

Waymarked, recreational paths covering the mid Cheshire Sandstone Ridge

Waymarking enables users to follow a path accurately and confidently at points where they might otherwise have difficulty. Although the Sandstone Ridge is nationally best known for the Sandstone Trail, there are several equally scenic waymarked footpaths crossing or passing the Ridge that will often take the walker to more remote areas, including hills, meres, river and canal banks, quiet country lanes and woods. Views from, or to the Ridge provides a consistent landscape element to these footpaths.

Recreational, or waymarked paths are routes created by local authorities, Government agencies or volunteer organisations. They mainly follow existing rights of way and are signposted typically by whichever organisation created the route. If the route is also an existing right of way it will be maintained by a local authority and, if it is a public footpath, marked by a yellow arrow.

There are 10 waymarked paths running through the Ridge area, many are over 20 miles in length. They are all described below. They are all marked by posts with discs specific to the particular route.

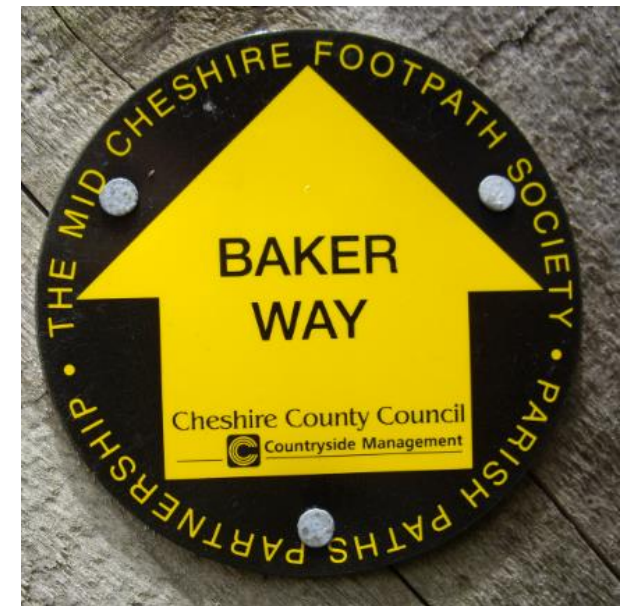
National Trails are long distance walking, cycling and horse riding routes. There are 16 National Trails in England, designated by the Government and administered by Natural England. Although there are no National Trails over the Sandstone Ridge, the waymarked, recreational paths described here more than make up for this absence.

Details of all of these routes here can be found by simple internet searches, with further information on the Mid Cheshire Footpath Society website.

Although all these routes are linear, the abundance of public and permissive footpaths easily allows for shorter, circular walks to be taken.

Baker Way

The Baker Way is a footpath running from Chester railway station to Delamere railway station, thereby enabling links to bus and rail services. This 13 mile path passes through classic Cheshire Plain countryside before rising up to Delamere Forest.



Bishop Bennet Way

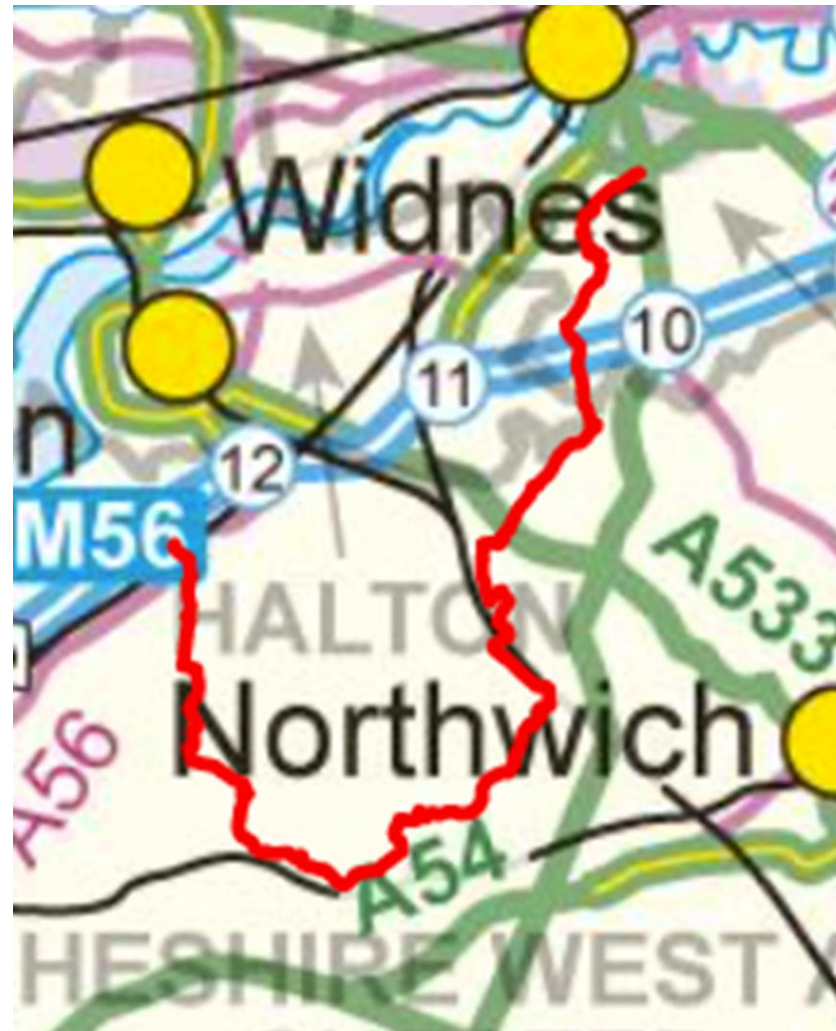
The bridleway way starts near Beeston Castle and runs westward to Aldford then south to Malpas, and finishes near Wirswall on the Cheshire–Shropshire border.

This 34 mile route was primarily designed for horse riders.



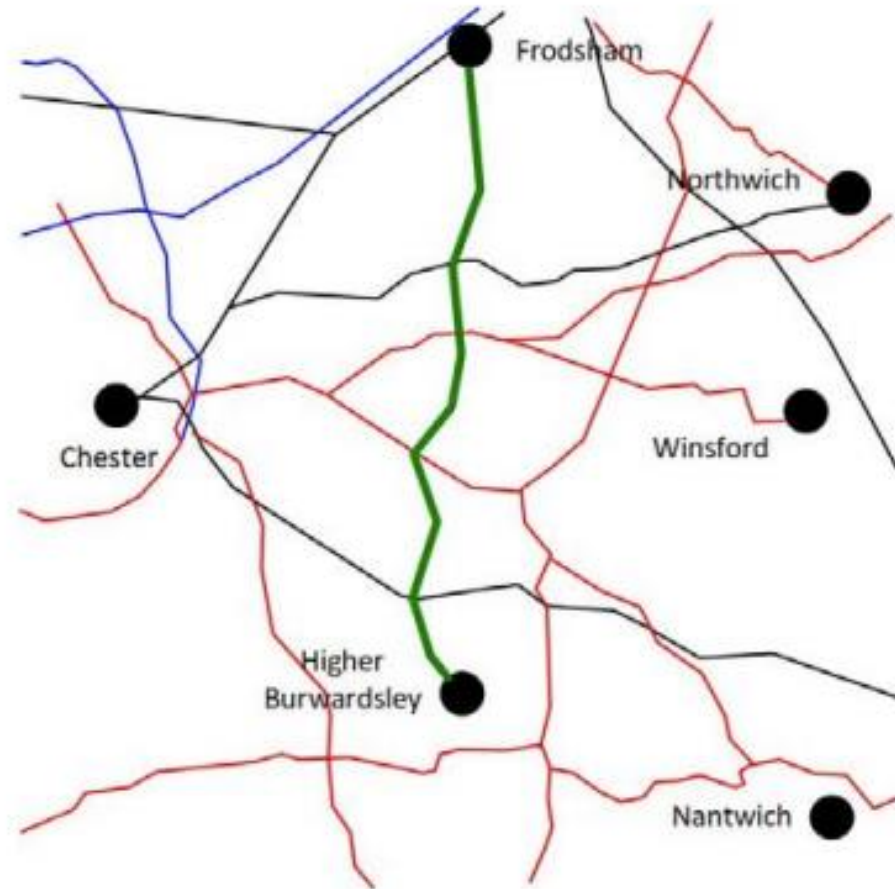
Delamere Way

Running from Stockton Heath to Frodsham, this 21 mile walk passes across the Weaver Valley to Delamere Forest and over the Ridge escarpment at Frodsham, providing a wide diversity of mid Cheshire landscapes.



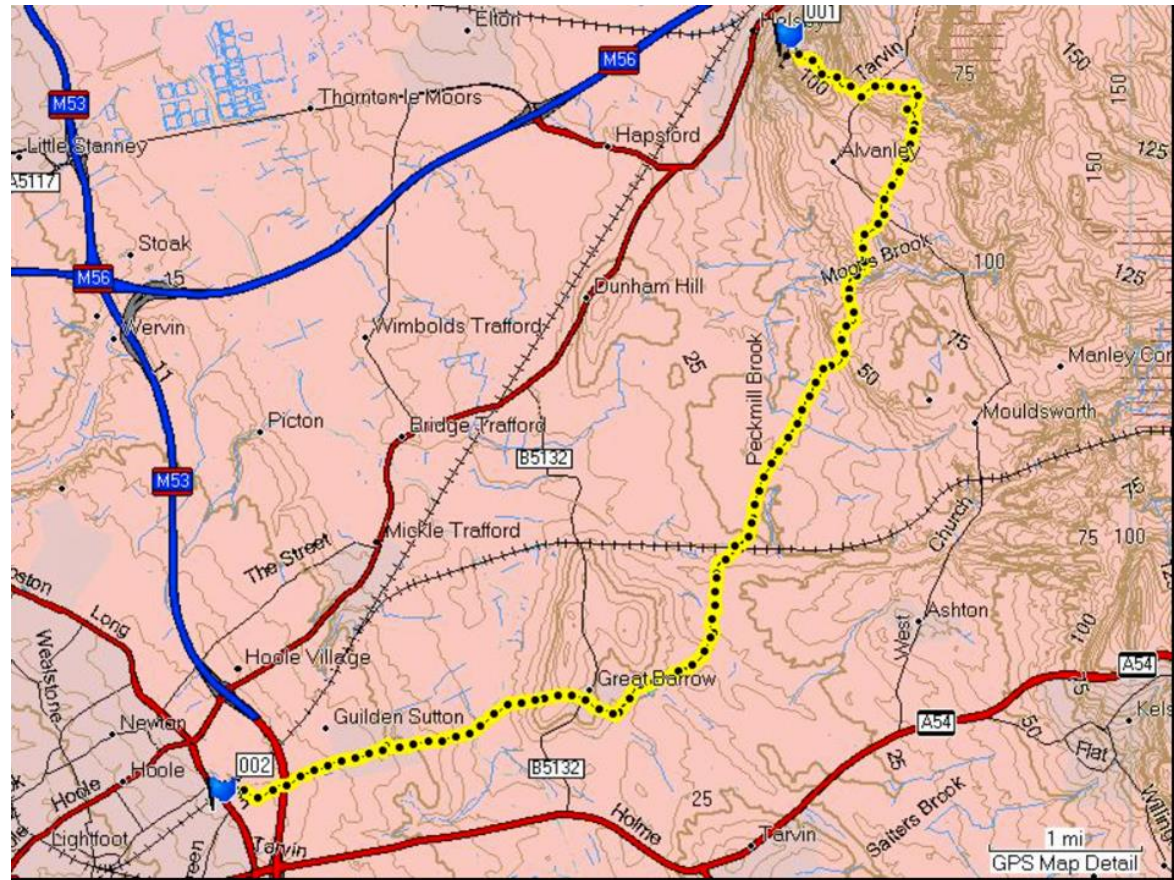
Eddisbury Way

A 17 mile route running from Frodsham to Higher Burwardsley. The path broadly parallels the Sandstone Trail to the west, taking in more of the ridge fringe and Cheshire Plain, but always close to and providing views of the ridge.



Longster Trail

This trail runs for 10 miles from the summit of Helsby Hill, Helsby to the village of Piper's Ash, Chester, passing through a good representation of Cheshire landscapes.



North Cheshire Way

It runs approximately eastwards from Hooton railway station on the Wirral peninsula to Disley railway station on the edge of the Peak District. It crosses the northern end of the Ridge, passing through Alvanley, climbing the escarpments of Helsby and Frodsham giving long views across the Mersey River to Liverpool, then dropping down the eastern flank to pass along the River Weaver to Acton.

It is Cheshire's longest long-distance footpath.



Two Saints Way

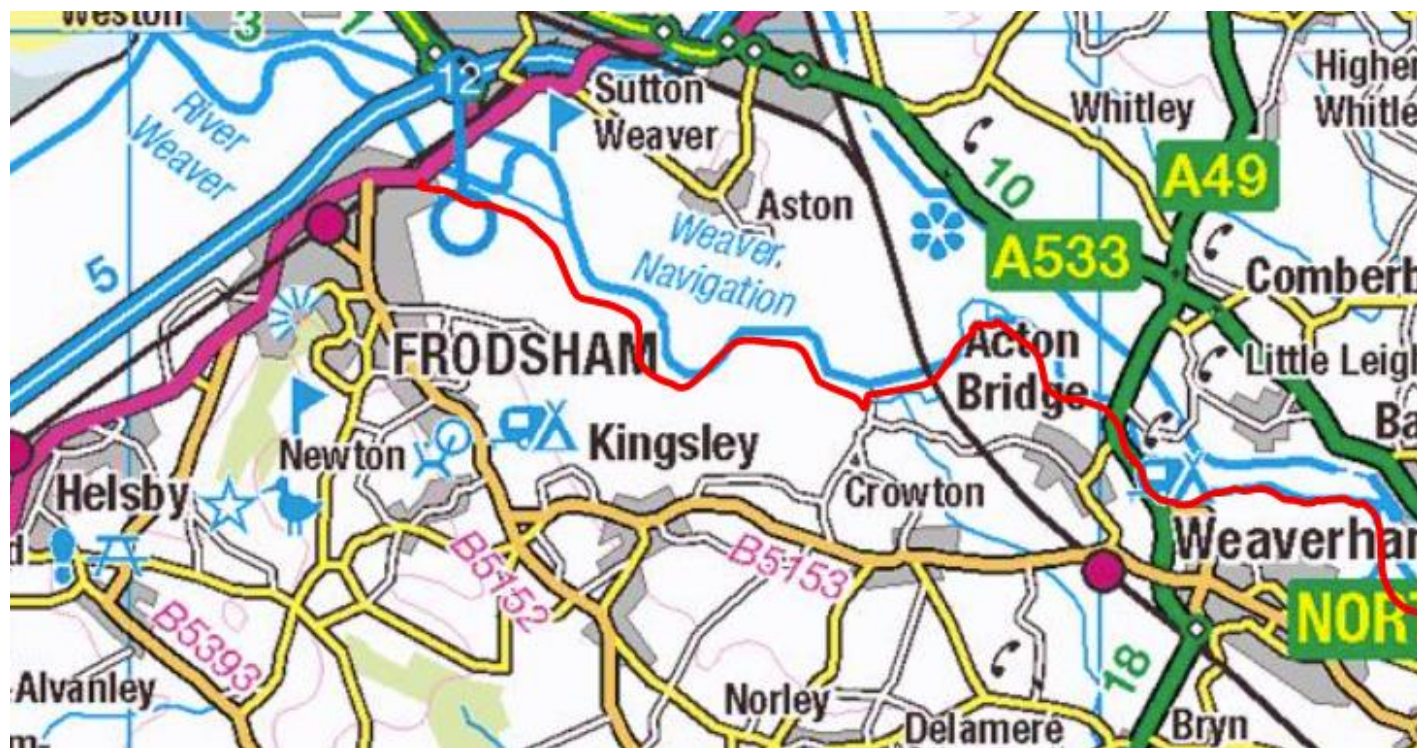
The 92 mile long distance path between the cathedral cities of Chester and Litchfield, passes through the Beeston Gap, mainly along the Shropshire Union canal, turning south to pass Beeston Castle onwards to Bunbury and the Grade II listed Bunbury Locks.

This route provides fantastic views of Beeston and Peckforton castles and an abundance of wildlife can be seen from the canal towpath. Keep an eye open for Kingfishers.



Weaver Way

Another route with much wildlife to be seen, this path stretches from its most southerly point at Audlem to Frodsham in the north, and takes the walker along the Shropshire Union Canal as well as along the lower reaches of the River Weaver (which has its source on the eastern flank of the Peckforton Hills, in the southern part of the Ridge).



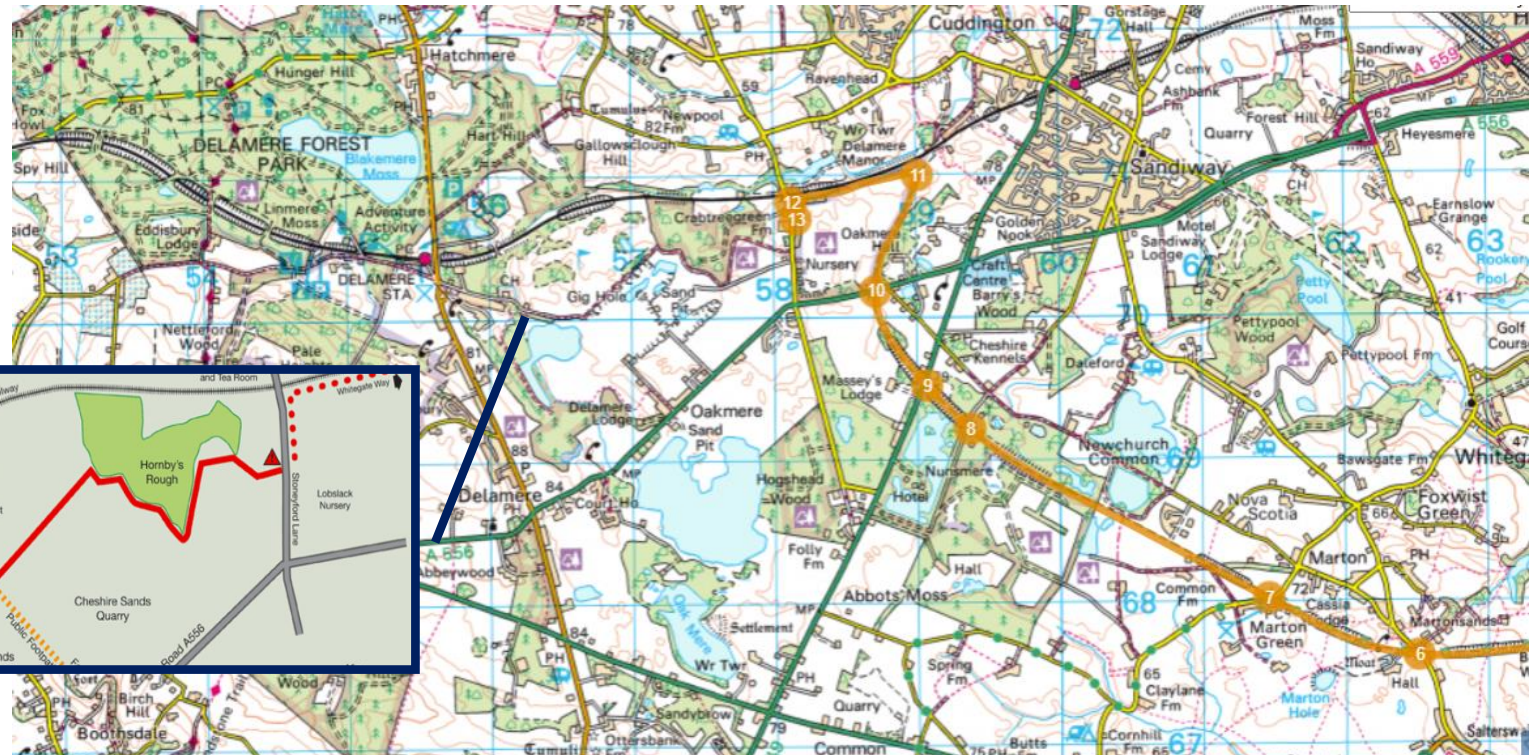
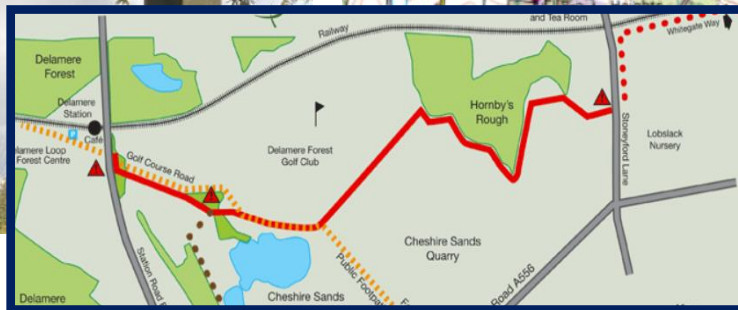
The Whitegate Way

The Whitegate Way is a 6-mile traffic-free route from Winsford to Cuddington, near Delamere Forest Park. The Way itself is flat, so suitable for walking, cycling and horse riding, and for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

The Whitegate railway line carried salt for almost 100 years, from the mines along the west bank of the River Weaver up to Cuddington where it joined the Chester - Manchester line.

The line finally closed in 1966 and today you can enjoy a picnic at Whitegate Station. Shady wooded cuttings contrast with sunny open embankments, offering spectacular views over the patchwork fields towards the Peckforton Hills.

The Oakmere Way is a dedicated bridleway linking the Whitegate Way with Delamere Forest.



Sandstone Trail

The Trail stretches for 34 miles/ along Cheshire's Sandstone Ridge and offers superb, unbroken views in all directions. The route provides often elevated walking, sometimes by ancient Iron Age settlements and forts, as well as at lower levels, passing Beeston Castle and through Delamere Forest.

Judging by its visitors, this is undoubtedly a nationally important route and passes several designated wildlife and geological sites. There are now numerous opportunities for food, drink and accommodation along the Trail.

