

# SHROPSHIRE WAY

## NORTH SECTION



About  
10.5/14 miles

## Stage 12: Wem to Whitchurch & Ellesmere



Old barn at Edstaston

A few miles north of Wem you will have the choice of continuing westwards to Ellesmere or north-eastwards on a linear route to Whitchurch.

### Welsh End to Whitchurch 10.5 miles

The original Shropshire Way took a more direct northerly path to meet the Sandstone Trail at Grindley Brook. The revised route takes in Shropshire's wetland areas; Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) before reaching Prees Heath. This is the only site in the Midlands where you can see the silver studded blue butterfly from mid-June to late July. Further on and nearer to Whitchurch, Brown Moss SSSI is designated as a Local Nature Reserve. This is one of Shropshire's most important places for plants, with over 200 species of native



Allman's Bridge Whixall

wildflowers plus a variety of birds, frogs and newts (yes, great crested ones).

The Shropshire Way proceeds to Grindley Brook, a major junction of footpaths and an impressive lock 'staircase' but you may wish to allow time to first explore the historic market town of Whitchurch.

### Wem to Ellesmere 14 miles

On this stretch you will be walking along the border of Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Moss National Nature Reserve. Thanks to the action of the Nature Conservancy Council in 1990 this area was restored to a wetland habitat. Over the centuries peat had been extracted and drains inserted, destroying the raised moses and resulting in tree growth. After restoration this area now supports a variety of rare plants, butterflies, moths, dragonflies, water voles and even snakes.

The Shropshire Union Canal now takes you to the Meres. The first of these is Cole Mere, popular for sailing tuition, then the smaller Blake Mere followed by The Mere at Ellesmere. The Boathouse Café and Restaurant is ideally placed for a stop to take in the view shared by many migrating birds before walking round the motte of the remains of Ellesmere's castle and exploring the little market town.



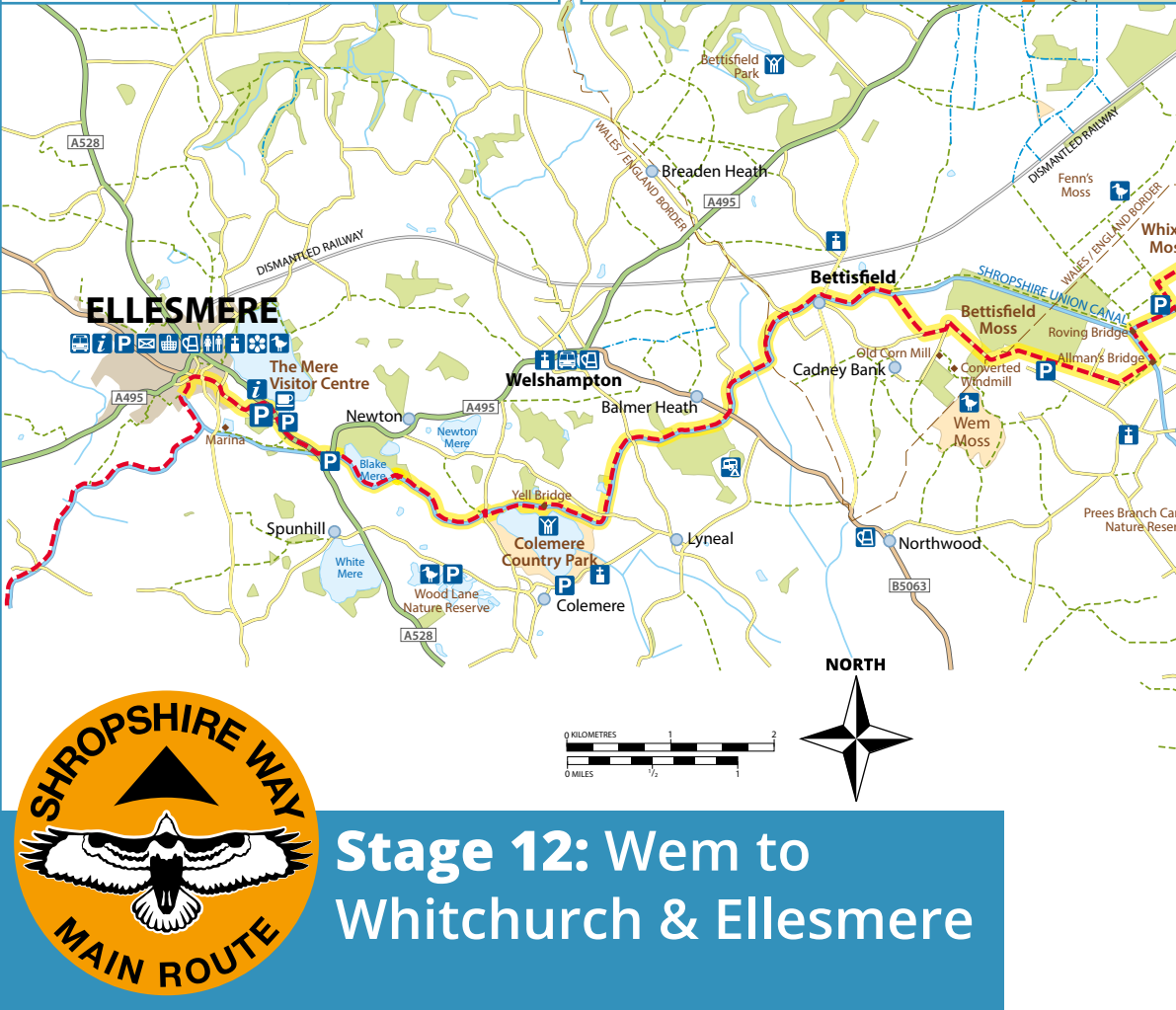
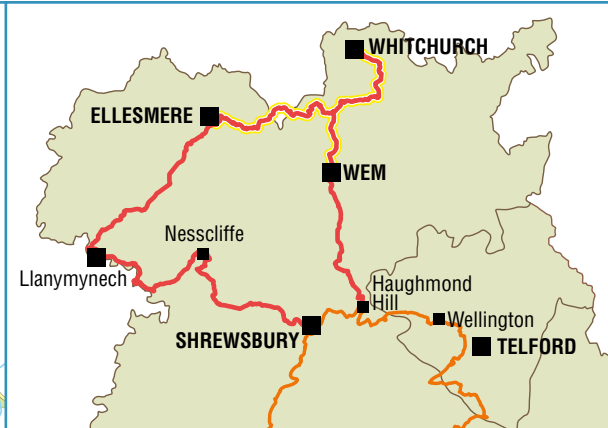
Canal path at Blake Mere

**Shropshire Way**

**Footpaths**

**Bridleways**

Open Access land

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