



# The Delamere Loop

## Accommodation Providers

### Akesmere Farm Bed & Breakfast

OS Grid Ref. SJ589/669  
B&B for horse and rider.  
Chester Road, Little Budworth, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 9ER  
Tel: 01829 760348  
[www.akesmerefarm.co.uk](http://www.akesmerefarm.co.uk)

### Hill House Farm Bed & Breakfast

OS Grid Ref. SJ583/625  
Luxury B&B or Self Catering for horse and rider.  
Rushton, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 9AU  
Tel: 01829 732238  
[www.hillhousefarm-cheshire.co.uk](http://www.hillhousefarm-cheshire.co.uk)

## Useful Businesses

### Equestrian Escapes

Tailor-made horse riding holidays in Cheshire.  
Tel: 01829 781123 [www.equestrian-escapes.com](http://www.equestrian-escapes.com)

### Cheshire Polo Club

OS Grid Ref. SJ580/670  
The oldest polo club in England; pop along on Saturday or Sunday afternoon during the seasons for an amazing spectacular.  
Tel: 01270 611100 [www.cheshirepoloclub.com](http://www.cheshirepoloclub.com)

### Willington Hall Riding Centre

OS Grid Ref. SJ532/661  
BHS Approved Riding School with escorted horse riding for all abilities.  
Willington, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0NA  
Tel: 01829 751920 [www.willingtonriding.co.uk](http://www.willingtonriding.co.uk)

### Rose Farm Shop

OS Grid Ref. SJ548/652  
Local produce farm shop and cafe.  
Utkinton, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0LP  
Tel: 01829 732978 [www.rosefarmshop.co.uk](http://www.rosefarmshop.co.uk)

### Stonyford Cottage Gardens, Tea room & Nursery

OS Grid Ref. SJ581/708  
Stonyford Lane, Oakmere, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 2TF  
Tel: 01606 888970 / 01606 888128  
[www.stonyfordcottagegardenursery.co.uk](http://www.stonyfordcottagegardenursery.co.uk)  
Email: [info@stonyfordcottagegardenursery.co.uk](mailto:info@stonyfordcottagegardenursery.co.uk)  
Open Tues - Sun 10am - 5pm and Bank Holidays.  
1st March - 31st October. Group visits welcome.

### Kelsall Hill Equestrian Centre

OS Grid Ref. SJ547/684  
Set in spectacular Cheshire countryside providing excellent outdoor horse facilities and events throughout the year.  
Organsdale Farm, Middlewich Road, Kelsall, Cheshire CW6 0SR  
Tel: 07809 689972 [www.kelsallhill.co.uk](http://www.kelsallhill.co.uk)  
Email: [admin@kelsallhill.co.uk](mailto:admin@kelsallhill.co.uk)

### Station House Café, Whitegate Centre

OS Grid Ref. SJ615/680  
Whitegate Station, Clay Lane, Marton, CW7 2QE  
Tel: 01606 889567 [www.whitegatestation.org.uk](http://www.whitegatestation.org.uk)  
Email: [whitegatecafe@gmail.com](mailto:whitegatecafe@gmail.com)  
Open 7 days a week Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm and 10am - 4pm weekends and Bank Holidays.  
Ample parking for horse boxes, at the far end of the car park (beyond the toilet block).



### British Horse Society

Countdown to 2026 - protect your local bridleways from closure following the deadline.  
For more information contact the BHS Access team at [access@bhs.org.uk](mailto:access@bhs.org.uk)  
Tel: 02476 840515  
[www.bhs.org.uk/access-and-bridleways/2026](http://www.bhs.org.uk/access-and-bridleways/2026)



A 22mile/35km route for horse riders following bridleways, minor roads and permissive access through the countryside of central Cheshire

For more information about where to ride in Cheshire, visit [www.midcheshirebridleways.co.uk](http://www.midcheshirebridleways.co.uk) and [www.discovercheshire.com](http://www.discovercheshire.com)  
Photography courtesy of Katie Nickson





# The Delamere Loop

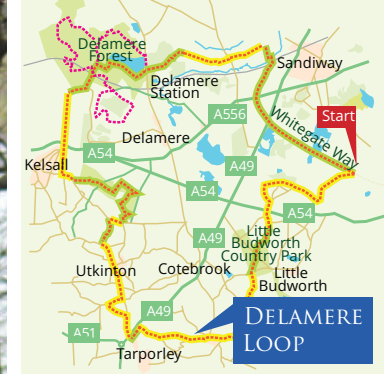
The loop runs from partway along the Whitegate Way round in a circle, taking in Delamere Forest, Primrosehill Wood, and Little Budworth Country Park. The route is largely on flat ground with gentle hills in its western area.

The route comprises some 12 miles/19km of surfaced roads (mostly without verges), the southern and western areas of the route comprising most of the road work. The rest of the route is 'off-road', along public rights of way and routes which are permissive. You should expect to share these routes with walkers and cyclists and in the case of roads and some permissive tracks, with motor traffic. Agricultural vehicles also use some of the off-road sections. Some of the off-road sections of the route can be wet during winter months.

At over 22 miles long, the whole loop would be a challenge to complete in one day. Why not consider staying at one of the B&B accommodation providers for horse and rider (listed on the back page), or having a tailor-made itinerary created by Equestrian Escapes?

The route can be followed by foot too. Walkers can avoid longer road sections by making the most of the footpath network in the area – refer to OS Map Explorer 267. Cyclists are advised that the surfaces of many sections of the route can make for difficult progress.

The Delamere Loop can be joined at any point; the directions given here start from the station car park of the Whitegate Way, just off Clay Lane in Marton, and go around the Loop in an anti-clockwise direction.



Look out for the distinctive blue and white fingerposts and waymark discs.

## Safety

Whilst most of the route follows quiet lanes and off-road trails it is occasionally necessary to cross busy roads. All such crossings on the Delamere Loop are shown on the maps by a warning triangle. Please take great care when crossing. The A54 and B5152 both carry fast traffic. For safety, it is recommended that you carry a mobile phone and wear high visibility clothing. We recommend that you use OS Map Explorer 267 to help you follow the route.

**PLEASE USE THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE.**

The Delamere Loop was devised by the Mid Cheshire Bridleways Association and this leaflet has been updated in 2017 with funding from Cheshire West & Chester Council and the British Horse Society. We would like to thank the many landowners, including the Forestry Commission, who have granted permission for the Delamere Loop to cross their land, without whom the route would not be possible.



## Route directions

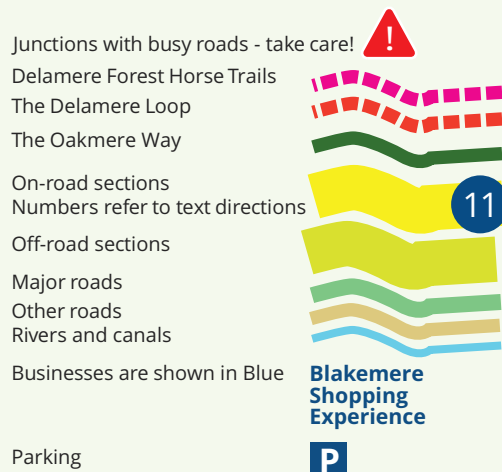
### Section 1

## Whitegate Way to Delamere Forest

1. Begin at the far end of the station car park for the Whitegate Way, off Clay Lane, Marton. Horse boxes should park at the far end near the toilet block. Turn left onto the Whitegate Way and continue along it until its northern termination at the railway bridge in Cuddington.  
A circular route can be ridden along the Oakmere Way and a leaflet can be downloaded from [www.midcheshirebridleways.co.uk](http://www.midcheshirebridleways.co.uk)
2. Go under the bridge and ride straight ahead, passing through the gate and across the bridge over the stream, through the trees up a slight incline. Then follow the public bridleway around the edge of the field until it emerges onto Cuddington Lane.
3. Turn left onto Cuddington Lane and continue, crossing the road junction onto Gallowsclough Lane (cross Stoneyford Lane/Cheese Hill Lane with care).
4. Continue along Gallowsclough Lane and when you reach a sharp right bend, go straight on along the track in front of you. This track bends to the left about halfway along and there are two horse stiles to negotiate. The track will bring you into Delamere Forest.



## Key



## Points of Interest

**THE WHITEGATE WAY** is a disused railway line, originally opened in 1870 to transport salt to the Manchester-Chester line. Today it is a haven for wildlife and people. Station House Café provides light refreshments at the station car park.

**BLAKEMERE VILLAGE** (just off the A556) combines numerous shops set in an Edwardian stable block with a garden centre, aviary for birds of prey, restaurant and touring caravan park.

**STONYFORD COTTAGE GARDENS, TEA ROOM & NURSERY** Stonyford Lane. One of Cheshire's Gardens of Distinction and a hidden treasure.



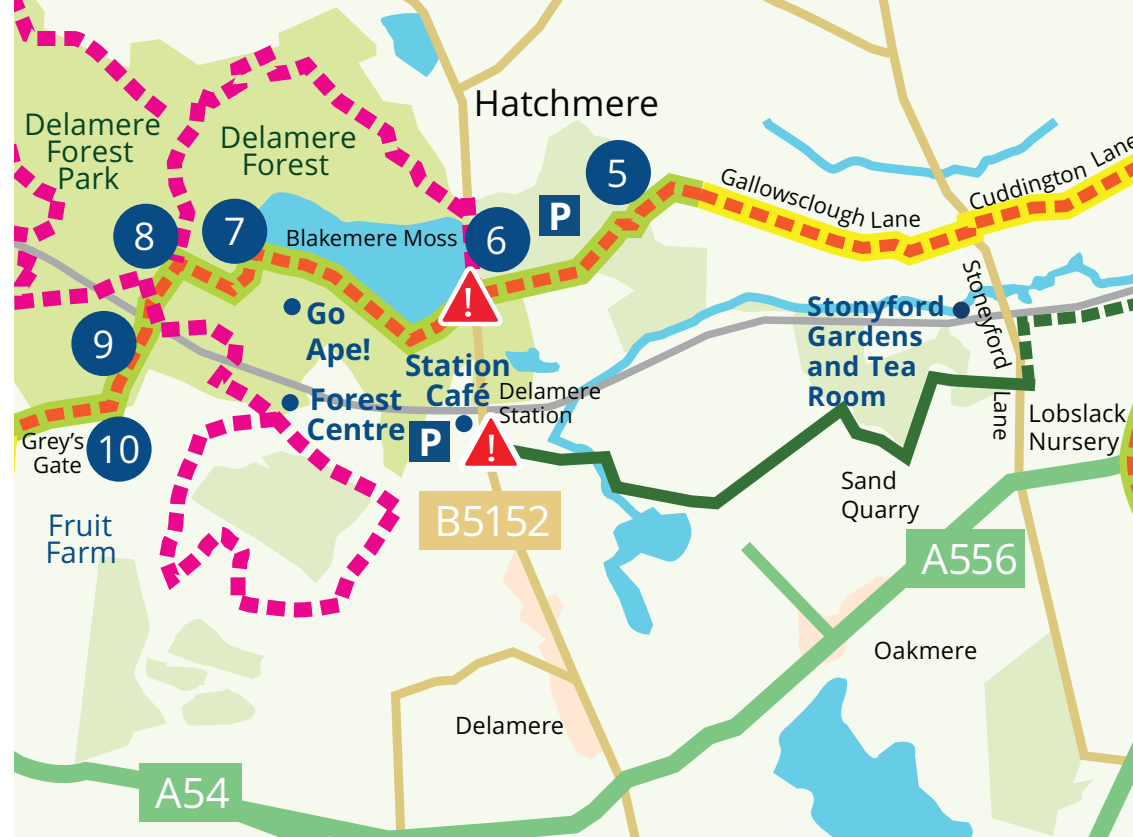


## Route directions

### Section 2

## Delamere Forest

5. Once you've entered Delamere Forest, you are free to explore the tracks as you wish, but if you want to follow the recommended route for horse riders this is waymarked and goes straight on towards the Whitefield car park.
6. Cross the car park and the road junction with care. Once across, you can turn either left or right around Blakemere Moss, following the specially waymarked trails for horse riders. If you prefer to take a more direct route, turn left around Blakemere Moss and continue along the track keeping the water to your right. Please note that Go Ape is sited near here and the noise and activity can frighten some horses.
7. When you reach the junction of paths at the end of the Moss, turn left and then right.
8. Turn left again and continue over the railway bridge.
9. About 75m after crossing the railway, when you reach a junction of 4 paths, take the path ahead across a small stream. Once across, ignore the footpath to the right. The path ascends an incline with trees either side.
10. Turn right onto the track out of the trees and continue out of the forest to Grey's Gate.



### Points of Interest

**DELAMERE FOREST** is a remnant of an extensive royal hunting forest that covered the area in medieval times.

**BLAKEMERE MOSS** was once drained by Napoleonic prisoners of war and trees were planted. Today the wetland has been restored and it is an excellent habitat for a huge variety of wildlife, popular with bird watchers.



## Route directions

### Section 3

#### Grey's Gate to Heath Green

11. Turn left up Yeld Lane, over the road bridge and straight on at the road junction, past the village of Kelsall.
12. Follow the bend in the road to the left and enter the car park for Primrosehill Wood.
13. From the car park, follow the Delamere Loop waymarks through the woods. The route is about 2 miles/3.5 km and brings you out near Tirley Farm on Tirley Lane.
14. Turn right past the farm and take the first public bridleway on the left signposted 'John Street'.
15. At the end of the bridleway, turn left along John Street towards the village of Utkinton.
16. Go straight on at the cross roads with Smithy Lane/Wood Lane.
17. At the junction with Fishers Green, turn right, then left and then right again, back onto Utkinton Road.
18. Go straight on over the road bridge and after about 20m, turn left into the path through the trees. Head along this path as it takes you parallel to the A49/Tarporley Bypass.
19. When you get to the end, turn right along Heath Green.

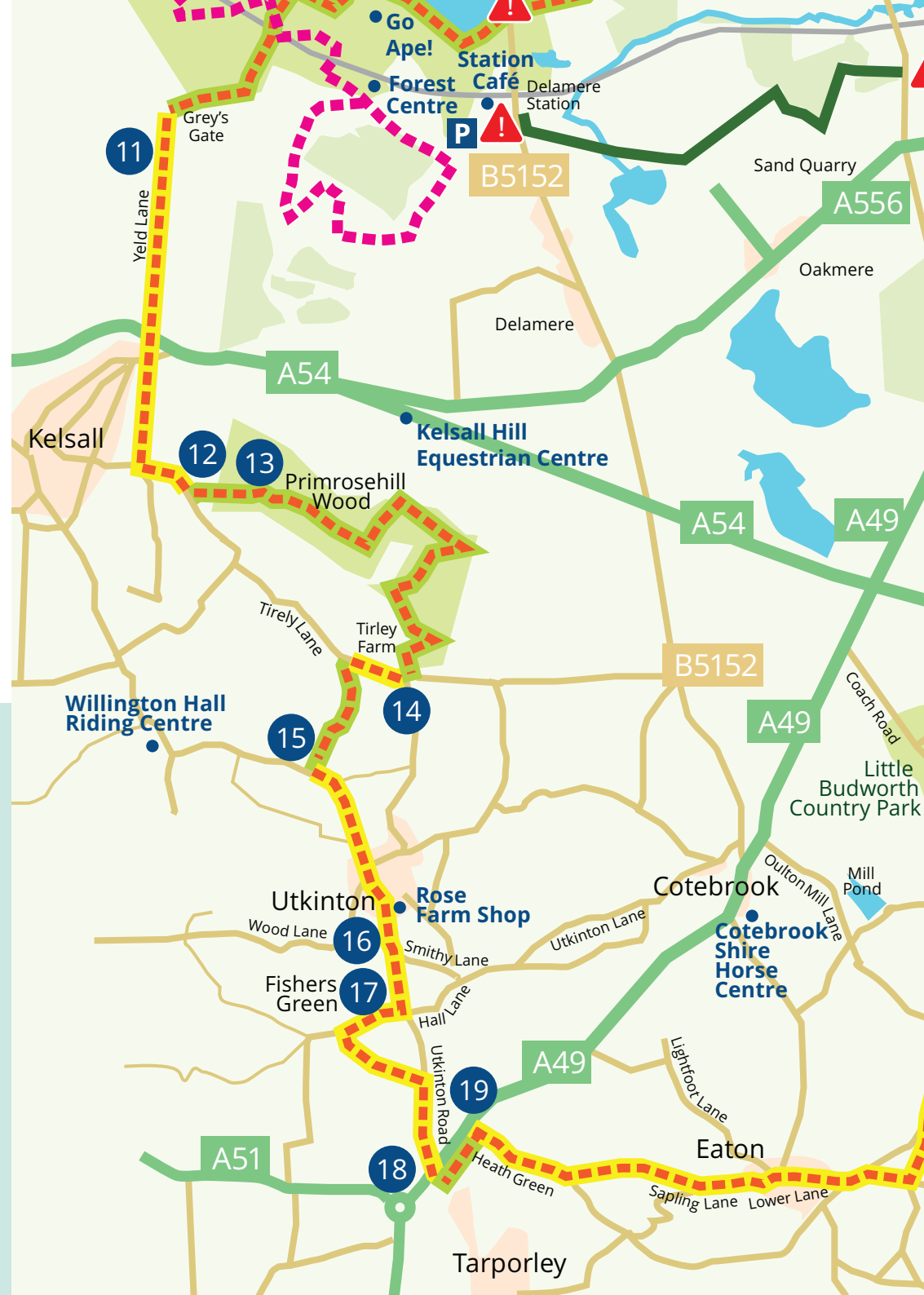


#### Points of Interest

**'URCHIN'S KITCHEN'** in Primrosehill Wood is a beautiful, fern-lined, miniature gorge, carved out during the last Ice Age.

**KELSALL HILL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE** Set in spectacular Cheshire countryside providing excellent facilities including gallops, farm ride and cross country schooling.

**THE VILLAGE OF UTKINTON** became famous in the 17th Century for its pure, curative spring, known as the **'WHISTLEBITCH WELL'**. Its remains lie hidden in Primrosehill Wood.





## Route directions

### Section 4

## Heath Green to Little Budworth Country Park

20. At the end of Heath Green, go straight on over the junction and then left along Sapling Lane.
21. At the end of Sapling Lane, in the middle of Eaton, cross straight over the road with care onto Lower Lane.
22. Turn left along Dogmore Lane past the village of Rushton.
23. Bear right onto Rushton Lane past Oulton Park racing circuit until you come to the T-junction with Park Road.
24. Cross with care and take the right hand side one of the two restricted byways which run through Little Budworth Country Park, starting from the informal car park.
25. The byway will bring you to the Coach Road; cross over with care and continue along the restricted byway.
26. Continue past Whitehall Farm onto Whitehall Lane.

### Section 5

## Akesmere Farm to the Whitegate Way

27. At the T-junction at the end of Whitehall Lane, cross the A54 with care and go straight onto Pit Lane, past Akesmere Farm.
28. Bear left onto Longstone Lane and then right onto Shay's Lane, past the woodlands at Abbots Moss.
29. At the junction with Clay Lane, bear left onto Clay Lane.
30. Just before the road bridge with the traffic lights, turn right to return to the station car park for the Whitegate Way.
31. At the end of the journey, Station House Café.



## Points of Interest

In the Middle Ages, **LITTLE BUDWORTH** was part of an ancient hunting forest. Today it is one of the largest remaining heathland habitats in Cheshire. The pretty village of **EATON** is home to the remains of the only known Roman Villa in the north west of England.

**ABBOTS MOSS** is part of a complex of basin mires surrounded by associated wet and dry heathland. The mires support several species of moss as well as cotton grass and cranberry.

