

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...

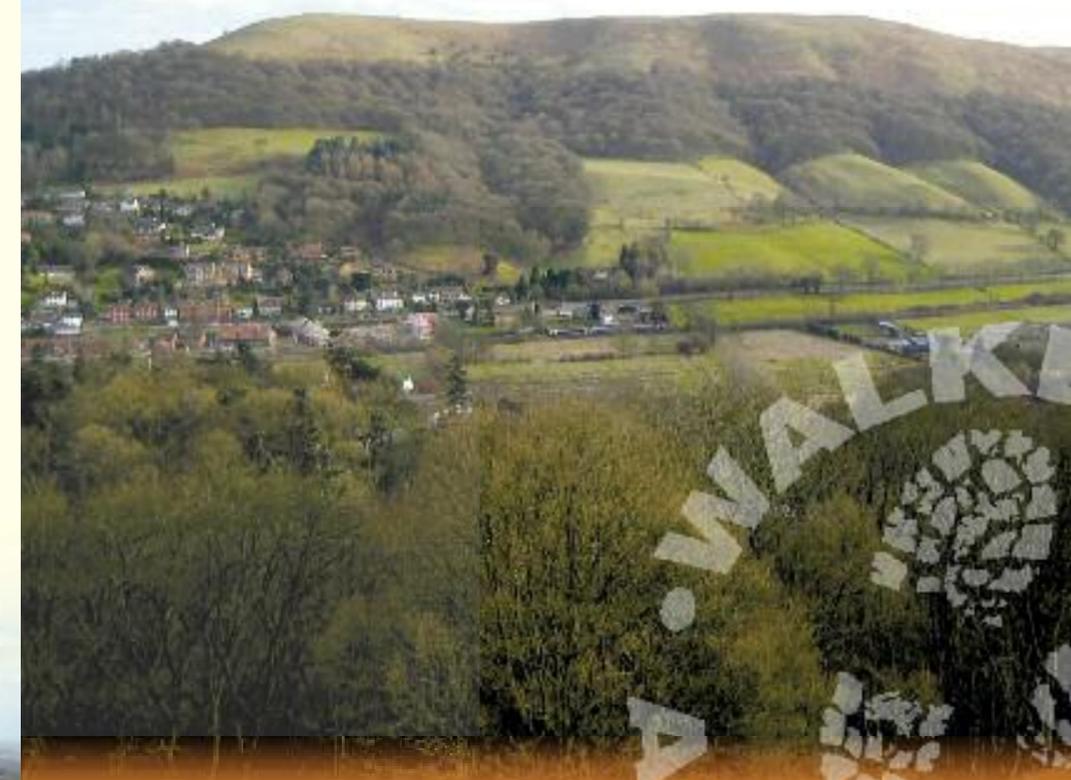
In 2008, this volunteer-led organisation welcomed Church Stretton as its first member town in the Midlands. There are now numerous Walkers are Welcome towns in Britain and each one guarantees **great walking** – with **maintained way-marked walks**, **spectacular scenery**, **warm welcomes** and **good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

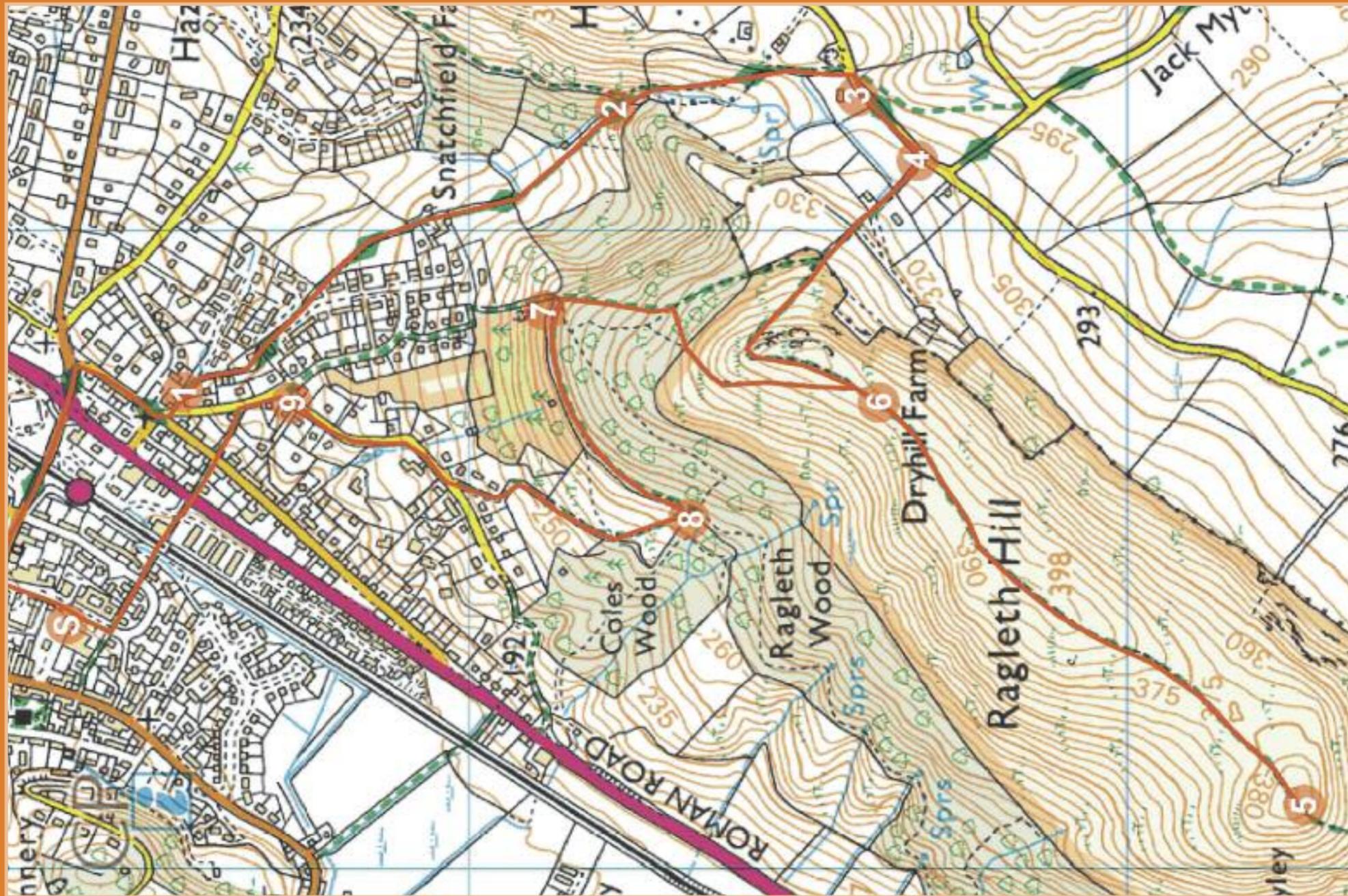
*There are innumerable grassy paths,
over 30 miles of footpaths
and 20 miles of bridleways*



Walk Two: Ragleth Hill



Four Waymarked Walks
from **CHURCH STRETTON**



Walk 2: Ragleth Hill

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Walk Two: Ragleth Hill

Start: Public Car Park, Easthope Road

Distance: 4 miles

Duration: 2½ hours approx.

Grade: Moderate

[S] Standing in Easthope Road with your back to the Public Conveniences and the car park, walk left towards the shops. At the junction with Sandford Avenue, turn right. Continue down past shops and up 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 Western side of the valley with Townbrook Hollow and Carding Mill Valley cutting deeply into the hillside. The path then narrows between bracken and continues uphill to a gate **[2]**.

Cross over a small stream and follow the path uphill to the right, keeping the stream on your right, until you pass through another gate and eventually reach a road **[3]**.

Turn right along the road (signposted Ragleth Hill) and, 100 metres after passing

Ragleth Hill - A circular walk, following orange waymarks, to the top of Ragleth Hill with spectacular views of the Long Mynd and the Stretton Hills. This is very easy terrain underfoot, mostly grassy paths on gentle slopes, with some stiles to negotiate.

a cottage, turn right again into Dryhill Farm Lane **[4]** before the road junction to Chelmick. Pass through a gate and, where the farm track bends to the left, continue straight on up a steep grassy slope, crossing 2 stiles to the information board. You are now on the lower slopes of Ragleth, one of Stretton's many volcanic hills.

Ignore the path straight ahead and bear left up a steep slope to the first post. Then bear right to a second post on the side of the hill. As you approach this post, look to your right and you will see the rugged ridge of brooding Caer Caradoc slightly to your left, and the much gentler Hope Bowdler Hill slightly to your right, with the Lawley in the distance between them.



Collectively these are the Stretton Hills; they continue along the East side of the valley as far north as the Wrekin.

At the post, turn sharp left and continue up the grassy slope, to the top of the hill. This is hill walking at its best – a wide grassy

path at your feet and magnificent views in every direction. With the Long Mynd to your right. Wenlock Edge and the Cleve Hills to your left and the Malverns in the far distance, you are presented with a fantastic array of hills to admire.

Continue along the undulating ridge for about 1000 yards until you reach a pole, **[5]** with Little Stretton nestling in the valley



below. You are now at the furthest point of the walk, so pause a while to congratulate yourself on your achievement and to enjoy the views in all directions.

Retrace your steps back along the ridge for about 800 yards and, just below the top of the second rise, you come to a left hand fork **[6]** in the main path leading to a prominent rock about 25 yards from the junction.

Follow this left path which bears right at the rock, and continue diagonally downhill into



the woods. At the fence, turn left downhill and round to the right until you reach a stile **[7]**.



Do not cross this stile but turn left along the side of the hill, keeping the fence to your right. After about 350 yards, cross a stile **[8]** on the right into a field and bearing right, follow the faint track downhill into a wide grassy track. The views of Church Stretton from this path are magnificent so take your time along here until you reach a gate, after which the path swings left and right past gardens to reach Clive Avenue.

Turn right down the road and, just past the junction with Ragleth Road on the right, at the Donkey Patch bear left down a narrow surfaced footpath **[9]** to Watling Street South.

Cross this road slightly to your left, and continue along a narrow path before carefully crossing the busy A49. Continue ahead to cross over the railway footbridge and then a stream to reach Central Avenue. Again continue ahead on the footpath until finally reaching Easthope Road where you turn right to reach the car park.

