

Walking & Cycling from Merstone Station



Merstone Shelter

1. Return ticket to Shide.

7.7 m – 12.4 km EASY PEASY

An out and back route on a level, hard-packed surface. Those with little legs can turn back at Blackwater for a 3.8 m – 6.2 km trip. There are few rough patches with puddles in wet weather. Optional extension to Shide Chalk Pit Local Nature Reserve and Pan Mill Meadows

LOOK OUT FOR:

Dragonflies at Birchmore Pond,
Blackwater Troll



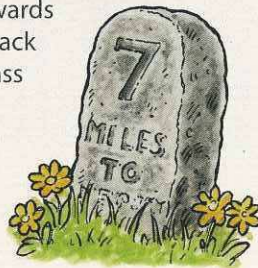
2. Redway Loop.

3.2 m – 5 km MEDIUM DIFFICULTY EASY

A circular route, initially heading towards Horingford on hard-packed cycle track and coming back on a section of grass with a slightly rough surface just above Redway.

LOOK OUT FOR:

The Merstone Dinosaur!
Yar Trail Milestone



Birdsfoot Trefoil at Merstone

3. Crouchers Circular.

3.90 – 6.3 km MEDIUM DIFFICULTY EASY

A mixed terrain route with cycle track to the old bridge then a section of quiet road to Crouchers Cross and then a bridleway with bumpy grass, returning on gravelly cycle track. There are some gates on this route.

LOOK OUT FOR:

Hidden Valley North of A2



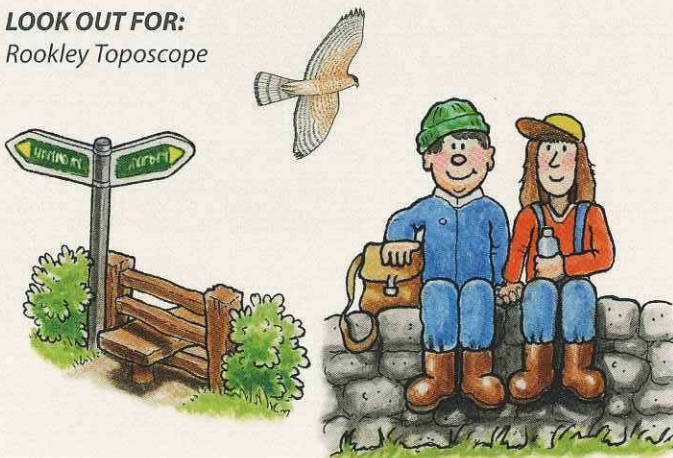
4. Rookley Rambler.

4.3m – 7 km TRICKY EASY

Starting out on smooth cycle track the route then turns onto a bridleway with a rutted and sometimes muddy surface. A section of main road follows with another stretch of farm track some of which is muddy and uneven.

LOOK OUT FOR:

Rookley Toposcope



5. Arreton Explorer.

9 m – 14.5 km TRICKY MEDIUM DIFFICULTY

Smooth cycle track, with occasional gravel patches and heading towards Arreton Barns and the Garlic Farm has some gravelly and muddy bridleway.

LOOK OUT FOR:

12th Century Church



6. St Georges Challenge.

7 m – 11 km TRICKY

Some smooth cycle track initially but turning to very steep and stony bridleway up to St Georges Down. The track along the top is rough and gravelly with many large pot holes, water filled in wet weather. There is a very steep descent on a tarmac road heading towards Shide.

LOOK OUT FOR:

Picnic spot at Shide Chalk Pit Local Nature Reserve,
Community Orchard in Pan Country Park



Community Orchard

The countryside surrounding Merstone Station is perfect for both cyclists and walkers to enjoy. The terrain is varied and this handy guide will help you make the most of your visit.



Here are some handy tips for where cyclists and walkers share routes.



When cycling:

- Use the path in a way that is considerate to the comfort and safety of others.
- Travel at a speed appropriate to the conditions and ensure you can stop in time.
- Be courteous and patient with other path users who are moving more slowly than you.
- Ring a bell well in advance if approaching people from behind - however, don't assume people can see or hear you - remember that many people are hard of hearing or visually impaired.
- Slow down as needed when space is limited or if you cannot see clearly ahead.
- Be particularly careful at junctions, bends and any other 'blind spots' where people could appear in front of you without warning



When walking:

- Keep your dog under control which may require a short lead and please clear up after them. Our rangers have to trim those verges!
- If you hear a cyclist approach please step to the side of the path to allow them to pass.

And always:

- Take care around horse riders leaving them plenty of room.
- Please take dog-litter bags home or put in bins - they don't look good hanging in hedges!

Gift to Nature is passionate about the Isle of Wight's wildlife, countryside and open spaces, from our famous red squirrels to obscure tiny rare bees. Since 2002 we have created and cared for a variety of green spaces both in towns and countryside.

We look after 29 countryside sites right across the island - keeping them beautiful and open and free for all to enjoy.

We want to share our lovely sites and all of the Island's beautiful countryside so we have produced trail maps and lead guided walks to encourage everyone to get out and explore. This map is a special guide for walkers and cyclists sharing the countryside routes around our Merstone Station site.

Thanks to all of our supporters

All of this work is only possible with the help of our committed supporters and amazing network of volunteers. All donations enable us to continue our conservation work on the Isle of Wight.

For more information about the countryside sites, the work we do and how you can help go to our website

www.giftnature.org.uk



Gift to Nature is part of Natural Enterprise
Registered charity 1083233

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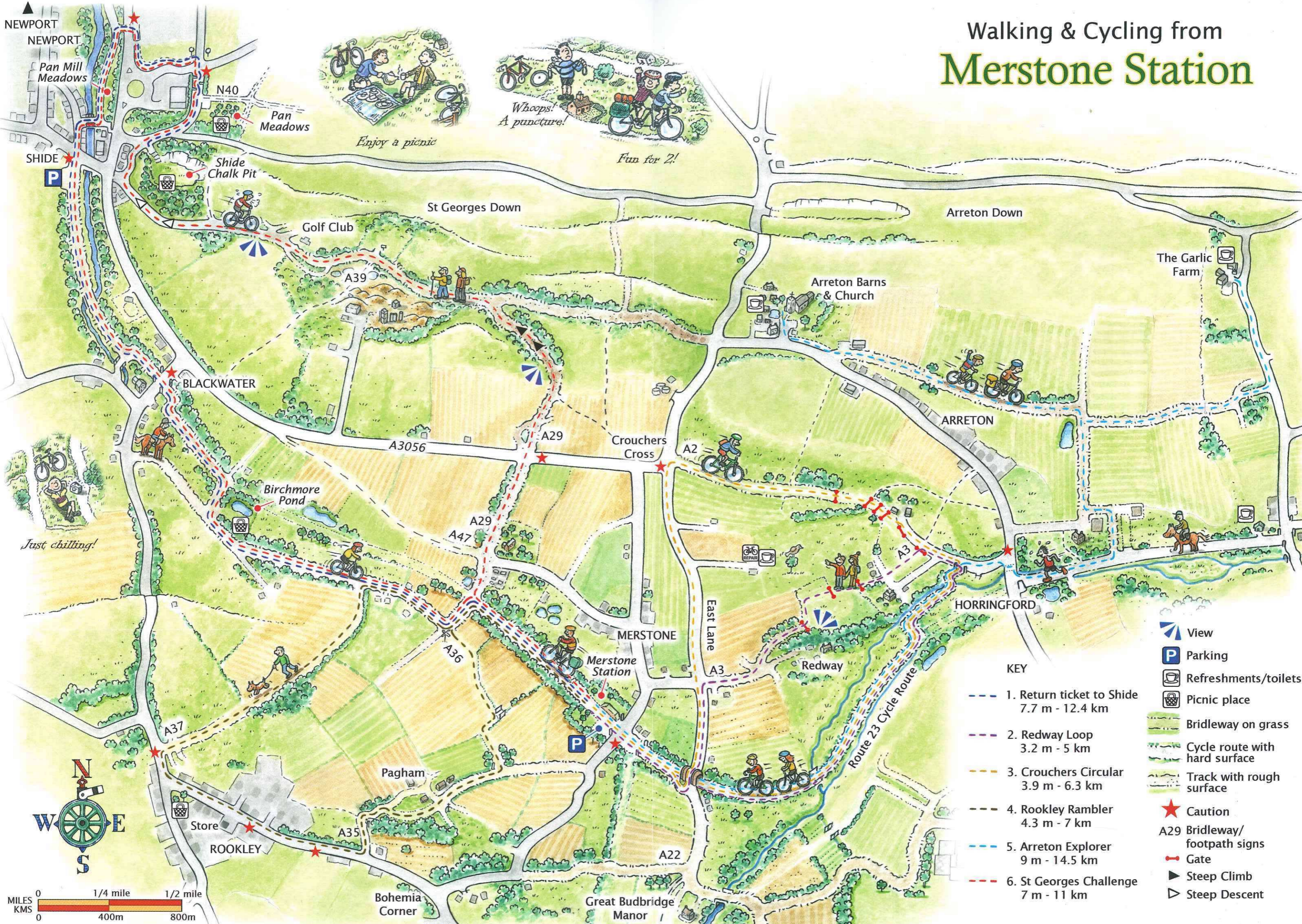


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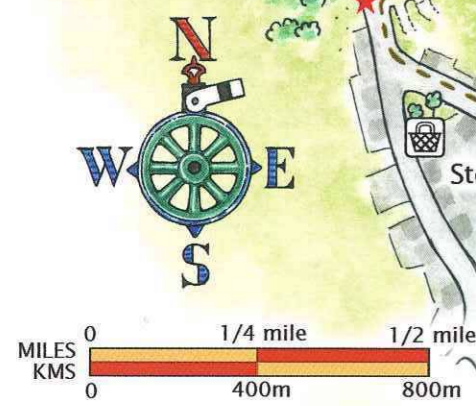
Loving our local countryside

giftnature.org.uk

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Just chilling!



- KEY**
- 1. Return ticket to Shide
7.7 m - 12.4 km
 - 2. Redway Loop
3.2 m - 5 km
 - 3. Crouchers Circular
3.9 m - 6.3 km
 - 4. Rookley Rambler
4.3 m - 7 km
 - 5. Arreton Explorer
9 m - 14.5 km
 - 6. St Georges Challenge
7 m - 11 km
- View
 - Parking
 - Refreshments/toilets
 - Picnic place
 - Bridleway on grass
 - Cycle route with hard surface
 - Track with rough surface
 - Caution
 - A29 Bridleway/footpath signs
 - Gate
 - Steep Climb
 - Steep Descent