

## 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...

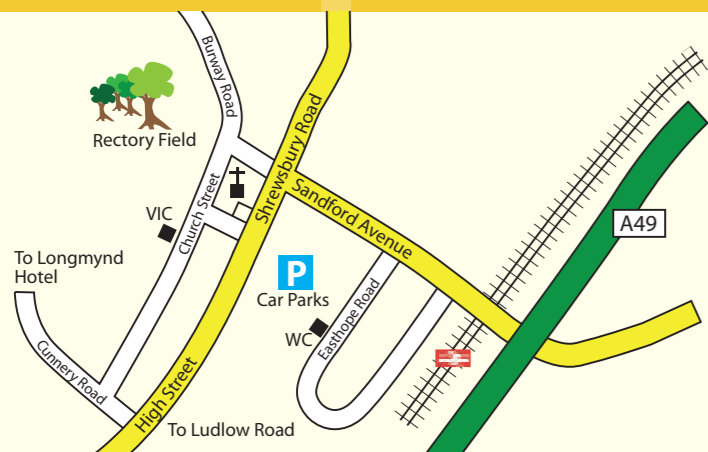
Timetables from Visitor Information or contact Traveline 0871 200 2233  
www.traveline.info

### 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.



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...

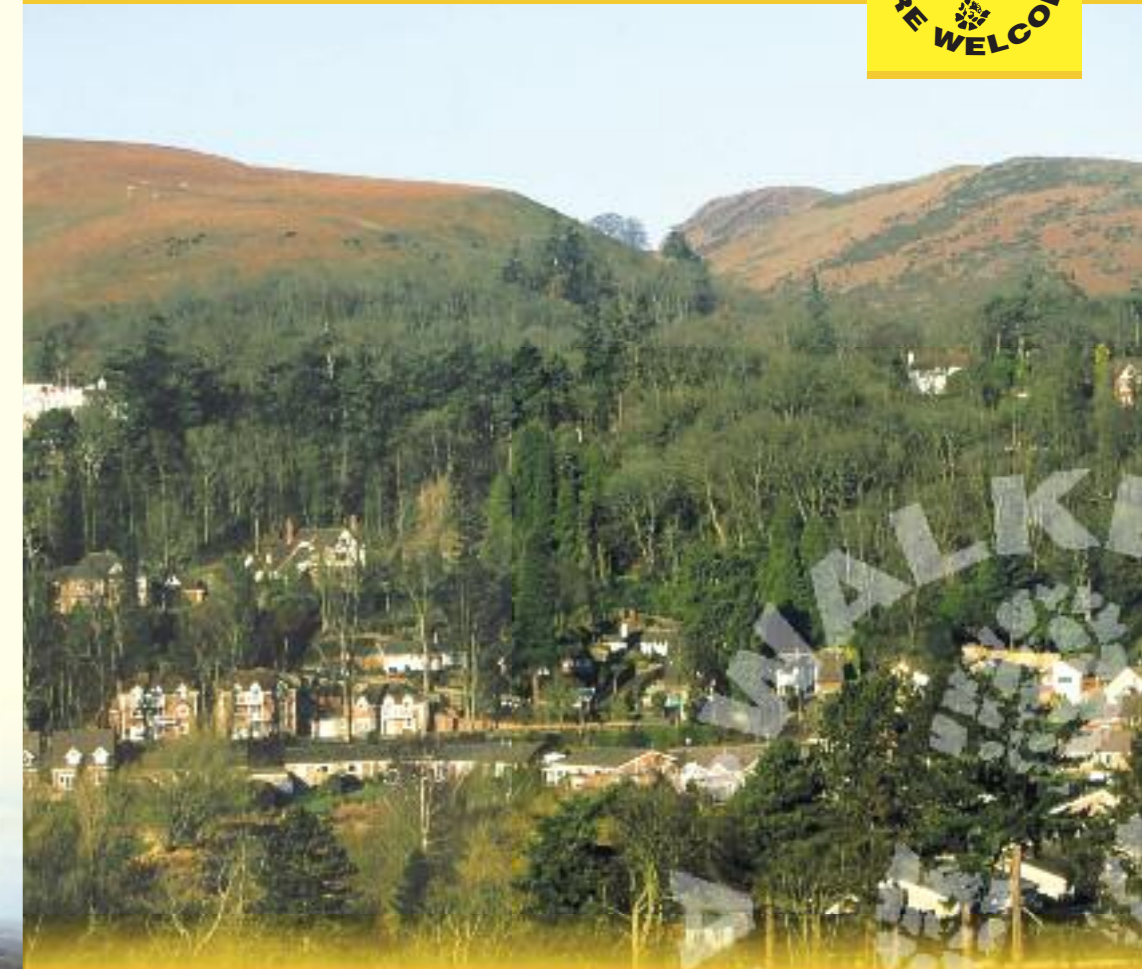
In 2008, this volunteer-led organisation welcomed Church Stretton as its first member town in the Midlands. There are now numerous Walkers are Welcome towns in Britain and each one guarantees **great walking** – with **maintained way-marked walks**, **spectacular scenery**, **warm welcomes** and **good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

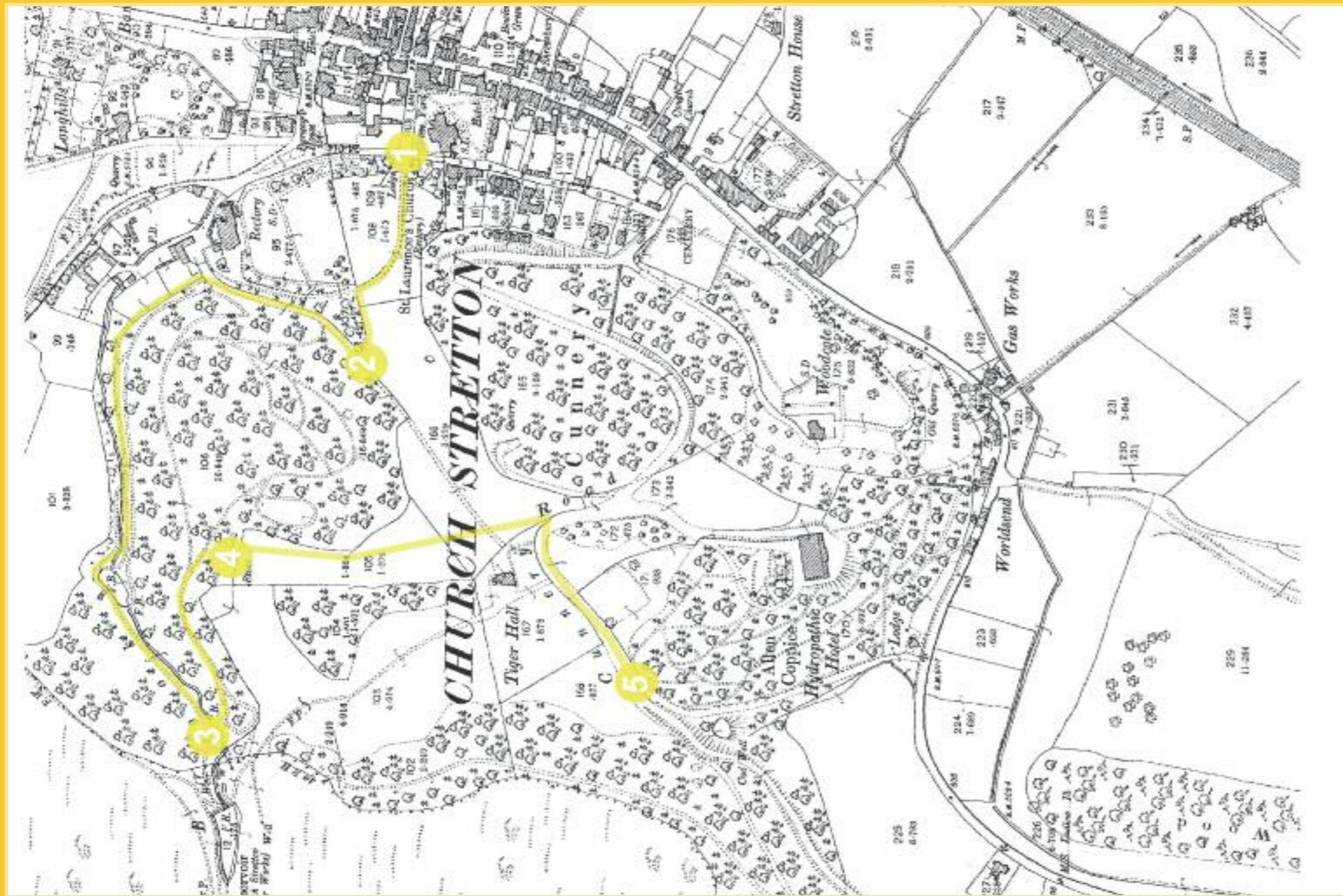
*There are innumerable grassy paths,  
over 30 miles of footpaths  
and 20 miles of bridleways*



## Walk One: Rectory Wood and the Allen Coppice Trail



Four Waymarked Walks  
from **CHURCH STRETTON**



Walk One: Rectory Wood and the Allen Coppice Trail  
Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group

## Walk One: Rectory Wood and the Allen Coppice Trail

**Start:** Train Station

**Distance:** 1½ miles

**Duration:** 1-2 hours

**Grade:** Easy

**[S]** Leave the train station by the Platform 1 exit. At the main road, turn left along Sandford Avenue and take the first turning left into Easthope Road. Pass the public toilets and turn right into Lion Meadow that is bounded on both sides by public car parks and on the left by the Co-op store. The top of the road faces the Bucks Head public house.

Take the narrow passage alongside the left hand wall of the pub and go through the iron gate to enter the church yard. Bear right to the side of St Laurence's Church and then bear left around to the main entrance before emerging through double iron gates on to Church Street.



Turn right and then shortly left between two tall gate pillars (1) and enter Rectory Field through the wooden kissing gate. Follow the clear path across the lower part of the field to the steps next to the wood. At the top of the steps go through the gate to enter Rectory Wood and immediately turn right. (2)



**Rectory Wood and the Allen Coppice Trail** - A circular route following yellow waymarkers, through the town wood and into the private grounds of the Longmynd Hotel. Terrain is generally easy underfoot – a combination of grassy slopes and established woodland paths.

After a very short distance, ignoring the path on the left leading uphill, follow the well defined lower woodland path which leads past a red-banded marker post, eventually to pass the magnificently massive trunk of an ancient chestnut tree.



Continue to follow the path which eventually leads across a wooden railed sluice 'bridge' separating a pond (on the left) from the stream (on the right). Ignore the steps on the right and follow the path as it leads in front of the ruined building which was once a pump house for the nearby Victorian reservoir.



When you come to a 'gravestone' bridge on the left, (3) cross it and climb the steps with the handrails on your left. Where the wooden handrails come to an end, bear right uphill past a red-banded post and right again at the next post, continuing upwards to leave the wood through a kissing gate and enter the top of Rectory Field. (4)

Go steeply down and straight across the top of the field (pausing to admire the views of Hazler Hill, Helmeth Hill, Hope Bowdler Ridge with the Gaer Stone and Caer Caradoc as they successively unfold to the left as you walk). The path continues to a kissing gate leading into a small car park. Cross the car park to leave by the vehicle exit onto a road. Turn right on the road and follow it down and round to the left to where it ends at a large metal gate. (5) Through the gap to the left of the gate, enter the 'Allen Coppice Trail' You are now on private land where all the paths are permissive only. Therefore, please keep to the clearly marked paths.

Go straight ahead to an eagle on the left edge of your path and carry on a short distance to a second eagle, this one in full flight. 20 yards from this fine sculpture you will find a family of otters. Having carefully



stroked the young ones, retrace your steps and take the path to your right as you again approach the flying eagle.



Where the path divides, ignore the temptation offered by the acorn seat on the left fork and take the path that veers to the right downhill. Follow this until you eventually sidle past the fiercest creature you will yet have encountered. Then the path rises steeply.

At the top, the path turns sharp left and continues to rise. Climb until the path again divides and take the right hand fork upwards. Reach the next junction with an owl on the right.

Turn right, pass the owl and quietly approach the bears' circle. Leaving the bears' circle, rejoin the path and walk forward to leave the Trail, emerging on to a tarmac surface. Here turn left and walk along the hotel drive to leave the grounds by the main gate. Opposite and slightly to the left is the small car park at the top of Rectory Field that you entered earlier. Re-enter and pass into Rectory Field through the same kissing gate, but then keep to the right of the field and descend towards the town and the kissing gate through which you entered the field at the beginning of the walk.

Turn right to the church gates and retrace your steps to the public car parks and the train station.

