



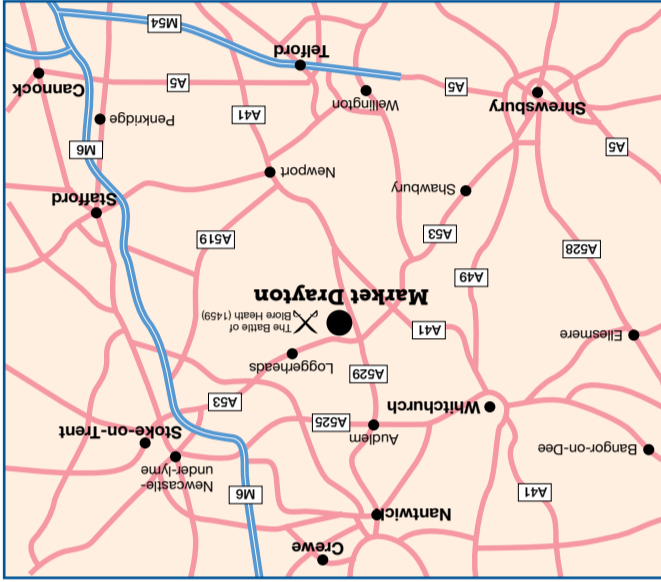
Market Drayton Town Trail

Welcome to Market Drayton!



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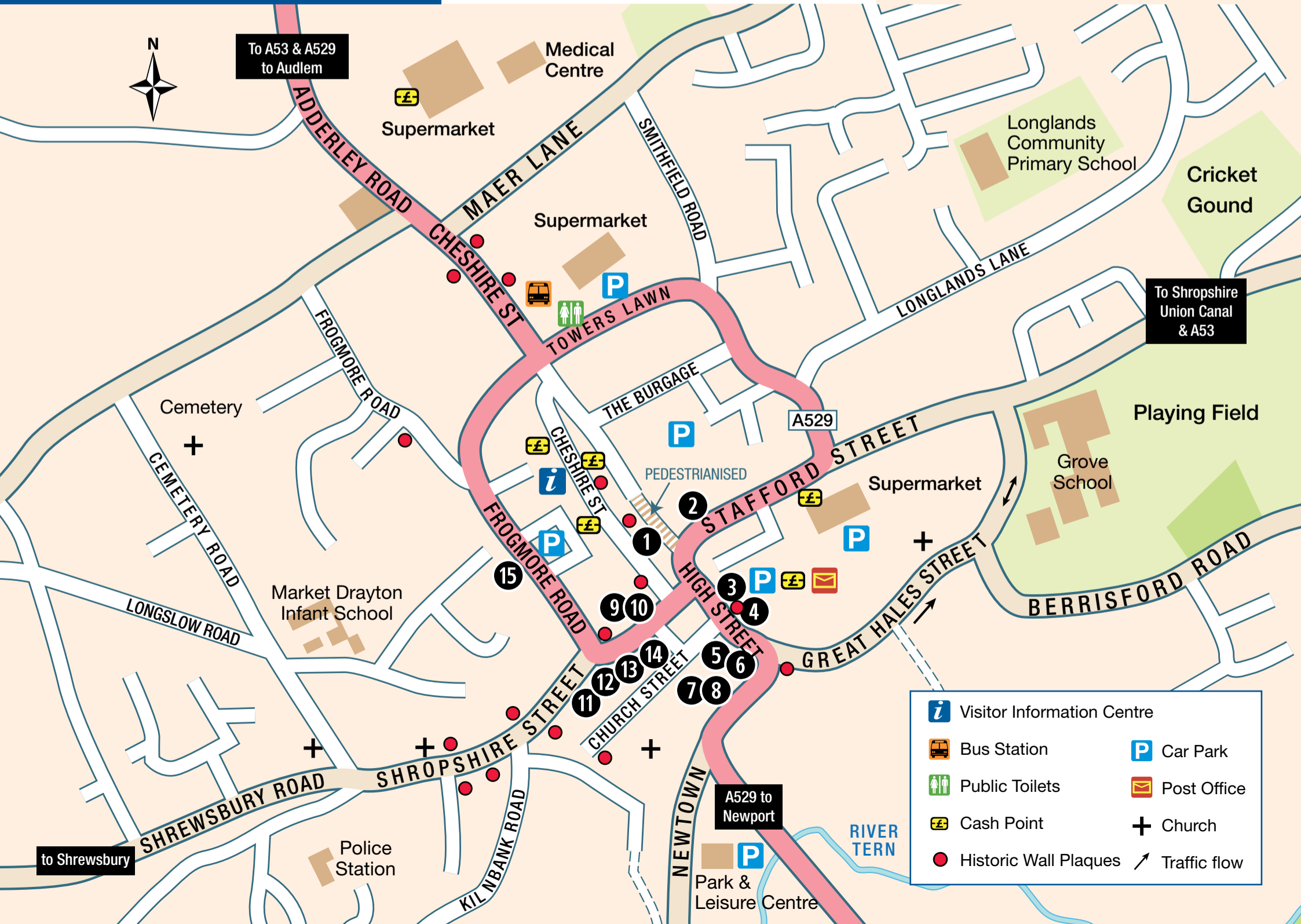
Around Market Drayton

Market Drayton
Lovely towpath walks from Market Drayton to Tytre Locks about a mile and a half (2.5 kilometres) each way. Most of it is on firm ground, though some parts can be a bit muddy after rain. Tytre Locks is a group of five locks dropping 33 feet through a delightful sandstone cutting.
The 'Shropshire Union Main Line' was one of the last canals to be built. It was originally named the Birmingham and Liverpool Junction Canal, which shows that it was built for long-distance traffic rather than local. The canal was designed and built by the famous Scottish born engineer, Thomas Telford who made his name in Shropshire. It opened in 1835, just two years before the railway from Liverpool and Manchester to Birmingham was opened a few miles to the east.
"Dratune" was originally a Saxon settlement and appeared in the Domesday Book. In the thirteenth century, the town was granted a charter to hold a market on a Wednesday. As a result, the name changed to Market Drayton and there continues to be a flourishing market, to this day! From Spring 2013 a Saturday market will also be held.



Market Drayton - Shropshire Union Canal

(10 minutes walk from Town Centre)



- Visitor Information Centre
- Bus Station
- Public Toilets
- Cash Point
- Historic Wall Plaques
- Car Park
- Post Office
- Church
- Traffic flow

Start your trail at the south end of Cheshire Street next to the Buttercross.



1 Buttercross

The Buttercross lies at the head of the historic centre of the town, which has held a market here since Medieval times... The market included grain, cattle, dairy and general produce. The Buttercross itself was built in 1824 to enable farmers' wives to display and sell their wares under cover. On the top of the building in the middle of the roof, is the old fire bell, used to summon the Fire Engine!

With your back to the main thoroughfare on Cheshire Street, walk to the left of the Buttercross, into the open space of the Town Square. On your left is The Crown.

2 The Crown

This is one of the rare survivors of the Great Fire of 1651 which destroyed 140 houses in the centre of town. Tradition tells us that Charles I spent a night in this hotel in 1645.



Walk down the High Street. On your left, you will see the Corbet Arms.

3 Corbet Arms

Once an important coaching Inn, for over two hundred years The Corbet Arms was one of the major meeting places in the town, including being the equivalent of the County Court right up to Victorian times. Thomas Telford stayed here when he came to inspect the Shropshire Union Canal.

The Damson Fair was held in the High Street and flourished in the mid 1800s as the Lancashire mill owners bought the local damsons to use as a dye. Apparently, the King of Nepal, hosting a banquet in London sent to Market Drayton for two hundred-weight of the fruit to contribute to a favourite recipe for damson chutney!

Continue down the High Street. After a few paces you will see the Red Lion and Joules Brewery on your left.



4 Joules Brewery

The Red Lion was originally a Joule's house and like most of the medieval town centre it sits over Market Drayton's Aquifer,

the water source for the ales. The pub dates back to 1623 and has been restored to encompass the new brewery which has been built behind the ancient pub. Tours available

5 Clive Steps

With your back to the front of the Red Lion, cross the road to find Clive Steps. Named after a former pupil of the Grammar School, they will take you to the Grammar School itself.

At the top of the steps, on your left is the old Grammar School.

6 Grammar School

In 1555, Sir Rowland Hill, the first protestant Mayor of London, founded the Grammar School. The 11 year old Robert Clive attended the school in 1737 before eventually going on to a distinguished military career in India where he gained his reputation as 'Clive of India'.



Continue past the Grammar School. St Mary's is on your right.



7 Saint Mary's

A church has stood on these sandstone cliffs for over a thousand years! It was extensively restored in 1884. Inside the church, you will find the tomb of Thomas and Elizabeth Bulkeley distant relatives of three presidents of the United States; Calvin Coolidge, George Bush and George W Bush!

8 Saint Mary's view

From the churchyard you can look over the Tern Valley and glimpse Pell Wall Hall, built in 1822 and designed by the same architect who designed the Bank of England – Sir John Soane!

Leave the Church by the main gate and go straight down St Mary's Street. At the end of the street, look to your right and you will see The Tudor House.



9 Tudor House

One of the finest buildings in Market Drayton, the Tudor house was re-built after the fire of 1651.

With your back to St Mary's Street, go left along Shropshire Street. Fairly soon you will see a relatively small black and white timbered building. This is the Abbott's House

10 Sandbrook Vaults

Sandbrook Vaults (built in 1653) can be found next door to the Tudor House. It has recently been refurbished by Joules Brewery.

11 Cotton's House

Cottons House, built around 1600 on land granted to the Cotton family by Henry VIII, has recently been refurbished.

12 41 Shropshire Street

Sometimes known as the Old House, it was built at the turn of the 18th century and was one of the first brick built houses in the town. It was carefully restored in 1975 and received a European Architectural Award.

13 The Abbott's House



Next to the Red House, this half-timbered building is about 350 years old and was reputedly used by the Abbott of Combermere on his visits to Market Drayton.

Further along from the Abbott's House is the Red House.

14 The Red House

This once belonged to Captain William Wilkinson who served on the frigate Sirius at the Battle of Trafalgar.



Now turn back to the junction of Shropshire Street and Frogmore Road. Walk down the left of Frogmore Road, where you will soon see Festival Drayton.

15 Festival Drayton

The Festival Drayton Centre is a superb venue for local events owned and run by the community of Market Drayton. The Centre houses a state of the art digital cinema, cafeteria, art gallery and function rooms and is open daily. It was honoured as the Best /Regional Winner of the West Midlands Market Town Awards in 2006 in recognition of the most outstanding Market Towns' Project.



As you leave Festival Drayton, cross the road and walk to the right of the car-park, then under a covered walkway. You are now back in Cheshire Street with the Buttercross on your right!

Historic Wall Plaques

Look out for the plaques dotted around the town that will give you further information about Market Drayton. These are marked with a red dot on the map overleaf.



- Corbet Arms**, High Street
- Rylands House**, Great Hales Street
- The Shambles**, Cheshire Street
- Tudor House**, Cheshire Street
- Gingerbread Café**, Cheshire Cheese Inn, Cheshire Street (Mincher-Lockett Opticians)
- Market Drayton Theatre**, Stafford Street (near Barnetts)
- Buttercross**, Cheshire Street

- Manchester & Liverpool Bank**, Cheshire Street (NatWest)
- Town Hall**, Cheshire Street (Library)
- Old Court House**, Cheshire Street (Warren, Upton & Garside)
- Primitive Methodist Chapel**, Frogmore Road
- Chesters Prize Gingerbread**, 20 Shropshire Street (Blandfords)
- Poynton House**, Shropshire Street
- House of the Poor**, Shropshire Street (Old Armoury)
- 75 Shropshire Street**
- Mount Lane School**
- Cottons House**, Shropshire Street

