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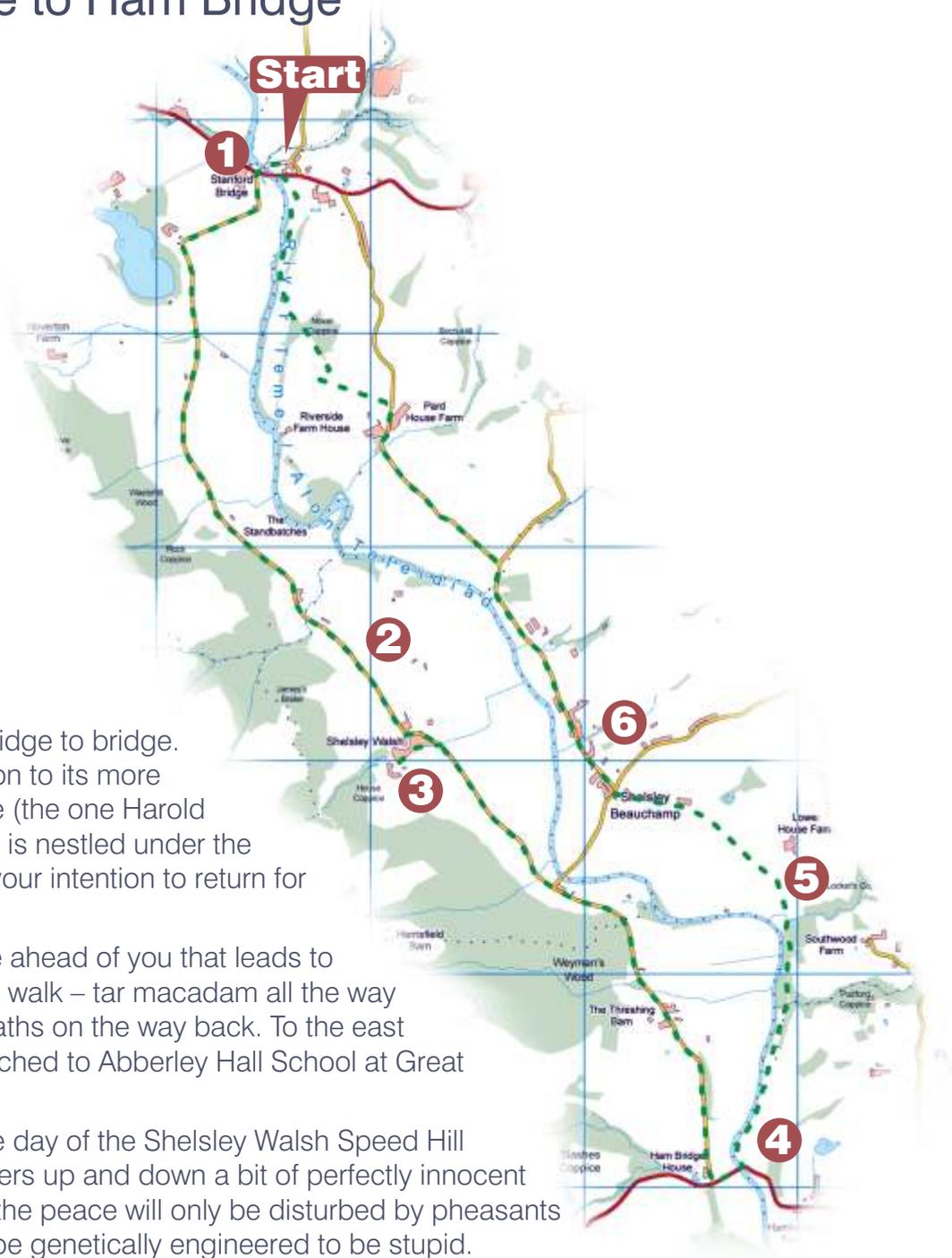
# River **TEME**

Stanford Bridge to  
Ham Bridge

Half lanes, half fields in the  
beautiful Teme valley

## 2 River Teme - Stanford Bridge to Ham Bridge

 <b>Type</b>	Circular
 <b>Location</b>	Worcestershire
 <b>Maps</b>	OS Explorer 204
 <b>How to get there</b>	A443 and B4203 from Worcester
 <b>Start</b>	52°17'23.01"N 2°25'3.95"W
 <b>Length</b>	12.8km
 <b>Duration</b>	3hrs
 <b>Severity</b>	**
 <b>Paths</b>	***
 <b>Stiles</b>	*****



Into the beautiful Teme valley for a rivery walk from bridge to bridge. Start at the tiny hamlet of Stanford Bridge – no relation to its more famous soundy-likey, the 1066 battlefield in Yorkshire (the one Harold won). There's a car park next to the Bridge Inn which is nestled under the new bridge. I'm sure they won't mind you using it if it's your intention to return for victuals.

Cross the old bridge **1** and the B4203. You'll see a lane ahead of you that leads to Shelsley Walsh. This is the largely uneventful half of the walk – tar macadam all the way to Ham Bridge but you will be rewarded with country paths on the way back. To the east you can just make out the top of the clock tower **2** attached to Abberley Hall School at Great Witley.

If you are desperately unlucky, you will have chosen the day of the Shelsley Walsh Speed Hill Climb. This involves petrol heads revving their old bangers up and down a bit of perfectly innocent countryside. You won't escape the noise all day. If not, the peace will only be disturbed by pheasants jumping out of hedges and screeching. They seem to be genetically engineered to be stupid.



For the price of a small diversion you can visit the 12th Century St Andrew's Church **3** at Shelsley Walsh. Built in the local travertine stone, most of the restoration dates from the 1850s.

Carry straight on at the turning to Shelsley Beauchamp (a place with too many consonants in its first name and too many vowels in its second). After 500m you can see an ancient motte in the fields to your left, although to my untutored eye it looks nothing more than a mound.

As you near the junction with the

B4204 there's a footpath with a fingerpost to the left which appears to cut off the corner. Ignore it, you'll get bogged down in a muddy field.

Just on the other side of the Ham Bridge there's a footpath **4** that takes you up the east bank. Stick to the river bank until you reach the first set of stiles. The following fields get seriously damp on occasions and you may want to hoik your trousers up. The last field narrows to a point and a broad path takes you slightly up the bank and through some woodland.

When you next emerge into fields **5**, stick to the hedge to your right. The church at Shelsley Beauchamp is in front of you. The path turns into a stony lane past a neat little orchard – millions of apples destined for Bulmers!

When you reach the church **6**, you need to cross more or less straight over and follow the sign back to Stanford. There's a nice bench in the churchyard if you haven't eaten yet.

Easy going now until you reach Pard House Farm, some 2½km further on.

There's a white house on your left just beyond the farmyard (and the chickens). The onward path starts from a stile at the end of the house's drive. Cross the field diagonally. Turn right over the next stile, back up the drive for 50m and then left into a grassy lane. Stay on the right edge of the next field until you enter trees again. Two more stiles and you are back by the river. It's just a short stroll through a caravan park and you're at your starting point.

A stone milestone with a white sign. The sign is rectangular with a black border and is mounted on a large, rounded stone post. The text on the sign is in a serif font and reads: 'TO WORCESTER CROSS 12 MILES'. The stone post is weathered and has some lichen or moss on it. The background is a dense thicket of green ivy.

TO  
WORCESTER  
CROSS  
12  
MILES

Milestone on the road to  
Shelsley Walsh