

Further information

www.oswestry-welshborders.org.uk

Nearest visitor information centres

Oswestry town centre: Heritage Centre, Church Terrace
01691 662753

Oswestry: Mile End services 01691 662488

Travel information

Nearest mainline station: **Gobowen**

For rail travel call 08457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

For bus travel call **0871 200 22 33**

 www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle
Follow @ShropTravel on Twitter

Ordnance survey maps

Landranger **126** Shrewsbury and Oswestry

Landranger **125** Bala and Lake Vyrnwy

Cycling contacts

Stuart Barkley Cycles – cycle sales and repair. Central Car Park,
Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NR. 01691 658705

Bikeworks – mountain bike shop. 95 Beatrice Street, Oswestry,
SY11 1HL 01691 654407

 **Colour Supplies** – bicycle sales. Whittington Road,
Oswestry SY11 1HZ. 01691 658444

 Accepts Cycle Shropshire discount card. Visit
www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle for more information.

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/cycle

Shropshire Council **01743 253008**

Acknowledgements

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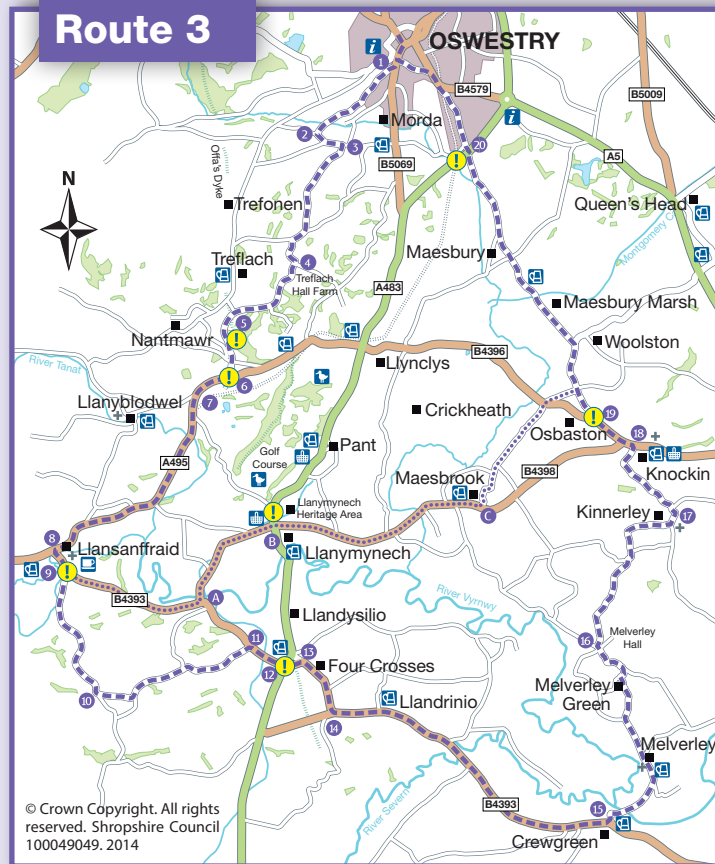
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- 15 Turn left at Crewgreen towards Melverley and cross Severn on iron bridge. Go straight through Melverley village to Melverley Green.

Molverley Church. It's worth the time to stop by St Peter's Church on the banks of the River Vyrnwy. It's an exquisite black and white timber framed church built in 1406 shortly after the Welsh chieftain Owain Glyndwr burnt down the earlier wooden chapel.

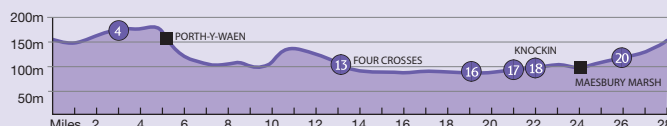
- 16 Go straight past Melverley Hall and turn right for Kinnerley.

- 17 Turn left in Kinnerley at church. Turn left towards Knockin.

- 18 Turn left onto B4396 just after large radio telescope on left.

- 19 Take right turn after Osbaston sign **Take Care** towards Maesbury Marsh and Maesbury.

- 20 Cross A483 **Take Care** into Maesbury industrial estate and use cycle track back into Oswestry. Turn left at JT Hughes dealership to return to start point.



Route 4 Ellesmere Explorer

Total distance: **31 miles / 50 km**

Short cuts 1 & 2: **20½ miles, 33 km**

Short cut 1 only: **24½ miles, 39 km**

Short cut 2 only: **26½ miles, 43 km**

- 1 Start at the tourist information centre at St Oswald's Church. Turn left over the traffic lights into Lower Brook Street and continue along this road. At the JT Hughes car dealership, turn right on to Salop Road (**take care**).

- 2 After the railway bridge, take the first right onto Maesbury Road towards Maesbury and Knockin.

- 3 Follow this road to a junction with the A483 (**take care**). Turn right and immediately left towards Maesbury and Knockin.

- 4 Continue through Maesbury and Maesbury Marsh, crossing the Shropshire Union canal at the Navigation Inn.

- 5 Turn left at Woolston Bank (unsigned) then follow the road into West Felton.

Short cut 1

- A Turn left at the T-junction next to West Felton Stores and the Punch Bowl Pub, signposted Queen's Head & Oswestry.

- B Turn right just before the Queen's Head pub onto the road following the canal signposted Rednal and continue straight on through Rednal towards Hordley.

- C If continuing to Ellesmere, follow the road as it bends to the right (unsigned) to point 10 where you turn left signposted Hordley, Tetchill & Ellesmere. If continuing on short cut route turn left on the bend signposted Canal Parking and follow Short cut route B directions.

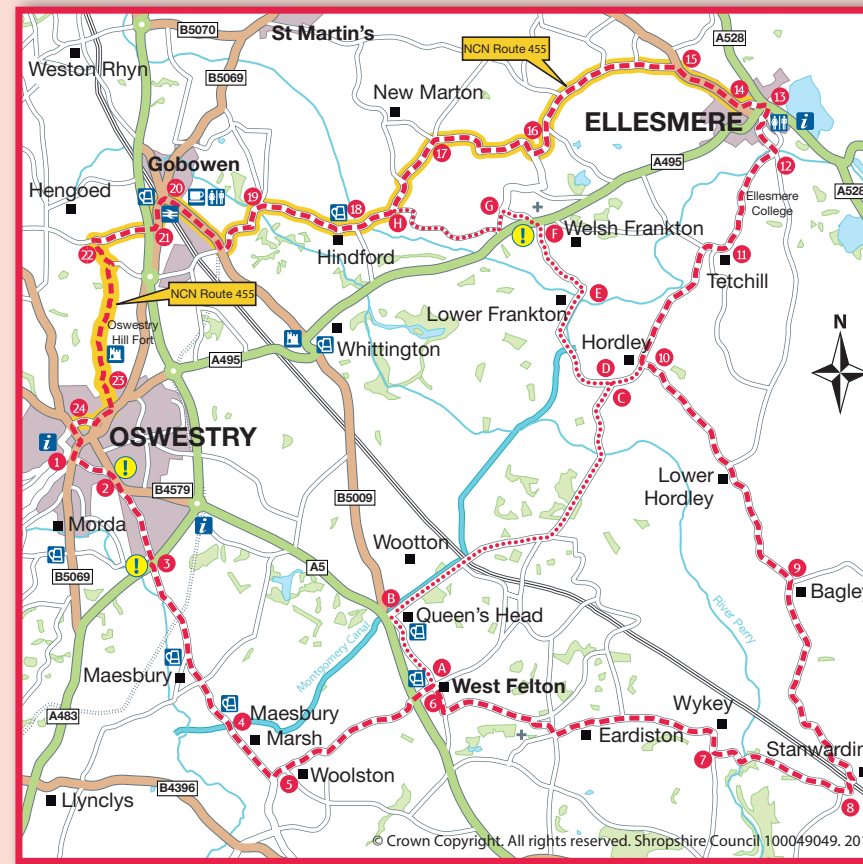
- 6 Turn right at the cross roads in West Felton next to The Punch Bowl pub, signposted Shrewsbury. Turn left after ½ mile signposted Wykey into Tedsmore Road. Then follow signs to Eardiston.

- 7 Follow the road round to the right at Wykey's phone box, then turn left signposted Stanwardine. Soon after, pass over a bridge built in 1887 with picturesque views of the River Perry. Then a fair climb up to be rewarded with great views of the Oswestry plains. Carry straight on following signs for Stanwardine.

- 8 Turn left at the unsigned T-junction in Stanwardine. Soon after follow the road round an S-bend which is on a railway bridge, following the sign to Bagley.

- 9 Turn left at the next T junction in Bagley. Although this looks like an unsigned junction, there is a signpost on the right in a bush, signposted left to Hordley, and immediately on your left at the junction is Poplars Farm B&B. Continue straight on through Lower Hordley, following signs for Rednal & Queen's Head, until you reach Hordley.

- 10 Turn right off the main road, signposted Hordley, Tetchill & Ellesmere, very soon after pass a graveyard on your right and carry straight on signposted Tetchill & Ellesmere.



Short cut 2

- D If coming from instuction C, on this right hand bend turn left signposted Canal Parking.

- E Continue straight on passing over the canal at Lower Frankton.

- F Turn left at the junction with the A495, signposted Whittington **Take care** and then shortly afterward turn right at an unsigned junction next to an old black and white building, which looks like an old chapel, and follow the road uphill.

- G Turn left down the hill then after 150 metres turn right on left hand bend into an unmarked lane (40 metres before reaching A495) and continue downhill.

- H At the end of lane rejoin main route and in 250 metres yards pass Mad Jacks to turn right at point 18

- 11 Continue straight on through Tetchill following the signs to Ellesmere. Before entering Ellesmere there are good views of Ellesmere College.

Founded in 1884, **Ellesmere College** is now a coeducational public school for children aged 7 to 18. The school is a rugby academy and past pupils include former England rugby captain Bill Beaumont.

- 12 Shortly after passing Ellesmere College there is a road off to the right just before a canal bridge, here take the path on the left at the crest of the bridge onto the canal and follow the local signs to Town Centre via Birch Road.

- 13 Veer right at the canal basin by Tesco onto the tarmac road (Wharf Road). Turn right at the T-junction with Scotland Street. Follow the road round to the left (Lloyds TSB Bank on your left) and shortly after pass the public conveniences on your right. Carry straight on.

Ellesmere is a quaint market town nestled on the banks of a glacial mere created following the last Ice Age. There's plenty to see and do here from rowing on the mere to visiting the 15th century church or the wharf which formed the hub of the Midlands canal network during the 19th century. There are also plenty of places to stop for refreshments before returning to Oswestry.

- 14 Take the first exit (signposted Oswestry & St Martins) at the small roundabout and then turn immediately right into Brownlow Road following the blue Route 455 cycle sign. Turn right soon after at a T-Junction, following the Route 455 sign.

- 15 Turn left off the main road following the Route 455 sign to Oswestry & Gobowen, shortly afterwards pass over a former railway bridge.

- 16 Turn right at the next T-junction towards Old Marton (signposted Cycle Route 455).

- 17 Take the first turning on the left towards Hindford, then at the next T-junction turn left in the direction of Cycle Route 455. Cross the canal and follow the road into Hindford.

- 18 Turn right at the T-junction in Hindford towards Iron Mills and Gobowen.

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

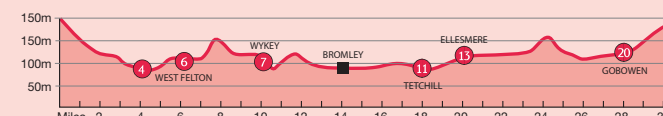
- 20 Take the first exit at the roundabout in Gobowen then continue over the level crossing.

- 21 Take the first right turn after leaving Gobowen, in the direction of Hengoed and Selattyn (signposted Cycle Route 455).

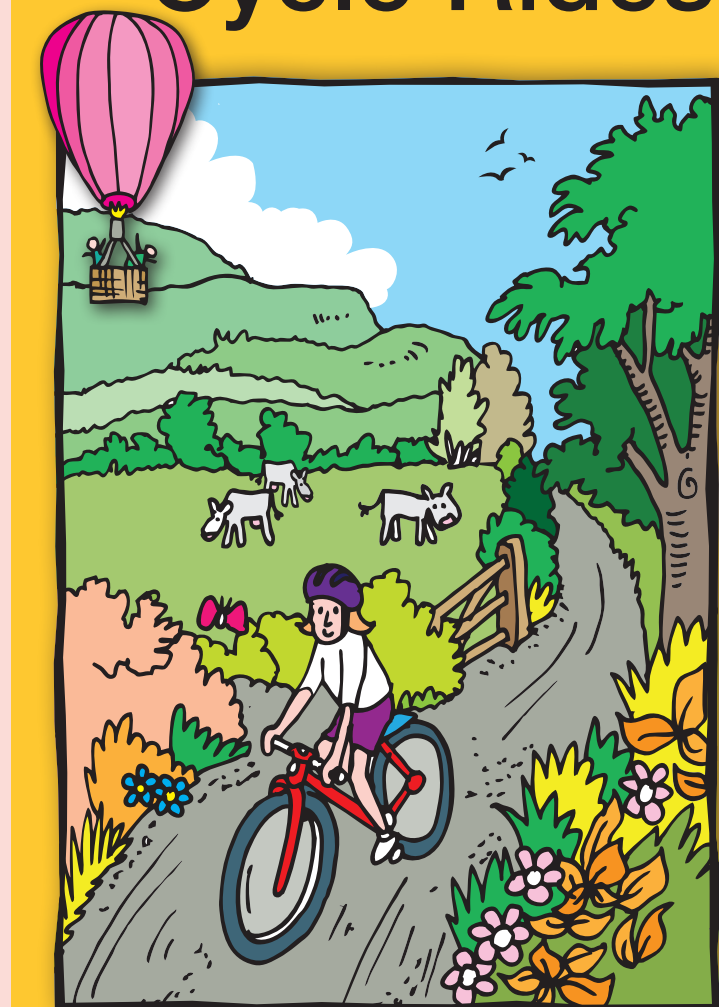
- 22 Take the first left turning towards Pentre-Clawdd, then follow Cycle Route 455 towards Oswestry.

- 23 Take the second exit at the roundabout onto Llwyn Road. Turn right at the next T-junction onto Gobowen Road and cycle into Oswestry.

- 24 Return to start through town centre one-way system.



FREE Oswestry Cycle Rides



Four routes following quiet lanes and country roads

From 13 – 31 miles (21 – 50km)

travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle



About the cycle rides

Explore the beautiful, hilly countryside around Oswestry on these four circular cycle rides.

Route 1 Scenic Selattyn

A beautiful ride featuring some steep climbs and descents. The ride offers great views of the countryside around Oswestry and historic features such as Offa's Dyke. In the spring you may see curlews and skylarks.

Route 2 Ceiriog Climber

Explore both the English and Welsh countryside with this ride out into the beautiful Ceiriog Valley with fantastic views over Offa's Dyke and Oswestry's old racecourse. Suitable for experienced cyclists, low gears and good brakes are essential!

Route 3 Vyrnwy Valley Voyage

The flattest route in this leaflet. Explore the Severn and Vyrnwy river flood plains south of Oswestry with lovely views of the surrounding hills. This route is mostly fairly flat but there is one very steep descent to Porth-y-waen so excellent brakes are needed. The short-cut route offers the chance to take in the countryside heritage area at Llanymynech.

Route 4 Ellesmere Explorer

This ride offers a real taste of the north Shropshire borderlands. The route has fantastic views and the chance to visit two important market towns and some interesting villages. The area is renowned for its beautiful glacial lakes as well as the canals that survive the rail and car ages. This route is not suitable for young or inexperienced cyclists.

Where to start

All routes start and finish at the **Tourist Information Centre** at St Oswald's Churchyard on Church Terrace. If you arrive by train, the route from Gobowen railway station is shown in **Route 4** directions 20-24.

Key to maps

- Cycle route 1
- Cycle route 2
- Cycle route 3
- Cycle route 4
- Short cut / alternative route
- National Trust
- Nature reserve
- Historic building
- Car park
- Public house
- Railway station
- Cycle shops
- Place of worship
- Shops
- Toilets
- Picnic area
- Take care

Oswestry



Oswestry is an ancient market town located on the English/Welsh border, nestled in the foothills of the Welsh hills. Its position as a frontier town has given it a turbulent history. This history is still visible in the encircling English and Welsh town walls and the foundations of the castle, which date back to 1086 and the town's market which dates from 1190.

The name 'Oswestry' is thought to be a corruption of 'Oswald's Tree' or 'Oswald's Cross', after the king of Northumberland who was killed in battle by the king of Mercia near Oswestry in 641AD.

Most of the town centre is a designated conservation area. There are lots of historically interesting buildings including the timber framed Llwyd Mansion, the Cambrian railway museum and St Oswald's Church. Oswestry's first school founded in 1407 is now the heritage and visitor information centre. The cycle routes in this leaflet start here.

There is a wide choice of places to eat, drink and stay as well as some great shops. The Cae Glas Park is beautiful to walk through when the flowers are in bloom.

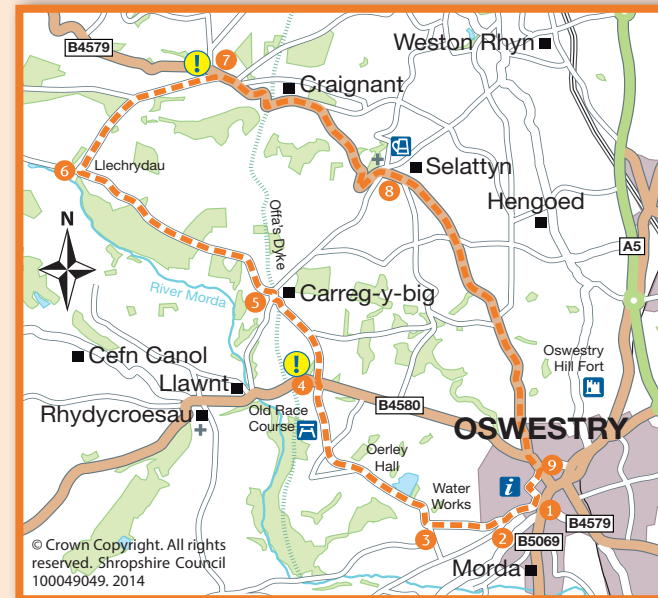
Further out of town there is a wealth of beautiful countryside, with stunning views and historically interesting green spaces including Oswestry Iron Age Hill Fort, the Old Racecourse and Offa's Dyke footpath, all of which can be seen when riding the cycle routes in this leaflet.

Cycling code

- Always follow the Highway Code
- Be considerate to other users, and give way to pedestrians and horse riders
- Take particular care at junctions, when cycling downhill and on loose surfaces
- Ride in single file on narrow or busy roads
- Consider wearing a helmet and high visibility clothing

Route 1 Scenic Selattyn

Total distance: 13 miles / 21 km



- Start at the Tourist Information Centre at St Oswald's Church and head up Upper Brook Street away from the traffic lights.
- Go straight over the mini roundabout, past Oswestry School and turn right onto Broomhall Lane.
- Carry straight on past the water treatment works (on right) and turn right at T-junction. Head uphill past reservoir and Oerley Hall to the Old Racecourse.

Oswestry Old Racecourse. Enjoy the view of the old racecourse from the seat by the roadside topograph. Now a popular walking spot and wildlife haven, the racecourse was used until the mid 1800s.

- Go straight on at the crossroads, watching for traffic from blind summit on left. After about half a mile, descend to Carreg y Big, where the road cuts through Offa's Dyke.

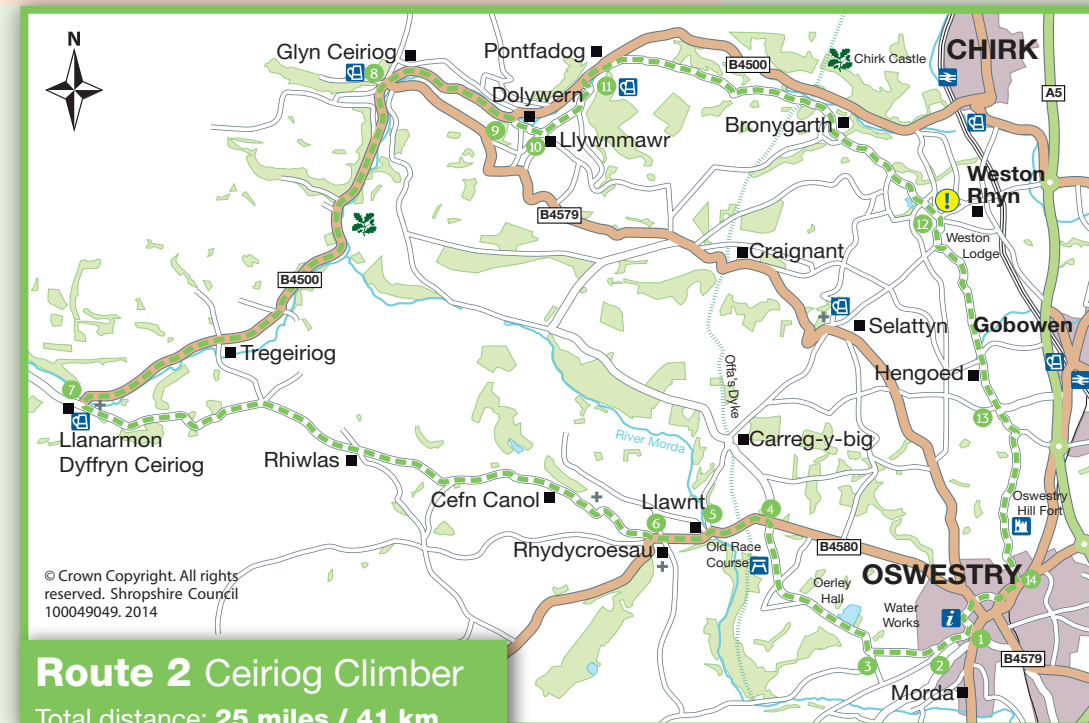
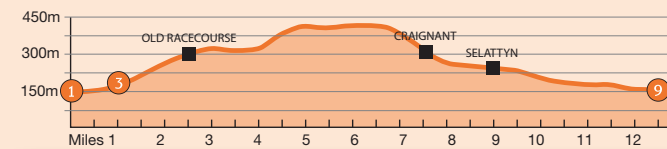
Offa's Dyke, named after King Offa, the ruler of Mercia, is a linear earthwork which roughly follows the Welsh/English border dating from the 8th century. The rampart is well preserved in this area and can clearly be seen in the fields on both sides.

- Turn right around the house at Carreg y Big and then turn left signed Llechrydau. Ignore the lane signed to Tynydrain and climb past Cefn Coch Cottage and the Grouse Lodge.
- Descend towards the farm buildings at Llechrydau and turn sharply right uphill (watch out for gravel on the road). Climb to excellent views to the north-east and across to the Eglwyseg rocks above Llangollen, then turn right and descend.

- Take care join Selattyn/Glyn Ceiriog road (suddenly, while descending), and continue descending through Craignant to Selattyn village.

Selattyn is an old hill settlement. The Cross Keys, a traditional inn serving real ale (closed lunchtimes), is one of the oldest buildings. The attractive St Mary's Church has undergone successive restorations and alterations since the Middle Ages but retains a 14th century carved barrel roof.

- Leave Selattyn past the primary school and follow this road back to Oswestry.
- Turn right from Willow Street into Welsh Walls and return to start point at St Oswald's Church.



Route 2 Ceiriog Climber

Total distance: 25 miles / 41 km

- Start at the Tourist Information Centre at St Oswald's Church and head up Upper Brook Street away from the traffic lights.
- Go straight over the mini roundabout, past Oswestry School and turn right onto Broomhall Lane.
- Carry straight on past the water treatment works (on right) and turn right at T-junction. Head uphill past reservoir and Oerley Hall to the Old Racecourse.

- Turn left at the crossroads descend steeply to Llawnt.
- Bear left in Llawnt towards Rhydygroesau.
- Turn right in Rhydygroesau towards Cefn Canol. Carry on straight through Cefn Canol and Rhiwlas and descend to Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog.
- Turn right in Llanarmon DC, cross river, and follow B4500 to Tregeiriog and Glyn Ceiriog.
- Go straight ahead on B4500 in Glyn Ceiriog.

The village of **Glyn Ceiriog** sits at the heart of the of the stunning Ceiriog Valley. A former mining community, references to slate mining in the village date back to 1329. During the 19th century a steam tramway was built along the valley to transport slates to the Llangollen Canal.

- Turn right at Dolywern, where B4500 turns sharp left over bridge, onto lane to Llwynmawr.
- Turn left past hotel at crossroads.

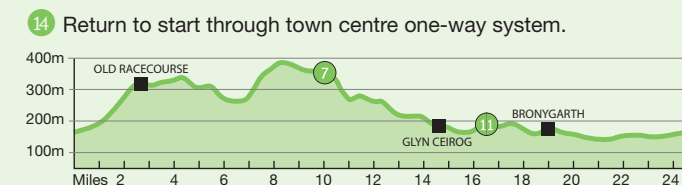
- Turn left over bridge and then turn right to cross back over river. Follow this lane, ignoring side turnings, back through Bronygarth to Weston Rhyn.

- Cross mini-roundabout at Weston Rhyn. Take care, keep church on left, and turn left at Weston Lodge Cottage onto small lane to Hengoed.

- Go straight on at crossroads (signed for National Cycle Route 455) and return to Oswestry past Old Oswestry hill fort.

Old Oswestry hill fort. The site of an imposing Iron Age hill fort, one of the best preserved in Britain. The defences were built up in stages from 600BC up to the late Iron Age. It is likely that the hill fort remained in use until the Roman conquest. It is now covered by wild

flowers and grazing sheep and is a lovely place for a walk with great views on a clear day.



Route 3 Vyrnwy Valley Voyage

Total distance: 28 miles / 45 km

Shortcut route: 21 miles / 34 km

See map overleaf

- Start at the visitor information centre at St Oswald's Church, go straight across the traffic lights (Morda Road). Turn left onto Penylan Lane opposite the Golden Lion, past launderette on left.
- Turn left at T-junction by small waterfall and cottage. Turn left towards Morda at next T-junction, with signpost on grassy triangle.
- Take next right, signed Woodhill. After approx 1/2 mile bear right at V on road. Turn left at junction, signed Wern y Weil.
- Turn right, downhill, opposite buildings of Treflach Hall Farm.
- Turn left, downhill, at T-junction. Take care excellent brakes are essential on the fast descent down Blodwel Bank.
- Turn right at foot of Blodwel Bank onto A495. Take care - this road has fast traffic. Visibility is limited at this junction.
- Turn left for Llansanffraid.
- Turn left in Llansanffraid, just past the Vyrnwy Nursing Home on left (signed Four Crosses) and cross the river Vyrnwy.

Llansanffraid-ym-Mechain is a bustling village in Wales, probably best known for its football team (TNS), which now plays its games in Oswestry. There are a number of options for places to stop for refreshments and the pleasant church of St Fraid which dates from the 12th Century. Nearby, on the banks of the River Vyrnwy, is Plas yn Dinas, defensive earthworks possibly dating from the dark ages.

- Bear right at Jugs restaurant (signed Deythur). Or for the shorter option, go straight ahead (following signs to Llanymynech) and follow short cut route.

Short cut route

- Go straight ahead. Turn left at Vyrnwy bridge and ride to Llanymynech.
- Cross A483 with care and ride through Maesbrook.
- Turn left in Maesbrook, signed The Wood. Rejoin route 3 just north of Osbaston - turn left for Oswestry.
- Turn left towards Deythur (Deuddwr).
- Turn right at B4393 and cross canal at narrow bridge with traffic lights.
- Cross A483 straight ahead. Take care.
- Turn right at T-junction.
- Turn left at T-junction onto B4393.