

Fruits of the Forest

Explore the rolling countryside at the northern end of Cheshires sandstone spine.

Grade	Circular
Distance	28km/15miles
Time	Allow 3 hours
Start	Delamere Forest
Map	OS Explorer 267
Terrain	Hilly. A mixture of firm tracks (some may be muddy in winter) and road work.
Barriers	N/A
Toilets	Delamere Forest Visitor Centre
Contact	Cheshire West and Chester Council Tel: 01606 271736



Route Details

The ride starts in Delamere Forest, along wide tracks through mixed woodland. Keep an eye out for fungi beneath the majestic sweet chestnut avenues which glow in the autumn sunshine.

Soon you reach Kelsall, the first of three villages nestled beneath the broad sandstone ridge. Everywhere you look there is evidence of local stone being put to good use in walls, buildings and gateposts.

A steep climb from Utkinton is rewarded with panoramic views across the plain to Peckforton and the distant hills of Wales and Shropshire beyond. Look out for Llamas as you go!

Enjoy a last 'roller-coaster' descent down the Yeld before making your way back through the forest.

Directions

Start from the car park at Linnere Picnic Area.

1. Turn right out of the car park entrance.
2. Turn right over the railway bridge (marked 'no entry') and follow the main track straight through the forest. Pass marker posts numbered 7,10,49,51 and 44.
3. Reach the road and turn left.
4. At the crossroads turn left. Continue along this lane, under the bypass to a junction opposite the Olive Tree Public House (previously called the Morris Dancer).
5. Turn left and go uphill to next crossroads.
6. Turn right into church street, then left into Willington Lane.
7. Go through Willington village. Turn left opposite Willington Hall Hotel, signed to Utkinton.
8. In Utkinton village turn left up Quarry Bank and go steeply uphill.
9. Pass Knights Lane on the right and at the T junction turn left onto Heaths Lane.
10. Pass Tirley Lane on the left and eventually turn right into Waste Lane.
11. At the crossroads go straight across and over the bypass on Yeld Lane.
12. Where the road turns sharply left at the bottom of the hill, turn right onto a track.
13. At the metal barrier turn left on a track into the forest. After 100 metres veer right then left to continue in the same direction into the forest.
14. Turn right at a T junction of paths, then left at the next T junction to cross the railway.
15. Carry straight on to the track crossroads (marker 49) and turn right . Follow this track, forking right to cross the railway again.

16. Turn left along the road then left again into Linnere Picnic Area.