

# The Acton Scott Ride

## Old Ways, Wild Views and Rebellion

Route 3



### Acton Scott Farm Museum

Acton Scott Farm Museum depicts life on an upland farm in the mid Victorian era. There are practical demonstrations of historic farming using traditional skills and period horse-drawn machines. Every day you can see milking by hand and butter-making in the dairy. There are weekly visits from the wheelwright, farrier and blacksmith. The museum is open from the end of March to end of October.

### Caer Caradoc

Caer Caradoc, formed from some of the most ancient rock in Britain, is topped by a magnificent Iron Age Hill Fort. This is thought by some to have been used by the Celtic chieftain Caradoc (or Caratacus) in his attempt to stem the Romans advance.



### Chelmick Manor Farm

As you pass through Chelmick you will see Chelmick Manor Farm, a stone built Elizabethan Manor House. Its foundations are much older, dating back to the 11th century, while the left hand side of the house is of a much later construction bearing the date 1719.



Here you will ride where people have lived and worked for at least 3000 years. See a historic working farm, a Bronze Age hill fort and medieval fields and villages. Even the name of the place is ancient, Acton from the Saxon for oaks – “ac” and settlement – “tun”

Caer Caradoc was the last great fortress of Caractacus. It was from here that this Bronze Age chieftain fought the invading Romans. Eventually he was captured and taken to Rome. Emperor Claudius was so impressed with the man and his bravery that he released him a free man.

Park up at Acton Scott and visit the historic working farm museum. Here you get a fascinating insight into farming life as it was at the turn of the 20th Century. Real horse power turns the machinery and craftsmen still use the old ways.

It wasn't just the Romans that rebels fought here. Move on a few centuries and you find a Saxon noble called Edric Savage. Known as Wild Edric he owned huge parts of Shropshire including Acton Scott and fought the Norman invaders in the 11th Century.

On Hazler Hill you find one of the best viewpoints in Shropshire. To the east Wenlock Edge and beyond the Clee Hills – Brown Clee is the highest point in the County. To the north the best of all Caer Caradoc, thought by some to have inspired Tolkien.

### KEY to maps

- Ride Route with direction number
- Jack Mytton Way
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Byway
- A Road / B Road
- Other road

- Public House
- Telephone
- Car Parking
- Visitor Information
- Take care – busy road
- Cafe / Shop
- Church
- Public Toilet
- Buildings

### INFORMATION

Royal Oak, Cardington: 01694771266  
Acton Scott Farm Museum: 01694 781306

**Start:** Acton Scott Farm Museum OS map 217 • Grid Ref: SO455897

- 1** Turn left out of car park.
- 2** Take brideway on right and follow track diagonally across field following bridleway which eventually enters a wooded area.
- 3** At bridleway junction in woodland keep left. Follow headland path which joins a track that takes you to Chelmick.
- 4** Turn left, joining the Jack Mytton Way, and follow lane for 1/2 mile (0.8km) to T junction.
- 5** Turn right and follow lane to B4371.
- 6** Carefully cross straight over road and continue along farm track through Gaerstones Farm to Cwms Farm.
- 7** Go through gate before Cwms Farmhouse and bear immediately right uphill. Go through gate onto hillside. Turn left and follow narrow path along the bottom of the hill. Continue until you see a wicket gate and bridleway on left.
- 8** Turn right steeply uphill. Follow track over Hope Bowdler Hill and down to the main road (B4371) in village.
- 9** Cross road carefully turning right. Follow road for 500m.
- 10** Turn left towards Soudley.
- 11** In Soudley turn right and follow lane for 1/2 mile to Chelmick.

- 12** From here you can return to Acton Scott along the route followed on your outward journey or take the following alternative:

At bend in road in Chelmick turn left between buildings to field gate. Follow field edge then cross field to woodland.

- 13** Keep to track through woodland to wicket gate. Follow field edge to join a track which takes you to Hatton Farm.

- 14** Pass farm buildings to road and turn right. Follow this lane for about a mile to return to your starting point.

