



# Cleobury Mortimer Footpath Association

is a member of Shropshire Council's Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme. We have monthly work parties to maintain local Rights of Way. This includes footpath clearance and installation or repair of stiles, gates, bridges, fingerposts etc. We also encourage use of local footpaths by leading Sunday walks in and beyond our parish and produce a number of printed guides for walks in our glorious countryside.

For more information please visit our website: [www.cmfa.co.uk](http://www.cmfa.co.uk)



## Walkers are Welcome

Cleobury Mortimer joined this volunteer led national organisation of affiliated towns in 2010. This status is awarded to towns with well maintained, safe way-marked footpaths and who give a warm welcome to walkers in their accommodation, pubs, cafes, and shops.



## Build walking into your daily routine

Start gradually, set yourself small targets and goals and build slowly from there. Small changes can make a big difference. The most important thing is to make a start as any activity is better than none. To get the most benefit you need to do 30 minutes continuous moderate physical activity on at least 5 days of the week and any health benefits gained will be lost if you don't stay active.

## Useful websites:

Shropshire Great Outdoors: [www.shropshiregreatoutdoors.co.uk](http://www.shropshiregreatoutdoors.co.uk)

Cleobury Country Centre: [www.cleoburycountry.com](http://www.cleoburycountry.com)

Walkers are Welcome: [www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk](http://www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk)



Cleobury Country



Shropshire's GREAT OUTDOORS

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# Cleobury Country Walks

## Walk 4: Papermills Round



**Length:** 2.5 miles (4kms) or 3 miles (5kms)

**Time:** 1 hour or 1.5 hours

**Start:** Outside **St Mary's Church**, Cleobury Mortimer

**Walk Grade:** Easy. Two thirds on tarmac but some mud in wet weather. One steep slope. Shorter version, 1 stile but gate alongside usually open. Longer version a second stile.

*Note: Due to the terrain, nearly all our walks involve at least one short steep uphill and some stiles. However, you can take it as slowly as you like and the views make it worthwhile.*



Walfords Bridge: The house was originally 2 cottages with a blacksmith's shop. Just up stream on the left are the remains of an old papermill which later became a corn mill

A surprisingly rural circuit of the outskirts of the town to the site of the papermills, including a very attractive stretch along the River Rea and views across to Clee Hill.

Papermaking was a major 19thC local industry. The ruined foundations of the paper mill, which was burnt down in 1884 can still be seen.

Walk prepared by Cleobury Mortimer Footpath Association

# Walk Directions

- 1 From the Church, cross the road opposite the pharmacy. Turn left and cross Lion Lane to THE WELLS [the town's water supply until the 1960's. Until a pumphouse was added (early 20thC), townspeople came to the Well to get their water]
- 2 Go right passing the pond and left of the Scout & Guides HQ [the old pumphouse]. Walk alongside a brook on your left to turn right at a lane. Turn left along the lane at the next junction and continue to the medical centre.
- 3 Turn left up to a main road. Turn right along the pavement for a few minutes and cross the road before the bridge over the River Rea [the NEWBRIDGE built by Telford in 1790]. Continue over the bridge and immediately left onto a footpath along the river.
- 4 Continue through two gates, with PAPERMILLS COTTAGES [built for the workers of the mill] on the right. Ignore 1st footbridge and continue keeping river on your left, passing the ruins of the papermills at the old weir, to WALFORDS BRIDGE
- 5 Cross the river via the footbridge, left and then right at the lane uphill to a stile on the left

## For the longer route only:

- 6 Continue on the road uphill for another five minutes. At the top go left down a track marked as a footpath. Pass a house [site of the POORHOUSE where aged and sick paupers went to be cared for], over a stile and downhill, then over a footbridge and steeply up to a tarmac road.

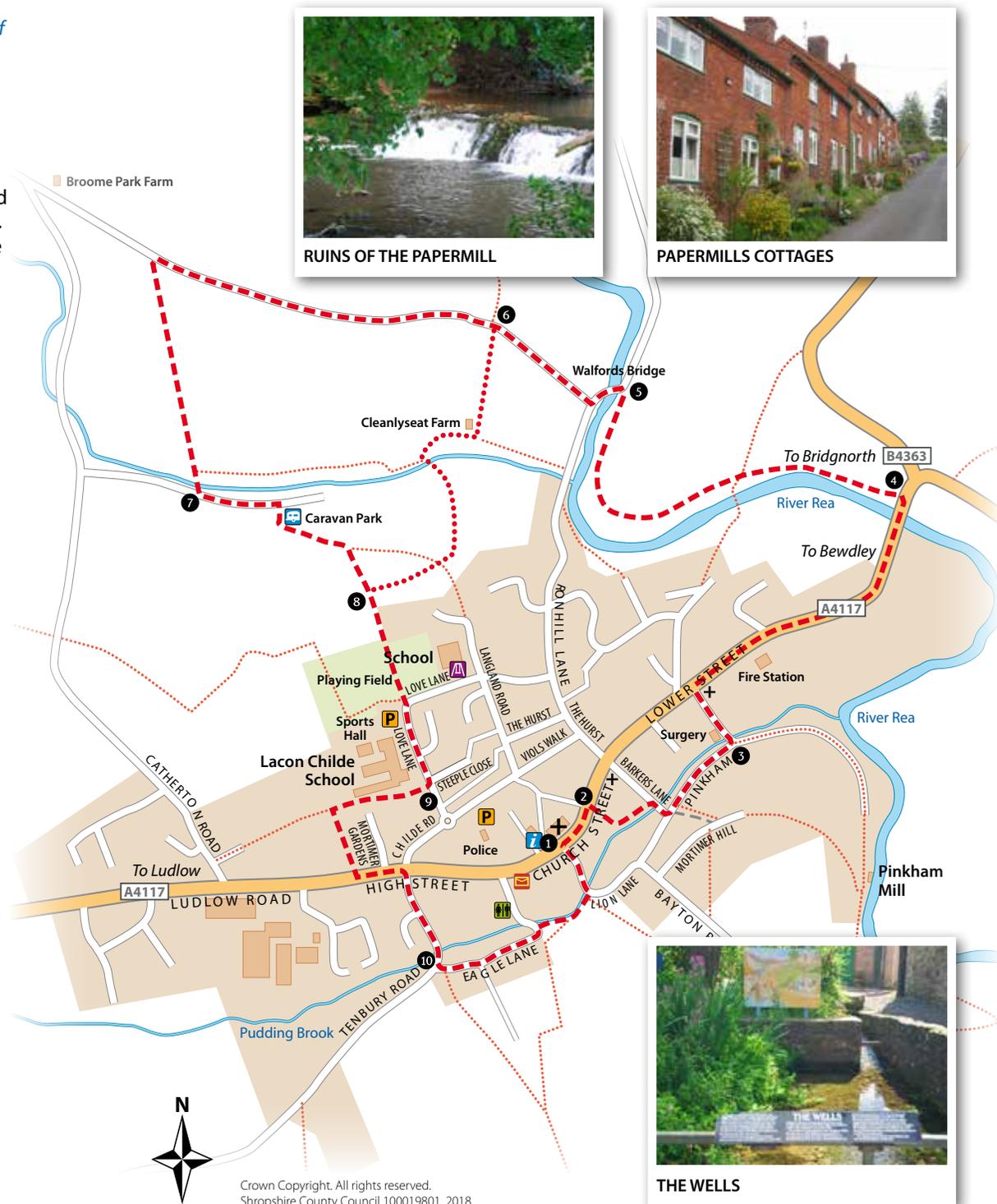
- 7 Turn left into a caravan park [the site of the WORKHOUSE, built in 1740, it took in poor people who could not support themselves. These people did small jobs to pay for their keep], take the right fork and then turn right down a footpath beyond which there is no public access. Go across an estate road and through a gate into an open field. Turn immediately right and follow the hedgerow up hill to the top corner of the field to rejoin the shorter route at 8. (Alternatively, as this is a very steep path, you can zig zag up the hill to the same point).

## For the shorter route only:

- 6 Cross the stile, keep the field edge on your right to go over a stile in the far corner. Go past Cleanlyseat Farm on your right downhill to a footbridge. Cross the bridge, bear left up a steep slope and steps. Continue forward uphill passing a large oak in the middle of the field to the top right hand corner of the field.

## Where both routes join again

- 8 Go forward down a footpath alongside the end of gardens, then follow the path across the school playing fields to the leisure centre car park. Here follow the road past Lacon Childe school to take a footpath on the right.
- 9 At the end of school buildings go left down a path to the main road. Cross the road and go left along the pavement then right at a crossroads (Tenbury Road). As the road bends right turn left down Eagle Lane.
- 10 At the bottom of the slope, where the lane goes left and uphill, go over stile and forward alongside gardens to a gate into Lion Lane. Go uphill back to the Church.



RUINS OF THE PAPERMILL



PAPERMILLS COTTAGES



THE WELLS