

The Bishop Bennet Way



A 34mile/55km route for horse riders following bridleways, byways and minor roads through the countryside of southwest Cheshire



For more information about where to ride in Cheshire, visit www.discovercheshire.co.uk



The route is named after an eighteenth century traveller who once explored the tracks that we now ride for pleasure.

For information about the life of Bishop Bennet, visit

www.cheshire.gov.uk/countryside/HorseRiding/bishop_bennet_way.htm.



The Bishop Bennet Way

runs from near Beeston Castle to the village of Wirswall on the Shropshire border. The route is largely on flat ground, with some gentle hills in its southern half. Some of the central sections of the route can be very wet during winter months.

The route comprises some 27kms of surfaced roads (mostly without verges) and 12kms of 'green lanes' of which some have bridleway status, some restricted byway status, and others byway open to all traffic status. The rest of the route is by field-edge and cross-field paths, the latter being occasionally subject to ploughing.

You must expect to share all these routes with walkers and cyclists and, in the case of byways, roads and some restricted byways, with motor traffic too. You should also expect some use of routes by farmers with agricultural vehicles.

Using bed and breakfast accommodation for horse and rider, the whole ride can be completed over two consecutive days or you could choose to ride shorter sections individually.

The route can be followed by foot and mountain bike. Walkers can avoid longer road sections by making the most of the footpath network in the area - refer to OS Map Explorer 257. Cyclists are advised that the surfaces of many sections of the route can make for difficult progress.

Bishop Bennet Way



Safety

Whilst most of the route follows field tracks and quiet lanes it is occasionally necessary to cross busy roads. All such crossings on the BBW are shown on the route maps by a warning triangle. Please take great care when crossing. The A41, A49, A525 and A534 each carry fast traffic. We recommend that you use OS Map Explorer 257 to help you follow the route.

This leaflet was produced by Cheshire County Council, Countryside Division and Visit Chester and Cheshire. The Bishop Bennet Way was devised by Bernadette Hardern.

Section 1

Beeston to Milton Green

- 1 Begin at the layby on Crimes Lane. Follow the track west past Pool Farm, over the railway to Crimes Brook, and over the brick-lined ford. Bear left and continue over the railway track to the road junction at Newton-by-Tattenhall. **>2.4kms**
- 2 Take Newton Lane (straight on), past the Ice Cream Farm and head straight on at the crossroads. At the next T junction at Gatesheath go left onto Chester Road, then take the track to the right as the road bears left. **>4.3kms**
- 3 Follow the BBW waymarks and bear right near Russia Hall to join Frog Lane, turning right for the A41 at Milton Green. **>2kms**



Points of interest

- BEESTON CASTLE**, built in 1225 by Ranulf, 6th Earl of Chester
- TATTENHALL**, a pretty historic village with a variety of pubs and restaurants

Key to maps

- Junctions with busy roads - take care!
- Coddington Loop
- Bishop Bennet Way
- On-road sections
- Numbers refer to text directions
- Off-road sections
- Major roads
- Other roads
- Rivers and canals
- Businesses are shown in Green

Cheshire Farm Ice Cream



Route directions

Section 2

Milton Green to Rowley Hill

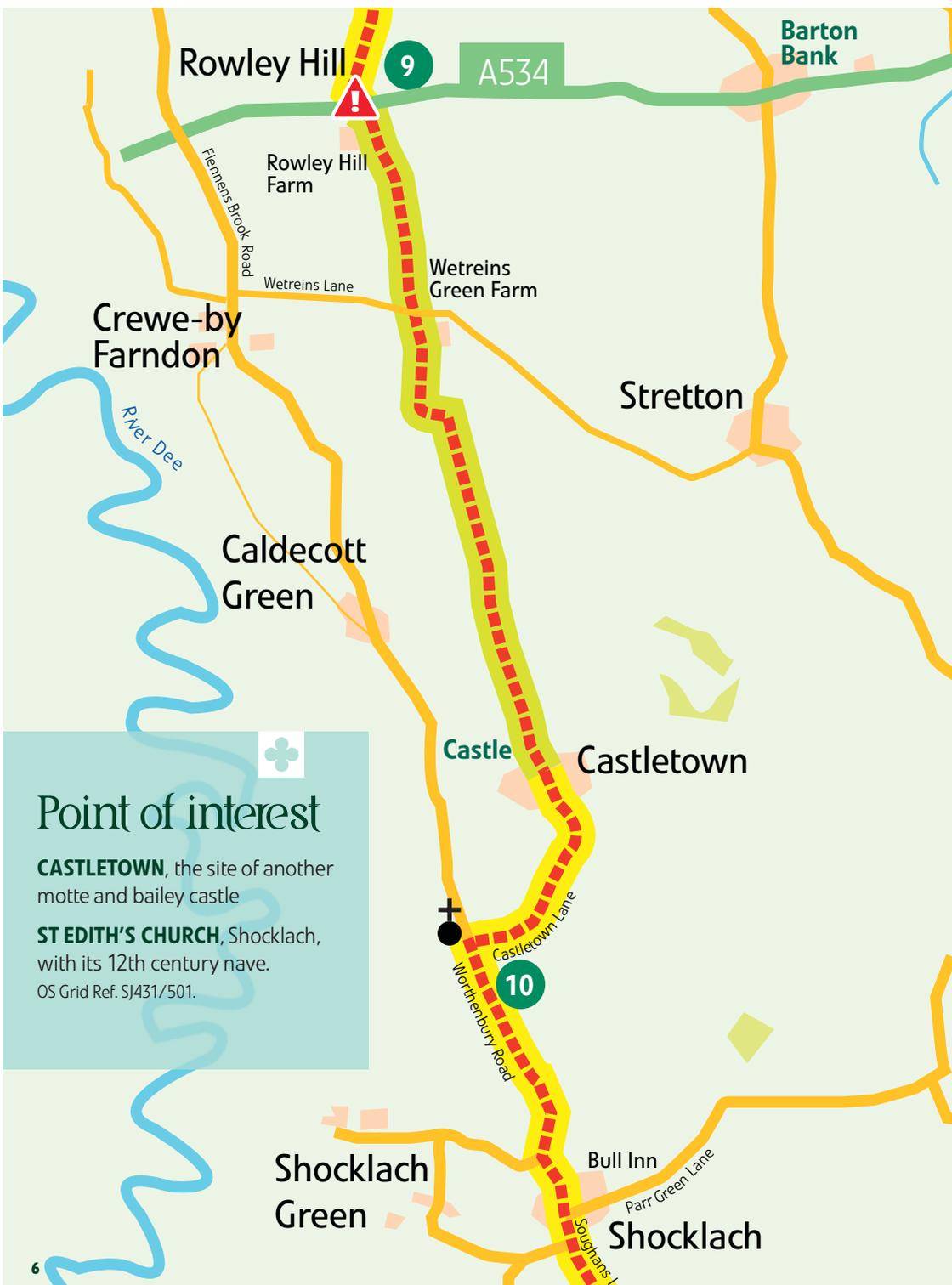
- 4** At Milton Green cross the A41 with care, turning left then right down Chapel Lane to Calveley Hall Farm. Follow the BBW waymarks through the farmyard and continue across a faint track. Continue past the woods and over Golborne Brook. **>2.2kms**
- 5** Continue to follow the BBW waymarks to Lea Hall Farm. Ride through the farmyard and turn left onto Lea Lane, heading straight over Wim Bridge and onto the next bridleway. **>2.5kms**
- 6** At Lea Farm, follow the BBW waymarks across the field, joining the track on the far side of the hedge line. Follow the track right and continue past Old Beachin Farm, turning right onto Spring Lane at Middle Beachin Farm. **>2.2kms** or turn left to do the Coddington Loop – see page 14.
- 7** Continue along Spring Lane, past Edgerley Farm, where it becomes Edgerley Lane and when the road bends sharply right, turn left onto Marsh Lane, then right onto the bridleway. **>2.5kms**
- 8** Continue along the bridleway and keep straight on until you reach the tarmac road (ignoring the bridleway to your left). Follow this road until you reach the junction at Rowley Hill. **>2.8kms** or take the bridleway to the left for a longer version of the Coddington Loop – see page 14.



Points of interest

ALDFORD CASTLE, a 12th century motte and bailey castle. OS Grid Ref. SJ418/595.

CHURTON, a pretty village which was once the boundary between the manors of Aldford and Farndon and a possible smuggling route. Look out for the ancient pollarded oaks in the field just beyond Coddington, thought to be 600 years old. OS Grid Ref. SJ417/564.



Point of interest

CASTLETOWN, the site of another motte and bailey castle

ST EDITH'S CHURCH, Shocklach, with its 12th century nave.
OS Grid Ref. SJ431/501.



Route directions

Section 3

Rowley Hill to Shocklach

- 9** Turn left along the A534, and take the next track on the right to Rowley Hill Farm. Continue along the track, turning left and immediately right at Wetreins Green Farm onto the next byway. Continue along the byway, to Castletown Lane. **>4.5kms**
- 10** At the next T junction, go left and follow Worthenbury Road towards Shocklach. In the village, turn left at the Bull Inn and then first right (Soughans Lane).

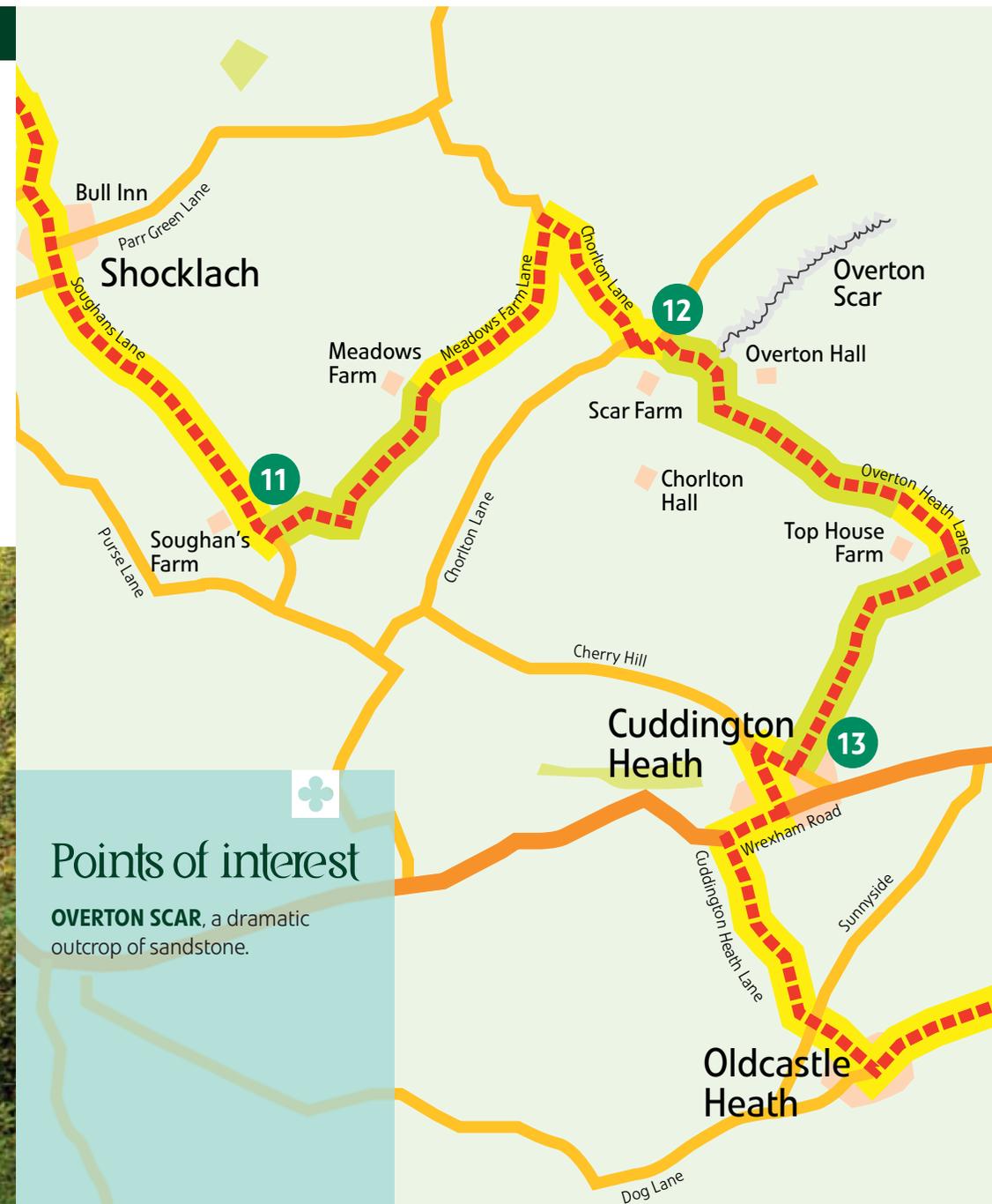
Section 4

Shocklach to Oldcastle Heath

11 Continue just past Soughan's Farm then take the bridleway on your left. Follow the bridleway for about 370m and then take the next bridleway on the left near the bridge. Follow this until you join Meadows Farm Lane, continue along then take Chorlton Lane on the right, along to Scar Farm. ➤7.2kms

12 At Scar Farm take the bridleway straight ahead, following the BBW waymarks past Overton Hall to join Overton Heath Lane. Continue straight on and take a sharp right at Top House Farm. Continue on the bridleway until you reach Cuddington Heath. ➤3.1kms

13 Where the bridleway joins Cherry Hill, Cuddington Heath, go right, then first left, then right onto the Wrexham Road. Turn left after 300m onto Cuddington Heath Lane, going straight on at the next cross-roads to the next T junction at Oldcastle Heath. ➤2kms



Points of interest

OVERTON SCAR, a dramatic outcrop of sandstone.





Points of interest

An old **ROMAN ROAD** crosses the route near Agden Hall, connecting Whitchurch, Malpas and Tilston.

MALPAS is an important historic town with a fantastic 14th century church and many interesting buildings.



Route directions

Section 5

Oldcastle Heath to Agden Hall

14 Turn left onto Dog Lane and then after about 1km turn right opposite Preston Hall Farm. Follow this road to the T junction at Lower Wych. Turn left, and carry on along Wigland Hall Lane. Turn left at the T junction and then take the bridleyway on the right. **>4kms**

15 Follow the BBW waymarks across several fields, until you join the track which emerges on Oldhall Street near Agden Hall (B5395), turning left then immediately right onto the next bridleyway. **>1.5kms**

Section 6

Agden Hall to Bradeley Green

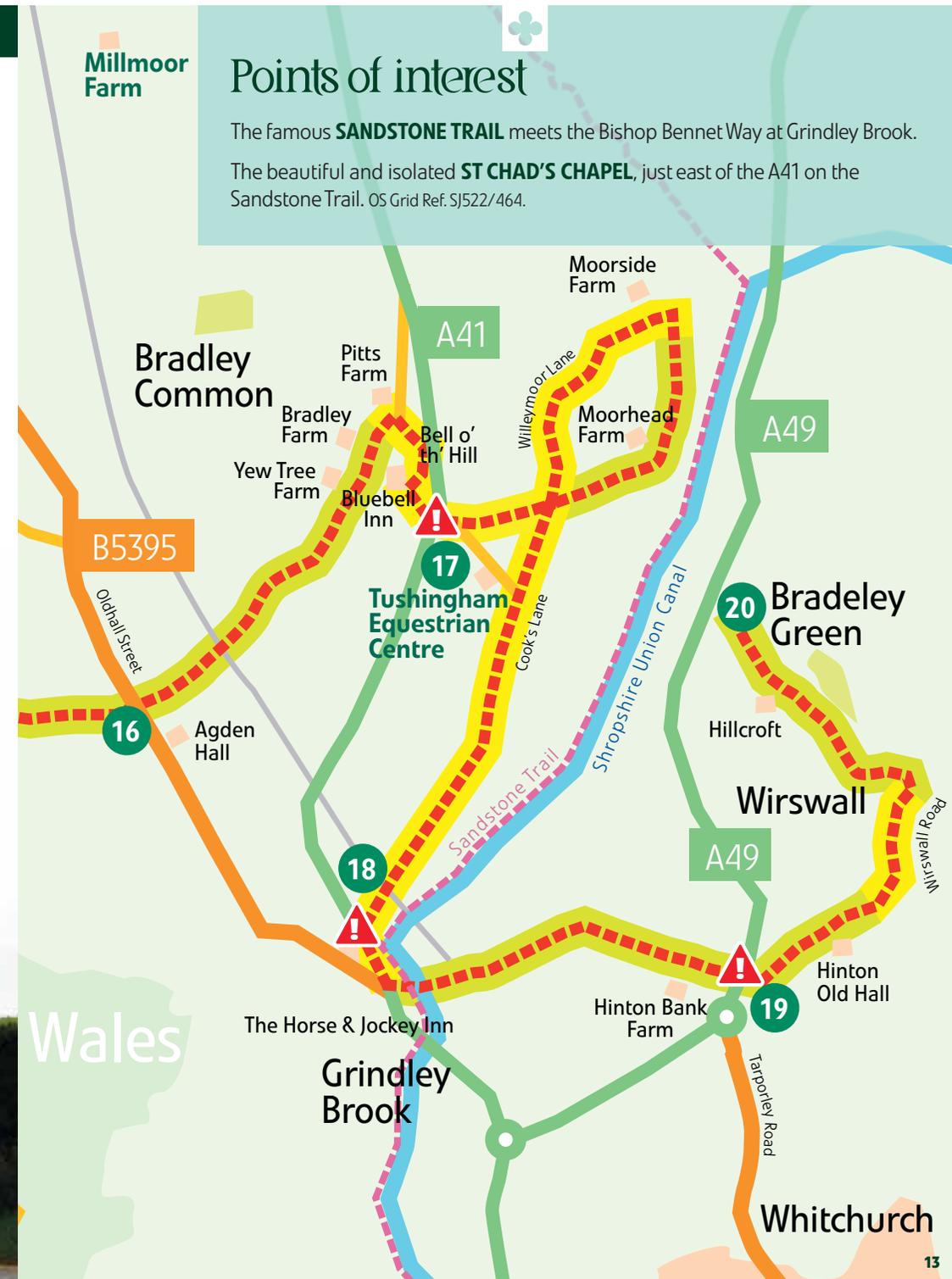
16 From Oldhall Street (B5395) follow the bridgeway over the old railway and at Yew Tree Farm, either go right to the Blue Bell Inn PH or carry on a bit longer and then turn right at Pitts Farm (you'll find the pub on the right after 430m). **>3.4kms/3.9kms**

17 Cross the A41 with care at Bell o' th' Hill and ride down the lane opposite, then immediately left down Willey Moor Lane. Keep to the road to Moorside Farm, then take the byway on the right straight south to Moorhead Farm. Follow the BBW waymarks through the farmyard and back to Willey Moor Lane. Retrace your steps and take Cook's Lane on the left. **>3kms**

18 Turn left onto Bell o' th' Hill Road and continue south to Grindley Brook. Turn left at the village and then follow the bridgeway over the canal and under the old railway. Follow the BBW waymarks across the fields and along the track to Hinton Bank Farm, continuing to the A49 Tarpoley Road. **>4kms**

19 Cross with care and continue along the bridgeway, turning left onto Wirswall Road and then left again onto the bridgeway after Wirswall Farm. Follow the BBW waymarks left around the back of the farm and along the bridgeway. **>2.7kms**

20 The route finishes at Bradeley Green Lane. Please note that there is no parking available on Bradeley Green Lane, which is used frequently by agricultural machinery. Unload horses with care.





Route directions

8miles/13kms

The Coddington Loop

- 1** Starting at Milton Green, follow instructions 4-6 (page 4) inclusive for the Bishop Bennet Way, but at the end instead of turning right, turn left along Beachin Lane for Coddington. Turn left in the village past the church up Aldersey Lane to Aldersey Green.
- 2** Where the road bends to the right, carry straight on up the bridleway. Cross the brook, go through the gate and follow the hedge to another gate. Through this keep the hedge on your left to another gate into a track between hedges.
- 3** Follow this, eventually bearing right to emerge on the A41 at Milton Green again. Turn left for 200m to Chapel Lane to complete the loop.
- 4** For a slightly longer version of this loop follow instructions 4-7 (page 4) inclusive for the Bishop Bennet Way, and instead of continuing straight on towards Rowley Hill, take the bridleway on the left towards Coddington. Follow this for about 1.7km and then bear left onto Coddington Lane into the village.
- 5** At the large village pond, turn left and after 200m follow the road as it bends right past the church, heading for Aldersey. Follow the remainder of the instructions above (2 and 3) to return to Milton Green.

Accommodation providers and useful businesses along the route

Horse and Rider

Newton Hall Farm OS Grid Ref. SJ493/600

Luxury Monarch stables for your horse, or grazing if you prefer. First class, 4* graded B&B accommodation. Cyclists/walkers welcome

Newton Hall Farm, Newton Lane
Tattenhall, Nr Chester, Cheshire CH3 9NE

Richard and Anne Arden

Tel: 01829 770153

www.newtonhallfarm.co.uk

Barton Bank OS Grid Ref. SJ448/542

Luxury, character stable conversion for 2 people. Stables and grazing available for 2 horses.

Barton Bank Holiday Cottage
Red House, Barton Road, Barton
Cheshire SY14 7HU

Christine Garrod

Tel: 01829 782720

Millmoor Farm OS Grid Ref. SJ511/469

A working farm providing first class 4* accommodation, either B&B or S-C, for horse and rider.

Millmoor Farm Bed & Breakfast
Nomansheath, Malpas, Cheshire SY14 8DY

Sally-Ann Chesters

Tel: 01948 820304

www.millmoorfarm.co.uk



Tushingham Equestrian Centre

OS Grid Ref. SJ526/449

Enjoy fantastic on-site equestrian facilities, excellent hacking and superb accommodation for horse and rider, 3* graded self-catering accommodation.

Cyclists/walkers welcome.

Tushingham House Farm
Wobbs Lane, Tushingham
Nr Whitchurch, Cheshire SY13 4QR

Barry Kay

Tel: 01948 666884

www.tushinghamarena.co.uk

Useful Businesses

Tickeridge House OS Grid Ref. SJ461/584

Use as a base for a day visit to ride circular routes along the BBW with the opportunity for stabling or grazing for your horse overnight.

Milton Green, Nr Chester CH3 9DS

Vicky Park

Tel: 01829 771556

Saddlery Shop OS Grid Ref. SJ475/603

Gatesheath Saddlery & Country Store.

Gatesheath Lane

Tattenhall

Nr Chester

Cheshire CH3 9AS

Tel: 01829 771730

Ice Cream Farm

Where all your ice cream dreams come true!

A great refreshment break.

Cheshire Farm Ice Cream

Tattenhall

Cheshire CH3 9NE

01829 770446



Equestrian Escapes

Tailor-made itineraries, you choose how far you would like to ride and how long you would like to stay and we will do the rest! Come and stay in the beautiful south Cheshire countryside and experience this winding scenic tour through breathtaking countryside.

Tel: 01829 781123

www.equestrian-escapes.com

Public Houses

Horseriders, cyclists and walkers welcome. Parking of horse boxes/trailers by arrangement.

The Bluebell Inn

Tushingham Cum Grindley,

Cheshire SY13 4QS

OS Grid Ref. SJ523/454

Tel: 01948 662172

The Horse and Jockey

Grindley Brook, Cheshire SY134QJ

OS Grid Ref. SJ521/431

Tel: 01948 662723

The White Horse Inn

Churton, Cheshire CH3 6LA

OS Grid Ref. SJ417/564

Tel: 01829 270208

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