

# Plaish Pedaller



A pretty 10 mile cycle ride along quiet lanes with stunning views of Shropshire hills and ridges.

Start Here: **The Royal Oak, Cardington** is the oldest licensed pub in the county. It's even mentioned in the Domesday Book.

- 1 Turn left, and head out of Cardington towards Longville. Signed Gretton
- 2 Turn left at **Gretton**, signposted Plaish
- 3 At **Plaish**, turn right (signed Church Preen), then quick left (signed Hughley) passing **Plaish Hall** on the left. Enjoy a nice downhill

Legend says that Judge William Leighton pardoned a master builder, as long as he built the finest twisted chimneys for the Judge's house. When

the work was finished the Judge had the builder hanged. People say that his ghost still howls from the roof of **Plaish Hall**. In Cardington Church, you will find a tomb with an uncomfortable-looking man on top – Judge William Leighton!

- 4 At the T-Junction, turn left, signed Hughley. Continue to the crossroads by **Church Preen Primary School**.
- 5 At these crossroads, turn left passing the Church Preen School on your right. Start to climb for approximately 1 mile!

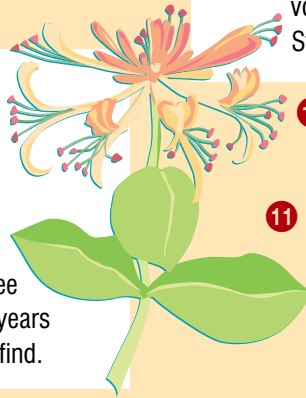
**Church Preen:** Look for Preen Manor. There used to be a monastery here, but there is little left apart from the St. John the Baptist church. The yew tree in the churchyard is one of the oldest in Europe – it's 800 years older than the church!

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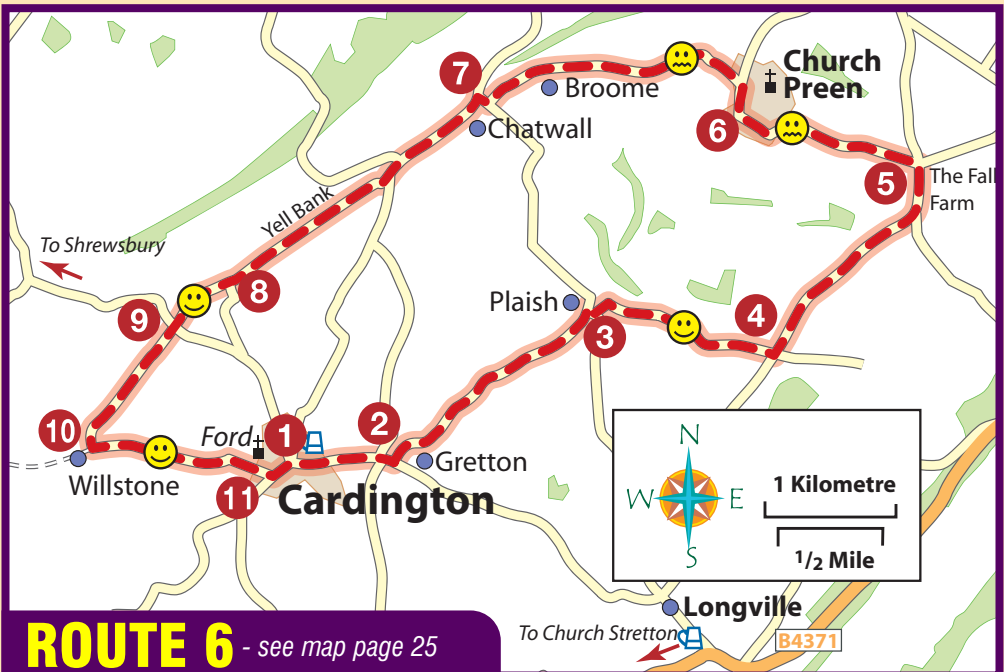
- At **Church Preen** and close to the top of the climb, turn left (signposted Broome Chatwall). Keep climbing!
- At the next junction, turn right (signed Chatwall).
- Continue along the ridge known as **Yell Bank**. There are stunning views to your left.
- Drop down to the cross roads. Continue straight over (or turn left for short cut back to Cardington). Follow the small lane past farms (on your left). There are views of **Caer Caradoc** to the right.

**Caer Caradoc** looks like a volcano, but it's made up of lava and ash spewed out 600 million years ago by other volcanoes along the Church Stretton fault line.

There are a wide variety of plants in the **hedges along Yell Bank**. Look for Holly, Blackthorn, Elder, Hazel and Honeysuckle. To work out how old a hedge is; count the number of different types of tree you can see. It's roughly 100 years old for every species you can find.



- At Willstone, turn left and continue into Cardington.
- Turn left at the end of the lane, just after the ford, then take the first right and skirt around the Church. The Royal Oak is on your left.



**ROUTE 6** - see map page 25