



# ANCIENT HEATHLAND LIZARDS, AN ABANDONED VILLAGE & THE VALLEY OF THE RIVER REA

Locator map

Map Key

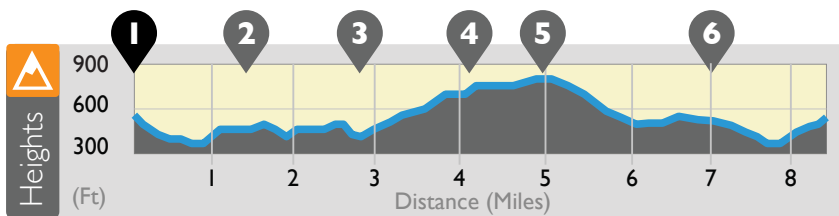
**Please respect the Countryside Code.**

This route has been designed to complement O/S Explorer map No. 203

See [www.visitthemaalverns.org](http://www.visitthemaalverns.org) for route download options.

PDF A4 Print GPX KML Phone & Nav.

Main route	Route keypoints	Museum/gallery	Cafe	Picnic site
Bridleway	Public house	Information	Parking	Mansion
Footpath	Ascent/Descent	Landscape feature	Church	Take care!



- Directions

Key TL = Turn Left, TR = Turn Right
- 1** Park in the Six Ashes picnic site. **(Please take care crossing roads)** TL and then TR on the lane downhill to the hamlet of Neen Savage which has a picturesque old church. Continue around to right and follow lane down and then uphill to a minor junction.

Clee Hill). Continue uphill to junction. Keep left here and continue on New Road to cross roads near Hill Houses.
  - 2** At junction TL towards Detton, continue along and then up through farm buildings. Continue along lanes which eventually have great views of the Rea Valley on left. Continue as lane undulates along to a deep dip and steep ascent out along to Old Detton Hall on right. TL here downhill to the River Rea. A fantastic downhill here.
  - 3** Once over the river the road snakes uphill and past the Jack Myton Way (bridleway) on left. Continue up steep Withies Bank here to junction (consider a quick detour here to the New Inn at Oretton) and TL up New Road (signed
  - 4** TL at crossroads (signed Cleobury Mortimer) up over cattle grid to Catherton Common (ancient heathland known for its Common Lizards).
  - 5** Continue to cattle grid in left corner of common and then downhill to the hamlet of Catherton - a fantastic downhill here. Continue along here and TL at minor cross roads (signed Neen Savage). Consider a detour down to the Green Lane nearer Cleobury here.
  - 6** Continue as lane undulates along and then downhill to the River Rea. A fantastic downhill here. There's a ford over the river (or) a footbridge **(please take care if using the ford)**. TR to Neen Savage here and then back up the lane to your starting point.

Route Facts

**The Common British Lizard** - as found on Catherton Common.

As part of this ride you can also detour slightly to look at the site of the ancient deserted medieval village of Dodintone, near Withies Bank, Oretton. The half-timbered Detton Hall is the only remaining building on the site.

And finally (dependent on conditions), consider splashing through the shallow ford on the River Rea towards the end of this ride (there's also a footbridge if preferred).

After coming downhill from Neen Savage and crossing the River Rea you enter Catherton Common, regarded as one of the most enchanting and botanically rich places in the county of Shropshire. The ancient landscape is a haven for wildlife seldom seen in other parts of the country. The wild heathland is a perfect habitat for skylarks, linnets, meadow pipits, stonechats, yellowhammers and common lizards.