

## Useful Businesses

### Stonyford Cottage Gardens, Tea Room and Nursery

[www.stonyfordcottagegardenursery.co.uk](http://www.stonyfordcottagegardenursery.co.uk)

Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm and Bank Holiday Mondays

1st March to 31st October. Group visits welcome.

Tel: 01606 888970 / 01606 888128

### Delamere Forest Centre

Off Station Road, Linmere

Delamere Forest Café [www.delamerecafe.com](http://www.delamerecafe.com)

Delamere Outdoor Fitness [www.delamereoutdoorfitness.co.uk](http://www.delamereoutdoorfitness.co.uk)

Tel: 07968 077180

Tracs Uk Ltd (Bike Hire) [www.delamerebikes.co.uk](http://www.delamerebikes.co.uk)

Tel: 07949 088477

Forest Explorers [www.forest-explorers.co.uk](http://www.forest-explorers.co.uk)

Tel: 07808 506308

### Forest Holiday Cottages

[www.forestholidaycottages.com](http://www.forestholidaycottages.com)

Lynmere Moss Farm, Delamere CW8 2JD.

Bring your horse on holiday.

Tel: 01606 881997

### Delamere Station House Café

Station Road Tel: 01606 889825

### Delamere Stores

Station Road

### Blakemere Village

A fun day out for all the family.

[www.visitblakemere.co.uk](http://www.visitblakemere.co.uk)

Open 7 days a week 10am - 5pm inc. Bank Holidays

Tel: 01606 883261

### Photography

Courtesy of Lynda Haney

# Mid Cheshire Bridleway Association



This project has been funded under the Rural Development Programme for England

## The Oakmere Way



A 3.2km long multi-user route which creates a link between the Whitegate Way and Delamere Forest.



## About the Mid Cheshire Bridleway Association

Mid Cheshire Bridleways was formed in 1991 to promote safe riding in pleasant surroundings. We are affiliated to the British Horse Society and the Bridleways and Byways Trust.

We cover the area from the Wirral to Chester, south to Nantwich and east as far as the M6. For further information, how to join us and details of other routes for riders please see our website also available from the QR code:  
[www.midcheshirebridleways.co.uk](http://www.midcheshirebridleways.co.uk)



## The Oakmere Way OAKMERE WAY

The Oakmere Way is a dedicated bridleway linking the Whitegate Way with Delamere Forest. It was completed in Spring 2014 and is just over 3km (2 miles) long. It was initiated by Mid Cheshire Bridleway Association in partnership with the landowners Lafarge Tarmac Trading Ltd and the Crown Estate. Support was received from Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Forestry Commission and Marketing Cheshire with funding from Natural England's Paths for Communities budget. As a multi-user route, it is available for walkers, cyclists and horseriders.

The route follows land to the northern edge of the Cheshire Sands Quarry from Stoneyford Lane, linking with Station Road through a strip of woodland owned by the Crown Estate. This route links with the Delamere Loop creating a number of circular routes and riders should follow the signs.

## Points of Interest

**Delamere Loop** This is a 35km (22 mile) circular route for horse riders following bridleways, minor roads and permissive access. It includes part of the Whitegate Way, Delamere Forest, Primrosehill Wood and Little Budworth Country Park. It was also devised by Mid Cheshire Bridleways and is waymarked by blue signs. Booklets of the route are available from Mid Cheshire Bridleways or can be downloaded from [www.discovercheshire.co.uk](http://www.discovercheshire.co.uk) or [www.midcheshirebridleways.co.uk](http://www.midcheshirebridleways.co.uk)

## Public Transport

Northern Rail trains run from Delamere Station hourly on the Northwich to Chester Line. See [www.northernrail.org](http://www.northernrail.org) for timetable.

The No 82 bus runs from Northwich to Chester half hourly and stops at the top of Stoneyford Lane on the A556 Chesham Road. On Saturdays the buses are hourly and two hourly on Sundays. The timetable can be found on [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

## Parking

Parking for horse boxes is available at the Whitefield car park in Delamere Forest and at the Whitegate Way car park off Clay Lane, Marton. Please note that no parking is available on Stoneyford Lane.

## Links / Circular Routes

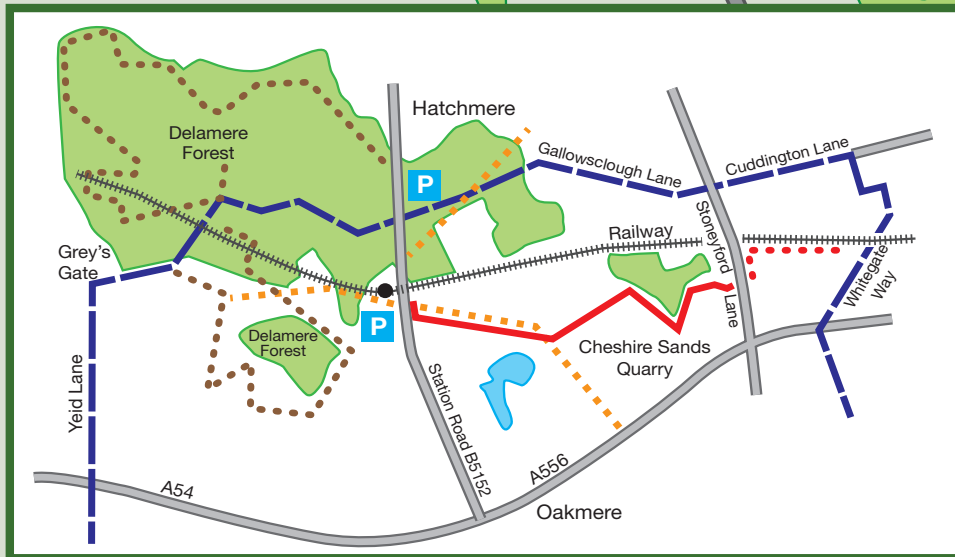
A circular route of 6-7miles (10km) can be created with part of the Delamere Loop starting at Whitefield Car Park in the Forest. This route is shown as an inset on the Oakmere Way plan in the central pages. This route includes forest tracks and a couple of minor roads. Additional loops can be ridden within the Forest including routes up to the summit of Old Pale which provides an impressive 360 degree panoramic view over seven counties.

## Please use the Countryside Code

For safety, it is recommended that you carry a mobile phone and wear high visibility clothing. Please be aware of potential hazards such as rabbit holes or mole hills. Please take care when crossing both Stoneyford Lane and Station Road.



# OAKMERE WAY



## Points of Interest

*The Whitegate Way* is a disused railway line which runs from Cuddington to Winsford. It originally opened in 1870 to transport salt to the Manchester to Chester line. Parking is available at the old station off Clay Lane, Marton.

*Hornby's Rough* is a plantation extending to 22 hectares managed by the Forestry Commission. It consists of Pine and Larch with smaller numbers of broadleaves including Oak and Birch.



## Cheshire Sands Quarry

This includes the former Crown Farm Quarry and Delamere Quarry and is operated by Lafarge Tarmac Trading Limited. The site works sands deposited during the last ice age to produce high quality construction materials. The quarry will be progressively restored into a mosaic of heathland, agricultural land, woodland and wetland habitats.

The restoration plan includes hedgerows, scrub and woodland planting to reflect the character of the area. These proposals will improve the wildlife value of the area in the long term. A variety of bird species can already be seen from the route including buzzards, kestrels, woodpeckers, redwings, fieldfares and reed buntings as well as the more common species such as robins and blackbirds. In winter migrating wildfowl can be seen on the wetland areas such as teal and wigeon.

## Points of Interest

*Delamere Forest and Old Pale* For over a thousand years Old Pale was a strategically important site. Originally there was a hill fort on the site which was reinforced by Ethylfreda, the daughter of King Alfred. The fort was eventually levelled by the Normans during the warring of the north.

Old Pale was one of the first areas in the forest to be cleared and at the time would have been completely surrounded by woodland. The forest originally stretched all the way to Macclesfield and was a royal hunting forest in medieval times. The name 'Delamere' comes from the Norman 'Foresta De La Mara' which means Forest of Lakes.



## Views

Although a relatively short route, the terrain is varied and includes wide grassed sections alongside Hornby's Rough and a narrower enclosed section winding through woodland. There are also some stunning views across the restored part of the quarry across to the summit of Old Pale. There are also views across the operational area of the quarry which will alter as quarrying proceeds over the years and as the site is progressively restored.