

## 1 Shobdon Arches

The Shobdon Arches were removed from the Norman church at Shobdon in 1751-2 and carefully re-erected in full view on top of the slope to the north of Shobdon Court as a folly.

Despite having been moved, the Arches are still an important example of mid 12th century sculpture in the Romanesque style. For many years there have been schemes put forward to remove the arches and house them somewhere more sheltered and secure. However the recent growth in interest and appreciation of the historic landscape has meant that the Arches have now been recognised as an important example of an 18th century folly within a parkland setting of high landscape value.

## 2 Early Agriculture

The landscape around Uphampton features traces of prehistoric field systems and at least one enclosure. These were part of an organised farming landscape in the Iron Age.

## 3 Shobdon Hill

Shobdon Hill has been at the centre of the local timber industry for many years. The mixed woodland provided timber for many uses. There are indications of past coppicing, hardwoods for furniture and building and larch that was used for sailing boat masts. At its peak there was an aerial ropeway from Shobdon Wood to the sawmills at Kingsland carrying timber for processing. This ropeway was in use until the 1930s when alternative transport became more accessible.

## THE MORTIMER TRAIL

If you have enjoyed this walk then why not explore the nearby Mortimer Trail - a 30 mile regional route which takes you from Ludlow to Kington following a succession of hills and ridges. The Mortimer Trail Official Route Guide is available from Leominster Tourist Information Centre Tel: 01568 616460

## WALK INFORMATION

This walk has some steady ups and downs so a moderate level of fitness is required. There is a particularly sharp descent from Shobdon Hill Wood across Byton Common.

## REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments can be obtained from local pub, garage and village shops/Post Office in Shobdon.

## PARKING

There is parking at Shobdon Arches Visitor Centre.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

For details of bus services in the area check times through the National Traveline Tel: 0870 608 2 608 or contact Herefordshire Council Public Transport Enquiries Tel: 01432 260211



ALWAYS  
FOLLOW  
THE  
COUNTRY  
CODE

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

Designed and produced by

Herefordshire Council Parks & Countryside Service  
with additional text by Herefordshire Archaeology.

This route is managed by the Herefordshire Council  
Countryside Access Team who would welcome  
your comments Tel: 01432 260572



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FREE

# THE SHOBDON LOOP WALK

A challenging ramble through old  
and new Shobdon passing pools,  
parks and plantations



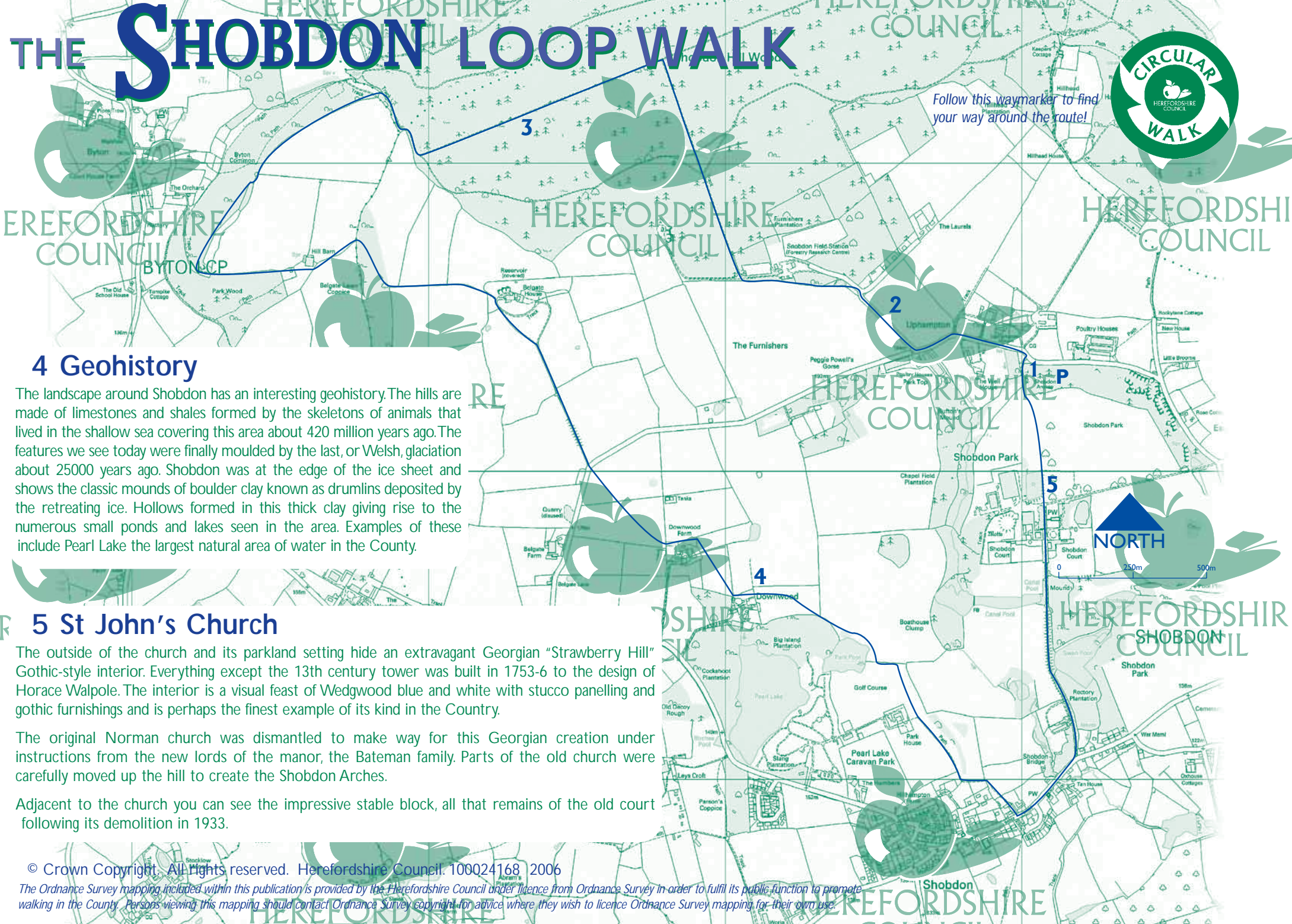
DISTANCE: 5.5 miles  
GRADE: Stroll Ramble Hike

HEREFORDSHIRE ...it's good to walk!

# THE SHOBDON LOOP WALK



Follow this waymarker to find your way around the route!



## 4 Geohistory

The landscape around Shobdon has an interesting geohistory. The hills are made of limestones and shales formed by the skeletons of animals that lived in the shallow sea covering this area about 420 million years ago. The features we see today were finally moulded by the last, or Welsh, glaciation about 25000 years ago. Shobdon was at the edge of the ice sheet and shows the classic mounds of boulder clay known as drumlins deposited by the retreating ice. Hollows formed in this thick clay giving rise to the numerous small ponds and lakes seen in the area. Examples of these include Pearl Lake the largest natural area of water in the County.

## 5 St John's Church

The outside of the church and its parkland setting hide an extravagant Georgian "Strawberry Hill" Gothic-style interior. Everything except the 13th century tower was built in 1753-6 to the design of Horace Walpole. The interior is a visual feast of Wedgwood blue and white with stucco panelling and gothic furnishings and is perhaps the finest example of its kind in the Country.

The original Norman church was dismantled to make way for this Georgian creation under instructions from the new lords of the manor, the Bateman family. Parts of the old church were carefully moved up the hill to create the Shobdon Arches.

Adjacent to the church you can see the impressive stable block, all that remains of the old court following its demolition in 1933.