

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

Local telephone calls all start with prefix... 01694

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE...

Church Street. 01694 723133
Open all year... Mondays to Saturdays.

BOG VISITOR CENTRE...

The Bog, Stiperstones. 01743 792484
Open Easter to October...
Wednesdays to Sundays
www.bogcentre.co.uk

MAINLINE TRAINS...

Unattended station on the mainline route between Cardiff & Manchester, with regular service from Shrewsbury. 0845 606 1660 or 0845 748 4950 www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk

SHUTTLE BUSES...

Leave your car behind and take escorted minibusses onto the hills. 01588 674080
April to September, weekends and bank holidays. www.shropshirehillsshuttles.co.uk

LOCAL BUSES...

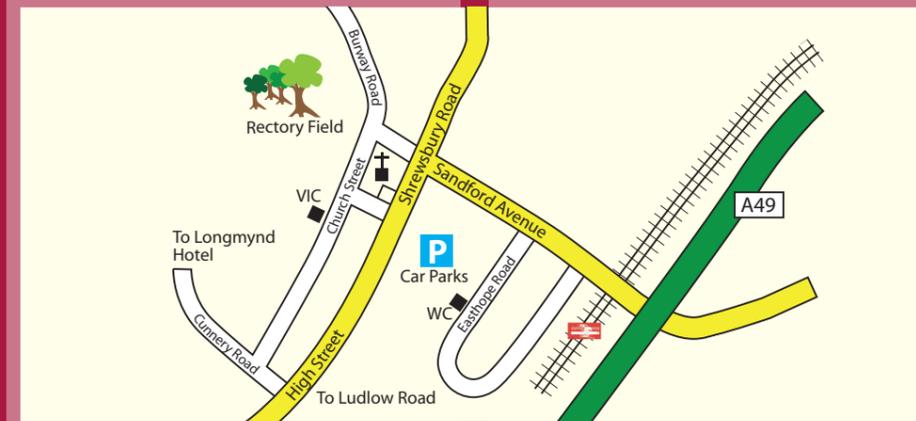
Timetables from Visitor Information or contact Traveline 0871 200 2233
www.traveline.info

USEFUL WEBSITES...

www.churchstretton.co.uk
- Town/Tourism
www.churchstrettonwalkingfestival.co.uk
- Walking Festival
www.strettonfestival.org.uk
- Arts Festival
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
- NT Carding Mill Valley & Shropshire Hills
www.secrethillswalking.co.uk
- Guided walking holidays
www.longmynd.co.uk
- The Longmynd Hotel
www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk
- Shropshire Hills AONB partnership
www.shropshiretourism.co.uk
- Shropshire Tourism
www.visitsouthshropshire.co.uk
- Ludlow & the Shropshire Hills

WALKERS ARE WELCOME LEAFLETS can be bought from...

Visitor Information Centre,
Church Street... 723133
Outdoor Depot,
1 Sandford Court... 724293
Newsworld,
28 Sandford Avenue... 722120
Burway Books,
18 Beaumont Road... 723388
Longmynd Hotel,
Cunnery Road... 722244
National Trust Shop,
Carding Mill Valley... 722631



THE NATIONAL TRUST



CHURCH STRETTON is set within a landscape of stunning beauty. The small medieval market town has a thriving cultural life, a compact shopping centre with ten cafes and restaurants, many Victorian and Georgian buildings, traditional shops and a popular three-storied Antiques Market near the centre. Rectory Wood and Field are two jewels on the northern edge of town, adjoining Cardingmill Valley - a delightful picnic and play area with its National Trust café and shop. The Church Stretton & South Shropshire Arts Festival and the equally popular Food Fayre are the highlights of the year-round programme of local events.

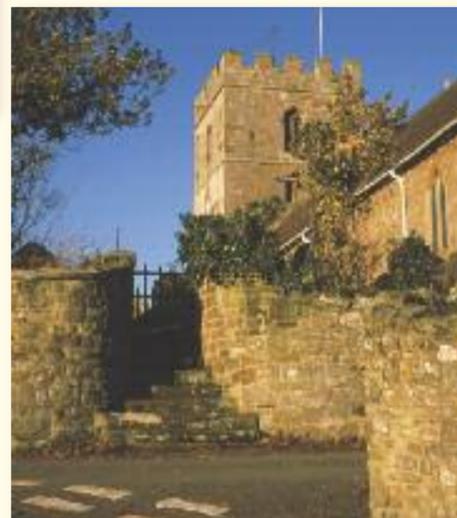
*Nestling in a quiet wooded valley
lies our small historic walkers' town*



The only town within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Church Stretton is flanked by the picturesque villages of All and Little Stretton. Sandwiched between the heather-covered Long Mynd (Long Mountain) to the west, and the even more imposing rocky peak of Caer Caradoc to the east. The three settlements offer almost immediate access to a 'wilderness' of upland moors, deep gullies (batches) and shallow, rocky streams. Wildlife includes buzzards, curlew, raven, red grouse, deer, brown hares, badgers and Exmoor ponies, while geologists delight in the rock formations from ten of the twelve geological eras dating back over 560 million years.

OTHER WALKS AROUND CHURCH STRETTON...

our hill country is a magnet for walkers of all ages and abilities. On offer are gentle ambles, more active rambles and the opportunity to walk the hill tops and join the long Shropshire Way with surprisingly modest effort. There are grassy paths, over 30 miles of footpaths and 20 miles of bridleways that cover the heather moorlands of the Longmynd plateau; the grass, bracken & woods of the Shropshire Hills; and the lush greenery of our local batches. Sheep are everywhere.



There are numerous guided walks throughout the year offered by both the National Trust and Secret Hills Walking, and a number of local walking festivals in the summer in Church Stretton, Bishop's Castle and Cleobury Mortimer. The major event in October for serious walkers is the 50-mile Longmynd Hike which offers spectacular views to the Malvern Hills and Brecon Beacons to the south, Wenlock Edge to the east and the Wrekin to the north. Leaflets and books on local walks are widely available in town.



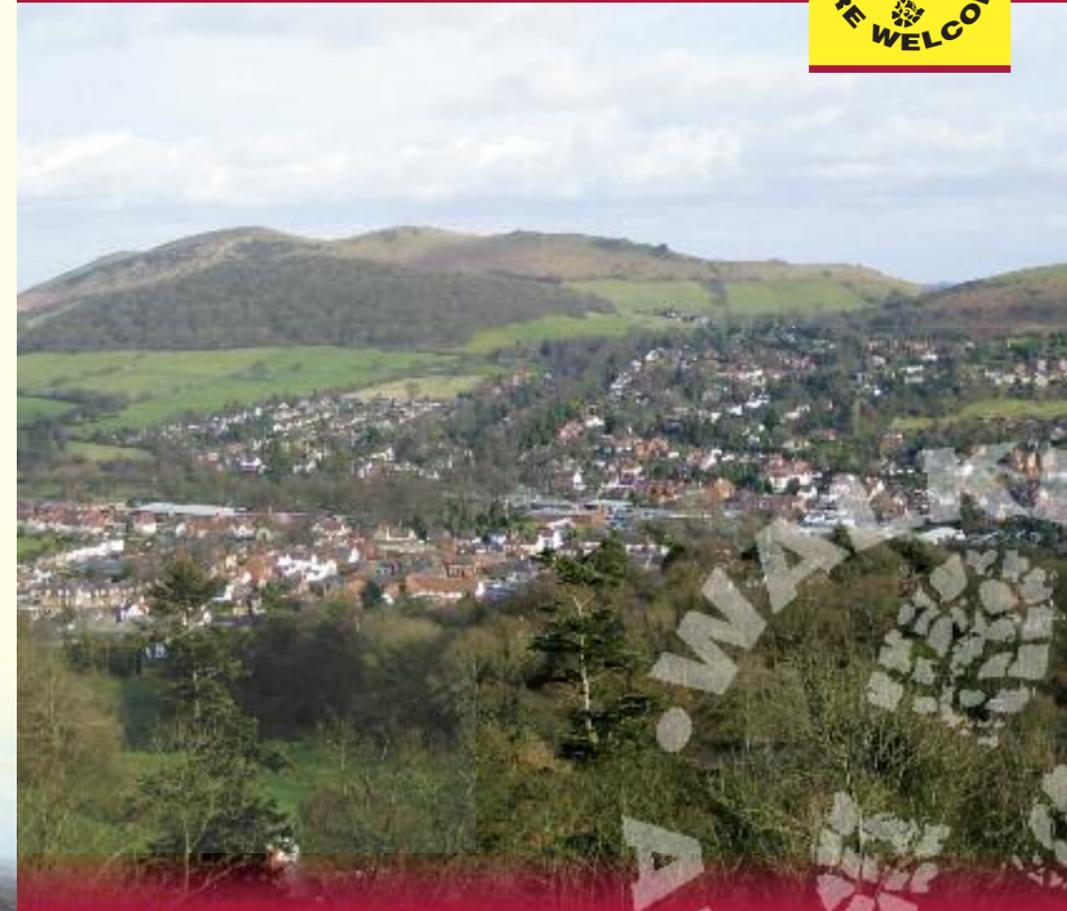
WALKERS ARE WELCOME...

In 2008, this volunteer-led organisation welcomed Church Stretton as its first member town in the Midlands. There are now numerous Walkers are Welcome towns in Britain and each one guarantees **great walking** – with **maintained way-marked walks**, **spectacular scenery**, **warm welcomes** and **good local support** from councils, shops and eateries.

The **Walkers Are Welcome** criteria ensure high standards of **path maintenance**, **safe walking** and, where possible, good links to **public transport**. We are proud to belong to this fledgling but growing organisation, www.walkersarewelcome.uk.org; we are also grateful to the small band of local volunteers who have worked so hard to transform the railway station gardens into a fitting place to start many of the local walks.

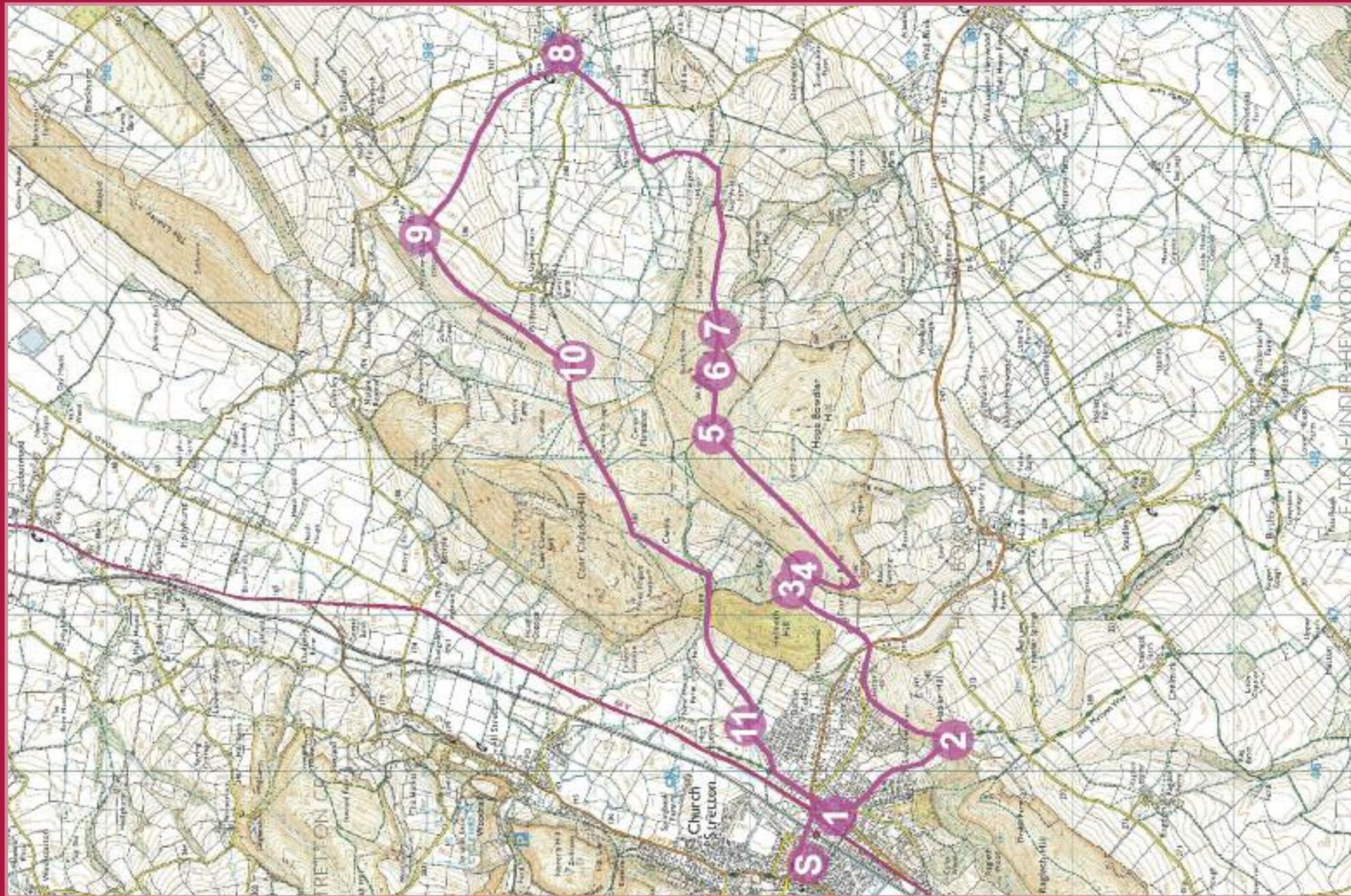
*There are innumerable grassy paths,
over 30 miles of footpaths
and 20 miles of bridleways*

Walk Four: Cardington



Four Waymarked Walks
from **CHURCH STRETTON**





Walk 2: Cardington

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Walk Four: Cardington

Start: Car Park, Easthope Road

Distance: 9 miles

Duration: 4½ hours approx.

Grade: Hard

Standing in Easthope Road with your back to the Public Conveniences and the car park, walk left towards the shops and at the junction with Sandford Avenue, turn right. Continue down and over a railway bridge to the traffic lights on the A49.

Cross straight over (still Sandford Avenue) and after a few yards turn right into Watling Street South. Take the second left by a post box into Clive Avenue and immediately left again into Snatchfields Lane, then bear right up a signposted bridleway [1] to the junction of Chelmick Close and Chelmick Drive.

Bear slightly left into a farm drive and pass through 3 gates into a field beyond Snatchfields Farm. You will see the path ahead of you bearing slightly left up the grassy slope. Don't forget to turn around to admire some of the best views of the Long Mynd on the other side of the valley with Townbrook Hollow and Carding Mill Valley cutting deep into the hillside.

The path then narrows between bracken and continues uphill to a gate [2]. Cross over a small stream and take the left path through the woods and follow this through a gate continuing along the fence until, swinging right to reach a second gate, you emerge on to Hazler Road.



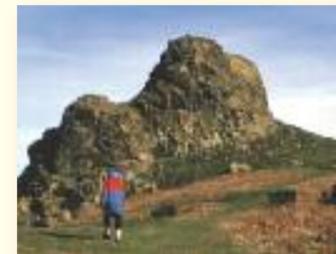
Turn right and walk to the main road. Take care crossing this into a farm track and, after passing Gaerstone Farm, continue uphill to reach a gate [3], across the track. Here the views of Caer Caradoc to your left are magnificent.

Cardington - A circular walk, following red waymarks, over Hope Bowdler and Willstone Hills to the village of Cardington, returning via the Wilderness and Cwms Lane. Terrain is mostly grassy underfoot, but does involve steep ascents and descents with many stiles to negotiate.

Just beyond the gate turn right uphill, keeping the fence on your right to pass through another gate [4]. Now follow the narrow path diagonally right uphill which goes away from the fence and climbs steadily to pass below the Gaerstone, a huge outcrop of volcanic rock.



Continue to the fence ahead and at the stile turn sharp left uphill to pass to the right of the Gaerstone. From here you look left into Church Stretton Valley and the Long Mynd and right across Wenlock Edge to the Clees Hills. You are now on Hope Bowdler Hill for the next 1500 yards.



Continue uphill, past some rocky outcrops to the top of the ridge, and then down and up twice past two summit cairns before dropping down to a stile [5].

Cross the stile onto Willstone Hill and keeping the fence on your right, continue straight ahead over another stile, after which the path swings to the left to reach the fantastic

viewpoint of the Battlestones. On a clear day, to the north, you can see the Shropshire and Cheshire plains, with the volcanic cone of the Wrekin looming above them.



Turn around and with your back to the Battlestones veer left towards the corner of the fence [6]. Your path then proceeds half right downhill, but away from the fence, before wandering left and right again, dropping down steeply towards two kissing gates in the distance.

Ignore the first gate on your right but pass through the second gate [7] and then head left past the ditch / pond to follow the double fence on your left, crossing one stile, to finally reach a gate at a farm track.

Continue downhill past North Hill Farm. This track becomes a tarmac road, at the bottom of which you turn left into Cardington Village. Turn right in front of the church and walk down to the pub for some welcome refreshment.

From the pub, turn right uphill and climb the steps into the churchyard. Continue straight ahead passing two exit gates before swinging right to pass under some yew trees and leave by the far gate.

[8] Cross over into the lane opposite which runs between cottages and follow this past the Old Vicarage. Where the track bends left go straight ahead through a gate / stile, crossing the field to pass through another gate / stile in the far right corner.

Bear left up the field, keeping the hedge to your right, and cross three more stiles. The hedge will then be on your left and, after crossing two more stiles, you will emerge onto a lane.

Cross over this through a gate / stile onto a wide track and continue uphill through another gate / stile into The Wilderness [9].

Turn left and follow the ridge through three gates / stiles, with the fence always on your left. After the third stile keep slightly right, leaving the fence to continue along the top of the ridge to a gate straight ahead [10].

Turn right onto a wide rough track. This is Cwms Lane, an ancient drovers way joining Church Stretton and Cardington, which you follow for about 2000 yards. Hope Bowdler Hill stands to your left and Caer Caradoc to your right.

At the bottom of the hill the track bears right into the woods and you cross over a ford before passing through a gate into a field. Keep the fence on your left as you walk along the top of the field but don't enter the sunken lane.

Continue following the fence to the bottom of the field to reach a gate / stile. Turn left onto a tarmac lane [11], keeping straight on where Helmeth Road comes in from the left, until you reach the main road leading back into Church Stretton.

Turn right to cross over the traffic lights at the A49, and back up Sandford Avenue into town. Turn left at Easthope Road to return to the car park.

