

# About Cradley & Mathon

## St James the Great Church - Cradley

The history of St James' Church dates back to Norman Times. Clear evidence of the Normans can be seen in the well preserved south doorway and lower tower with its chevron decoration. The upper part of the tower and its windows date from the late 14th or 15th Century. The columns of the archway between the tower and the nave were probably built in the late 12th century. An interesting feature is the arch of the small doorway at the rear of the tower in the south corner, which appears to be made from two halves of an old octagonal font.

A new bell tower has recently been installed to house two new bells and the original six bells, which were cast at the Gloucester Foundry in 1724.

In 1864 the original church was in great need of repair. Sir Gilbert Scott produced plans and paid for restoration works himself, which included a new oak roof and a chancel arch. Over the next few years further improvements and restorations were carried out. This work was paid for by parishioners and included adding new seats and restoring the pulpit. In 1874 an organ built by John Nicholson of Worcester was installed and the Church porch was built in 1893 in memory of the Reverend Renn Hampden.

External features of interest include a sun dial which was constructed from part of a medieval churchyard cross of tufa stone and restored to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. On the south wall of the church is a tablet recording the burial of Richard Nokes in 1608, who gave money to the poor. Some head masks and corbels date from the 12th Century and there is evidence of arrow and sword sharpening in the sandstone of the south west buttress of the church tower.

## The Old School - Cradley

Now the village hall, the Old School is a part 15th Century building which underwent repair works in 1667 with money left in the will of James Turner. The names of the two churchwardens at the time - William Bullock and Richard Turner are carved on a stone in the north wall outside the school.

## St John the Baptist Church - Mathon

The rubble masonry built church of St John the Baptist in Mathon dates back to the 12th Century. The tower was added in the 15th Century, with the porch being added a short time later. The church was partially restored between 1849 and 1868 and again in 1897. All of the church windows are modern day, many of which replicate the windows which were in place in the 14th Century. There is a ring of six bells cast by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester in 1760 and also a sanctus bell by John Martin dated 1675.

# Walk Information

Herefordshire Council "Miles Without Stiles" routes have been created to enable easier access for all. Stiles are one of the biggest obstacles to walking in the countryside for the elderly, those with mobility problems or simply those who want an easy going walk.

Stiles: 0      Gates: 14

### Surface Widths:

Between points 6 and 7 there are sections of path which are only 1 metre wide.

### Surface Gradients:

The route is mainly flat. There are 2 steep inclines (i.e. greater than 1:20) which are marked on the map. Other more gradual inclines (i.e. between 1:50 and 1:20) are between points 2 and 3, 2 and 4 and 6 and 7.



ALWAYS FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE. ENJOY YOUR WALK!

This leaflet is available in large print from Tourist Information Centres and Libraries throughout the County. Also at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/circularwalks](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/circularwalks) or [www.malvernhillsaonb.co.uk](http://www.malvernhillsaonb.co.uk)

Designed and produced by Herefordshire Council Parks, Countryside & Leisure Development Service. This route is managed by the Herefordshire Council Public Rights of Way Team who would welcome your comments, Tel 01432 260572. This leaflet has been kindly funded by the Malvern Hills AONB Partnership.



A route provided by Herefordshire Council to enable easier access for all

# Walks around Cradley & Mathon

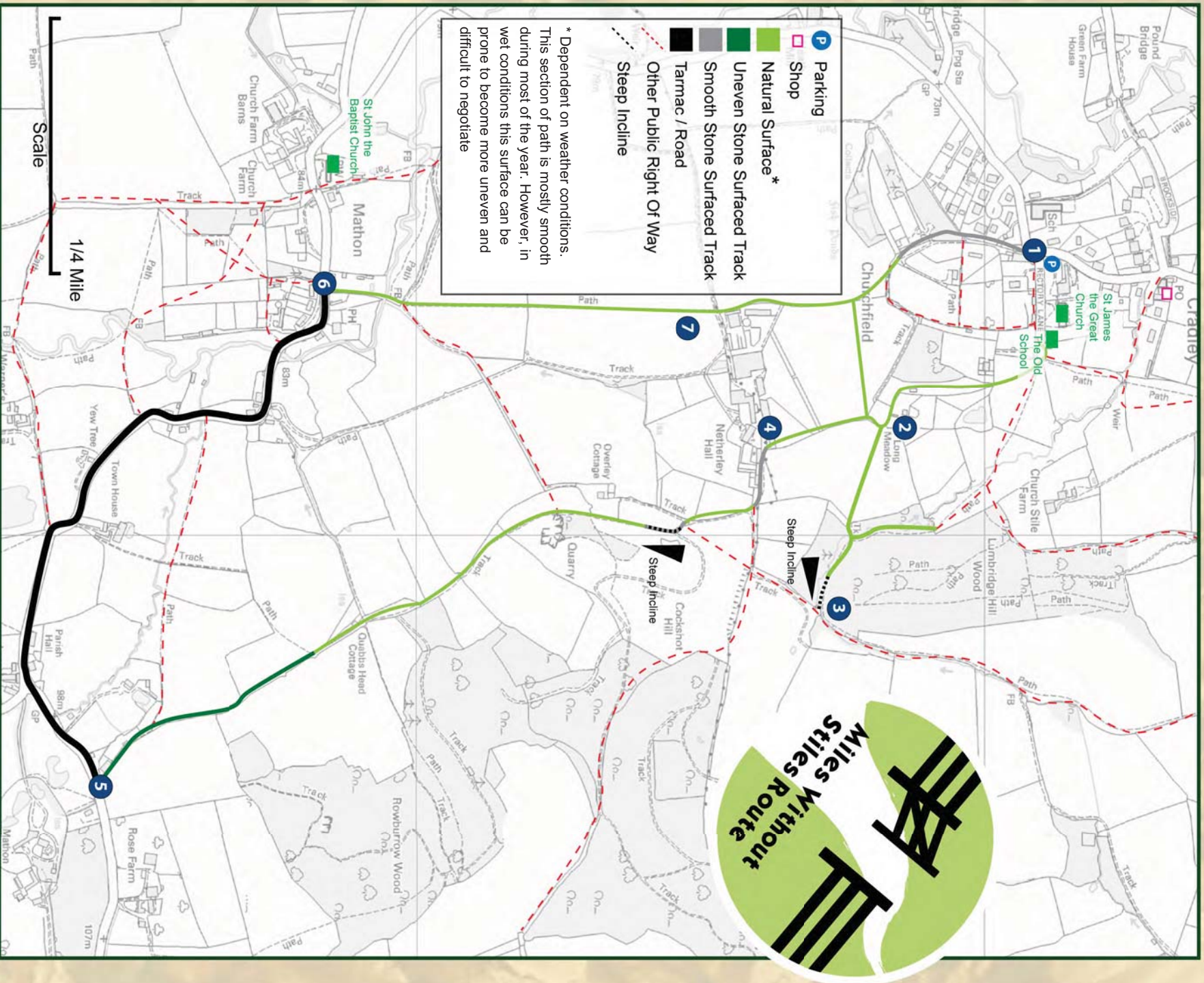


Distance: 3 Mile Loop (Plus Additional Linear Route)



HEREFORDSHIRE ...it's good to walk!

# Cradley & Mathon



**To help find your way around, Location Point numbers can be found along the route. These correspond with the numbers on this map.**