Further Information

TOURIST INFORMATION

Whitchurch Tourist Information Centre: 01948 664577
E-mail: Whitchurch.heritage@ukonline.co.uk
Shrewsbury Tourist Information Centre: 01743 281200
E-mail: tic@shrewsburytourism.co.uk
Nantwich Tourist Information Centre: 01270 610983
E-mail: nantwichtic@crew-nantwich.gov.uk

CYCLE SHOPS

Wheelbase: 21 Watergate Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire - Shop, sales and repairs: 01948 663323
www.wheelbase-bikes.co.uk

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Mainline railway stations are at Wem, Shrewsbury and Whitchurch. Trains carry 2 bikes per train (reservations are essential). Information on all bus, coach and train services in Shropshire area call Traveline:
0870 608 2608 • www.shropshireonline.gov.uk/travelwise.nsf

CYCLING PUBLICATIONS *from Tourist Information Centres*

Market Drayton Cycle Rides (5 cycle routes around Market Drayton)
Wem Cycle Rides (5 cycle routes around Wem)
Ellesmere Cycle Rides (5 cycle routes around Ellesmere)
National Cycle Route 45 (National Byway-North Shropshire)
Regional Cycle Route 31 (Shropshire-Oswestry to Whitchurch)
Regional Cycle Route 75 (Shropshire-Audlem to Newport)
Shrewsbury Cycle Route and parking guide

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FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like further information on other cycle routes within Shropshire contact: Shropshire County Council cycling enquiries:
01743 253008
E-mail: transport@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

WEB LINKS

North Shropshire cycle routes: **www.cyclenorthshropshire.co.uk**
Whitchurch Town Website: **www.whitchurch-shropshire-tc.gov.uk**
North Shropshire Tourism: **www.northshropshire.co.uk**
North Shropshire District Council: **www.northshropshiredc.gov.uk**
Sustrans: **www.sustrans.org.uk**
Shropshire County Council: **www.shropshire-cc.gov.uk**

Please note that, while the publishers take every care to be accurate, no liability or responsibility will be accepted in any circumstances whatsoever, should anyone experience any inaccuracies, loss, damage or injury. This booklet/map should be used solely on this understanding.
Maps based on ooc Ordnance Survey material, updated from our own on site researches.

North Shropshire District Council

Shropshire County Council

Advantage West Midlands

LEADER+

North Shropshire Tourism

Route 3: *To Malpas and Threapwood*

Total distance: 22½ miles in total (35 km in total)

This route includes some cycling along main roads and some steep hills and is therefore suitable for more experienced cyclists. After leaving Whitchurch along the canal towpath, you will encounter a famous set of locks at Grindley Brook. The route then heads into the rolling countryside of Cheshire; refreshments can be found in the picturesque village of Malpas.

1. Leave Whitchurch along the Whitchurch Canal Arm, which can be accessed along Smallbrook Road *(see town map)*
2. Cross the Lift Up Canal Bridge and turn right and follow the towpath towards Grindley Brook

Grindley Brook

The Ellesmere canal, designed by Thomas Telford, passes through Grindley Brook and then into a famous three chamber staircase lock.

3. At the Grindley Brook Locks leave the towpath to join the main road (A41) and turn left towards Chester. Turn first left at the Horse and Jockey Public House, signposted to *Malpas (B5395)*
4. To avoid the main road into Malpas, turn first left, signposted to *Higher Wych*
5. At the next T-junction turn right and go up a steep hill
6. Turn first left towards Lower Wych
7. At the next T-junction turn right, signposted to *Malpas* and go up a steep hill
8. Turn right at the next T-junction
9. At the next T-junction turn left on to the B5395 and into Malpas village. Turn first left towards Bangor ys Coed and Wrexham

Malpas

Malpas is a picturesque village with the remains of a motte and bailey castle dating from Norman times. Its mediaeval street pattern still remains. The church also contains a 15th century octagonal stone font and choir stalls with carved misericords.

10. Turn left into Sunnyside Road towards Oldcastle
11. Continue past Newton Hall and turn right at the crossroads towards Threapwood
12. Continue to Threapwood and at the end of Oldcastle Lane turn left at the T-junction into Chapel Lane
13. At the next T-junction turn left towards Sarn and follow the road into Tallarn Green

Sarn and Tallarn Green

RS Thomas, who died in 2000 and was widely regarded as the best religious poet of his time, was the curate at the Church of St Mary Magdalene in Tallarn Green between 1942 and 1945. The Queen's Head public house is at Sarn, ¼ mile away from the Church.

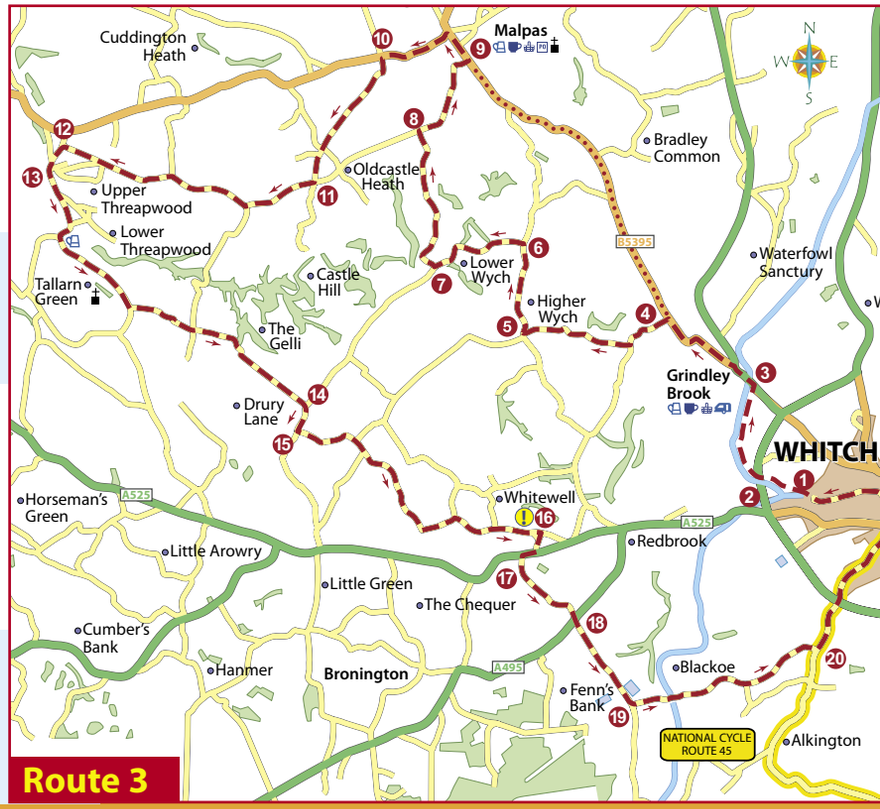
14. Follow the road to a T-junction and turn right towards Eglwys Cross
15. Turn first left, signposted to *Whitewell*
16. When the road splits, bear right past a small green towards Wrexham. At the T-junction, turn right on to the A525 ***(take care)***
17. Turn first left onto Bowker's Lane, signposted to *Fenns Bank*
18. Go straight over at the next crossroads, signposted to *Fenns Bank* ***(take care)***
19. Turn first left, signposted to *Blackhoe*
20. At the next T-junction turn left and return to Whitchurch along Alkington Road

Route 4: *To Ightfield, Audlem & Wrenbury*

Total distance: 27 miles in total or 18½ miles with short cuts (43½ km in total or 30 km with short cuts)

This is the longest route, but does offer an option to take a short cut. The tranquillity of Shavington Park and the ever-popular canalside hostelries at Audlem will reward cyclists who take on the longer route.

1. Leave Whitchurch along Station Road. Turn right at the first roundabout towards Wrexham and then left at the next roundabout on to Ash Road. Go through Ash and on to Ightfield
2. Continue through Ightfield towards Market Drayton



Short Cut

2 To take the short cut, avoiding Audlem, turn left in Ightfield signposted to Burleydam

2a Go through Burleydam and at the next T-junction turn right signposted to Wilkesley

2b After ½ mile turn first left (unsigned)

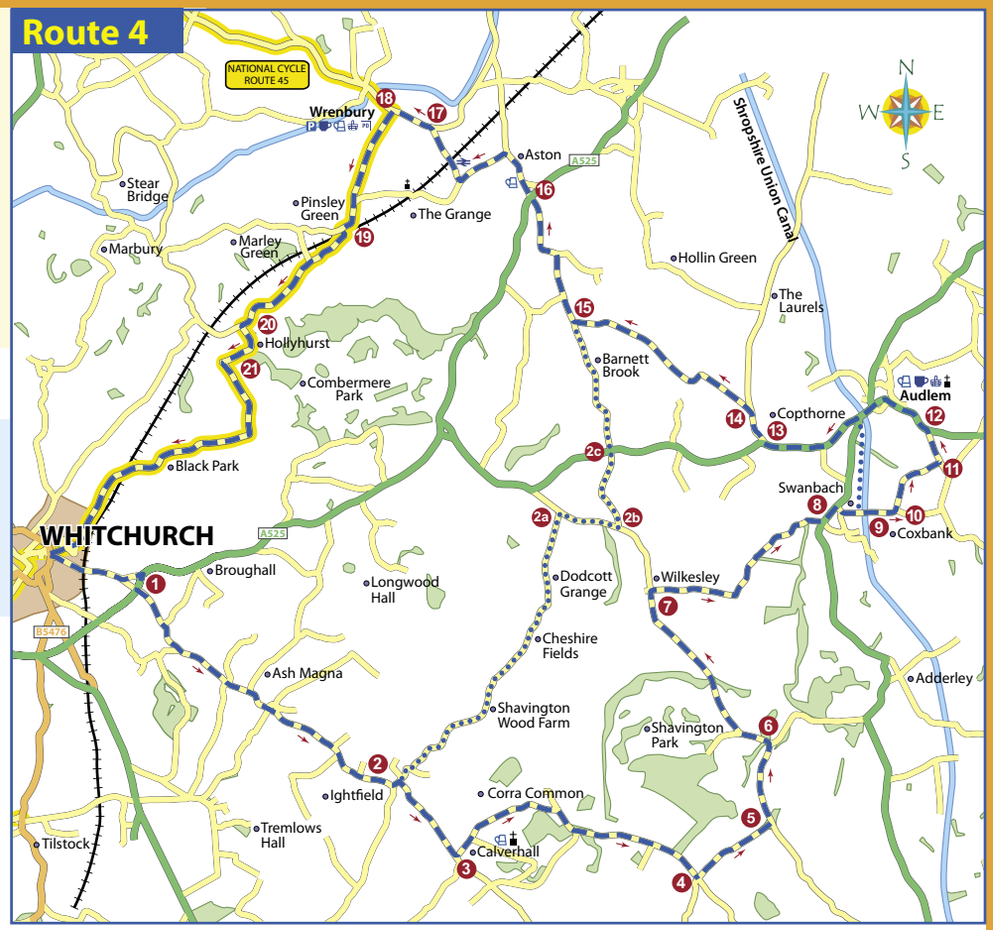
2c At the crossroads with the A525 go straight over into Rockery Lane, signposted Aston and Wrenbury. Rejoin the main route from instruction 16

3 In Calverhall turn first left at the Old Jack Inn towards Market Drayton

Calverhall
Calverhall village is located halfway between Whitchurch and Market Drayton, designed largely by W. Eden Nesfield in partnership with Norman Shaw in the 1870's. The Church of 1872 also has a glass by William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones of 1875.

4 At the next crossroads turn left, signposted *Shavington and Adderley*

5 At the next T-junction in Tittenley turn left towards Wilkesley



6 At Shavington turn left at the T-junction, signposted to *Wilkesley*

7 Turn first right at Manor Farm and follow the road to the next junction

8 Turn left on to the main road and then first right into Bagley Lane towards Coxbank

9 Continue over the Canal

9 **Canal towpath to Audlem**
To go into Audlem along the canal towpath, enter the gate on the right and turn right under the bridge and follow the towpath into Audlem. Continue along the main route by rejoining the main road at the Bridge Inn and continue towards Whitchurch. Pick up main directions from instruction number 13

10 Turn left into Wood Orchard Lane

11 At the next T-junction turn left and continue to the A525

12 Turn left, signposted to Whitchurch and continue into Audlem

Audlem
Audlem is an ever-popular picturesque village in the heart of Cheshire's Upper Weaver Valley set beside the Shropshire Union Canal. With characteristic canalside hostelries, Audlem is always popular as a stop-off point for walkers and canal cruisers, as well as a popular destination for several summertime events and festivals.

13 After leaving Audlem turn first right into Coole Lane, signposted towards *Nantwich*

14 Turn first left into Back Coole Lane

15 At the next T-junction turn right, signposted to *Aston and Wrenbury*

16 Continue into Aston and go straight over at the crossroads towards Wrenbury Station and follow the road into Wrenbury

Wrenbury *(See Route 2)*

17 At the T-junction turn left into Nantwich Road, signposted to *Cholmondley*

18 Just after the Church turn left into New Road, signposted to *Marbury and Whitchurch*

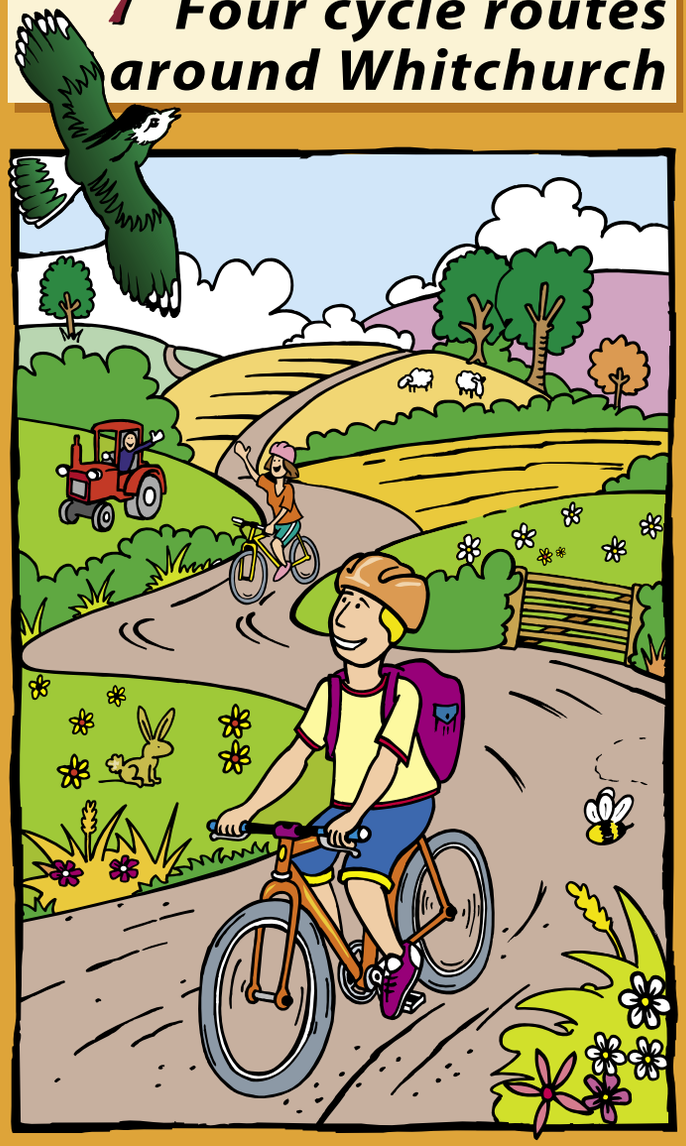
19 Turn left under the railway bridge, signposted to *Hollyhurst and Whitchurch*

20 Turn first left into Ossmere Lane, signposted to *Whitchurch*

21 Turn next left, signposted to *Whitchurch and Shrewsbury*. Return to Whitchurch along Talbot Street

Whitchurch Cycle Rides

Four cycle routes around Whitchurch



Following quiet lanes and country roads
From 9 – 27 miles (14.5 – 43.5km)

www.cyclenorthshropshire.co.uk

www.whitchurch-shropshire-tc.gov.uk

ABOUT THE CYCLE ROUTES

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 9 miles and the longest 27 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 Whitchurch. Safe long stay parking can be found in the town centre as shown on the map (right).

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

Cycling on the Shropshire Union Canal

The towpath along the Shropshire Union Canal is open to all cyclists. Please cycle with great care and courtesy to others, observing the Waterways Code for cyclists. For more information about cycling on canals, contact British Waterways: 01923 201120 or visit **www.britishwaterways.co.uk**

Whilst British Waterways welcomes cyclists, the route is not a cycleway and the surface may not be suitable for cycling after very wet weather.

The Waterways Code

- Give way to other people at all times
- Warn others of your approach
- Watch out for hazards
- Get off and walk if the path becomes difficult
- Ride in single file- and don't bunch
- Don't risk a skid
- Only cycle in daylight
- Never race
- Please remember you are responsible for your own and others' safety!

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

Whitchurch is one of the busiest and most beautiful market towns in Shropshire. As one of the oldest towns in Shropshire, it also has a fascinating history. Whitchurch is a bustling place; perfect for a great day's shopping offering a variety of traditional and specialist shops as well as larger chain stores. There are fantastic places to eat, drink, explore or just relax and watch the world go by. Find out more about Whitchurch's heritage and what else there is to see and do at the Heritage and Tourist Information Centre or visit **www.whitchurch-shropshire-tc.gov.uk**

Route 1: *To Whixall and Wem*

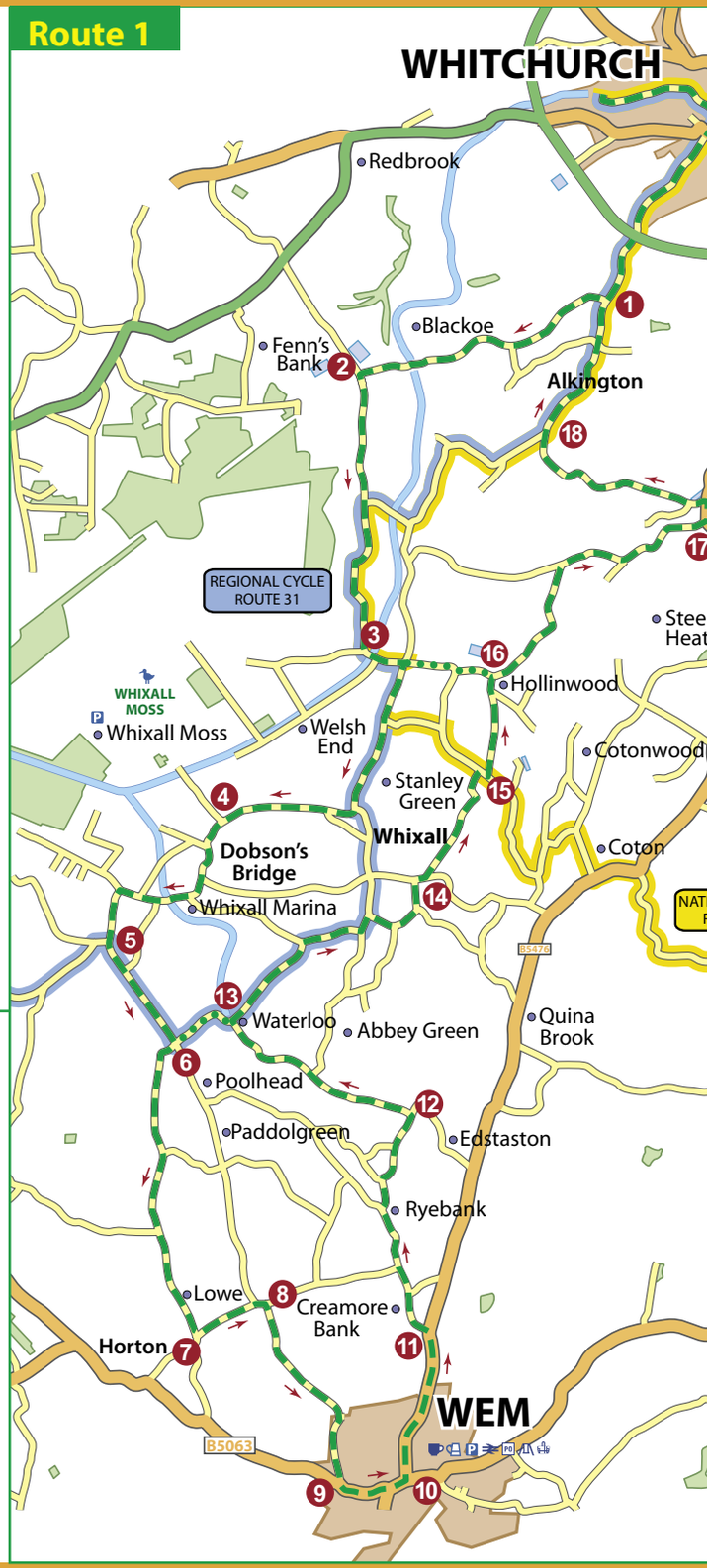
22½ miles in total or 9 miles or 15½ miles with short cuts (36 km in total or 15 km or 25 km with short cuts)

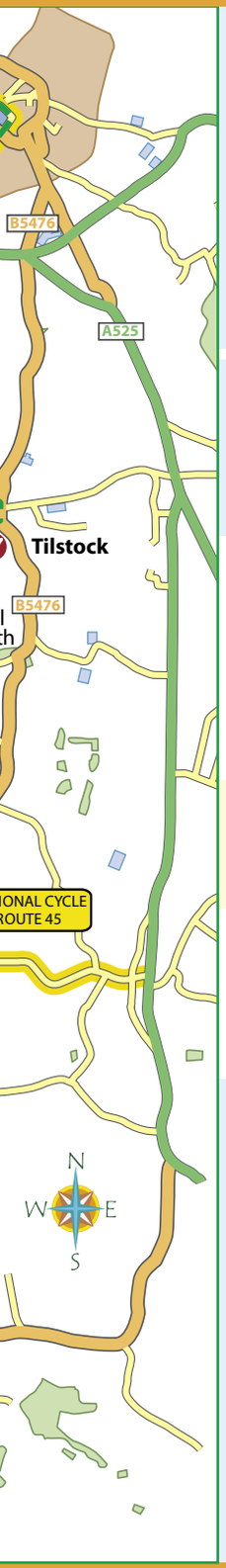
This route has 2 options to short cut. It is easy cycling, mainly on the flat. The route navigates through a maze of quiet country lanes taking in the unusual and magnificent North Shropshire mosses.

1. Leave Whitchurch along Alkington Road and turn first right at Alkington Court (unsigned)
2. At the next T-junction turn left, signposted to *Whixall*
3. Turn right at the crossroads by The Waggoners Public House, signposted to *Wem*

Short Cut

3. To take the shorter route go straight over at the crossroads to Tilstock and follow the main route from instruction 17
4. To go into Whixall Moss, turn first right after the school, go over the lift bridge and Whixall Moss car park is on the left





Whixall Moss

An important feature of the Meres and Mosses Natural Area is the presence of a large range of different wetland habitats; you will find wildfowl, waders and dragonflies abound. The Natural Area is peppered with small peat and open water wetlands that are of international conservation importance. The central area became a National Nature Reserve in 1990 and English Nature are now restoring the Mosses. For more information or to book your place on a guided walk of the Mosses visit: **www.english-nature.org.uk**

Whixall Marina

The first mile of the former Prees Branch Canal was dredged and a Marina built in the 1970s. The lower stretch to Waterloo Bridge was retained as a Nature Reserve. Prees Branch has many of the values of a long pond- good dragonflies, moorhens and swans.

5 Leave Whixall Moss along the same road and turn right to rejoin the main road again. Follow the road towards Dobson's Bridge and past Whixall Marina on your left. Go over the canal and take the second left into Ossage Lane, signposted *Cycle Route 31*

6 Turn right at the next crossroads opposite the sign for *Cycle Route 31*

Short Cut

6 To short cut avoiding Wem, turn left at the crossroads. At the next T-junction follow the route from instruction 14

7 Continue along this road to a T-junction. Turn left and continue to another T-junction

8 Turn left and then first right, signposted to *Wem* and follow the road up a steep hill and back down towards Wem

Wem

Wem originated as a Saxon settlement but also has evidence of settlers dating back to the Iron Age. During the War of the Roses, it was "torn to the ground" by the Earl of Salisbury and rebuilt in 1500 only to see further destruction in 1677 after a 14-year-old girl, Jane Churn, dropped a candle and started a huge fire that destroyed most of the wooden buildings in the town. More recently, in 1887, a local called Henry Eckford FRHS became the first to cross breed the modern Sweet Pea flower. His contribution to horticulture is still celebrated every year in Wem with the annual Sweet Pea Show. For more information about what you can find in Wem nowadays visit **www.wem.gov.uk**

9 At theT-junction turn left, signposted *Wem Industrial Estate*

10 Cycle into the town centre and turn left opposite The White Lion Public House, signposted to *Wem Business Park*.

11 Leave Wem along New Street; go past the national speed limit signs and turn first left, signposted *Ryebank*

12 Take the fourth left, unmarked and continue along this road towards Waterloo until you reach a T-junction

13 At the T-junction turn right, signposted *Abbey Green*. Continue along this road until you reach another T-junction

14 Turn left, signposted Bostock Hall. Turn first right. At the next T-junction turn left and continue to another T-junction. Turn right, signposted Whitchurch and Wem and then first left at the Whixall Social Centre, signposted *Stanley Green*

15 In Stanley Green go straight on at the mini roundabout and turn left at the T-junction. Follow this road until you reach a T-junction in Hollinwood.

16 For the Waggoners Pub turn left, signposted Platt Lane. It is at the next crossroads about ½ mile away. To continue on the route turn right at the T-junction, signposted to *Whitchurch*. Continue into Tilstock

17 At the T-junction, turn left, signposted Whitchurch and turn first left into Hollins Lane, signposted to *Alkington*

18 At the next T-junction, turn right, signposted *Whitchurch* and return to Whitchurch along Alkington Road

Route 2: *To Wrenbury and Marbury*

13½ miles in total
(22 km in total)

This easy cycling route heads out of Whitchurch into Cheshire and takes in the pretty villages of Wrenbury and Marbury, where welcoming hostelries can be found. The wharf at Wrenbury Mill is sure to be of particular interest to canal lovers.

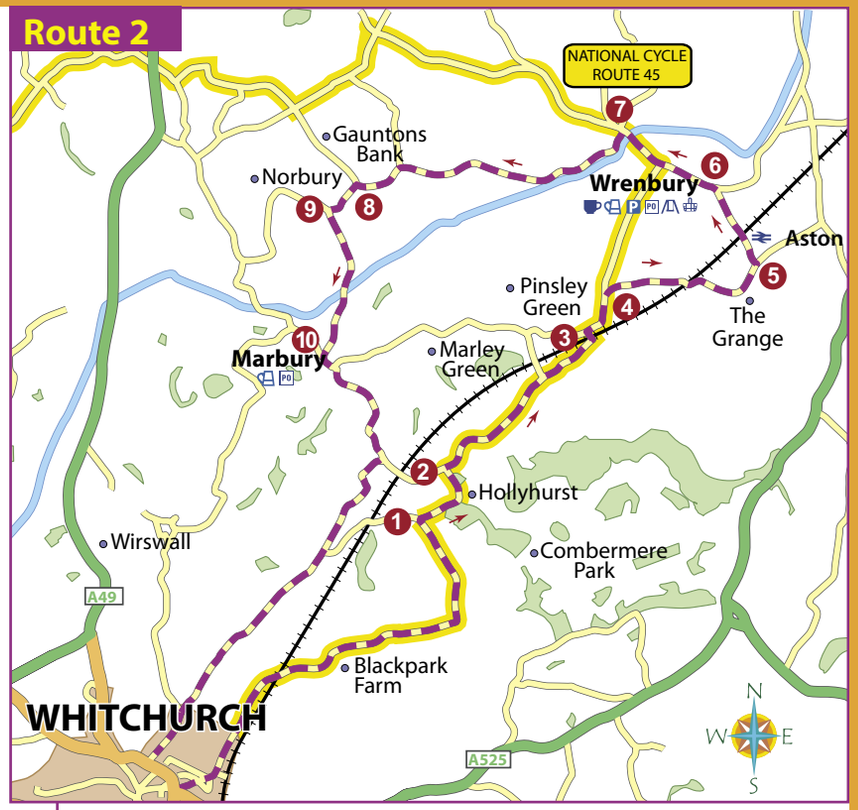
1 Leave Whitchurch along Talbot Street and continue along Black Park Road. At the T-junction turn right into Ossmere Lane, signposted *Byway 45 - Chester*

2 At the next T-junction turn right into Hollyhurst Road, signposted to *Wrenbury*

3 Go under the railway bridge and turn right at the T-junction into Wrenbury Road, signposted to *Pinsley Green and Wrenbury*.

4 Turn first right into Pinsley Green Road, signposted to *Aston*

5 At the next T-junction turn left, signposted *Cheshire Cycleway 70* and cycle into Wrenbury



Wrenbury

In 1643, during the English Civil War, Wrenbury Hall served as accommodation for the Parliamentarian forces as they prepared for the fateful Battle of Nantwich. In the village itself is the church of St Margarets, which dates from c1500, although a church has existed on the site since the 12th century. Wrenbury also boasts a delightful canal wharf at Wrenbury Mill on the outskirts of the village.

6 At the next T-junction turn left into Nantwich Road, signposted to *Cholmondely and Tarporley*

7 Immediately after crossing the canal, turn left past the canal shop and basin, signposted *Cheshire Cycleway 70*

8 Continue to Norbury and turn left into Gauntons Bank, signposted to *Marbury*

9 At the next T-junction turn left into School Lane, signposted to *Marbury (Cheshire Cycleway 70)*. Continue over the canal and into Marbury

Marbury

Marbury is a picturesque village in the heart of the Cheshire countryside, with mere lakes to the south and east sides of the village. The Big Mere lies south-west of the village and provides a wealth of habitats for waterbirds, reeds and vegetation. Marbury is a regular winner of the Best Kept Village Competition.

10 At the next T-junction turn left into Wirswall Road, signposted to *Whitchurch*. Follow the road back to Whitchurch and go straight on at the crossroads along Claypit Street to return to Whitchurch town centre