

● **Distance** 12.7km/8 miles ● **Time** 4hrs ● **Grade** Moderate

TOM BAILEY



Visit the quaint All Saints Church at Little Stretton.

Could this be Britain's best geocache trail? The walking is stunning and the content of the caches is totally compelling: a series of three amazing tales highlighting the wartime heritage of the Long Mynd. From munitions calamities to the battle training of peregrine falcons, this is a terrific story which unfolds as you walk. As if that wasn't enough, there's the first-ever **Country Walking** geocache to find, too – with a few surprises of its own. * **Note:** To locate the four geocaches (and get clues if you need them), you will need to be registered at www.geocaching.com. See feature for details. *By Nick Hallissey.*

1 START

At crossroads in centre of Church Stretton, head west up Burway Road (road signs for Burway and Long Mynd). Road veers R, then L, and climbs steeply to a cattle

grid. Immediately after grid, turn L, signed 'Townbrook'. Follow clear path, keeping wood L, and descend to small reservoir. The first geocache, 'Dead Man's Bridge', is located near here.

2 1km/½ mile

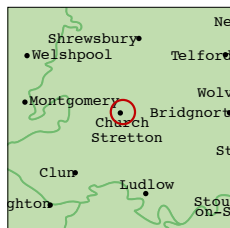
Replacing cache, continue west past reservoir and up into narrow ravine of Townbrook Valley. Follow clear path, which begins a gentle ascent up Long Mynd. At top of ravine, turn R at waymarker, signed 'Pole Bank Walk'. Second geocache, 'Minton Beware' is located not far from waymarker – do not stray too far from path in your search, or lose height.

3 2km/1¼ miles

Replacing the cache, head north-west on clear grassy path, eventually arriving at a road. Turn L and follow track beside road, eventually reaching fork in road. Follow L-hand fork ➤

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PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Terrain Clear footpaths, deep ravines climbing to exposed moorland (good navigation skills essential in poor weather), short road walk

Stiles None

Suitable for Most walkers; dogs on lead

START/PARKING

Car parks in Church Stretton, grid ref SO453935

Nearest town Shrewsbury

Refreshments Pubs and tearooms, Church Stretton

Public toilets Church Stretton

Public transport Buses 435 and 540 connect Church Stretton with Shrewsbury, www.travelinemidlands.co.uk

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 217; Landranger 137

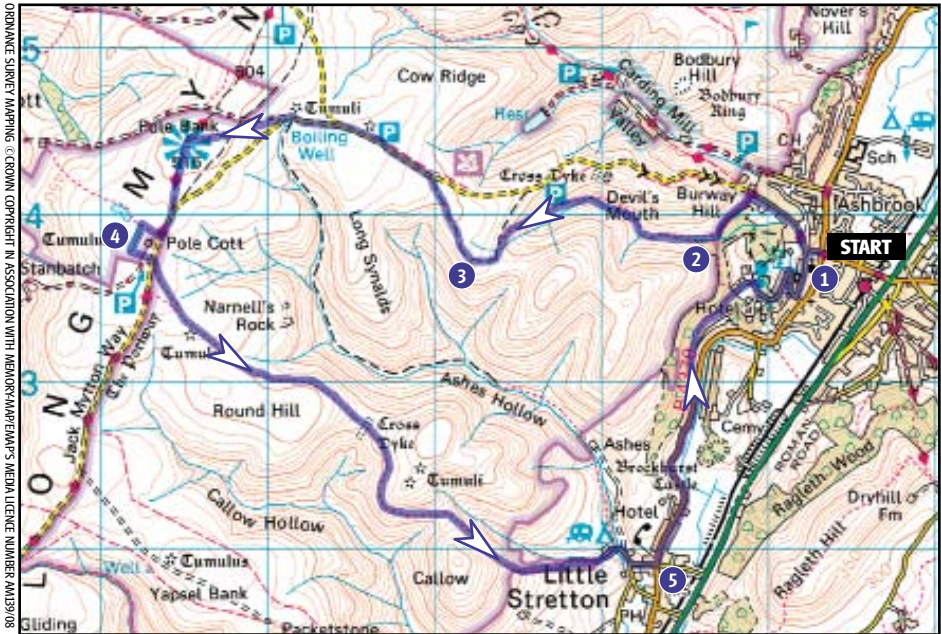




Shropshire

Long Mynd Geocache Trail

COUNTRY WALKING



➤ and, at sharp L bend, follow footpath for Pole Bank viewpoint. From Pole Bank, head south and rejoin road for a few metres, then turn R to skirt perimeter fence of Pole Cottage. The third geocache, 'A Bridge Too Far', is close by – and takes a bit of ingenuity!

4 5.7km/3½ miles

Replacing cache, keep perimeter fence L and return to road. Turn R and head south. After a few metres, turn L on to clear path and follow this south-east, skirting Round Hill. Descend slightly, reaching an Iron Age

cross dyke. Pass through dyke and continue on path, which veers R. Fourth and final cache, **Country Walking's 'Weird Sisters'**, is now close by. After finding and replacing it, return to path and continue descending ridge, above stream of Small Batch. At bottom of hill, pass through gate and join lane. Turn L at T-junction and follow to another T-junction.

5 10km/6¼ miles

Turn L on to Ludlow Road and follow for 1.1km. At end of row of cottages (Crossbanks), branch L. Do not take signed footpath but join Cunnery Road bridleway,

which climbs through woodland to run parallel with Ludlow Road. As a house appears ahead, turn R down a bank next to a prominent yew tree and head for eagle sculpture. You can descend directly back down into Church Stretton, or explore more of the wooded sculpture trail – all paths eventually lead back to the village.

Route created using

Memory-Map V5 Central England – OS 1:50,000

Contact

www.memory-map.co.uk
0870 740 9043



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