

The background is a dark navy blue field filled with various geometric shapes in bright colors: orange, green, red, and cyan. These shapes include squares, circles, and triangles, some of which are partially cut off by the edges of the frame. The shapes are arranged in a non-repeating, abstract pattern.

# Derwen<sup>!!</sup> College


Prospectus






**We are Derwen. A specialist college for young adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).**


**Our positive and empowering culture gives students the skills and confidence to live life their own way.**



**Our vibrant community works together to create a relaxed and positive environment that helps our young adults prepare for real life.**



**By creating a space for them to develop hands-on, practical experience we're giving them the freedom to imagine what's possible and empowering them to achieve it.**



# Welcome to Derwen College

Welcome to Derwen College.

We deliver exceptional programmes within a rich learning environment for young people, aged from 16 to 25 years, with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including:

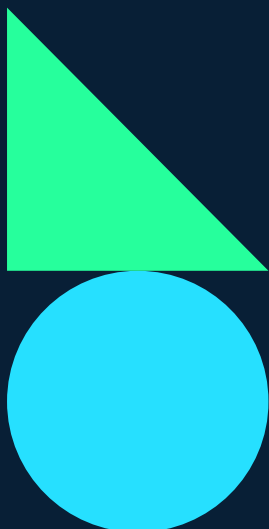
- Learning and physical disabilities
- ▲ Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Behaviours of concern
- Profound & Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD)



**We work with our young people to support them to achieve what they want to and challenge them to do more.**

We have our main campus in Gobowen, and three satellites across Shropshire:

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| ● Gobowen (Main Campus)<br>Residential & Day | ■ Telford<br>Day |
| ■ Walford<br>Day                             | ▲ Ludlow<br>Day  |



## **Our students regularly exceed what they and others thought possible**

We look forward to showing you what student life with us is all about. You will get a taste of some of the amazing work that our students do and the facilities they enjoy. You will have the chance to meet staff and students, and chat about your next steps.

“Senior leaders have created a caring, calm and inclusive environment for staff and students. Staff are well trained in supporting good behaviours. Staff have high standards and clear expectations of learners’ behaviour. As a result, staff support learners well. Learners’ behaviour and attitudes are exceptional, and they make good progress in their vocational courses and independent living skills.”

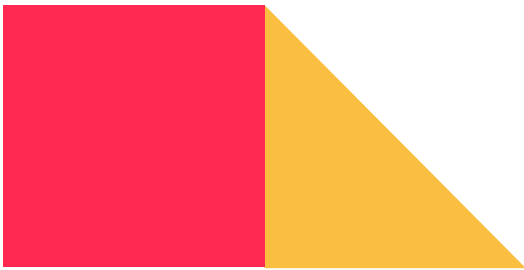
~ Ofsted 2021



**Your college programme can open up a world of exciting opportunities. Come and have a look!**

**Meryl Green**  
Principal & CEO





## **We're here for you**

**We have an amazing team here at Derwen College, and they're all waiting to support you through this next stage of your education. Take your time to browse this prospectus, come and visit us and have a look around the college campus, and – most importantly – talk to us so we can help you decide which pathway will be the right one for you.**

We work with local funding authorities right across the UK, including Wales and Scotland. We will help and advise you through our admissions process.







## It's all about you

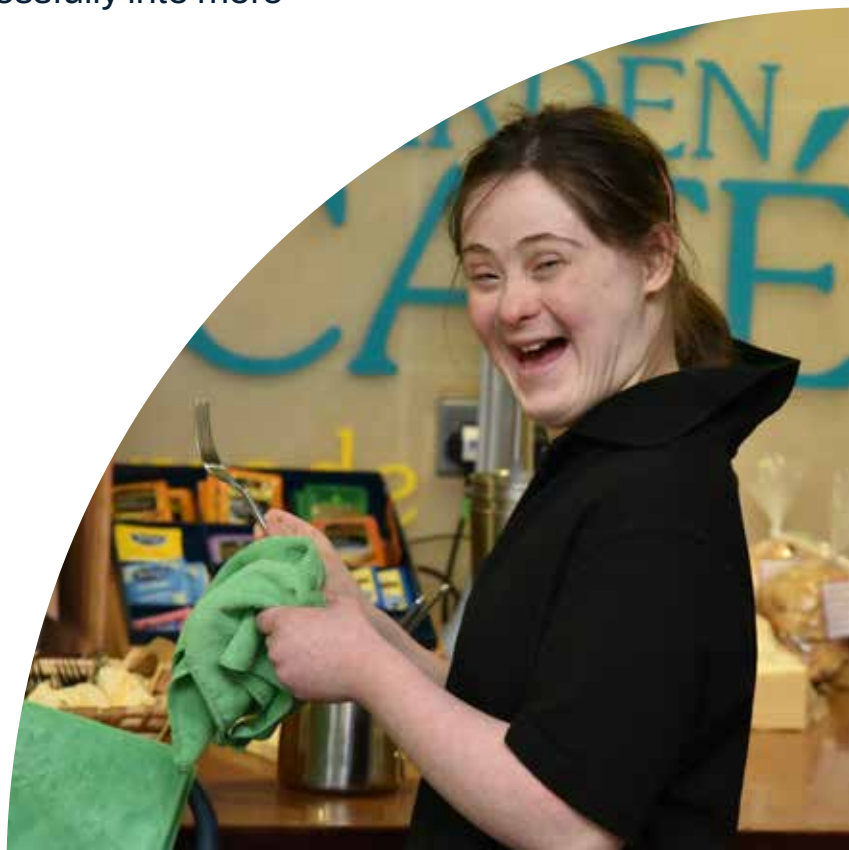
Just as you need to get to know us, we also take time to get to know you so we can give you the best opportunity and learning experience possible.

The first thing we need to do is to meet you and your parents and carers. This is part of our assessment process, where we learn about you, your life, what your interests and aspirations are. Through this process, we identify the support you need and also establish whether Derwen College is right for you.



“Learners become more independent in their personal lives. Through regular tutorials, learners participate in discussions and take more control of their decision making. They improve their ability to travel, shop, cook and manage their personal laundry. As they acquire these skills, they move successfully into more independent living arrangements.”

~ Ofsted 2021



# The Derwen College Experience

## Which pathway is right for you?

We are definitely not one-size-fits-all! At Derwen College, we tailor our programmes to fit individual student needs. We are flexible and adaptive in our approach, making sure we meet the learning needs and requirements of all our students.

## Learning for Life (available at Gobowen)

Learning for Life is a fun and bespoke programme tailored to meet the needs of individual learners who require that little bit of extra support. This could be additional support with communication, personal development, interaction, team work, problem solving or self-regulation skills.

Learning for Life has been specially designed for young people who may not be ready for a full-time vocational pathway. Once completed, our learners may choose to progress to a vocational pathway.

More information on our pathways and programmes can be found on our website, [www.derwen.ac.uk](http://www.derwen.ac.uk)





# Vocational Pathways

Our pathways are tailored to suit you whether you are looking for a full-time vocational route, or are not quite ready for a customer-facing programme. As well as training in our high-quality on-site outlets, there are fantastic **external work experience** opportunities linked to each vocational area. These ensure you are well-prepared for the workplace when you leave college.

We currently offer the following vocational pathways:

## Gobowen

For day and residential students

- Horticulture
- Hospitality and Food
- Performing Arts
- Retail and Enterprise

## Ludlow

For day students

- Business Support, Sales, and Enterprise

## Walford

For day students

- Horticulture
- Sport and Fitness

## Telford

For day students

- Hospitality
- Business Support, Sales, and Marketing

We have some outstanding on-site facilities for you to complete your training in and gain valuable work skills and experience. These include:

- The Orangery Restaurant
- Hotel 751
- Walled Garden Cafe
- Food Centre
- Vintage Advantage charity shop
- Garden Centre & Gift Shop
- Station Cafe


You might consider progressing onto one of our Supported Internships, following your vocational programme at Derwen College or elsewhere.

Linked pathways are popular and effective for many of our students. By having access to two pathways, you can benefit from gaining a diverse yet complementary set of skills. For example, you might choose Hospitality and Food as your main pathway and Performing Arts as your link. This gives you a broader set of transferable work skills that you can apply when considering workplace opportunities.

## Springboard (available at Gobowen)

Springboard is a flexible programme, funded through social care, aimed to give you a bit of extra support where needed. Instead of formal learning, you have access to work experience opportunities and are supported to improve your independence skills. Just like all the Derwen College students, you are welcome to participate in student trips and to enjoy everything the student union has to offer.

More information about our pathways and programmes can be found on our website, [www.derwen.ac.uk](http://www.derwen.ac.uk)



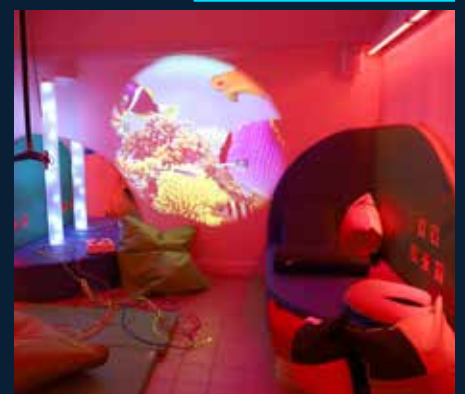
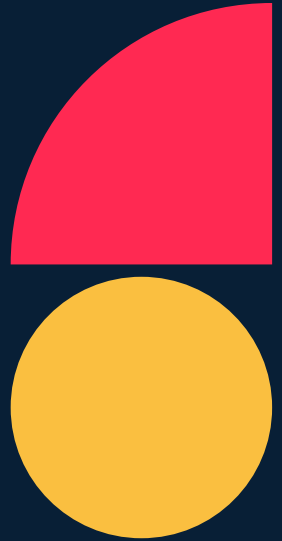
We also offer a sensory programme for those young people whose planned outcome is not work.

## Nurture

We have been delighted to introduce our Nurture programme for students with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD).

It is highly personalised for each student, with a curriculum based around Independence, Cognition and Learning, Social Interaction and Wellbeing, and Communication.

It is a non-vocational programme aimed at supporting young people from school to adult life, maximising positive choice making to increase and enhance quality of life outcomes.



**Parents of 2021 graduate Tom – who has learning difficulties and autism – were determined that he enjoy a college experience similar to his siblings in mainstream education.**

They said: “We wanted Tom to have the experience of living away from home with other young people, in the same way that our other children did. We felt Derwen offered a full curriculum of meaningful training and socialisation opportunities. We knew that Tom would not learn and practise essential independence and social skills if he remained supported at home.”

**Tom has now embarked on a supported internship, and is looking forward to a more independent future thanks to skills learnt at Derwen College.**

## **What else will your programme include?**

As part of your wraparound independence programme, you will learn about budgeting for meals, go shopping for your food and have the opportunity to cook and learn about healthy choices. You will be supported while you explore the local and wider community, develop road safety and travel skills and explore aspects of personal and social development and citizenship.



Our highly qualified staff bring a wealth of skills and experience across the whole provision – from teaching and learning, to care and independence support, clinical, and therapies.






## **Sports and leisure – what will you choose to get involved in?**

There is a huge variety of sports and leisure activities on offer in the evenings and at weekends. Whether you have an existing hobby, or want to try something new, we have an ever-evolving programme including dance, creative arts, computer and board games, New Age Kurling, football, canoeing – this is just a taste!

Or why not challenge yourself and sign up to our unrivalled Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Awards programme? We have a dedicated DofE base on campus at Gobowen, and our students achieve and go beyond their expectations at all three levels, with those who have achieved Gold going to Buckingham Palace to receive their awards.

Our social programme plays an important part in helping you to build your confidence, enjoy your free time, learn new skills, meet new friends and have fun.



“During such adverse and difficult times, this college has shown how it has remained focused on student achievements and outcomes. The pandemic did not hold this college back; it initiated new projects, which meant student outcomes could be achieved, and learners remained safe and engaged in their education.”

~ Tes Award 2021



## Our fabulous facilities include:

- |                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| ▶ Indoor heated swimming pool | ▶ Sports field         |
| ▶ Sports hall                 | ● Woodland walk        |
| ● Dance studio                | ▶ Hydrotherapy pool    |
| ■ Fully equipped gym          | ■ Sensory space        |
|                               | ▶ Modern student union |

Plus strong connections with local sports and activity groups.

## Our extensive range of optional wellbeing activities include:

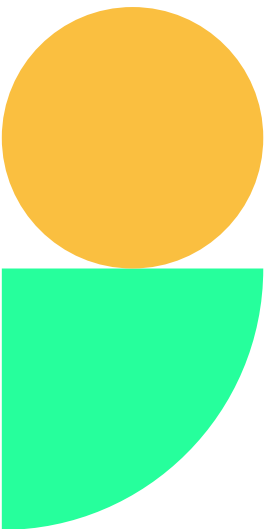
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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ▶ Gardening             | ■ Forest skills      |
| ■ Indoor cricket        | ● Photography        |
| ▶ Drama, dance, & music | ▶ Chill out sessions |
| ● Craft                 | ▶ Acts of kindness   |
| ▶ Pray & praise         | ● And many more...   |

“Throughout College and DofE, inclusivity is vital and we want all of our students, regardless of abilities or disabilities, to relish the experience.”

~ **Stephen Evans**,  
Gold Winner, Pearson  
National Teaching  
Awards 2021







**“The best thing about working on the SU Board is working with new people, learning new things about them, and making new friends.”**


**~ SU Board member**

## **Learner Voice**

**Learner Voice at Derwen College is very strong and student views influence everything that we do.**

**We have a thriving Student Union (SU). The SU Board is very active across the college and beyond, helping to drive forward change for people with SEND.**

Students learn to communicate their likes, dislikes, and thoughts, and how to represent the thoughts of other students to make Derwen College a special place for all of them. They’ve discussed how to help students feel safe in college, and made a photo map of safe places to ensure that everyone feels secure here.



**“The best memories of the Student Union Board for me is working together and trusting each other. One thing that stands out for me is how we got to know each other and work out how we can pull out ideas as part of a team.”**

**At the Student Union (SU) you have the chance to chill out and do your own thing with friends after study and work. It’s open every day and there are various events and activities you will be able to take part in.**



## Therapies & Wellbeing

An extensive range of therapies and wellbeing support is available including:

■ Positive Behaviour Support

■ Speech & language therapy

■ Occupational therapy

● Counselling


■ Physiotherapy

■ Learning Disability Nurses.

Many of our therapy services are integrated throughout various aspects of college life including care, work and the social settings, to ensure student needs are met. Individual therapy sessions, e.g. hydrotherapy, are also available dependent upon funding.

You will be able to join in wellbeing sessions of your choice – such as mindfulness, relaxation, or Lego Therapy.

# Will you be a day or residential student?



Young people can attend Derwen College as either a residential or day student, and both offer amazing opportunities. Contact your local funding authority to discuss your options.

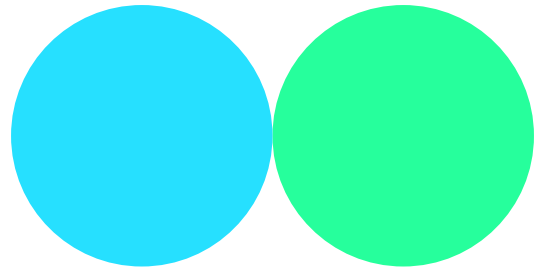


## Day student provision

Our three satellites offer day provision, and at the Gobowen campus, day students have their own building called Corner House. These well-equipped facilities provide the base for much of day students' independence skills development supported by our day student teams. Each location offers a warm and friendly environment that day students can call their own, with lounge spaces, kitchen facilities and student lockers.







## Home from home

For students who attend residentially, all accommodation at Derwen College is spacious, comfortable and welcoming.

While you live at Derwen College you will be encouraged to take responsibility for your own cleaning, shopping, cooking and general living skills. You'll be living as independently as possible but there will always be staff close at hand to offer advice, encouragement and the appropriate amount of support for your needs.

To begin with, you'll live alongside other students in a staffed residence in the heart of the campus. Many students then progress on to smaller houses with a reduced level of support, reflecting typical post-college supported living, but we always have staff nearby should you need assistance at any time.

The skills you learn at college will help you be as independent as you can be. You will feel prepared for the next stage in your life whatever that may be.

Our aim is for you to reach a stage where you are able to live as independently as possible, whatever that looks like for you.



# Life after Derwen

During your time at Derwen College, you will be supported to explore your future options. We will help you make positive plans and support your transition in lots of different ways.

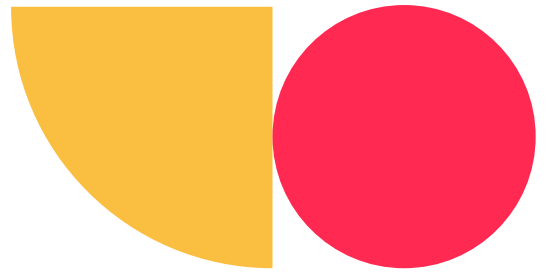
You may decide to continue with some of Derwen College's other services when you leave. We have accessible and supported housing and also offer Short Breaks and respite provision.

We have also introduced an alumni page on Facebook so you can keep up to date with news and events at Derwen College, giving you the opportunity to reconnect with your college friends.









## **Logan's Story**

After finding mainstream education a challenge, Logan thrived during his three years as a day student at Derwen College's south Shropshire campus, now based in Ludlow.

In an environment where he felt more at home, Logan – who is 19-years old and has autism – gained the skills, qualifications and confidence to achieve a place at his local, mainstream further education college.

Logan arrived at Derwen College as a shy, nervous teenager. A hard time fitting in at a mainstream school had left him feeling low in self-confidence and unsure of his place in society.

During his time at College, he became a new man. He has passed a range of business qualifications, and has become a stronger, more mature person in other ways. He has learned compassion and tolerance, as well as having developed resilience and persistence, even when things are more challenging. He has learnt to show sensitivity, support and consideration to his peers.

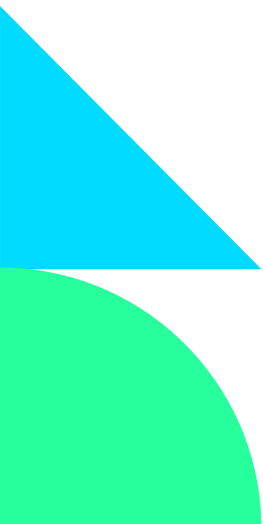
Logan is positive about the future, and has a new-found confidence in his abilities.

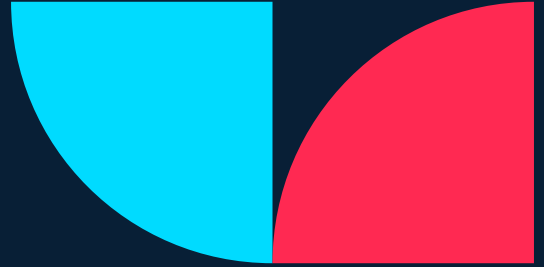
He says:

**“Thank you so much to all at Derwen, for the good times I’ve had at College. I’ve loved all of it.**

**“I have achieved so much being here.**

**“For anyone new that’s joining Derwen, you will have so much fun and laughter and you will learn so much.”**





## Millie's Story



Since leaving Derwen College, Retail and Enterprise graduate Millie has started a business apprenticeship and moved into supported living in her home area.

Millie – who has communication and learning difficulties and dyspraxia – enjoyed working in Retail where she learnt to use business and printing equipment, and to interact with customers and suppliers. She worked in the garden centre shop, print shop and in the College training hotel. She went on to enjoy external work placements at Premier Inn hotel.

Millie's retail and customer service skills, gave her skills to go on and complete a supported internship run by a local NHS Trust before embarking on a business apprenticeship.

Millie made the most of the Derwen social life, and enjoyed spending time with friends.

“I enjoyed going on trips to the theatre, cinema, shopping, and doing clubs like College Band, women's football, Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze award, swimming lessons, dancing class, table cricket, boccia, disco, and playing pool in the Student Union. I liked hanging out with friends, having picnics in the summer, having tea at their houses, or having them over to my house.”

As a residential student, Millie learnt to look after the home and care for herself, skills which have proved invaluable now that she is living in her own home.

She says:

“I can use the oven by myself. I do chores such as laundry, vacuuming, fill and empty the dishwasher, sorting out clean clothes and tidying up.”

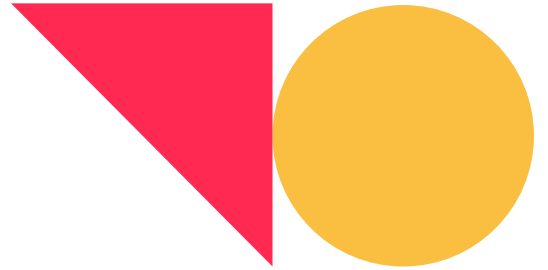
“I am in my own flat in supported living which is awesome. It's near my family home, but I can be independent.”







**A life less  
ordinary**




## Come and Visit

It can take quite a long time to secure funding, so we really do encourage you to come and visit us as early as possible.

Our friendly admissions team will be happy to show you and your family around the Derwen College campus, giving you a chance to learn more about everything we offer.

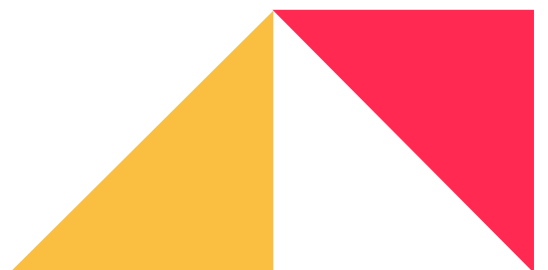
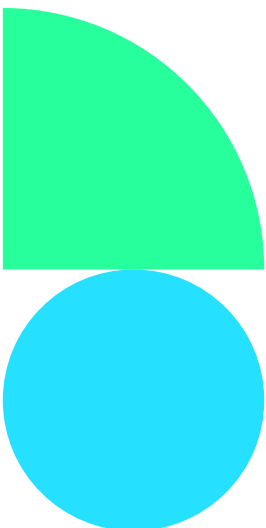
We're confident you'll like what we do! Call and speak to the admissions team on **01691 661234 ext 401** or email them at **[admissions@derwen.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@derwen.ac.uk)**



"After seeing your team with a group of pupils in Pizza Express on Saturday, I felt compelled to write.

As a parent, as someone who works in education and just as a human being, I wanted to express my absolute awe at the amazing work your staff were doing to support your young people during their meal and also at how amazing your young people were with their manners and interaction with each other. They were all an absolute credit to your college and I haven't stopped thinking about their kind natures, compassion to each other and their engagement with the adult staff."

**~ A kind member of the public**





# How to find us

Derwen College's main site is located in the village of Gobowen, near Oswestry, in North Shropshire. Our three satellite sites are spread throughout Shropshire.

Derwen's main site is accessible via public transport. Gobowen Railway Station is a 10–15 minute walk from the college. There are regular bus services which stop outside the College ensuring easy transport links to Oswestry and surrounding areas.

There is plenty of free parking on campus.

Derwen College  
Gobowen  
Nr Oswestry  
Shropshire  
SY11 3JA

[www.derwen.ac.uk](http://www.derwen.ac.uk)

01691 661234

[admissions@derwen.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@derwen.ac.uk)

Registered Charity No.  
1153280

Company number 08615826



Gobowen Railway Station



College Main Entrance



Main Site in Gobowen



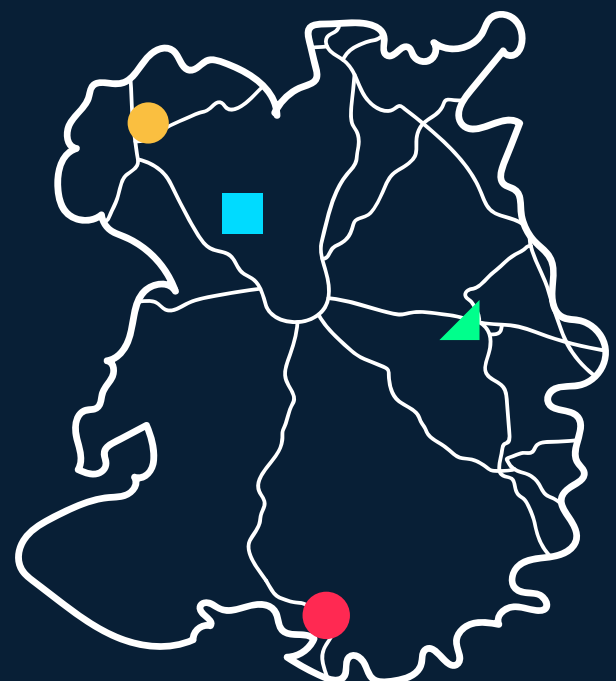
Telford



Ludlow



Walford



Shropshire

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