

Further information

Tourist information

Market Drayton Visitor Information Centre:

Tel: 01630 653114

Email: marketdrayton.scf@shropshire.gov.uk

Whitchurch Heritage and Tourist Information Centre:

Tel: 01948 664577

Email: heritage@whitchurch-shropshire-tc.gov.uk

Cycle shops

Brenin Cycles: 79 Shrewsbury Road, Market Drayton.

Tel: 01630 656614 Sales and repairs

Discover Shropshire by bike

It's great to get out and about on a bike in Shropshire. Discover hundreds of miles of National Cycle Network routes along quiet lanes, explore traffic-free trails along old railways and waterways, follow the cycle rides from historic towns and get muddy on mountain bike tracks in woods and forests.



Other publications

www.travelshropshire.co.uk

Shropshire Council 01743 253008

Travel information

Mainline railway stations are at **Shrewsbury, Wem** and **Whitchurch**. Visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone **08457 484950**.

Trains carry 2 bikes per train (reservations are essential). Information on all bus, coach and train services in Shropshire area call **Traveline: 0871 200 2233** • www.travelshropshire.co.uk

Ordnance Survey maps

Explorer 243 Market Drayton

Explorer 241 Shrewsbury

Artwork by MA Creative: www.macreative.co.uk.

Based on routes designed and written by Chris and Kay Dartnell of Wheely Wonderful Cycling

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Route 3 – Across the River Tern to Hodnet (Total 16 miles / 26km)

An interesting cycle route taking in Tern Hill Airfield and Old Colehurst Manor as well as the pretty villages of Stoke on Tern, Wollerton and Hodnet. Easy cycling but with some cycling on busy roads.

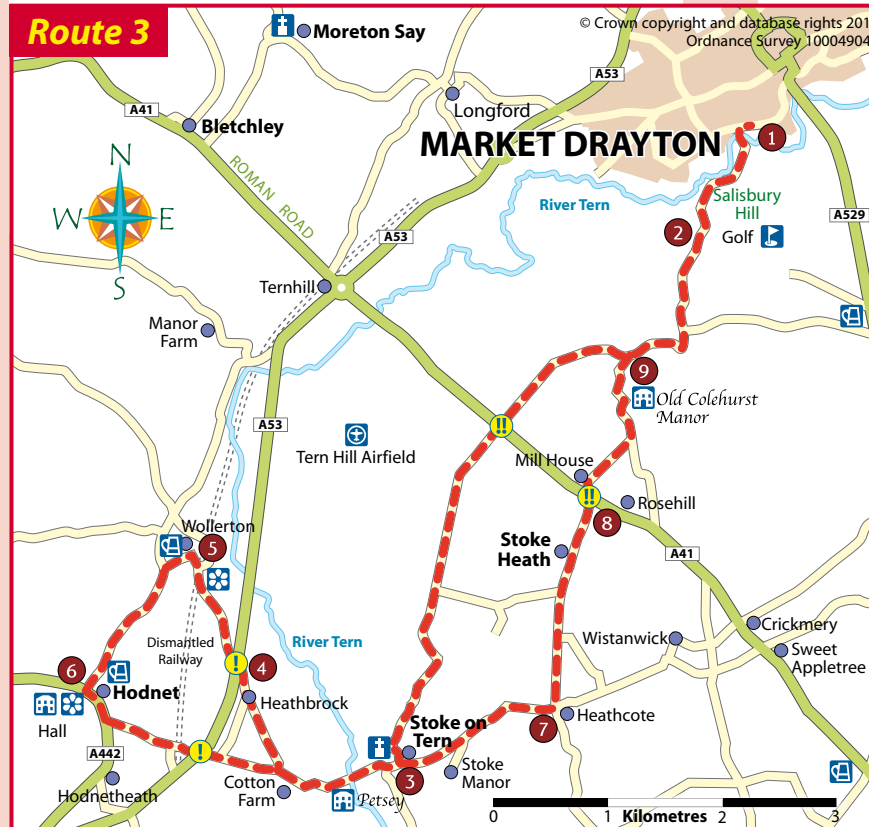
- 1 Leave the town along Newtown, past the Swimming Centre and onto Walkmill Road. Turn left signposted for the golf course and go over the River Tern
- 2 Cycle uphill past the golf course and carry straight on to the junction of the A41. Go straight over (take care) and follow the road past the airfield to Stoke on Tern

Tern Hill Airfield

The airfield started work in World War I as a base for the Royal Flying Corps. In World War II it was brought back into use by the Royal Air Force and is now an army base. In 1989 it suffered an attack by the IRA – luckily no one was killed.

Stoke on Tern

Home of St Peter's Church built in 1874. Look for the grave of the "Shropshire Giant", Thomas Dutton, born in 1853, who was 7'3" and renowned for his great strength. Next-door is "millennium monolith" with a special map of the parish and picnic area.



- 3 At the T-junction in Stoke on Tern turn right and cycle past the church and over the river, turn first right opposite Cotton Farm
- 4 Go through the gates at the end of the road. Cross the A53 Hodnet bypass via the cycle track and carry straight on to Wollerton (take care)

Wollerton

In the village you will find Wollerton Old Hall Garden, a three-acre formal garden developed around a 16th Century house with tearoom. Open Easter to end of August, Fridays and Sundays (12-5pm)

- 5 Just past Wollerton Old Hall Gardens turn left (next to old brick pound). Go over disused railway and turn left on to the old main road to Hodnet village

Hodnet

Hodnet is one of the most attractive villages in North Shropshire; it is filled with Shropshire's typically beautiful black and white houses. Hodnet's centrepiece, for which it is most well-known, is its Hall and Gardens which were started in 1921 by Brigadier A.G.W. Heber-Percy, who spent 30 years transforming the landscape from a boggy marsh to splendid formal garden. Today the 19th century mansion stands in the grounds, which are open to groups by appointment. The Heber-Percy family still lives in the ancestral home.

The Heber-Percy family still lives in the ancestral home.

- 6 From the centre of Hodnet continue on the main road (A442) and turn left down Station Road. Go past the old station, through the wooden gate and cross the A53 Hodnet bypass on the special cycle track (take care). Cycle through Stoke on Tern and continue towards Wistanswick
- 7 At Heathcote turn left at the crossroads onto Rosehill Road (next to the primary school)
- 8 At the T-junction with the A41 cross straight over (take care) and follow the small lane to the next T-junction, turn left and cycle past Old Colehurst Manor

Old Colehurst Manor

A medieval manor house reputed to be the court of North Shropshire. A Grade 1 building rescued from dereliction in the 1980s with restored 17th century gardens. Occasional open days or by special appointment

- 9 At the next T-junction turn right signposted Sutton. Follow this road past the golf course and back to Market Drayton. At the T-junction turn right back to the town centre

Route 4 – Audlem and around Cheshire (Total 19 miles / 30km)

A fantastic route taking in beautiful countryside and pretty villages including the canalside village of Audlem. This route is suitable for more experienced cyclists, following roads that can be busy at times and offers an option to use the towpath to enter Audlem

- 1 Leave Market Drayton along Rowan Road. At the T-junction turn right onto Fairfields and right at the next T-junction following Cycle Route 75 towards Norton-in-Hales and Audlem

Norton-in-Hales

Home to St Chad's church, which dates from the 12th Century, rebuilt in Victorian times. Out on the village green is a great boulder called "Bradling Stone" on which it was the custom to "bradle" or bump any man or boy found still working after noon on Shrove Tuesday.

- 2 At the junction with the pub turn left signposted Audlem. Follow this small country lane up to Mere Farm and cross the border into Cheshire
- 3 Go downhill and turn first left into Bagley Lane signposted Adderley
- 4 After about a mile the road crosses the Shropshire Union Canal at Coxbank Bridge. To visit Audlem follow the towpath along a well made track for 1 mile to the village centre

Audlem

The canalside village is home to a flight of 15 locks on the Shropshire Union Canal. The locks drop 93ft over 1½ miles. The canalside pub, the "Shroppie Fly", is named after the flyboats, fast horse-drawn passenger waterbuses used in the canal's heyday.

- 5 From the bridge go straight on and turn next left to Coxbank
- 6 At Coxbank turn first right down Chapel Lane (next to the old chapel). Go over the old railway line bridge and down to the main road. Cross directly over into Heywood Lane (take care)
- 7 At the next T-junction turn left towards Shavington Park

Shavington Park

Established in 1685, the parkland (and some buildings) still remains but sadly the grand hall was demolished in 1958.

- 8 Cycle through Shavington Park and turn first right signposted Spoonley. Continue through parkland. Just past the pair of gatehouses turn right signposted Moreton Say and Calverhall
- 9 Go over the River Ducklow and uphill. At the crossroads go straight on to Moreton Say

Moreton Say

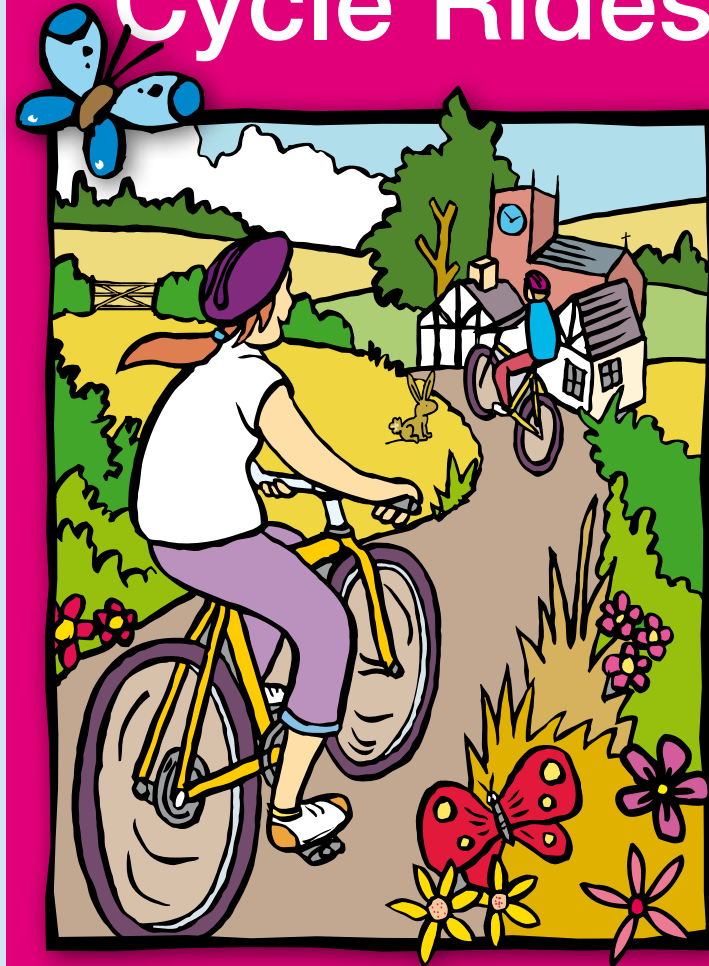
Home to St Margaret's Church, built in 1200. To the right hand side of the front door is a tablet reading "Robert Lord Clive 1725-1774 founder of the British Empire in India, baptized and buried in this church".

- 10 At Moreton Say turn left to Market Drayton. Cycle through Longford and straight on to Market Drayton. Go under the bypass and turn left onto Shrewsbury Road back to the town centre



FREE

Market Drayton Cycle Rides



Four cycle routes around
Market Drayton following quiet
lanes and country roads
From 6–24 miles (10–38km)

www.travelshropshire.co.uk

About the cycle routes

Cycling is one of the best ways to soak up the unspoilt landscapes and experience the unique features of the environment and villages of North Shropshire. It is ideal cycling terrain, quiet lanes and country roads, easy gradients and yet amazing views. These cycle routes have been chosen to suit a range of interests and abilities, the shortest route being 6 miles and the longest 24 miles. Cycled over a day, with a picnic lunch or a stop at a local pub, this really is a great way to explore the area.

Where to start

all the cycle routes start from Market Drayton. Safe long stay parking can be found in the town centre as shown on the map below

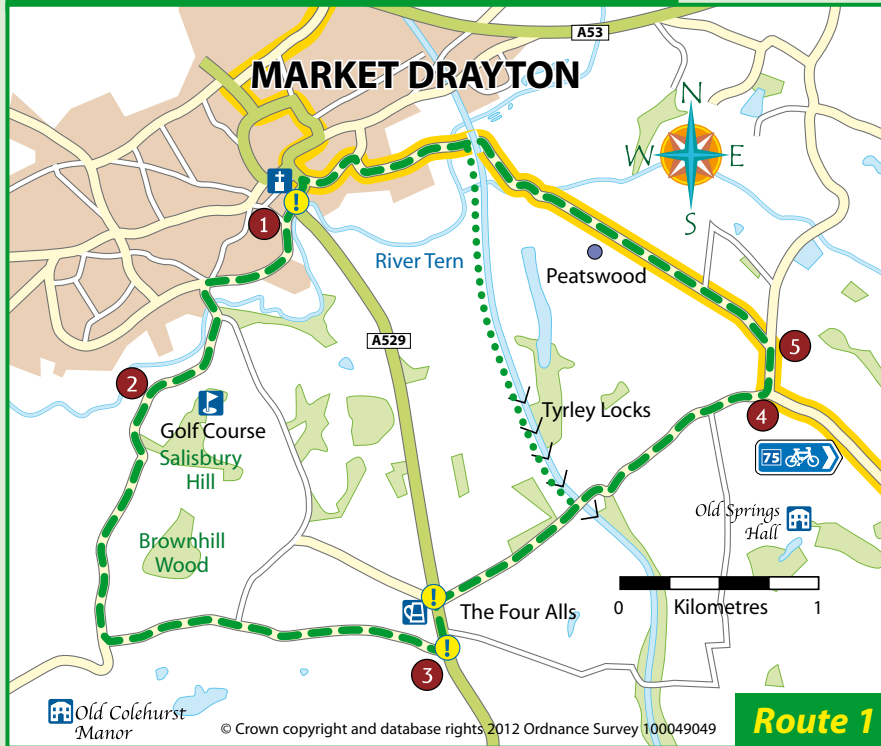
Market Drayton

A market (so good the town was named after it) has been running in Market Drayton for over 759 years and remains one of the liveliest weekly street markets in the area. Market Drayton is also the home of gingerbread, however, the locals prefer to dunk it in port rather than eat it dry – which may explain why a certain Robert Clive - better known as Clive of India, who was born in Market Drayton – chose to climb the spire of St Mary's church when he was a boy. The town itself retains much of its medieval street pattern with red sandstone and mellow brick buildings mingling with black and white half-timbered properties; and to add even more character to the town, the Shropshire Union Canal passes just a few hundred yards from the town centre. For more information visit the Shropshire Customer First Visitor Information Centre or visit www.northshropshire.co.uk



Route 1 – To Tyrley Locks (Total 6 miles/ 10km)

A short, easy cycle route including some cycling on busy roads. This route crosses the Shropshire Union Canal at the pretty Tyrley Locks and gives you the option of returning to the town along the towpath.



- 1 Leave the town along Newtown, past the Swimming Centre and onto Walkmill Road. Turn left signposted for the golf course and go over the River Tern.
- 2 Cycle uphill, past the Golf Course and turn first left signposted Woodseaves.
- 3 At the T-junction with the A529 turn left and first right opposite the Four Alls Inn and Motel towards Tyrley Locks (**take care!**). Go over the canal and follow the road downhill to Old Springs.

Tyrley Locks/ Shropshire Union Canal

South of Market Drayton is one of the most spectacular sections of the Shropshire Union Canal. Tyrley has a flight of five locks that raise (or lower) the canal by a total 33ft. The nearby Tyrley Wharf was originally a working yard; Cadburys used it as a milk collection point for their factory at Knighton. Nearby, Woodseaves Cutting, cut out of sandstone, is nearly 100ft deep.

Alternative along Shropshire Union Canal

At the canal bridge in Tyrley join the towpath and return to Market Drayton, rejoining Betton road at Betton Mill Wharf (Bridge no. 63)

- 4 At the T-junction turn left signposted Almington.

Route 1

- 5 Turn next left to Peatswood and return to Market Drayton on Berrisford Road.

CYCLING CODE cycle with care!

- Always follow the Highway Code
- Be considerate to other users, and give way to pedestrians and horse riders
- Take particular care at junctions, when cycling downhill and on loose surfaces
- Ride in single file on narrow or busy roads
- Consider wearing a helmet and high visibility clothing

Cycle Route 1	Cycle Route 2
Cycle Route 3	Cycle Route 4
Short cut / alternative route	
Teas	Pub/Inn
Monument	Tourist Information
Post Office	Gardens
Picnic Area	Car Park
Shops	Church
Castle	Nature Reserve

Cycling on the Shropshire Union Canal

The towpath along the Shropshire Union Canal is open to all cyclists. Please cycle with great care and courtesy to others, observing the waterways code for cyclists.

For more information about cycling on canals visit: www.waterscape.com.

While British Waterways welcomes cyclists the route is not a cycleway and the surface may not be suitable for cycling after very wet weather.

The Waterways Code

Give way to other people at all times • Warn others of your approach
 • Watch out for hazards • Get off and walk if the path becomes difficult • Ride in single file – and don't bunch • Don't risk a skid
 • Only cycle in daylight • Never race • **Please remember you are responsible for your own and others' safety!**

Route 2 – Cheswardine, Bishops Offley and Cop Mere (Total 16 or 24 miles / 26 or 38km)

A brilliant cycle ride around quiet country lanes. Easy cycling with a few short steep hills. The whole route will take you through the spectacular Bishop's Offley and pretty Cop Mere. There is an option to short cut back through Cheswardine and also along the Shropshire Union Canal.

- 1 Cycle out of Market Drayton on Berrisford Road. Go under the canal aqueduct and follow the road to the right. Continue to the next T-junction
- 2 At the T-junction turn left and follow the road downhill over the bridge, past the quarry on the right and uphill to Almington
- 3 In Almington turn right signposted Hales and Chipnall. Follow the road uphill to Hales

Hales

A traditional estate village with a grand hall and large sandstone church. Coal Brook Valley has a wonderful lake and marsh area teeming with bird life.

- 4 In Hales cycle past the church and go straight on downhill into the Coal Brook Valley and up a steep hill to Chipnall
- 5 At Chipnall turn left at the telephone box signposted Chipnall Lees and follow the road to Liple
- 6 At Liple turn right signposted Doley and Eccleshall
- 7 At the crossroads turn left signposted Eccleshall. After 100 metres turn left again signposted Stone and Eccleshall and follow the road to Bishops Offley

Short cut

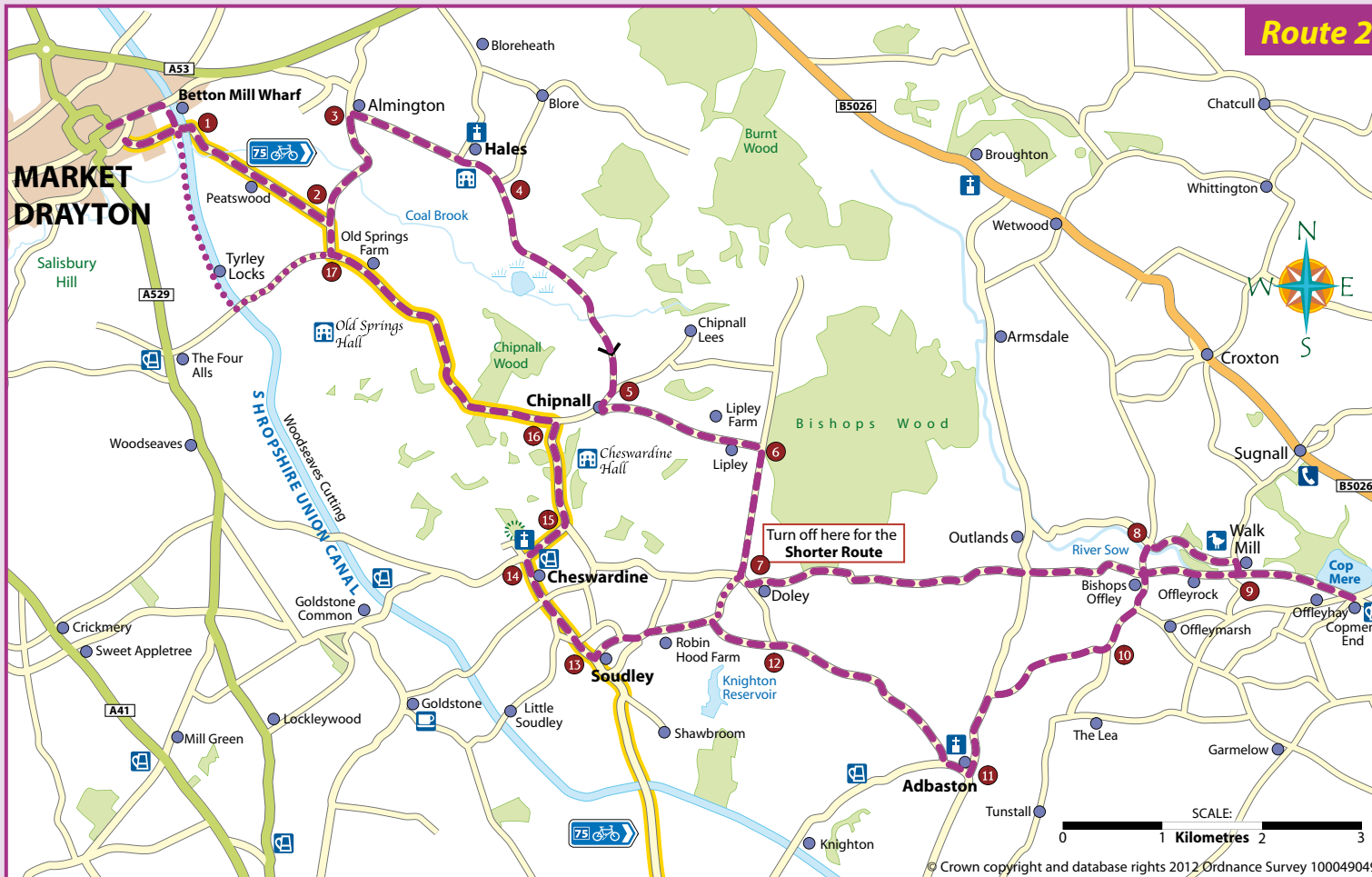
- 7 To short cut back through Cheswardine, at the crossroads go straight over, signposted Newport, then follow the main route from instruction number 13

- 8 In Bishops Offley turn left at the crossroads signposted Croxton and Wetwood. Go down a steep hill through a cutting and turn first right (unsigned) and follow the road to the next T-junction. Turn right, go past the millpond to another T-junction.

Bishops Offley and Cop Mere

Cycle through the deep sandstone cutting and you come out into Jackson's Coppice and marsh Nature Reserve. The marshland has been created by the presence of two watermills. The dam for the Walkmill dates from 1250. Further on you come to Cop Mere, a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The local meres were formed at the end of the last Ice Age.

- 9 To visit Cop Mere, turn left and follow the road to the Star Inn. To continue along the main route turn right onto the main road towards Bishops Offley. In Bishops Offley turn left towards Shebdon and Newport
- 10 Turn first right (after ½ mile) and turn left at the next T-junction and follow the road to Adbaston



- 11 In Adbaston turn first right signposted Cheswardine and right again past the Church
- 12 After about 2 miles fork left to Soudley. At the next T-junction turn left down Marsh meadow, go past Robin Hood Farm and into Soudley
- 13 At the T-junction turn right and follow the road into Cheswardine

Cheswardine

Cheswardine is renowned for its floral displays and has been voted one of England's prettiest villages. The church is well worth a visit; it has a beautiful interior and has displays of art depicting previous churches on the site, dating back to the 11th Century. Next to the church is a moated motte, the last remains of a castle built by the Le Strange family in 1160.

- 14 In Cheswardine, turn right at the church signposted Chipnall
- 15 Turn left at the next T-junction by Cheswardine Hall
- 16 Just before Chipnall turn left signposted Market Drayton, Almington and Route 75 (great views)
- 17 Follow the road round to the right at Old Springs following cycle route 75. Turn next left to Peatswood and return to Market Drayton on Berrisford Road

Alternative along Shropshire Union Canal

- 17 Just past Old Springs Farm fork left to Tyrley Wharf and Locks (signposted Tyrley). Join the towpath at Bridge no. 60 and return to Market Drayton along the towpath of the Shropshire Union Canal.