meandering street steeped in history. Bridgnorth is the ideal centre from which to explore the glorious countryside of Shropshire's Severn Valley.

Historic Dates

- 912 The Saxons built a fort on the Castle Hill site led by Ethelfleda.
- 1101 Norman Castle built by Robert de Belesme from Quatt.
- 1157 The borough incorporated by Royal Charter of Henry II.
- 1642 King Charles I at Bridgnorth Castle for three days - he said the view from the Castle Walk was the finest in his dominion.
- 1646 Civil War - Final siege and capture of the castle by the parliamentary forces. Castle blown up by gunpowder.
- 1792 St. Mary's Church built by Thomas Telford.
- 1862 Arrival of railway at Bridgnorth.
- 1892 Castle Hill cliff railway built.
- 1965 Railway closes and Railway Preservation Society formed.
- 1984 By-pass opened
- 1994 New Footbridge opened



12 Waterloo Terrace

Here you have a choice of routes. The terrace leads down Stoneway Steps to the Theatre, or to the Cliff Railway, or the Castle Hill walk which follows the line of the Castle Battlements.

13 Cartway

At one time the only route for wheeled vehicles between Low Town, the river wharfs and High Town. There are several caves in the sandstone which were used as family dwellings until 1856.



14 Bishop Percy's House

Built in 1580 it was one of the few timber framed houses to survive the fire of 1646. Named after the Rev. Dr. Percy, Bishop of Dromore, who was born in the house in 1729. Return to High Town up Stoneway Steps.



15 Theatre on the Steps

Halfway up Stoneway Steps, with their cast iron kerbs, is the former 18th century Congregational Chapel. It now houses an amateur theatre company and hosts visiting professional touring companies. Tickets available from Visitor Information Centre.



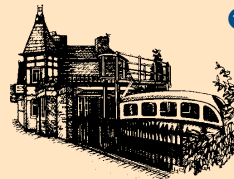
16 Castle

The site of a pre-Norman conquest castle rebuilt by Robert de Belesme between 1098 and 1101. All that remains of the once vast Norman castle is part of the keep tower which leans at an angle of about 15 degrees resulting from attempted demolition after the Civil War. The castle grounds offer fine views of the River Severn and the railway.



17 East Castle Street

Once part of the castle outer bailey, the present street dates from 1769. No 18 the former castle Governor's House, is a notable brick building with stone trim, of about 1633. The other houses are late Georgian. St. Mary's Church, originally attached to the castle, was rebuilt in 1792 to the design of Thomas Telford with the tower at the north end to take advantage of the vista along the street.



18 Castle Hill Railway

Until recently the only inland Cliff Railway still working in Britain, it was opened in 1892, is 201ft (66m) long and has a vertical rise of 111ft (37m). It originally operated on a water balance system but was

converted in 1943-4 to electrically driven colliery-type winding gear. From the bottom of the Cliff Railway you can explore Low Town returning to High Town by the railway, or walking past Lavington's Hole and the Severn Valley Railway.

19 The Friary

Excavations in 1989 revealed extensive remains of an impressive Franciscan Friary constructed in the 13th century. The scale of the masonry and quality of tiles and glass found, indicate that Bridgnorth was of strategic importance and, as a bridging point controlling Severn Trade, was of economic importance in the medieval period.



20 The Quayside

During the 17th century, the Severn was the second busiest river in Europe, providing links to Bristol and the rest of the world. The quayside was a bustling area with river boats loading and unloading alongside large warehouses which stretched along the riverside.



21 Lavington's Hole

During the Civil War the Royalists were forced to retreat to Bridgnorth Castle after a severe battle. The Parliamentary forces laid siege for weeks and Colonel Lavington was in charge of digging a tunnel under Castle Hill with the intention of blowing up St. Mary's Church which housed the munitions. The Royalists surrendered before the tunnel was completed.



22 Bridge View

Affording a fine view towards High Town, the bridge was rebuilt in 1823 to the design of Thomas Telford. On the clock tower is an inscription commemorating the building of the first locomotive in 1808 at John Hazeldine's foundry which was just up river.



23 The Footbridge

The first footbridge was built by Bridgnorth Borough Council in 1895. After the railway closed, it became unsafe, and in 1976 was demolished amid protests. The new footbridge was opened in 1994. It provides wonderful views and links the High Town with the Severn Valley Railway Station.



24 Severn Valley Railway

Bridgnorth Station is now the northern end of the privately run steam railway which operates regular services to Bewdley and Kidderminster. The line used to run through a tunnel under High Town and proceed through Ironbridge to Shrewsbury. Beyond the station is Pampudding Hill which may have been an Iron Age hillfort, and was the vantage point where Cromwell stationed his cannons.

