

# Guide for horse riders and cyclists on bridleways and byways in Shropshire

Guide to horse riders and cyclist on bridleways and byways in Shropshire

mountain bike trails. You can find out what is available from the Forestry Commission website.

[www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)



## Promoted routes in Shropshire for horse riders and cyclists

The Jack Mytton Way is the County Council's flagship bridleway and travels through nearly 100 miles of Shropshire's most beautiful and unspoilt countryside. The majority of the route is off road and the new southern section allows you to do a circular ride. There is also a series of 10 circular rides off the Jack Mytton Way in the Longmynd and Wenlock Edge area. These interlinking routes varying between 5 to 20+ miles, give you the chance to spend a few hours or a few days soaking up the scenery. These routes are waymarked with the Ride UK logo, as part of the British Horse Society strategy for a national bridleway network.



The Sabrina Way and Kerry Ridgeway are long distance linear routes. The Sabrina Way, devised by the British Horse Society, runs from Oxfordshire to the Pennines. The Shropshire section runs from the Wyre Forest through to Ironbridge and in places duplicates the line of the Jack Mytton Way. The Kerry Ridgeway, in the main, follows either roads, unclassified county roads (UCR's) or BOAT's from Bishop's Castle running along the border and into Wales.



There are many promoted cycle rides in the county, some shorter circular rides and some longer linear routes. Parts of the National Cycle Network, including The Mercian Way (Route 45), Route 81 and Route 31 run through Shropshire. A series of leaflets describe circular routes from market towns including Market Drayton, Ellesmere, Wem, Whitchurch, Craven Arms and Cleobury Mortimer. Most of these routes are on road but some have off road sections. You can also get information on Family Cycling, Tips for Cyclists and other information from the website.

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/cycling.nsf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/cycling.nsf)

You can view the long distance and circular routes on ShropMap or visit the Shropshire County Council web site for further information and downloadable leaflets.

If you want to extend your stay there is a wide choice of accommodation in the county for horse riders and cyclists. Details can be found on Shropshire tourism website.

[www.shropshiretourism.info](http://www.shropshiretourism.info)



**Further information**  
**Shropshire County Council**  
Shirehall  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY2 6ND  
Phone: (0845) 678 9000  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)

**The British Horse Society**  
Stoneleigh Deer Park  
Kenilworth,  
Warwickshire  
CV8 2XZ  
Phone: 08701 202244  
[www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)

### Related websites:

For information on the Countryside Code and other access issues contact:  
[www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)

For mapping advice from the Ordnance Survey contact:  
[www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/)

For further information on the National Cycle Network contact  
[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

### Country Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



**This leaflet is designed to provide horse riders, and those cyclists that like to get off-road, with some advice on where they can go. It is by no means exhaustive and further information can be obtained from the various web sites and organisations detailed on the back of this leaflet.**

### Shropshire's bridleway and byway network

With a network of over 620 miles (1,000km) of byways and bridleways zigzagging their way through the countryside, linked by a maze of quiet lanes Shropshire is a wonderful county for horse riding and cycling. The majority of these routes are in the south of the county and guide you through the stunning landscape of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This mainly hilly area provides you with a variety of rides, some challenging and some more leisurely but all through breathtaking scenery. The Long Mynd is well worth a visit, here the National Trust have an extensive network of both definitive and permissive bridleways. There is parking, a café and toilets at Carding Mill Valley. In the north of the county the network is more limited but certain areas such as Haughmond Hill and Nesscliffe Countryside Heritage Site are popular destinations.

### Where can I ride and cycle?

Get off-road by using the Rights of Way network. Horse riders and cyclists can use bridleways, restricted byways (RB's) and byways open to all traffic ('BOAT's'). To help you find them, all Rights of Way should be signed off the public road. In addition, there are a few unsurfaced,

unclassified county roads (UCR) that can be used. It is illegal to ride a horse or cycle on footpaths unless you believe you have the right to do so or you have been given permission by the landowner. For more information about public rights of way visit our web site

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf)

**Cyclists please be horse aware, your sudden appearance may startle horses. When approaching from behind please give a verbal warning.**



### Bridleways

Bridleways can be used by horse riders, cyclists and walkers. Most bridleways are unsurfaced paths across fields or follow hedged lanes. Most have gates along them, usually wicket gates, and dependant on the nature of the terrain,



they can get muddy. Farming is one of Shropshire's main industries and livestock is often found on bridleways.



Our bridleway signposts have a blue horse shoe and the routes are marked with blue arrows.

### Restricted Byways

This is a new category of Right of Way, which allows the same users as bridleways but also includes non motorised vehicles, which usually means carriage drivers. These routes are often along old hedged lanes and can be gated. Restricted byways are found mainly in the north of the county and are quite fragmented. Deep plum coloured arrows will be used to waymark restricted byways.

### BOAT's

Our highest category of Right of Way, used by everyone including motorised vehicles. Again these routes are mostly along old hedged lanes and can get muddy.



Red arrows are used to waymark BOAT's.

### How do I find out where these routes are?

The Definitive Map shows where all the Rights of Way in the county are. It can be viewed at Shropshire County Council's Countryside Access Teams office in the Shirehall, Shrewsbury. You can also view the network on our website using Shropmap. This is an interactive mapping system that enables you to find out where things are in the county.

[www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)



Although every effort is made to ensure the Rights of Way network is open and available, in such a large rural county problems can occur. If you come across any obstructions on the Rights of Way network please let us know by filling in a problem report form. These can be found under the feedback section on the web.

### Ordnance Survey maps

Another way of finding out where to ride is to look at Ordnance Survey maps. The best are the Explorer series (orange covers). They are at a convenient scale and clearly shows you the Rights of Way

network. Available at most bookshops or direct from the Ordnance Survey, those that cover Shropshire are:

OS Map Number 201 Knighton and Presteigne, 203 Ludlow, 216 Welshpool and Montgomery, 217 Longmynd and Wenlock Edge, 218 Wyre Forest and Kidderminster, 240 Oswestry, 241 Shrewsbury, 242 Telford, Ironbridge and The Wrekin, 243 Market Drayton, 257 Crewe and Nantwich.



Rights of Way are also shown on the Landranger (pink cover) series, but with less detail (for instance field boundaries are not shown), and therefore they are less suitable for finding your way across the countryside. Beware of old maps - they do not show Definitive Rights of Way reliably. The only map that is constantly updated is the Definitive Map.

### Riding on the road

It is inevitable, when linking up the bridleway and byway network, that you will have to use sections of road.



Motorists, horse riders and cyclists have a right to use the road network and share responsibility for each others needs.

In most cases quiet country lanes enable you to join up the off road sections of your ride but sometimes busy roads are used. Care is always needed. Wearing bright clothing, reflective or fluorescent is best, and suitable safety equipment is always advisable. More information on road safety for horse riders is provided by the British Horse Society. They carry out Riding and Road Safety training and give free advice to both horse riders and motorists on road safety. Information on child cycling training is provided by Shropshire County Council's Road Safety team.

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/roadsafety.nsf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/roadsafety.nsf)  
[www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)



### Forestry Commission sites

Horse riding and cycling are permitted in many forests and woodlands. You are welcome to enjoy many miles of bridleways and forest tracks and trails. Some of the trails are waymarked and places like Colstey and Hopton Wood and the Wyre Forest have challenging