

Welcome to Shropshire

Useful contacts

A county full of contrasts, Shropshire has lots to offer cyclists from quiet country lanes to urban cycle tracks and mountain biking routes in hills and forests. There are hundreds of villages and towns to visit and plenty of space to relax and take in some stunning scenery.

National Cycle Route 45 combines with part of the **National Byway** to form a 30 mile signed route between Whitchurch and Upton Magna, near Shrewsbury. In the north, Route 45 and the National Byway will eventually extend as far as Chester. In the south, Route 45 will extend to Bridgnorth and Worcester whilst the National Byway will continue to Ludlow. From Upton Magna, you can either head west into Shrewsbury or east into Wellington, following direction signs for National Cycle Route 81.

Explore Shropshire by bike

If you've enjoyed this cycle route, why not explore other areas in Shropshire? **'Cycling for Pleasure in the Marches'** is a series of maps showing cycle rides all around Shropshire, including family rides and off-road trails. Available to purchase from local Tourist Information Centres.

Also available are free maps for:

- * National Cycle Route 81 (Shrewsbury – Wellington)
- * Regional Cycle Route 31 (Oswestry – Ellesmere – Whitchurch)
- * Shropshire Bike-Bus (Shrewsbury – Ellesmere)
- * Shrewsbury Cycle Route and Parking Guide

Tel 01743 253008 or e-mail transport@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

Tourist Information Centres

Whitchurch Heritage Centre, 12 St Mary's Street.

Tel 01948 664577

Wem Info Link, Wem Town Hall, High Street.

Tel 01939 235002

Shrewsbury Tourist Information Centre, The Square.

Tel 01743 281200 www.shrewsbury.ws

For other information on accommodation, try

www.shropshiretourism.info

Cycle sales and repairs

Whitchurch

Wheelbase, 21 Watergate. Tel 01948 663323

Wem

Jack Davies Cycles, 58 High Street. Tel 01939 235485

Shrewsbury

Dave Mellor Cycles (incl. bike hire), 9 New Street.

Tel 01743 366662 www.thecycleshop.co.uk

Halfords, Meole Brace Retail Park. Tel 01743 270277

Hawk Cycles, 15 Castle Street. Tel 01743 344554

Jack Davies Cycles, 22A Chester St. Tel 01743 353093

Shrewsbury Cycles, 43 Ditherington Rd. Tel 01743 232061

Stan Jones Cycles, 17A Hills Lane. Tel 01743 343775

Cycle routes in Shropshire

Shropshire County Council. Tel 01743 253035

www.shropshireonline.gov.uk/travelwise.nsf

Public Transport

Traveline. Tel 0870 608 2 608

National Rail Enquiries. Tel 08457 484950

www.railtrack.com

The development of Route 45/ National Byway and the production of this leaflet is supported by:



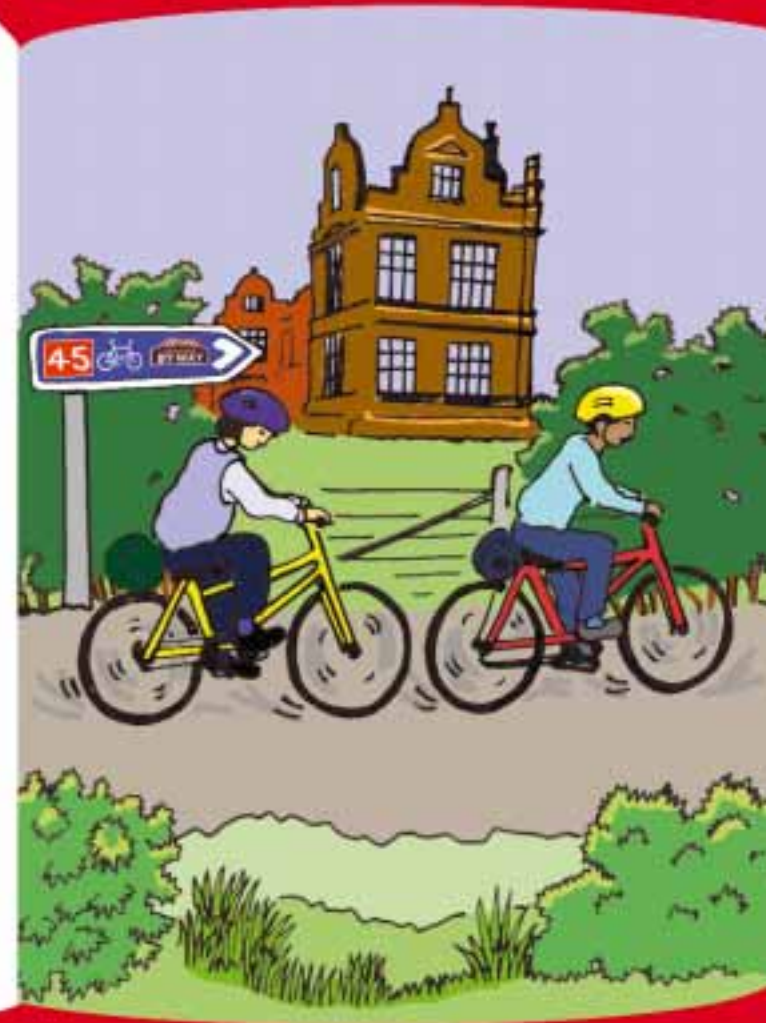
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NORTH SHROPSHIRE RURAL
TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP



National Cycle Route 45/ National Byway NORTH SHROPSHIRE



Whitchurch - Shrewsbury

2003

National Cycle Route 45 / National Byway

Cycling safely

Cycling in the countryside can be great fun but you must also take care. Follow these safety tips:

Before you set out - some quick checks...

- Check that the brakes are working
- Check that the tyres are pumped up
- Is your reflector clean and your lights in order?
- Are you wearing a helmet and visible clothing?
- Have you got some wet weather gear?
- Have you got basic tools, a pump and puncture repair kit/ spare inner tube?
- Have you packed a drink and a snack?

On Route 45/National Byway ...

- Always follow the Highway Code
- Keep ears as well as eyes alert
- Be heard - it's a good idea to have a bell
- Be courteous to other road users
- Signal clearly at junctions
- Before carrying out any manoeuvre, always remember to look to make sure it's safe
- Ride in single file when the road is narrow and slow down when passing walkers, horseriders, tractors and other vehicles
- Watch out for gravel or greasy roads after rain

Taking your bike by bus or train

(Not tandems or tricycles)

- On Wales and Borders rail services:
 - 2 bikes per train
 - booking usually required
 - cost: £3 (or £1 in advance)
- On Arriva bus service 501 between Shrewsbury and Ellesmere:
 - 2 bikes per bus
 - no booking required
 - cost: FREE

Tel: 0870 9000 773

Tel: 0870 608 2 608



Key

- National Cycle Route 45 / National Byway
- Shropshire Regional Cycle Route 31
- - - Suggested links to Wem
- National Cycle Route 81
- Regional Cycle Route 70
- Regional Cycle Route 74
- Railway and station
- Canal
- Town/ village/ buildings
- Tourist Information Centre/Point
- Teashop/cafe
- Public car parking
- Cycle parking
- Public House
- Nature Reserve
- Cycle services
- Shop
- Church
- Castle
- Playground
- Busy road

OS maps for this area are Landranger 117 and 126



The **National Cycle Network** is a partnership project to develop safe, attractive and high quality routes for cyclists and provide a major new amenity for walkers and wheelchair users. The first 5,000 miles opened in June 2000, with a further 5,000 miles being developed by 2005. National Cycle Route 45 will form an important link between National Route 81 (at Upton Magna) and Regional Route 31 (at Whitchurch). For more information, contact Sustrans: tel 0117 926 8893, www.sustrans.org.uk or for free route maps tel 01743 253008, transport@shropshire-cc.gov.uk.



The **National Byway** is a 3,000 mile leisure cycling route around Britain. Its objective is to use existing, lightly trafficked rural lanes to form the route. The National Byway in the Midlands extends from Chester to Cirencester and includes a route between Whitchurch and Ludlow. Midlands maps are available from local Tourist Information Centres.

Places to go along the way

Whitchurch, historic market town

The bustling market town of **Whitchurch** has many fine buildings dating from Mediaeval, Tudor and Georgian times and a pleasant park and gardens in the heart of the town. It boasts an excellent array of interesting shopping facilities and a multi-purpose **Heritage and Craft Centre**. The **Clock Trail** explores the town's famous timepieces. The town railway station is served by trains on the Crewe - Shrewsbury line. Markets are held every Friday.

Wem, home of the Sweet Pea

Famous for Henry Eckford (creator of the modern sweet pea) and the intriguing legend of its treacle mines, Wem is a small town with a warm welcome for visitors. Although the town was virtually demolished during the Civil War in 1643 and large parts burnt down in the great fire of 1677, there are still some handsome Mediaeval, Georgian and Victorian buildings in the town centre. Visit the **Mythstories** to find out more. Wem is served by trains on the Crewe - Shrewsbury line.

Shrewsbury, Shropshire's county town

Nestling in a bend in the River Severn, Shrewsbury's historic town centre is full of black and white buildings and a network of mediaeval streets and 'shuts'. There's a wide range of interesting shops and refreshment stops as well as the famous **Quarry Park** (home of the annual Flower Show), the **Abbey, Castle, Museums and Art Galleries**. The railway station is well-served by trains from Wales, the Midlands and Manchester. There are also over 20 miles of cycle routes to help you explore the rest of the town.

Things to see along the way

Whitchurch Heritage Centre - Meet the Lord of the nursery and a musical Knight, unearth Roman treasure and spend time with the World's oldest clock makers. 12 St Mary's Street. Tel 01948 665432.

Victoria Jubilee Park, Whitchurch - Recently renovated and located in the heart of the town, the park offers plenty of green space for relaxation and recreation.

Whitchurch Arm Canal and Waterway Country Park Links the town centre to the Llangollen Canal (with its unique flight of 7 locks at Grindley Brook) and open countryside.

Fenns, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses NNR - These National Nature Reserves include rare raised bog and provide habitats for butterflies and dragonflies. 'Mosses Trails' walks are available from English Nature. Tel 01948 880362.

Hawkstone Park - Historic Park and Follies - Country hotel, restaurants, bars, golf courses and 100 acre historic park and follies (includes caves, cliffs and grottoes). Weston-under-Redcastle. Tel 01939 200611. www.hawkstone.co.uk.

Hawkstone Hall - Beautiful Georgian mansion, ancestral home of the Hill family. Includes a Venetian Saloon and Winter Garden. Marchamley. Tel 01630 685242.

Hodnet Hall Gardens - Over 60 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens and woodland walks. Tea rooms, gift shop, kitchen garden. Tel 01630 685202.

Wem Mythstories - A museum of myth and fable which allows the visitor to enter the enchanting world of storytelling. Listen to local legends and pop into the 'treacle mine', a traditional sweet shop. Morgan Library, Aston Street. Tel 01939 235500, www.mythstories.com.

Things to see along the way

Moreton Corbet Castle (English Heritage) - This 16th century castle lies in ruins but was once home to the Corbet family. Tel 0870 333 111, www.english-heritage.org.uk.

Haughmond Abbey (English Heritage) - Remains of a 12th century Augustinian abbey including some fine Mediaeval sculpture. Tel 01743 709661, www.english-heritage.org.uk.

Shrewsbury Castle - Commanding a view over the whole town and environs, this was the centre of Norman and Mediaeval power in the region. The Great Hall houses the museum of Shropshire's regiments. Castle Street. Tel 01743 358516.

Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery - Located in 16th century Rowley's House, displays include costume and decorative arts, Roman and Mediaeval galleries. Look out for special exhibitions. Barker St Tel 01743 358411, www.shrewsburymuseums.com.

Shrewsbury Abbey - Founded by Saxons, rebuilt by Normans and modified by Tudors, the Abbey welcomes visitors all year round. Abbey Foregate. Tel 01743 232723.

Quarry Park, Shrewsbury - Home of annual Flower Show (August), this town centre park includes riverside walks and floral displays all year round.

Attingham Park (National Trust) - 18th century hall in a deer park landscaped by Humphrey Repton. Riverside walks, tea rooms. Nr. Atcham. Tel 01743 708123, www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

Home Farm, Attingham - Rare and minority breeds, nature walks and opportunities to feed the animals. Tel 01743 709243, www.openfarm.co.uk.