

# Further Information

## TOURIST INFORMATION

**Whitchurch Tourist Information Centre:** 01948 664577

*E-mail:* whitchurch.heritage@ukonline.co.uk

**Ellesmere Visitor Centre:** 01691 622981

*E-mail:* ellesmeretourism@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

**Ellesmere Info-link:** 01691 624488

*E-mail:* infolink@freeuk.com

**Shrewsbury Tourist Information Centre:** 01743 281200

*E-mail:* tic@shrewsburytourism.co.uk

## CYCLE SHOP

**Jack Davies Cycles:** 58 High Street, Wem, SY4 5DW  
01939 235485

## 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](http://www.shropshireonline.gov.uk/travelwise.nsf)

## CYCLING PUBLICATIONS from Tourist Information Centres

**Market Drayton Cycle Rides** (5 cycle routes around Market Drayton)

**National Cycle Route 45** (National Byway - North Shropshire)

**Regional Cycle Route 31** (Shropshire - Oswestry to Whitchurch)

**Shrewsbury Cycle Route and parking guide**

**Cycling for Pleasure in the Marches** - Northern Area

## PUBLISHED BY

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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 253035**

*E-mail:* transport@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

## WEB LINKS

**North Shropshire Tourism:** [www.northshropshire.co.uk](http://www.northshropshire.co.uk)

**North Shropshire District Council:**

[www.northshropshiredc.gov.uk](http://www.northshropshiredc.gov.uk)

**Wem Town website:** [www.wem.gov.uk](http://www.wem.gov.uk)

**Sustrans:** [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

**National Cyclists Organisation:** [www.ctc.org.uk](http://www.ctc.org.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.



Go straight over at the next crossroads to Eyton and Fenemere; past the school on the left. Follow this road to a junction in Fenemere.

### Fenemere

One of Shropshire's smaller meres. This mere, by the hamlet of Eyton, is so rich in nutrients that algal blooms make the water look like pea soup. A phenomena known locally as the "breaking of the meres".

- 8 Turn left and continue to the next T-junction, turn right signposted Myddle ½ miles.

### Myddle

The village probably owes its origins to being on a crossroads with the important Ellesmere-Shrewsbury road and the road joining Wales to this part of Shropshire. St. Peter's Church, though appearing 15th century from its tower, was built in 1634. The church tower features an unusual hexagonal clock face. There are scant remains of Myddle Castle built around 1307. A resident in the 18th century was Richard Gough, who wrote a "History of Myddle". In his book there are stories of conspiracies of unhappily married women of the village who poisoned their husbands and of men addicted to gambling or alcohol.

- 9 In Myddle turn left up Brookside Road after the Red Lion pub. At the T-junction turn left onto the A528 towards Ellesmere (take care). Turn first right after ½ mile. Follow this road past Sleep airfield on your right.

**Sleep Airfield** is an ex-RAF field, formerly home to 93 Group Bomber Command and 38 Airborne Forces Group. The RAF left in 1964. Shropshire Aero Club is now based here.

- 10 At the T-junction in Nonley turn right towards Wem and Ruewood and follow the road back through Tilley and into Wem. Turn left at the T-junction onto Mill Street and back into Wem town centre.

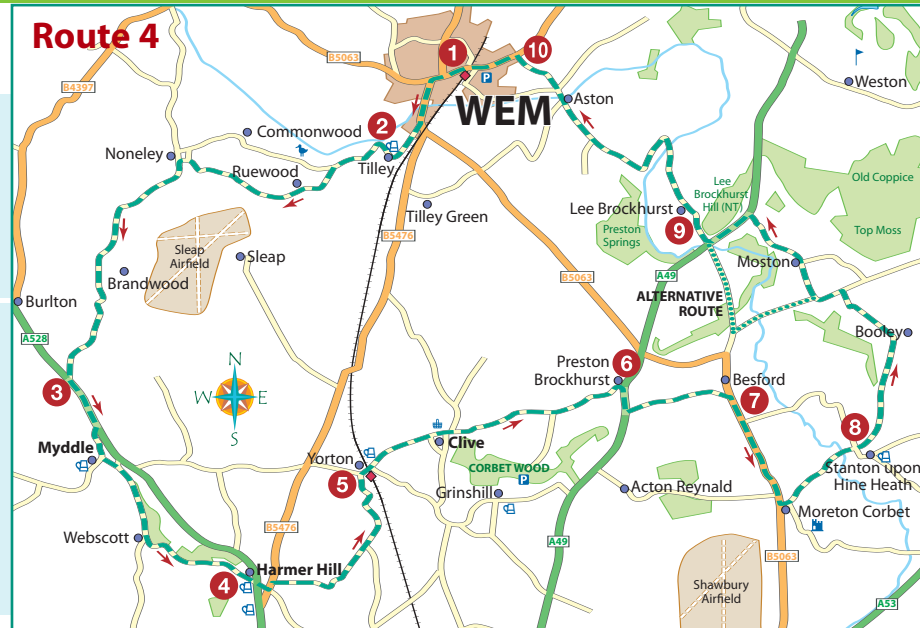
## Route 4: To Harmer Hill through Clive and Lee Brockhurst

**Suitable for more experienced cyclists; this is a long route with some steep gradients and crosses the busy A49 at 2 points. However, it is well worth the effort, it takes in a number of pretty villages and fine hostleries as well as passing the impressive remains of the Moreton Corbet Castle. Total distance 22 miles**

- 1 Leave Wem along Mill Street and turn right just before the railway bridge. Follow the road through Tilley and past the Raven pub on the right.
- 2 Continue for 2½ miles and turn first left for Burlton and Myddle. Continue for another 2½ miles to meet the A528.
- 3 Turn left towards Harmer Hill and then first right into Myddle. (**take care!**) Turn left at the T-junction and continue up the hill. At the top of the hill turn sharp right just before you reach the main road. Continue along this road past sandstone hills on your left into Harmer Hill.

### Harmer Hill

The chapel was built as an independent chapel in 1833 and was acquired by the Presbyterian Church of Wales in 1920.



- 4 Go straight over at the crossroads, up The Hollow to the next crossroads and turn left onto the B5476. After 100 yards turn right, signposted Yorton Heath. Follow this road to a T-junction in Yorton.

### Yorton

The Railway Inn pub is renowned for great real ales and has been in the same family for over 60 years.

- 5 Turn right, signposted Clive and Grinshill. Go under the railway bridge and follow the road round to the left. Continue into Clive. Continue along this road until you meet the A49 at Preston Brockhurst.

### Clive

Clive is the birthplace of William Wycherley, a Restoration dramatist of some repute. Clive Church stands on the slopes of the hill above the village and is a landmark for many miles. The church is dedicated to All Saints and most of it is the result of rebuilding towards the end of the 19th century, but its Norman origins can still be seen in the shape of two doorways and some 12th and 15th century masonry

### Corbet Wood

Corbet Wood is situated on the slopes of the Grinshill sandstone ridge that lies south of Clive village. Cart tracks, remnants of the former sandstone quarry, now provide easy access to a pleasantly varied woodland scene and lead to several excellent viewing points. To enter Corbet Wood turn right after leaving Clive village, following brown signposts.

- 6 Turn right onto the A49 and first left by a black and white house (**take care**). Continue to a T-junction and turn right on to the B5063.
- 7 Continue along this road and after 1½ miles take the 2nd left, signposted to Stanton and Booley. For Moreton Corbet Castle turn first right. Otherwise continue over the River Roden and into Stanton upon Hine Heath.

### Moreton Corbet

Moreton Corbet Castle is a magnificent and unusual ornate ruin that is one of the most exciting places to visit in North Shropshire. Set within the village of Moreton Corbet, the castle was built by Bartholomew Torret following the Norman conquest in 1066. In approximately 1239 the Corbet family acquired Moreton

Toret and built a stone castle on the site. For more information visit: [www.shropshiretourism.info/castles/moreton-corbett](http://www.shropshiretourism.info/castles/moreton-corbett)

### Stanton upon Hine Heath *The Stanton Inn*

Mary Webb (1881-1927) lived here with her parents from 1896 to 1902 before moving to Meole Brace. Their home was a large house just beyond the village called The Woodlands (now a private house re-named Harcourt Manor).

- The road sweeps to the right and then to the left and past the church on your right. Continue along this road towards Booley. At the next T-junction turn left, signposted Moston and Lee Brockhurst. For the more adventurous, wishing to take an alternative off-road route, which avoids travelling on the A49, continue straight on down Papermill Bank instead of following the road round to the right, go over the bridge and turn first right down a steep track to meet the A49; go straight over into Lee Brockhurst. Alternatively simply follow the road until you meet the A49. Turn left and then first right into Lee Brockhurst (**take care**).

### Lee Brockhurst

A charming farming hamlet mentioned in the Domesday Book and containing a number of buildings of historic importance. To the north is St Peters Church, a tiny twelfth century sandstone building with an unusual carved altar head depicting a scene from the last supper. The bridge over the River Roden was built in Thomas Telford's design in 1800. Near this is the small village green from where access is available to the National Trust's protected area of Lee Hills.

- Continue along this road up a steep bank, through Aston and back into Wem.
- At the T-junction turn left over the level crossing and return to Wem town centre along Aston Street

### Route 5: To Hodnet and Wollerton

This is the longest route with some cycling along main roads and therefore suitable for more experienced cyclists. The route takes in some of North Shropshire's most amazing scenery, including wooded heaths and views of sandstone hills. This route meets up with the Market Drayton cycle route in the beautiful village of Hodnet.

- Leave Wem along Aston Street, over the level crossing and turn immediate right for Aston and Barkers Green. Continue to Aston and follow the road through the village, down a steep bank, round the right and over the bridge and into Lee Brockhurst. For information about Lee Brockhurst, see **Route 4**.
- For a more adventurous, off-road experience, go straight over the A49 and follow the track up the hill turning left at the top onto Papermill Bank, over the bridge to rejoin the main route. Alternatively, turn left on to the A49 towards Whitchurch and first right after 1/2 mile towards Booley and Stanton. Continue along this road following signs to Hodnet until you reach the A53. Turn left for Newcastle and Hodnet (take care!) At the roundabout turn left into Hodnet.

### Hodnet *The Bear Hotel*

The parish church of St. Luke's is largely 14th century and has a unique octagonal Church Tower. Hodnet's centrepiece is its Hall and Gardens which were started in 1921 by Brigadier A.G.W. Heber-Percy, who spent 30 years transforming the landscape from a boggy marsh into a splendid formal garden. Now you can enjoy the 60+ acres of beautiful landscaped gardens within a natural valley setting. There are also woodland walks and an ornamental water garden. Afternoon tea can be taken in the tearooms and there is also a gift shop. [www.hodnethallgardens.co.uk](http://www.hodnethallgardens.co.uk)

- Follow the road through Hodnet towards Market Drayton and into Wollerton.

### Wollerton *The Squirrel*

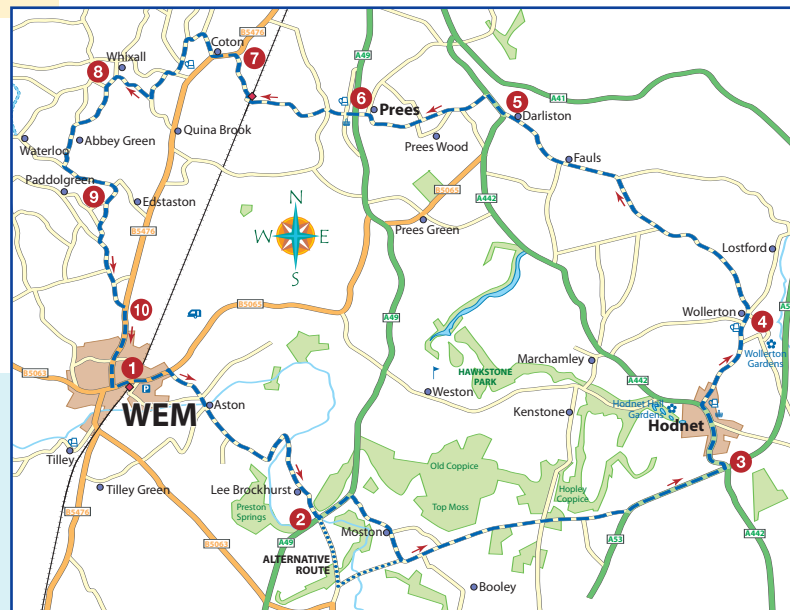
Wollerton Old Hall Gardens is a 3-acre, formal garden developed around a 16th century house with a tearoom. Open Easter to end of August, Fridays and Sundays (12-5pm) [www.wollertonoldhallgarden.com](http://www.wollertonoldhallgarden.com)

- After the Squirrel Inn turn first left into Wood lane, signposted to Fauls Green and Darliston. Continue to a T-junction and turn left into Fauls and continue onto Darliston.
- At the next T-junction turn right for Whitchurch and Cycle Route 45. Turn left at the next crossroads and into Prees.

### Prees

Prees is a very ancient village with evidence of Roman use. The church of St. Chad is 14th century but the tower is 1758. A handsome monument to Sir John Hill, father of the famous Lord Hill, Wellington's second in command at Waterloo, is housed within.

- Continue through the village and under the A49. Go straight over at the crossroads along Mill Street towards Whixall. Continue along this road, over the level crossing and past Prees Railway Station. Continue to the next T-junction.
- Turn left onto the B5476, first right and then first left following Cycle Route 45. At the first T-junction turn left and then left again at the next. At the next T-junction turn right, signposted to Bostock Hall and Northwood. Continue along this road into Whixall. For information on Whixall, see **Route 1**
- Follow the road round to the left and after the Social Centre take the first left towards Braynes Hall. Continue to a T-junction in Abbey Green, turn left to Edstaston and Waterloo. Continue to the next T-junction.
- Turn left to Edstaston and right at the next T-junction.
- Continue to the next T-junction and turn right back into Wem along New Street.



# Wem Cycle Rides

## Five cycle routes around Wem

Following quiet lanes and country roads  
From 7½ – 24 miles (12.4 – 38km)

[www.wem.gov.uk](http://www.wem.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 7½ miles and the longest 24 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 Wem. Safe, long stay parking can be found in the town centre next to the supermarket (see map).

### Wem

Wem has a wealth of history. It originated as a Saxon settlement but also has evidence of settlers dating back to the Iron Age. During the War of the Roses, by which time Wem was well established with a substantial castle and walls, it was "torn to the ground" by the Earl of Salisbury on behalf of the Yorkists. The town was rebuilt in 1500 by Ralf Greystock 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. During the Civil War in 1643 the townsfolk of Wem successfully held off an attack by Lord Capel, giving rise to the verse: "The women of Wem and a few musketeers, beat Lord Capel and all his cavaliers". More recently, in 1887, a local called Henry Eckford FRHS became the first to cross breed the modern Sweet Pea. 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](http://www.wem.gov.uk)



Cycle Route 1	Cycle Route 2	
Cycle Route 3	Cycle Route 4	
Cycle Route 5		
Teas	Pub/Inn	Shops
Tourist Information	Car Park	Railway Station
Post Office	Gardens	Nature Reserve/SSSI
Village Green	Picnic Area	Play Area
Country Park	Church	Monument
Castle	Viewpoint	

## Route 1: To Whixall Moss and Marina

This is the shortest route with 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. 13 miles in total or 7½ miles or 11½ miles with short cuts)

- 1 Leave Wem along New Street past the Hawkestone Arms pub on the left. Go past the national speed limit signs and turn first left, signposted Ryebank.
- 2 Continue along this road for 1 mile. Look out for a left turn, signposted to Edstaston and Paddol Green, take the second left after this turning (unmarked). Continue along this road towards Waterloo until you reach a T-junction.

### Short Cut 1

- 3 To take the shorter route turn left at the T-junction. Follow this road until you reach the cross roads and go straight over to rejoin the main route from instruction 8a

- 3 At the T-junction turn right, signposted Cycle Route 31. Continue along this road until you reach another T-junction.

### Short Cut 2

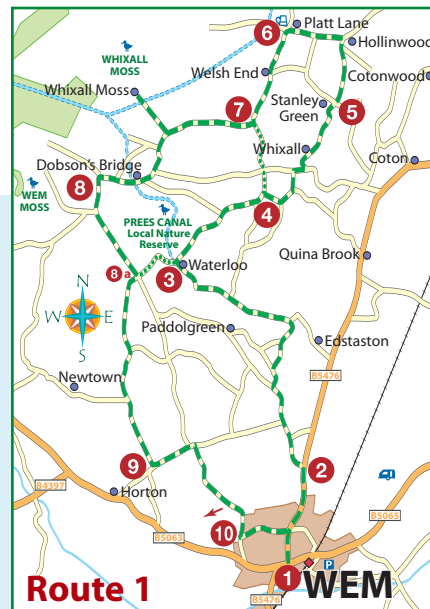
- 4 Turn left, signposted Bostock Hall and Whixall and follow the road round to the right. At the crossroads at Bostock Hall go straight over, signposted Whixall School and Welshend. At the next T-junction turn left signposted, Whixall Moss and Ellesmere to rejoin the main route from instruction 7

- 4 Turn left, signposted Bostock Hall and Whixall. Turn first right after 50 yards. 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 and Hollinswood. Follow the road past the church into Stanley Green.

- 5 In Stanley Green go straight on at the mini roundabout and turn left at the T-junction past the church on the left. Follow this road until you reach a T-junction in Hollinswood. Turn left, signposted Platt Lane and Whixall and continue to the crossroads at Platt Lane and the welcome sight of The Waggoners pub.

### Whixall

The Waggoners  
The red brick church, dedicated to St Mary, was built in 1867 in recognition of the services of John Allen, Vicar of Prees and Archdeacon of Salop. Rev John Evans laid the first brick on 15th May 1866 and the church was completed in 1867 at a cost of £3000.



- 6 Turn left, signposted Ellesmere and Wem. Follow the road through Welshend, past the church on the left, round to the right and past Whixall School.
- 7 Turn first right after the school, signposted Whixall Moss. Go over the lift bridge and Whixall Moss car park is on the left.

### Whixall Moss

Whixall also includes a large part of the 948-hectare "Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses" which is an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and is the third largest raised bog in Britain. The central area became a National Nature Reserve in 1990 and large-scale cutting was stopped. English Nature are now restoring the Mosses and you will find wildfowl, waders and dragonflies abound, as well as rare species such as raft spiders. For more information or to book your place on a guided walk of the mosses visit: [www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk)

### Whixall Marina

The first mile of the former Prees Branch was dredged and a Marina built in the 1970's. The lower stretch to Waterloo bridge was retained as a Nature reserve. Prees Branch has many of the values of a long pond - it is good for dragonflies, moorhens and swans and makes a pleasant detour from the main towpath along the Shropshire Union Canal.

Leave Whixall Moss along the same road and turn right to join the main road again. Follow the road towards Dobson's Bridge and past a left hand turn, signposted to Whixall Marina (turn left here to visit Whixall Marina). Go over the canal and follow the road round to the left. Take the next left hand turn, signposted to Lowe, Wem and **Cycle Route 31**.

- 8 Turn right at the next crossroads opposite the sign towards Waterloo
- 8a Continue along this road to a T-junction. Turn left, signposted to Horton and continue to another T-junction.
- 9 Turn left, signposted to Wem and Whixall. Turn first right, signposted to Wem and follow the road up a steep hill and back down towards Wem.
- 10 As you enter the 30mph zone take the second left into Pyms Road and turn right on to New Street at the T-junction by the Hawkestone Arms back into Wem town centre.

## Route 2: To Welshampton and Colemere

As well as taking in a number of interesting villages and hamlets with a variety of historical churches, this route takes in the beautiful Colemere lake, which provides an ideal setting for a picnic lunch! 20 miles in total or 16 or 14½ miles with short cuts.

- 1 Leave Wem along New Street and turn left at the Hawkestone Arms pub. Turn right at the T-junction and continue uphill out of Wem to the next T-junction.
- 2 Turn left, signposted to Loppington and Whixall and take the second right by a red brick house, signposted to Newtown. Continue along this road into Newtown.

### Newtown

Newtown is a small village near Wem, which is interesting for its church dedicated to King Charles the Martyr, one of only 4 churches in the country with this dedication. The present church was built in lancet style with an interesting carillon of 6 bells.





## Route 2

- Turn right at the church and past the school on the right. Continue along this road and turn left at the next 2 junctions until you meet the T-junction in Northwood. Turn right onto the B5063 and past the Horse and Jockey pub.

### Short Cut

- Take the first left off the B5063, signposted to Lyneal. Turn first right, signposted Colemere and Cycle Route 31 and rejoin the main route from instruction **8a Or**
- To continue along the short cut back to Wem: in Lyneal, take the first left, signposted to Loppington and follow this road for 3 miles to a T-junction. Turn left into Loppington and rejoin the main route from instruction number **10**
- Turn first right, signposted Bettisfield. Continue uphill into Bettisfield

### Bettisfield †

The church of St John the Baptist was purpose built at the expense of Lord and Lady Hanmer. The ancestral seats of the Hanmer family are represented by Haulton Ring, a deserted moated site, Bettisfield Old Hall and Bettisfield Park, which has recently been restored to its early 17th century proportions.

- Turn first left, signposted Breadon Heath; follow the road round a sharp right hand bend and over the canal bridge. Continue along this road turning right at the next junction until you reach the A495.
- Turn right towards Whitchurch then immediate left, signposted to Breadon Heath (**take care**). Take the first left hand turn off this road and left at the next T-junction. After about ½ mile turn right, signposted to Welshampton and Stocks and then left at the next junction to take you in to Welshampton.

### Welshampton † ☞ The Sun

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.

- Turn right at the T-junction on to the A495, past the Church and take the first right, signposted to Lyneal and Cycle Route 31. Continue along this road, over the canal bridge and into Lyneal.

### Short Cut

- Turn left at the T-junction and right at the next junction towards Pikesend and Loppington then follow instructions **4a**
- Turn right at the T-junction, signposted Colemere and Ellesmere.
- Turn first left after Lyneal Activity Centre, signposted Colemere. Continue along this road until you reach Colemere.

### Colemere PWA†

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.

- Continue along the road through Colemere to a T-junction in English Frankton. Turn left and continue to Loppington.

### Loppington † ☞ Dickin Arms

The only remaining bull-ring in Shropshire is set in the road in front of the Dickin Arms pub. It is believed that it was used up to 1835 for bull baiting. St Michael and all Angels Parish Church has an interesting history. The main body of the church is 14th century, with repairs of 1716. The south porch is dated 1658, and it replaced another burnt during the Civil War when the church was garrisoned by Parliamentary troops and stormed by the Royalists.

- At the T-junction in Loppington turn left and then first right by the Dickin Arms, signposted to Nonely. Continue along this road and turn first left past the front of Nonely Hall. Turn left at the next T-junction and follow the road into Tilley
- Continue through Tilley past the Raven Inn pub back to Wem. Turn left at the T-junction and return to Wem along Mill Street

## Route 3: To Cockshutt, Baschurch and Myddle

This is one the longer routes but is fairly easy cycling taking in some of the larger villages in the area, spectacular views of the Welsh Hills and an interesting detour past Sleep airfield. Total distance: 23 miles.

- Leave Wem along Mill Street and turn right just before the railway bridge. Follow the road through Tilley and past the Raven pub on the right.
- After about a mile take the first right, signposted to Commonwood. Pass Ruewood Pastures Nature Reserve on your right. Continue for about 1½ miles until you reach a T-junction next to Nonely Hall.

### Ruewood Pastures Nature Reserve 🐦

A pocket-sized nature reserve, with two old herb-rich meadows that hold Shropshire's only known colony of meadow rue plants such as Yorkshire fog, crested dog's tail and sweet vernal grass. For further information visit: [www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

- Turn right and follow the road into Loppington. For information on Loppington, see **Route 2**. At the T-junction, by the Dickin Arms, turn left and then first right at the post office signposted towards English Frankton and Cockshutt. Continue through English Frankton and onto Cockshutt.

### Cockshutt † ☞ Leaking Tap

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.

- Continue through Cockshutt to the T-junction, turn left on to the A528 to Shrewsbury and take the second right, signposted to Bagley and Weston (**take care**). Follow this road and turn first left just before Stanwardine Hall. Continue into Petton.
- Turn right and follow the road into Weston Lullingfields. Follow the road round to the right and turn left at the T-junction to Baschurch. Great view. Take the first right after 200 yards towards Stanwardine.
- Turn left at the T-junction, over the railway bridge and follow the road round to the left and continue to Baschurch.

### Baschurch- † ☞ New Inn, Duncan Arms, Boreatton Arms Baschurch is

centred around the Church of All Saints, which dates from the 13th and 14th centuries. However, it is believed by many that this church was here as early as the 6th century and that this is the place that the British Poet Llywarc wrote about 14 centuries ago when he recorded a battle against the invading Saxons. It is believed the 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!

- Go straight over at the crossroads down Church Road, signposted to Nobold. Follow the road round, past the church and the New Inn pub.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF ➤

