

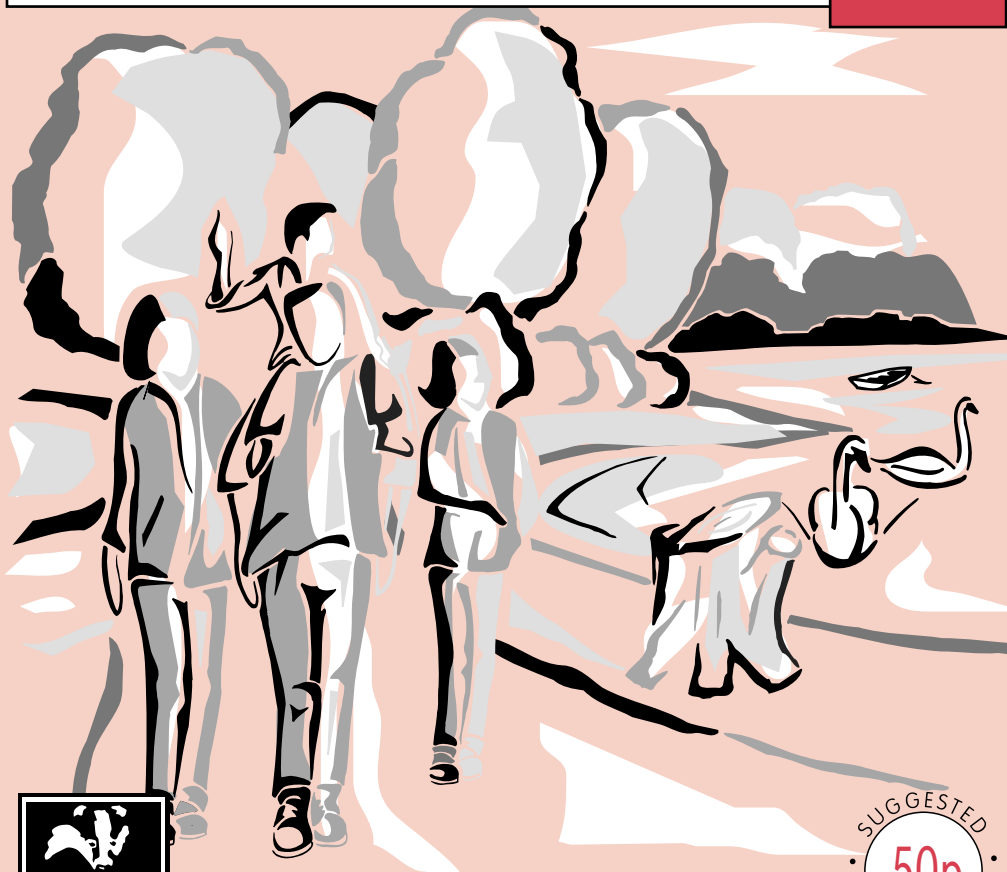
# Walking for pleasure



## around Ellesmere

The Plantation, Castlefields Arboretum and The Wharf

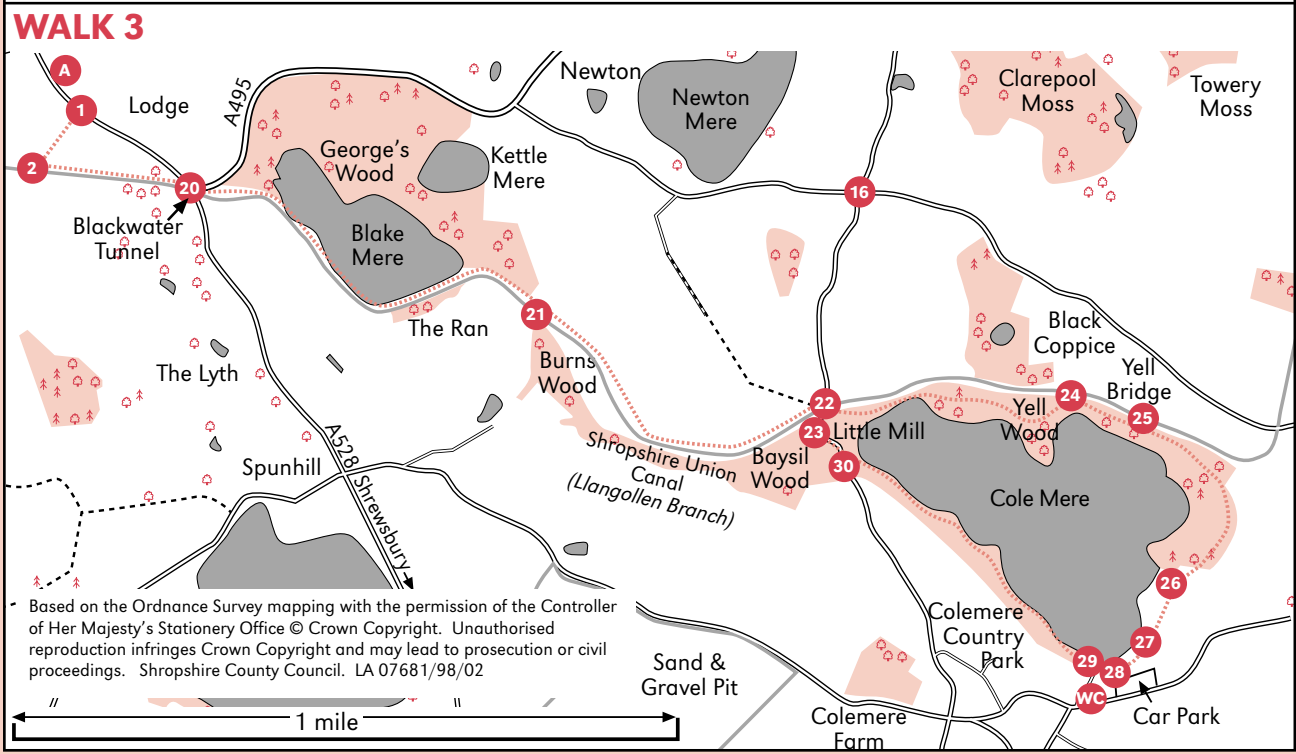
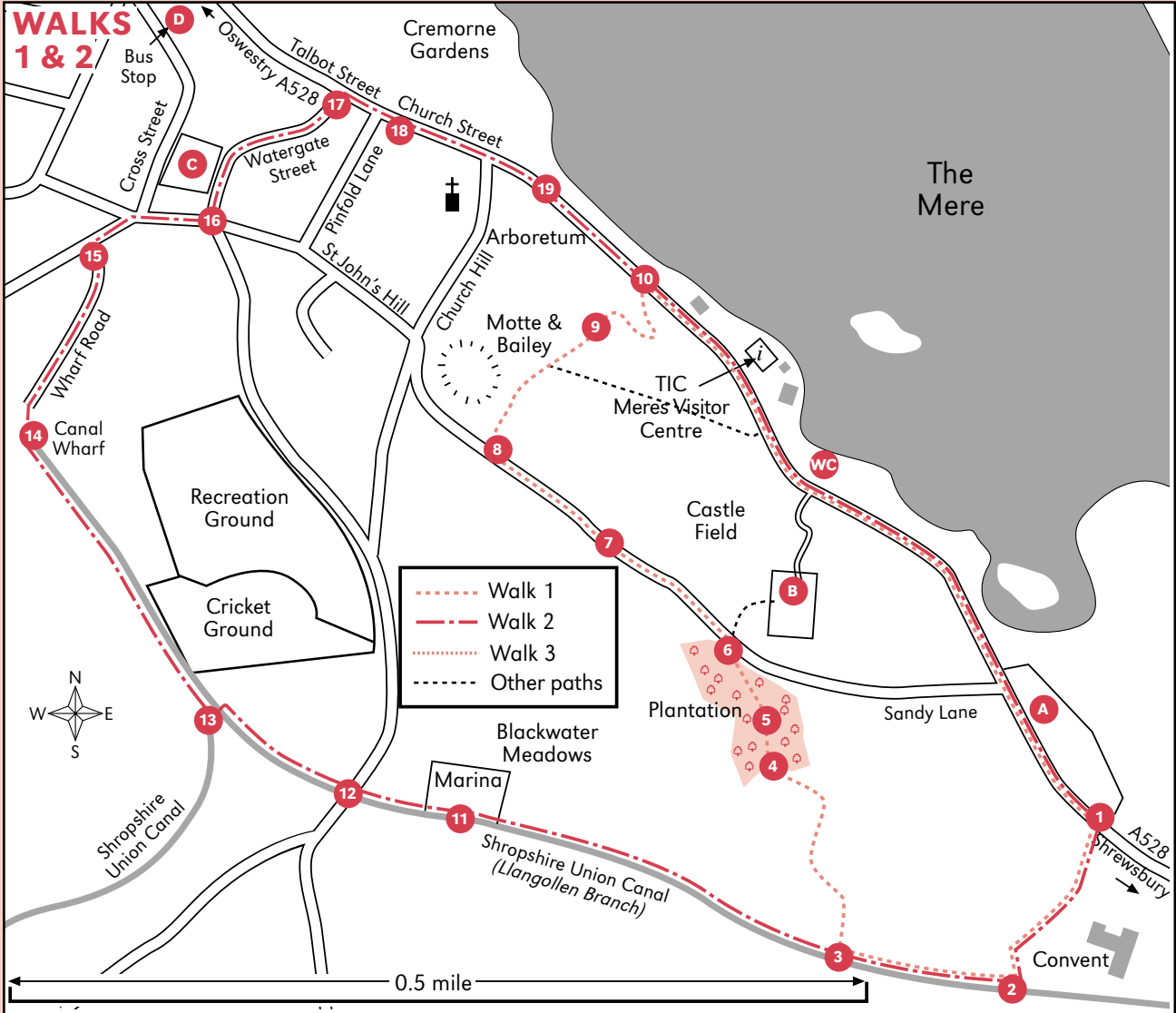
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**Support the Shropshire Wildlife Trust**

167 Frankwell, Shrewsbury, SY3 8LG. Tel: (01743) 241691





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# Walking for pleasure

FOLLOW THESE  
MARKERS TO  
DISCOVER  
ELLESMERE AND  
THE COUNTRYSIDE  
AROUND IT



## around Ellesmere - (1)

All walks start from The Moors Car Park **(A)**.

**To join starting point from Car Parks B, C & D :-**

**B** - walk to car park entrance and cross road using pedestrian crossing, turn right and proceed to The Moors Car Park.

**C** - exit car park onto Watergate Street, cross and turn left along street and then right down Church Street. Cross at pedestrian crossing and turn right. Walk on alongside The Mere and continue until you reach The Moors Car Park.

**D** - exit car park turning right into Talbot Street and proceed until you reach pedestrian crossing. Cross road, turn right and continue alongside The Mere and until you reach The Moors Car Park.

## WALK 1

approx 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles

*Easy walking with short climb in The Plantation (managed by Shropshire Wildlife Trust) and shallow climb along Sandy Lane.*

From the far end of The Moors Car Park (furthest from The Mere), next to the signpost **(1)**, carefully cross the road and go straight on up footpath, to right of convent, and exit onto the towpath **(2)**. Turn right along the canal towpath until you come to a signposted junction on your right **(3)**. Turn right down the path, over the boardwalk and finally turn left, crossing a small footbridge into the wood (The Plantation). Look for the waymark **(4)** ahead where you turn right up the bank. At the junction near the top **(5)** you turn left and continue over bank along woodland path and descend steps to a wicket gate and exit onto Sandy Lane **(6)**.

Ignore the footpath opposite (which returns you to car park **B**) and turn left to continue up the lane [*note: looking right you should see the Castle Field and The Mere and to the left is the canal and marina*]. As you near the top you will find a footpath on the right which you access by a flight of steps and wicket gate **(8)**. Follow this footpath, bearing right with it [*note: you are now walking along the motte and bailey of the castle site - the mound is in the trees to your left*]. Drop down the short bank and turn left to the signpost and over stile **(9)** then continue, as indicated, to the Arboretum. Descend the steps into Arboretum and turn right at the junction this path brings you down to the gateway entrance opposite The Mere (feel free to explore the Arboretum before you leave). Carefully cross the road onto the pavement opposite [*note: turning left will quickly lead you to the Cremorne Gardens entrance at point (19)*] and turn right **(10)**. Continue along pavement passing, or visiting The Mere and Visitor Centre. Walk past the entrance to Castle Field car park (on right) and Sandy Lane to find The Moors car park and starting point on the left.

## WALK 2

approx 2 miles

*Extension to Walk 1 on flat, easy walking surfaces.*

Follow instructions for WALK 1 up to point **(3)**. Continue straight on along the towpath. Shortly after passing the marina on your right **(11)** you walk under a roadbridge **(12)** and then just after the basin cross over the canal on the footbridge **(13)** to turn right and continue to the end of the towpath. The path terminates at the Canal Wharf **(14)** where you turn right and walk to the Tourist Information Board, now go straight on along Wharf Road and into Ellesmere town centre. At the junction next to the Black Lion Hotel **(15)** turn right along Scotland Street and then bear right at the junction with Cross Street to proceed along High Street. After passing the Ellesmere Hotel, on your left, you arrive at a crossroads **(16)** here you turn left along Watergate Street, passing (or returning to) car park **(C)**. At the road junction **(17)** turn right down Church Street (if returning to car park **(D)** then turn left) and then cross over it using the pedestrian crossing **(18)**. Continue down Church Street passing the entrance to Cremorne Gardens **(19)** and The Mere on the left. Now follow instructions from WALK 1 point **(10)**.

### WALK 3

approx 3 miles (4 $\frac{1}{4}$  inc. Colemere)

*A longer, but easy, flat walk to Colemere Country Park alongside the canal and Blake Mere.*

Follow the instructions for WALK 1 up to point **(2)**. Turn left and walk alongside the towpath until you reach a canal tunnel **(20)**. Go straight on through Blackwater tunnel [*note - this can be dark and the floor uneven, though there is a safety/hand rail, but if you prefer you can exit the towpath and cross the main road with care. Turn right to cross A495, via island, to the mini car park to find the pathway back down onto towpath the other side of the tunnel - note both of these roads can be very busy please take extreme care].*

Shortly after the tunnel you should see Blake Mere to your left and shortly after leaving Blake Mere behind you pass under a canal bridge **(21)**. Continue along path, passing a basin and then a house on the opposite side of canal, until you meet the next bridge **(22)** [*note: you can extend the walk from this point to Welshampton and back to The Mere using the Walking for Pleasure in Ellesmere leaflet No 2 point **(5)**].* Just before the bridge turn left to exit the towpath onto the road.

After leaving the towpath turn right and cross over the bridge and as you descend turn left through gateway into Yell Wood **(23)**. Proceed straight along the track, passing old lime kilns on left and then bear to the right of the private drive. Continue along woodland path and after some time follow

path up slope to Yell Bridge **(24)**. Carry on along edge of Yell Wood with canal to your left and then turn right, back into wood, and down steps **(25)**. Proceed along main woodland path and finally exit, into field, through wicket gate **(26)**. Go straight on across the field, with Colemere on your right, aiming for the wicket gate in fence ahead **(27)**, go through gate and turn right alongside boat enclosure.

When you reach the public footpath sign at the junction **(28)** go straight on [*note the public conveniences are only a short way up the track to the left*]. Go on, passing boathouse on right **(29)** and through gateway into Boat House Wood. Proceed to the very end of the path to find a wicket gate directly in front **(30)**. Go through and turn right along road, passing gateway back into Yell Wood **(23)** and over bridge **(22)**. Turn left from bridge back down onto towpath and turn right, back to Ellesmere and starting point.



## About the Ellesmere area

Ellesmere and the meres, nestling in the centre of the north Shropshire plains is an area often referred to as Shropshire's Lakelands, a sharp contrast to the dramatic hills of the south and west of the county.

Getting a feel for the landscape, and wildlife, in this area is partly about getting a feel for how it was formed. More than 15,000 years ago moving glacial ice hundreds of metres thick bulldozed around masses of sand and gravel leaving rounded piles, the hillocks, and gouged out holes, now water-filled meres. There are nine meres in the area and the largest, The Mere, being at Ellesmere itself. The Mere is 19m deep and contains two small man-made islands one of which is home to nesting herons.

The meres are not the only water feature in Ellesmere. Still an important point is the active Shropshire Union Canal (Llangollen Branch) which services the barges and boats from The Wharf - just off Scotland Street in the town centre.

The highest point in the town is the Castle Mound which now hosts a crown bowling green believed to be the oldest in the country. The parish church of St Mary 'the Cathedral of the Meres', stands close by and is noted for its 15th C carved roof in St Anne's Chapel. The town presents an interesting history, details of which can be obtained from the splendid Meres Visitor Centre, on the edge of The Mere, or from shops within the town. With added interest from the new marina, Cremorne Gardens, the canal, meres, mosses and the wildlife they encourage, the area has a great deal to offer and Walking for Pleasure is a pleasant way to whet your appetite.

## History, wildlife and walks

Some hollows, once meres, have had continuous plant growth around them and are now full of dead plant material (peat) and are called mosses. The mosses in this area are now overgrown or planted with trees, though others support rare bog plants and animals.

Throughout the year waterbirds can be seen on the meres, most often the introduced Canada Geese (with their white cheek patches) and various other non-wild hybrid ducks clutter the edge of The Mere. However, especially if you have binoculars or even a telescope, native and sometimes rather rare ducks, geese and other waterbirds can be found on the meres.

Near the canal watch for the dash of blue with the sharp call of a kingfisher or in spring and summer look out to the heronry on the man-made island behind the Visitor Centre. The keener birder in winter should find many duck species, even smew, and occasionally divers appear.

All three walks take you, for varying distances, along the Shropshire Union Canal towpath which is frequented by water traffic.

**Walk 1** is a short walk taking you through woodland and across castle mound, before returning to The Mere, and therefore involves some light uphill effort.

**Walk 2** continues along the towpath to the wharf and the town centre before offering access to Cremorne Gardens and The Mere - this is a short walk on the flat requiring no great uphill effort.

**Walk 3** to Colemere and back along the towpath is a longer walk over 5 miles - but the walking is fairly flat and easy all the way.

## Other places to visit in the area

### Ellesmere Trails

Follow the Meres trail or the shorter Cremorne Gardens nature trail. *Guides available from local newsagents and the Visitor Centre.*

### Cremorne Gardens

Beautiful park beside The Mere with children's playground, rowing boats and public conveniences.

### Colemere Country Park

Free access. Sited next to Shropshire Union Canal with car park, picnic area, public conveniences, walks, woods and water.

### Park Hall Farm

Working farm visitor attraction close to Whittington village.

### Brow Farm

A495 Oswestry road (2m). Farm museum, blacksmith (demonstrations by prior appointment) and nine-hole pay & play golf course, teas and snacks.

### Eastwick Nursery

A528 Wrexham road (2m). Browse amongst range of indoor and outdoor plants. Refreshments available.

## Tourist & Travel Information

### Maps

Landranger 126 • Pathfinder 827/828.

### Tourist Information Centres

**Ellesmere**, Mereside, (01691) 662981.

**Oswestry**, Mile End Services, (01691) 662488.

**Oswestry**, Heritage Centre, (01691) 662753.

### Tourist Information Points

**Whittington**, Maestermyn Marine.

**Whittington**, Castle News & Post Office.

**Welshampton**, Village Stores.

**St Martin's**, Stan's Superstore.

**Cockshutt**, Village Stores.

**Gobowen**, Post Office.

**Wem**, Martins Newsagent.

### Nearest Railway Station(s)

**Wem**

**Gobowen**

**Chirk**

### Nearest Bus Stop(s)

**Ellesmere Town Centre**

### Bus Service(s)







For details contact:







### Shropshire Traveline

(0345) 056785

For information on public transport.

## Please remember the Countryside Code!

-  Enjoy the countryside and respect it's life and work
-  Guard against all risk of fire
-  Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
-  Keep your dogs under close control
-  Keep to public paths across farmland
-  Take your litter home

-  Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
-  Help to keep all water clean
-  Protect wildlife, plants and trees
-  Take special care on country roads
-  Leave all gates as you find them
-  Make no unnecessary noise.

**Remember to wear suitable clothing and footwear. Walking in the countryside can be slippery - please take extra care in wet conditions.**

# Walking for pleasure

## Walking for Pleasure Series

### Ellesmere

- 1 - The Plantation, Castlefields Arboretum & The Wharf
- 2 - Colemere Country Park, Clarepool Moss & Welshampton

### St Martin's

- 1 - St Martin's Moor, Wat's Dyke & Ifton Heath

### Llanymynech & Pant

- 1 - Canal, Walls Bridge & Offa's Dyke
- 2 - Llanymynech Hill, Blodwel Rock & Llyncllys Common

### Craven Arms

- 1 - Stokesay Castle, Clapping Wicket & View Edge
- 2 - Norton Camp, Halford & Strefford

### Corvedale

- 1 - Little London & Middlehope Hill
- 2 - Broncroft Castle, Beambridge & Millichope Park
- 3 - Diddlebury, Christmas Cross & Corfton

### Clunton

- 1 - Bury Ditches, The Stepple & Merry Hill
- 2 - Clunton Coppice, Sowdley Wood & Purslow

### Bishop's Castle

- 1 - The Wintles & Woodbatch
- 2 - Lydbury North & Oakley Mynd
- 3 - Hell Hole, Acton Bank & Brockton

### Clee Hill

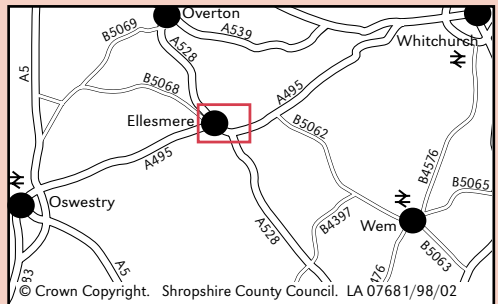
- 1 - Treenpits, Three Forked Pole, Horseditch & Dhustone

Walking for Pleasure is a series of leaflets developed under the Shropshire Sustainable Rural Tourism Project (South Shropshire Pilot) 1994-1997. Each leaflet contains circular walking routes of varying length (normally between 2-7 miles) and character across the beautiful scenery of Shropshire.

The leaflets are based on walking routes from designated car parking places. They are prepared with local groups (*usually via the Parish Paths Partnership*) and are aimed at encouraging users to explore further afield than they might normally venture. The walks in this leaflet were recommended by the Ellesmere Town Council, North Shropshire District Council and Shropshire County Council Countryside Service.

Details of refreshment opportunities, car parking, tourism and public transport information, wildlife and other things to see and do in the area are also included.

We hope you enjoy your walking.



Published by Shropshire County Council © 1998

with funding support from the European Regional Development Fund,  
the Rural Development Commission, the Countryside Commission.

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Designed by the Design Team, SCC. Printed by Imprint, Newtown on recycled paper.