

Further information

Tourist information

Ellesmere Visitor Information Centre: 01691 622981

The Mereside, Ellesmere, SY12 0HD

E-mail: ellesmere.tourism@shropshire.gov.uk

Oswestry town centre: Heritage Centre, Church Terrace

01691 662753

Oswestry: Mile End services 01691 662488

Cycle shops

Stuart Barkley Cycles: Salop Road, Oswestry, Shropshire – new and used bikes, repairs/ service hire. 01691 658705

Bikeworks: mountain bike shop. 95 Beatrice Street, Oswestry. 01691 654407

Cycle Colour Supplies: cycle sales. Whittington Road, Oswestry 01691 658444

Accepts Cycle Shropshire discount card. Visit

www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle for more information.

Travel information

Nearest railway stations are at Gobowen and Wem. For rail travel call

08457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

For bus travel call Traveline: 0871 200 22 33

www.travelshropshire.co.uk

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Discover Shropshire by bike

It's great to get out and about on a bike in Shropshire. Discover hundreds of miles of National Cycle Network routes along quiet lanes, explore traffic-free trails along old railways and waterways, follow the cycle rides from historic towns and get muddy on mountain bike tracks in woods and forests.



Other Publications

www.travelshropshire.co.uk

Shropshire Council 01743 253008

Ordnance Survey map

Explorer 240 Oswestry

Part funded by the Department for Transport



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Route 4: To Gobowen and Oswestry

(Total 24½ miles / 39½ km)

This route is suitable for more experienced cyclists as it includes some cycling on steep inclines and busy roads. Those who take the ride will enjoy both open countryside and the opportunity to enjoy the industrial heritage of the town of Oswestry, which has been an important settlement on the borders of Wales for many centuries.

- 1 Leave Ellesmere along Trimpey Street (B5068). After passing the national speed limit signs, take the first left toward Crickett and Perth (signposted Cycle Route 455). Follow the road towards Perth, passing over a former railway bridge
- 2 At the next T-junction turn right towards Old Marton (signposted Cycle Route 455)
- 3 Take the first turning on the left towards Hindford, then at the next T-junction turn left in the direction of Cycle Route 455 and follow the road into Hindford
- 4 At the T-junction in Hindford turn right towards Iron Mills and Gobowen

- 5 At the next T-junction turn left towards Gobowen (signposted Cycle Route 455). Continue to a crossroads with the B5009, at which point take a right turn and continue into Gobowen

Gobowen

Open cast mining was recorded in this village in the 12th century. The railway station here serves the line between Shrewsbury and Chester.

- 6 In Gobowen take the first exit at the roundabout then continue over the level crossing
- 7 Take the first right turn after leaving Gobowen, in the direction of Hengoed and Selattyn (signposted Cycle Route 455)
- 8 Take the first turning on the left towards Pentre-Clawdd, then follow Cycle Route 455 towards Oswestry
- 9 Take the second exit at the roundabout onto Llwyn Road. At the next T-junction turn right onto Gobowen Road and cycle into Oswestry

Oswestry

Oswestry is a vibrant market town on the border between Shropshire and Wales, with a wealth of history. The historical strategic importance of this area is underlined by the remains of an imposing castle at Castle Bank in the town centre and the Old Oswestry hillfort, on the northern edge of the town. The greatest of the poets of World War I, Wilfred Owen, was born here in 1893.

- 10 Continue onto the one-way system and cycle past Oswestry Railway Centre. Turn left at the next set of traffic lights then cycle along Salop Road, passing straight over two mini-roundabouts. After the railway bridge, take the first turning on the right onto Maesbury Road in the direction of Maesbury and Knockin
- 11 Follow this road to a junction with the A483. Turn right and immediately left towards Maesbury and Knockin
- 12 Continue through Maesbury and Maesbury Marsh, crossing the Shropshire Union canal at the Navigation Inn
- 13 Turn left at Woolston Bank (unsigned), then follow the road into West Felton. When you are in West Felton, follow the road round to the left in the direction of Rednal, and pass over the A5
- 14 Go straight over the crossroads at the Punch Bowl Inn towards Grimpo and Rednal. Continue through Grimpo in the direction of Rednal
- 15 At the next T-junction turn right (unsigned) and follow the road in the direction of Hordley and Tetchill
- 16 Take the second turning on the left in the direction of Hordley and Tetchill. Continue on this road through Tetchill in the direction of Ellesmere. By the time you return to Ellesmere along Birch Road you will have passed Ellesmere College, the British Waterways yard and Blackwater Meadow Marina



Route 5: To West Felton, Ruyton-XI-Towns and Baschurch (29½ miles / 47½ km in total or 10 miles / 16½ km with short cut)

This is the longest route with an option to short cut, and is suitable for more experienced cyclists as it includes some cycling on steep inclines and busy roads. En-route, you could enjoy a picnic at the canal near Lower Frankton or, if you choose to take the longer route, stop off for refreshments in the bustling villages of Ruyton-XI-Towns and Baschurch

- 1 Leave Ellesmere along Trimpey Street (B5068). After passing the national speed limit signs, take the first left toward Crickett and Perthy (signposted Cycle Route 455). Follow the road towards Perthy, passing over a former railway bridge
- 2 At the next T-junction turn left towards Ridge, Ellesmere and Oswestry
- 3 In Perthy take the first right towards Ridge and Oswestry
- 4 Take the second turning on the left (unsigned)
- 5 At the T-junction with the A495 turn left and then first right towards Lower Frankton
- 6 Follow the road over the canal, round to the left and then back over the canal. At the next T-junction turn right (unsigned).

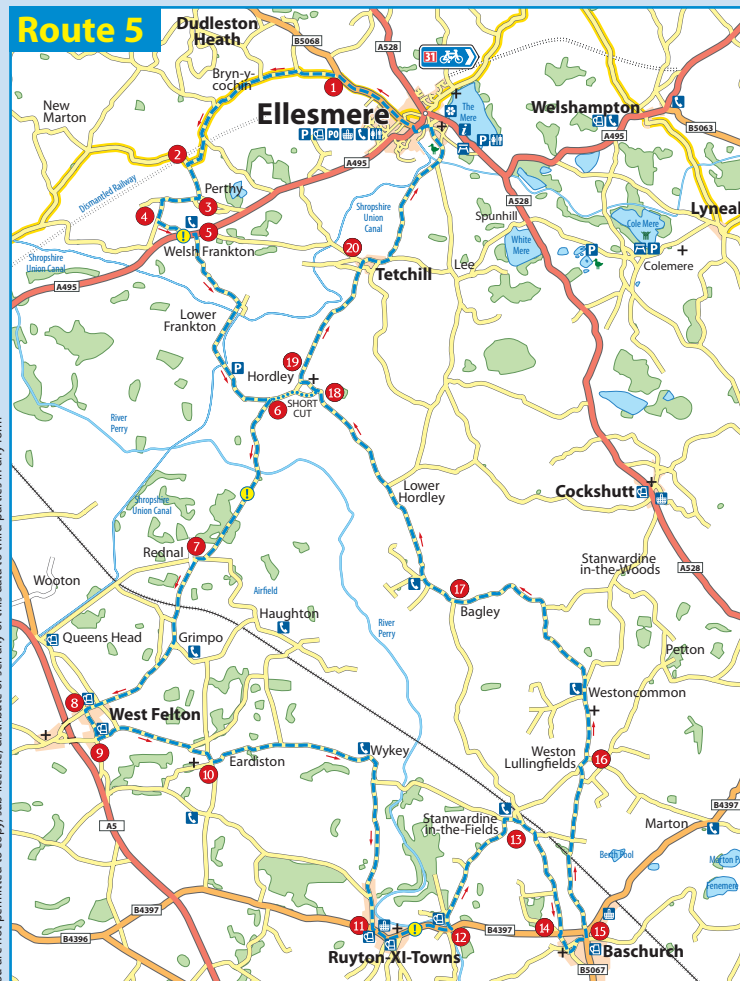
SHORT CUT: To take the shorter route, turn left at the T-junction, then take the second turning on the left and rejoin the main route from instruction 19

- 7 In Rednal take the second turning on the left (unsigned). Pass over the railway and follow the road to Grimpo. Continue through Grimpo in the direction of West Felton and Oswestry
- 8 Continue past West Felton school. At the next T-junction turn left onto Holyhead Road
- 9 Pass over a mini roundabout and take the first left turn onto Tedsmore Road in the direction of Tedsmore and Eardiston
- 10 When you reach Lane End, follow the road towards Wykey and Eardiston. Follow the road through Wykey and then into Ruyton-XI-Towns

Ruyton-XI-Towns

The origin of this villages name is said to date from the 12th century, when John le Strange, who held the manor of Ruyton, acquired two other local manors. This made Ruyton the major Manor of eleven nearby townships, and therefore 'Ruyton of the Eleven Towns'.

- 11 At the T-junction in Ruyton turn left onto Church Street in the direction of Baschurch
- 12 After cycling over the River Perry turn immediate left towards Stanwardine
- 13 At the next T-junction turn right towards Stanwardine. Turn right again at the next T-junction
- 14 At the next crossroads go straight ahead down Church Road in the direction of Nobold. Cycle past the church and the New Inn in the village of Baschurch and continue to the next crossroads



Baschurch

Baschurch is centred around the Church of All Saints, which dates from the 13th and 14th centuries. It is believed a battle took place a mile or so north of the village of Baschurch where stands the ancient fortress now known as The Berth. More recently this site has been suggested as being the resting place of King Arthur!

- 15 Turn left at this crossroads, then continue straight over at the next crossroads. Continue over a railway bridge and follow the road into Weston Lullingfields
- 16 Follow the road through Weston Lullingfields towards Bagley and Hordley
- 17 Continue through Bagley in the direction of Hordley
- 18 Cycle past the ABP factory [TAKE CARE!] and through the village of Lower Hordley. Take the next turning right at a sharp left hand bend
- 19 Cycle past Hordley Church. At the T-junction turn right towards Tetchill and Ellesmere
- 20 Follow the road through Tetchill and continue towards Ellesmere. Return to Ellesmere along Birch Road

FREE Ellesmere Cycle Rides



Five cycle routes following quiet lanes and country roads
From 10 – 29½ miles (16½ – 47½ km)
www.travelshropshire.co.uk

About the cycle rides

Cycling is one of the best ways to soak up the unspoilt landscapes and experience the unique features of the environment and villages of North Shropshire. It is ideal cycling terrain; quiet lanes and country roads, easy gradients and yet amazing views. These cycle routes have been chosen to suit a range of interests and abilities, the shortest route being **10 miles** and the longest **29½ miles**. Cycled over a day, with a picnic lunch or a stop at a local pub, this really is a great way to explore the area.

Where to start

All the cycle routes start from Ellesmere. Safe long stay parking can be found in the town centre as shown on the map below



Key to maps

Tea	Pub/Inn	Shops
Car Park	Railway Station	Post Office
Gardens	Nature Reserve	Caravan & Campsite
Picnic Area	Play Area	Country Park
Church	Monument	Castle
Viewpoint	Take Care on busy road	

Cycling with care

- ♦ Watch out for other vehicles especially tractors
- ♦ Always wear a helmet and high visibility clothing
- ♦ Ride in single file when the road is narrow
- ♦ Follow the Highway Code and take extra care at road junctions

Ellesmere

Ellesmere is the heart of Shropshire's 'Lake District' and features a delightful glacial mere which attracts an abundant amount of wildlife. To read about preserving this unique habitat, or to find local events visit www.themeresandmosses.co.uk.

Ellesmere boasts medieval streets, Georgian houses and half-timbered buildings, and has hosted a weekly market since being granted a charter by Henry III in 1221. Visit the impressive church of St Mary or stroll along the towpath of the Llangollen canal, designed by the legendary Thomas Telford.

Route 1: To Colemere and Welshampton (Total 18 miles / 28½ km)

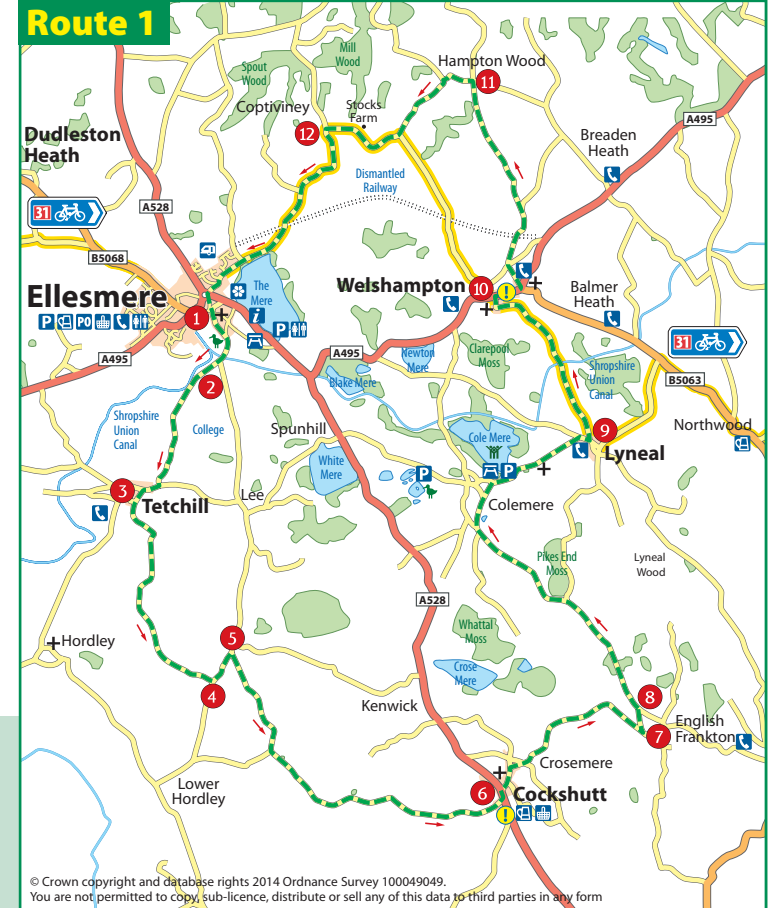
An easy cycling route for lovers of the countryside who can enjoy a break at the delightful Colemere heritage site, where an array of wildlife can be spotted. Refreshments can be taken on the route at both Cockshutt and Welshampton

- 1 Leave Ellesmere along Birch Road towards Tetchill
- 2 Pass over the canal and continue past the British Waterways yard
- 3 Continue past Ellesmere College into Tetchill. Take the second left towards Kenwick Park
- 4 Follow the road to a T-junction and turn left
- 5 Turn first right towards Kenwick Park and Cockshutt, then follow the road to Cockshutt

Cockshutt

The church, which is dedicated to St Simon and St Jude, is a modest red brick building with an unusually slim angular tower. A previous chapel on the same site is recorded as far back as the 15th century.

- 6 At the T-junction in Cockshutt turn left, then take the first right into Crosemere Road
- 7 Follow the road to English Frankton and turn first left to Colemere and Pikesend
- 8 After around 250 metres, bear left at the junction and then follow the road into Colemere



Colemere

Colemere is home to the second largest of the lakes/ meres in Shropshire. The mere is surrounded by extensive woodland with picnic places and a circular walk. Opposite Colemere lake is St John the Evangelist church, a mid-Victorian Gothic church. The foundation stone was laid on 3rd June 1869 and stone brought from Cefn by canal to Lyneal Wharf was used in the construction.

- 9 Continue through Colemere, following the road towards Welshampton. At the T-junction in Lyneal, turn right signposted Loppington and Wem, then first left to Welshampton

Welshampton

The church of Saint Michael was built in 1863 and was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott with unusual yellow stone and a diaper pattern slate roof.

- 10 At the T-junction in Welshampton turn right, and then first left after the Sun Inn into Copes Lane. Follow the road towards Hampton Wood
- 11 At the crossroads turn left towards Ellesmere, then follow the road round to the left towards Ellesmere and Coptiviney
- 12 Follow the road back to Ellesmere and return along Swan Hill

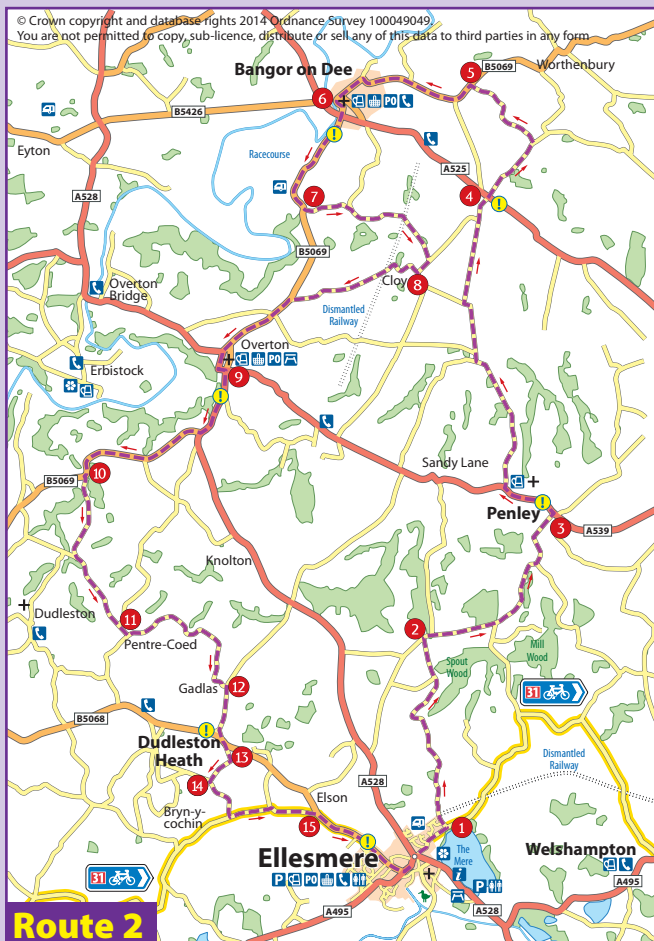
Route 2: Penley, Bangor and Overton (Total 22½ miles / 36½ km)

This route incorporates cycling on major roads and may suit more experienced cyclists. This is a great journey for those with equestrian interests as, after crossing the border and enjoying the sweeping countryside of Wales, you can enjoy a trip to the races at the famous Bangor on Dee racecourse

- 1 Leave Ellesmere along Swan Hill and turn first left after the cemetery
- 2 At the next T-junction turn right (unsigned)
- 3 Follow the road into Penley. At the T-junction turn left towards Overton and Ruabon (A539). Cycle through Penley, then after approximately ½ mile, turn right into Vicarage Lane towards Adra-felin

Penley

Between 1947 and 2002 this village was home to No 3 Hospital for Polish veterans of the Second World War



- 4 Follow the road to a crossroads at the A525. Go straight over towards Worthenbury, then take the first left towards Wallington
- 5 At the next T-junction turn left onto the B5069 towards Bangor
- 6 Cycle into Bangor, then turn left onto Overton Road, the B5069 (signposted Overton)

Bangor on Dee

This delightful village exists in a natural hollow adjacent to the River Dee and is home to Bangor Bridge, a five-arched stone bridge which dates from about 1660 and is believed to have been built by Inigo Jones. The nearby racecourse has seen jump racing since 1859 and is the only course in the country that doesn't have a grandstand

- 7 Continue under the A525 and then past Bangor Racecourse, then turn first left towards Millbrook. At the next T-junction turn right towards Cloy then continue along this road, passing under the old railway line
- 8 At the T-junction turn right towards Overton, following the road back under the former railway line. At the T-junction with the B5069, turn left towards Overton
- 9 When you reach Overton, turn left onto the A528 towards Whitchurch. Cycle through the village, then turn right onto Salop Road (signposted Ellesmere)

Overton

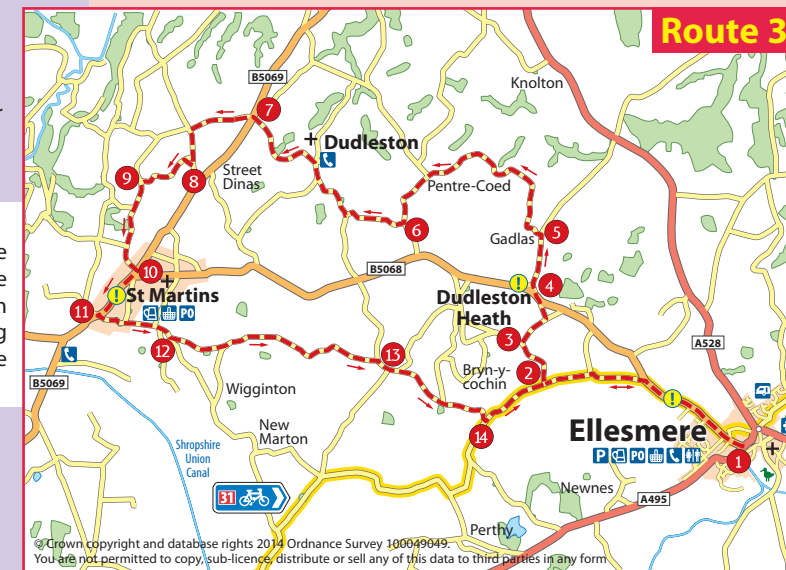
The views from the churchyard at St Mary's Church are one of the "Seven Wonders of Wales". Some of the 21 famous yew trees here date to the 12th century, when the first stone church is said to have been erected

- 10 After leaving Overton take the first right towards Oswestry (B5069), then take the second turning on the left, immediately before signs for Shropshire and North Shropshire District
- 11 At the first T-junction turn left, then at the T-junction in Pentre Coed turn left towards Eastwick
- 12 At the next T-junction turn right towards Dudleston Heath and Ellesmere
- 13 When you reach a staggered crossroads, turn left and immediate right onto Chapel Lane towards Crifftins C of E school
- 14 Turn left at both of the next two T-junctions
- 15 At the T-junction with the B5068 turn right and return to Ellesmere along Trimpey Street

Route 3: To St. Martin's (Total 14½ miles / 23½ km)

This route takes you into the heart of the North West Shropshire Coalfield. It is easy cycling through a maze of country lanes and offers a journey into the industrial past of the county

- 1 Leave Ellesmere along Trimpey Street (B5068). After passing the national speed limit signs, take the first left toward Crifftins and Perthy (signposted Cycle Route 455)



- 2 Take the second turning on the right (no signpost)
- 3 Take the next right (no signpost) then follow the road to a junction with the B5068
- 4 Cross the B5068 onto Eastwick Lane (signposted Gadlas and Eastwick)
- 5 Take the first left towards Pentre Coed
- 6 Take the second turning on the right towards Dudleston. At the next T-junction turn right (unsigned)
- 7 Follow this road until you reach a crossroads with the B5069. Continue straight over this crossroads in the direction of Coedyrallt, then turn left at the next T-junction
- 8 Take the first turning on the right (unsigned)
- 9 At the next T-junction turn left, then follow the road into St Martins along Colliery Road

St Martins

This village grew up around Ifton Colliery, which was once the largest coal mine in Shropshire, employing over 1300 men. The mine closed in 1968 and the site of the pit is now an industrial estate.

- 10 Turn right at the T-junction at the end of Colliery Road, and then take the 3rd exit at a mini-roundabout. Continue past Stans Superstore on the right
- 11 After the Cross Keys Inn turn left into Church Lane (signposted Wigginton)
- 12 Continue past the church and the take the third turning on the left towards Upper Wigginton. At the next T-junction turn left towards Crifftins
- 13 At the next T-junction turn right towards Perthy and Crifftins, then follow the road in the direction of Perthy
- 14 At the next T-junction turn left towards Dudleston Heath and Ellesmere, then follow this road to a T-junction with the B5068. Turn right here and return to Ellesmere along Trimpey