

Route Description

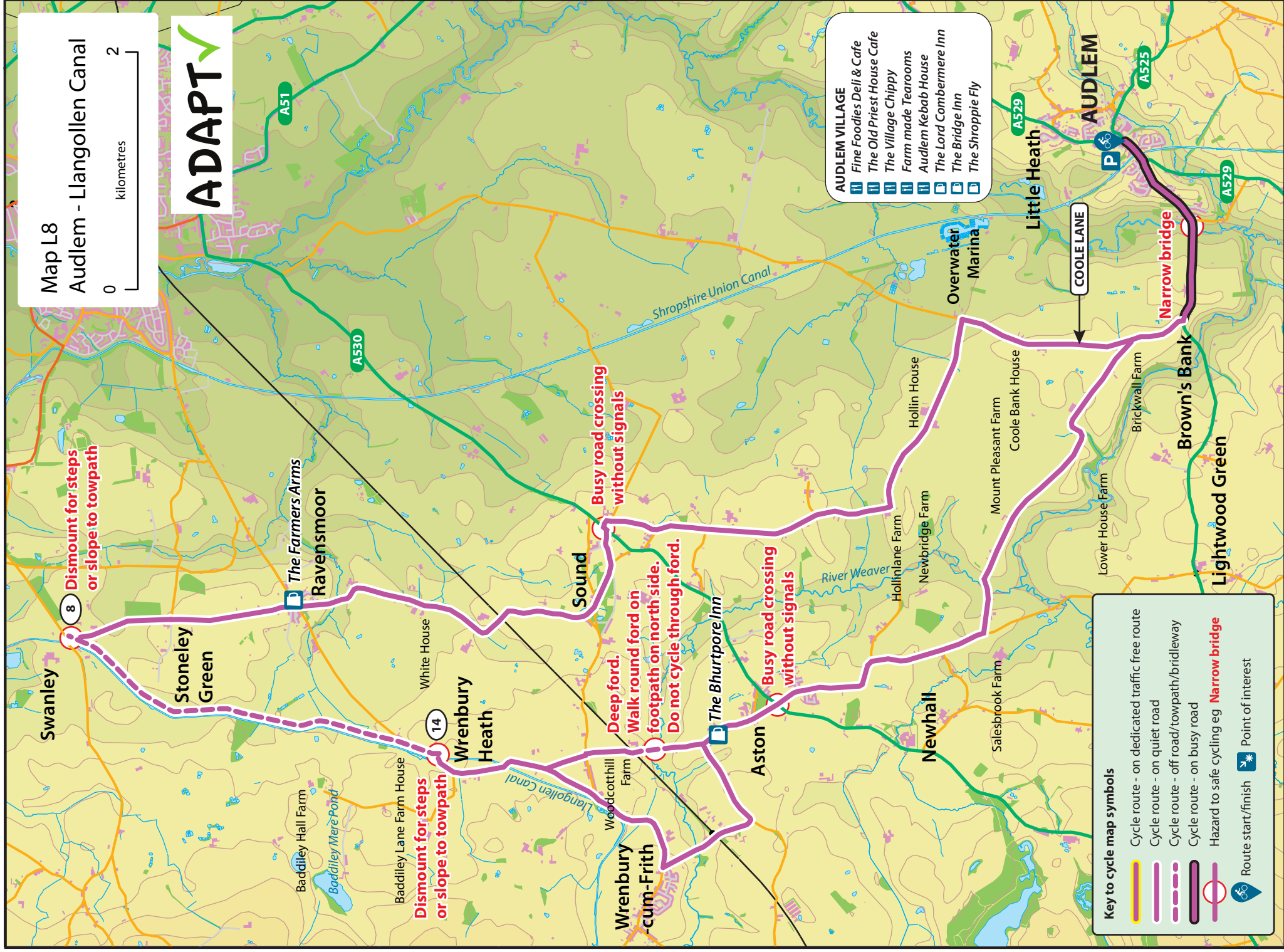
Route L8 - Llangollen Canal (20 miles-harder)

Audlem is known for its canal-side location. But here's an opportunity to visit another canal, although arguably it's a different branch of the same Shropshire Union canal. What is today recognised as the Llangollen canal, referring to its final western destination, lies to the north-west of Audlem and this route offers the opportunity to sample a short rural section of it, between Swanley (Bridge 8) and Baddiley (Bridge 14) in a quiet and pleasant rural circular route. There are short sections of moderate gradient either side of the bridge over the Weaver, but otherwise the road route is largely flat.

- A 1 mile section of the A525 Whitchurch Road to Coole Lane is involved in the exit and return to Audlem. This is a busy main road requiring caution, especially around the narrow bridge crossing the River Weaver.
- The two crossings of the A530 at Aston and Sound require care.
- As an alternative to the on-road route via Wrenbury, there is the option to shorten the route by use of Woodcotthill Lane which links Aston with Wrenbury Heath. This lane is a mixture of metalled roadway and unmade track, with a deep ford in the middle. Do not cycle through the deep ford, but instead dismount and walk your cycle round the footpath and causeway on the east side of the ford. Cycling is not permitted on the footpath and care should be taken in walking with a cycle as the path is narrow and on a steep bank. The south end of the path can be muddy and slippery after rain and use of this alternative route is not recommended when river levels are high. To the north of the ford, the track is fairly steep.
- The towpath section between Swanley and Baddiley requires caution as the surface is earth / grass, which can become wet, muddy and slippery after rain and is uneven and sloping in places. It is not recommended in wet or icy winter conditions. Cyclists should dismount on the flights of steps linking the towpath with the road at bridges 8 and 14.

Refreshments

- The Bhurtpore Inn, Aston



Cycling for All around Audlem



AUDLEM AND DISTRICT ACTING POSITIVELY FOR TRANSITION

Cycling Code of Conduct

- ☐ Cycle with care
- ☐ Always follow the Highway Code
- ☐ Be considerate to other users and give way to pedestrians and horse riders
- ☐ Take particular care at junctions, when cycling downhill and on loose or uneven surfaces
- ☐ Ride in single file on narrow or busy roads
- ☐ Consider wearing a helmet and high visibility clothing
- ☐ Check your cycle is fully roadworthy before setting out
- ☐ Fit a bell and use it – don't surprise people
- ☐ By law, you need to use front & rear lights and a red rear reflector & pedal reflectors at night.

Towpaths and Bridleways

- ☐ Be aware that our routes include canal towpaths with low bridges and uneven brick surfaces under bridges, and line of sight is often poor. Some bridges at locks have steep slopes on their approach. Take particular care at all bridges and consider dismounting if not confident about the conditions.
- ☐ Ground conditions on towpaths and bridleways can be poor after rain. Make sure your cycle is suitable for the conditions. Towpaths and bridleways are not recommended in wet or icy winter conditions.
- ☐ On canal towpaths always follow the 'Towpath Code'
- ☐ Horse riders have right of way on bridleways.

Canal and River Trust 'Towpath Code'

- 1. Share the space** – towpaths are popular places to be enjoyed by everyone. Please be mindful of others, keep dogs under control, and clean up after them.
- 2. Drop your pace** – pedestrians have priority on our towpaths so cyclists need to be ready to slow down; if you're in a hurry, consider using an alternative route for your journey.
- 3. It's a special place** – our waterways are living history, with boats, working locks and low bridges so please give way to waterway users and be extra careful where visibility is limited.

About ADAPT

ADAPT is a local community group in the Audlem area committed to finding ways to enjoy living well today while safeguarding the future.

We do this by:

- Growing our own food and selling surplus on our seasonal Saturday stall in Audlem
- Exploring and promoting energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy
- Promoting public transport and cycling
- Supporting our home-produced food ventures
- Developing woodland management skills

The name 'ADAPT' stands for Audlem & District Acting Positively for Transition.

Find us on Audlem Online - <http://adapt.audlem.org>

ADAPT's cycle rides

Why not join one of ADAPT's regular cycle rides, which normally follow the routes in this leaflet. You'll receive a warm welcome and travel at a modest pace suitable for all. All ages are welcome, but children under 18 should be accompanied by an adult. Check out the Audlem Online link below for details of our programme.

<http://adapt.audlem.org/maps/cycleprog.html>

Details will also be posted on Facebook.com/AudlemCW3/

Users of all routes shown on this guide do so entirely at their own risk. Whilst every care has been taken in the production of this guide, ADAPT cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information herein and accepts no responsibility for any error or omission. ADAPT shall not be liable for any death, personal injury or damage to property arising from the use of any of the routes indicated in this guide. The representation of a track or path is no evidence of a right of way. It should be noted that off road sections of routes will not be passable by bikes after or during unfavourable weather conditions. ADAPT does not accept responsibility for the actions of any traders mentioned in this guide.

This guide has been prepared with support from Cheshire East Council's Participatory Budgeting Programme 2017 aimed at improving Public Health.