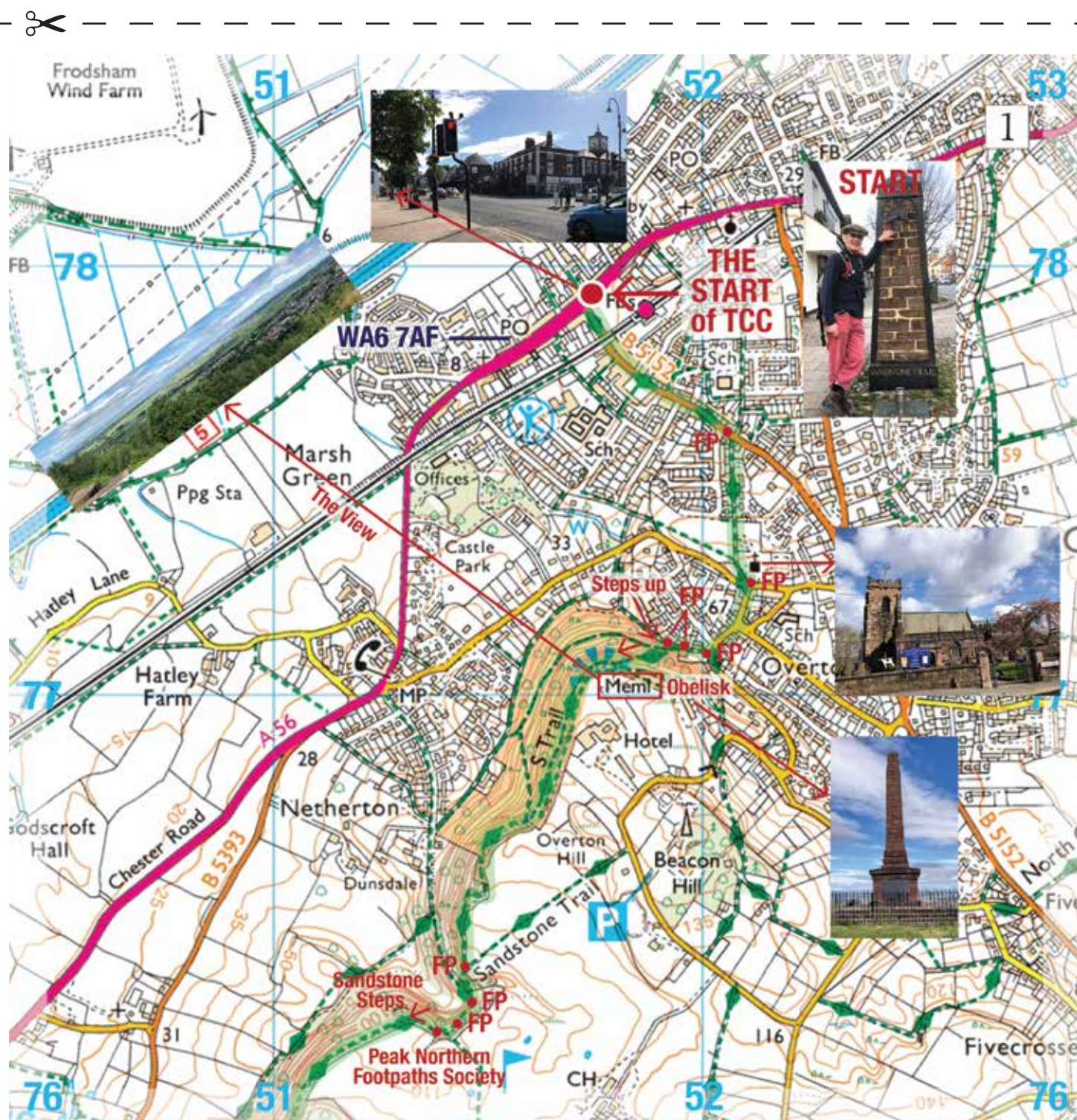


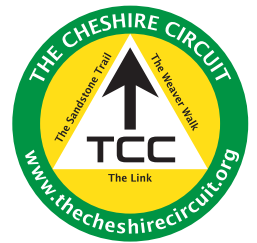
Map 1 – We begin at the Sandstone Trail, obelisk outside The Bears Paw. We soon pass the lovely Saint Lawrence Parish Church and follow the route to the memorial obelisk. Here there is a spectacular view across the Mersey and on a clear day you can see the Liverpool Cathedral, wind turbines on Frodsham Marshes, Runcorn Bridge and round to Fiddlers Ferry Power Station. As we follow a sandstone ridge you soon learn why this part of TCC was so named.



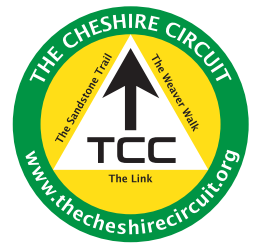
Map 1 is up and down, though not difficult could be described as strenuous.



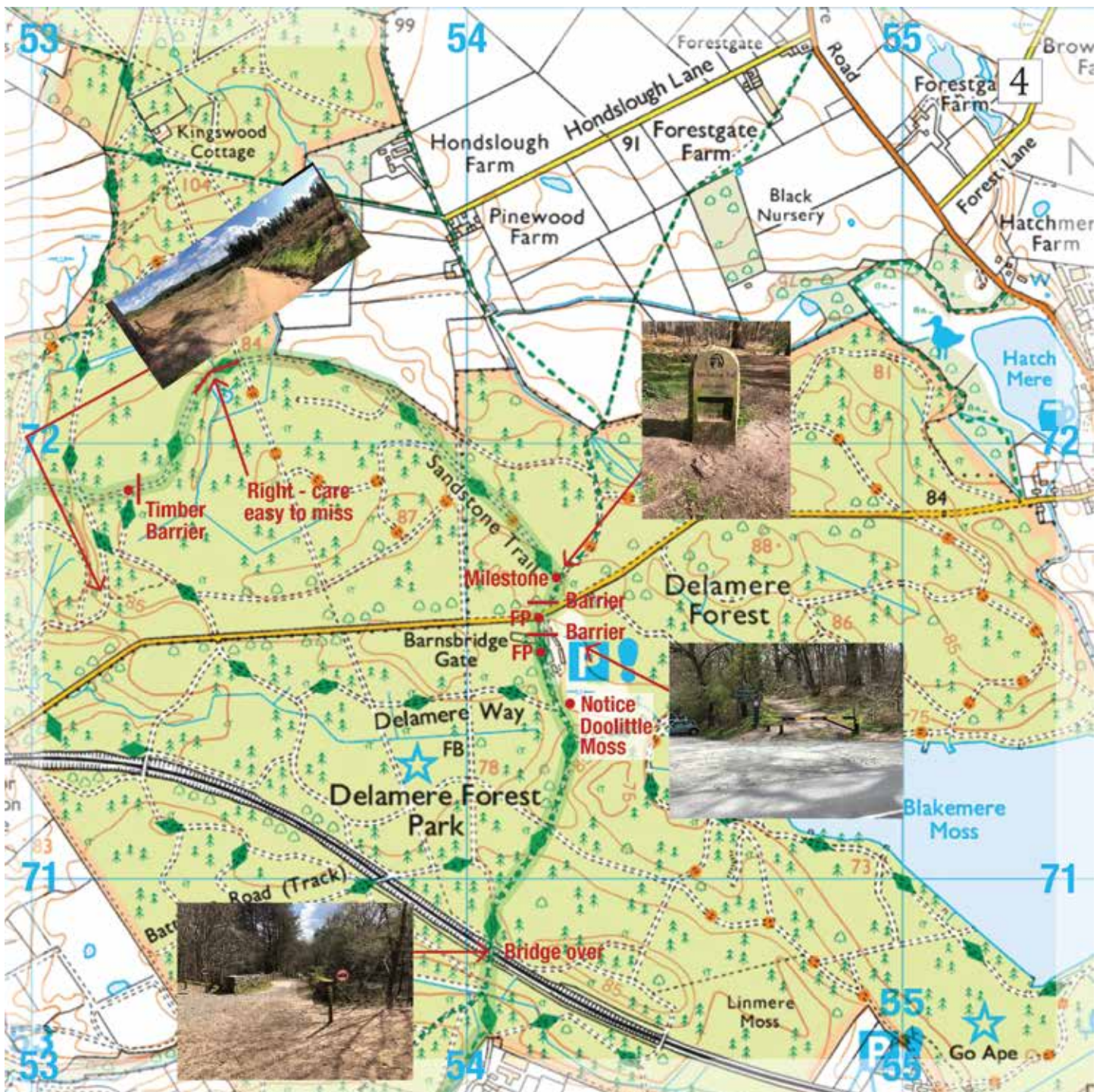
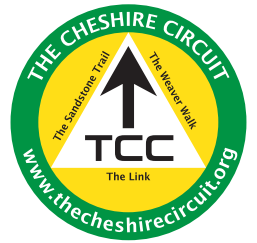
The walk continues to Woodhouse Hill and Hill Fort. We see proper red sandstone cliff faces – hence the name Sandstone Trail for this section of TCC. Some up and down but not too strenuous. The map finishes at Alvanley Cliff with some fine views to the West.



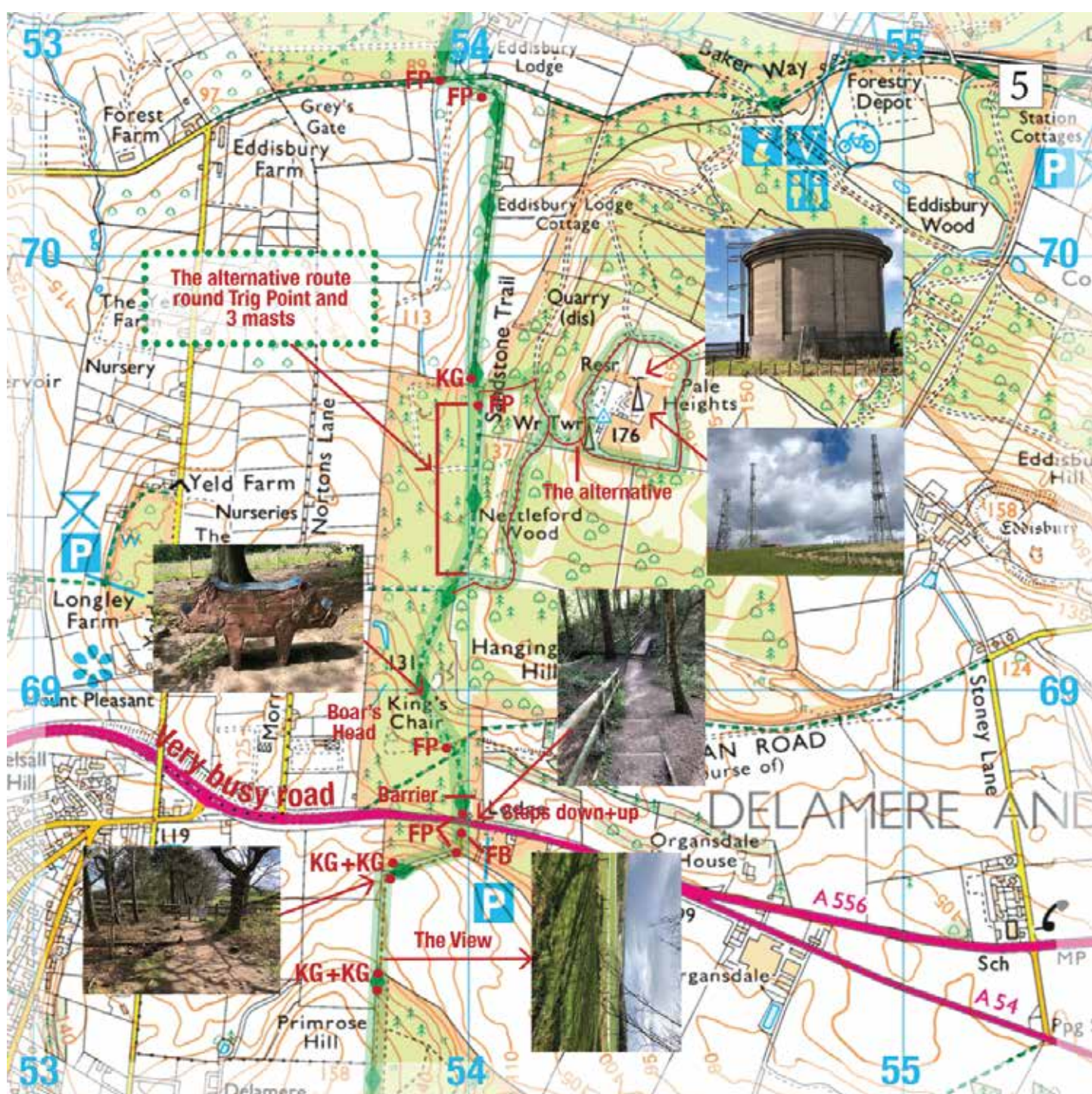
We walk from the sandstone ridge past Manly Knoll and into the western edge of Delamere Forest Park. An easy walk with some tarmac but not too much traffic.



An easy walk through Delamere Forest. There are many paths so do take care with your navigation.



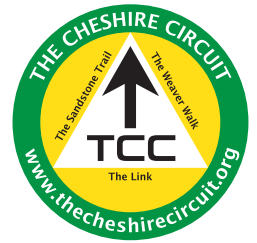
An interesting walk beginning at Eddisbury Lodge passing close to the electronic/radio masts on Pale Heights. Walking up to the trig point is a worthwhile deviation. Admire the Boar's Head by the Kings Chair; take care crossing the busy A54 and enjoy the views East at Primrose Hill.



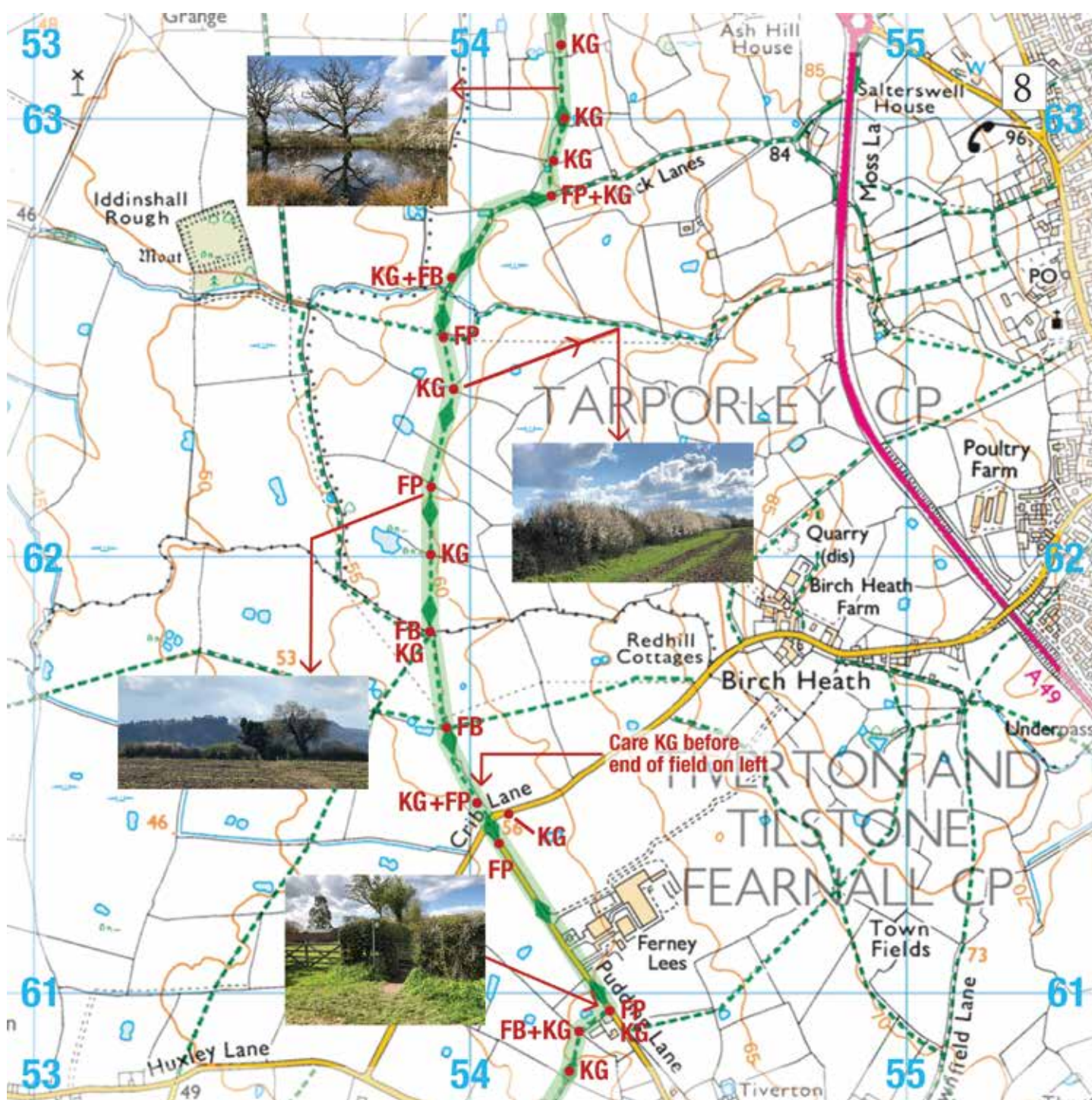
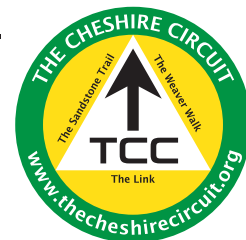
Careful not to miss the turn East early on this map; enjoy the splendid view East at Roughlow Farm and West near Rock Farm.



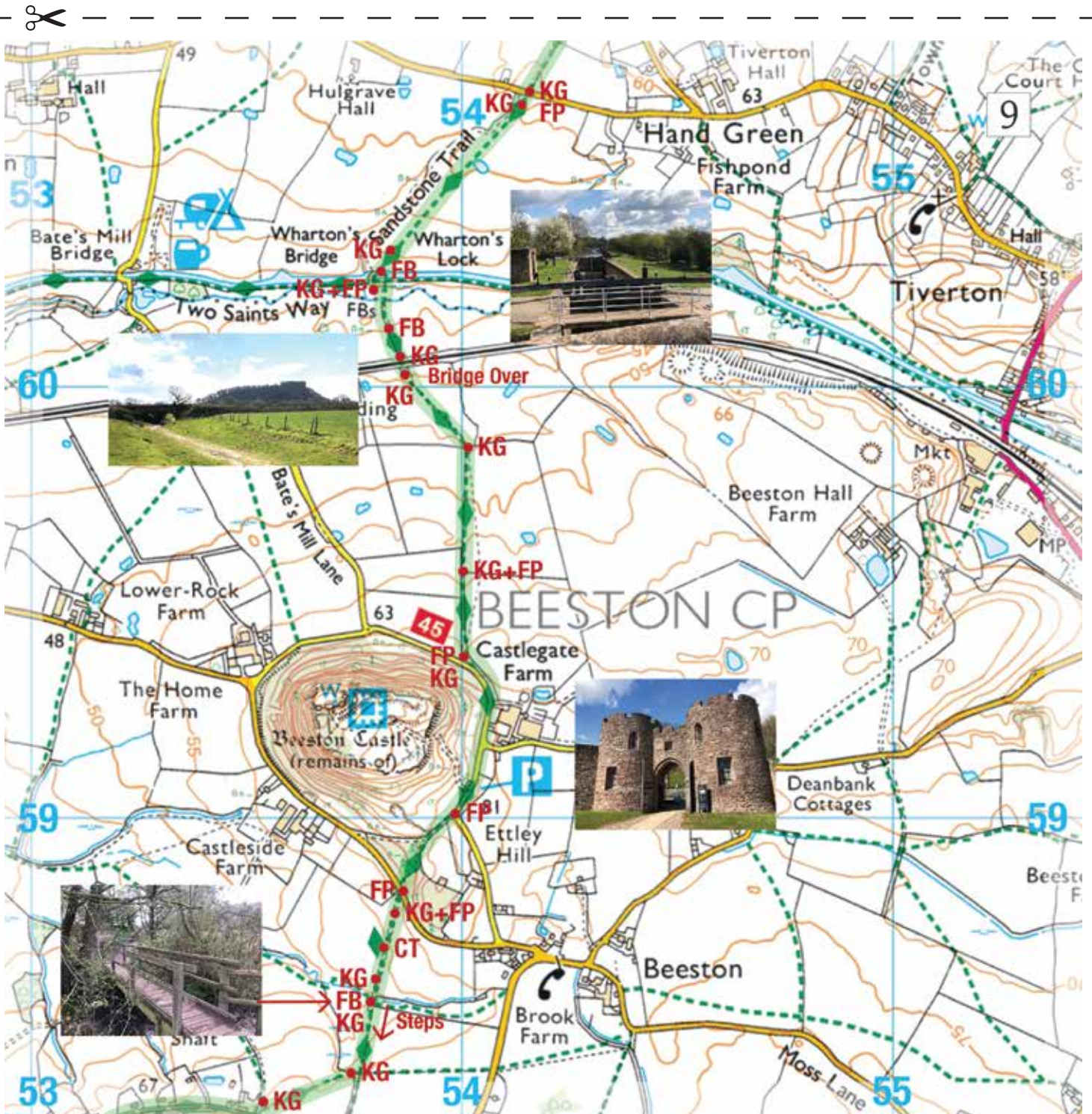
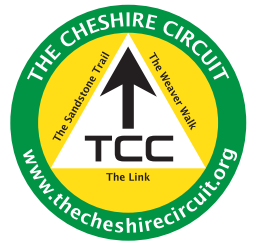
Continue to follow the route south and enjoy easy walking through classic Cheshire farmland. Take care crossing the busy road.



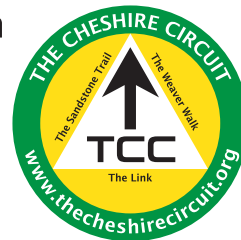
Easy pleasant walk South and we see our first view of Beeston Castle.
We find a little more tarmac on Pudding Lane (but no history of fire here!)



An interesting walk over the Shropshire Union Canal at Wharton lock, underneath the railway and always walking with Beeston Castle in view. We leave the castle walking past the castle cafe (pit stop?) for more Cheshire red sandstone.



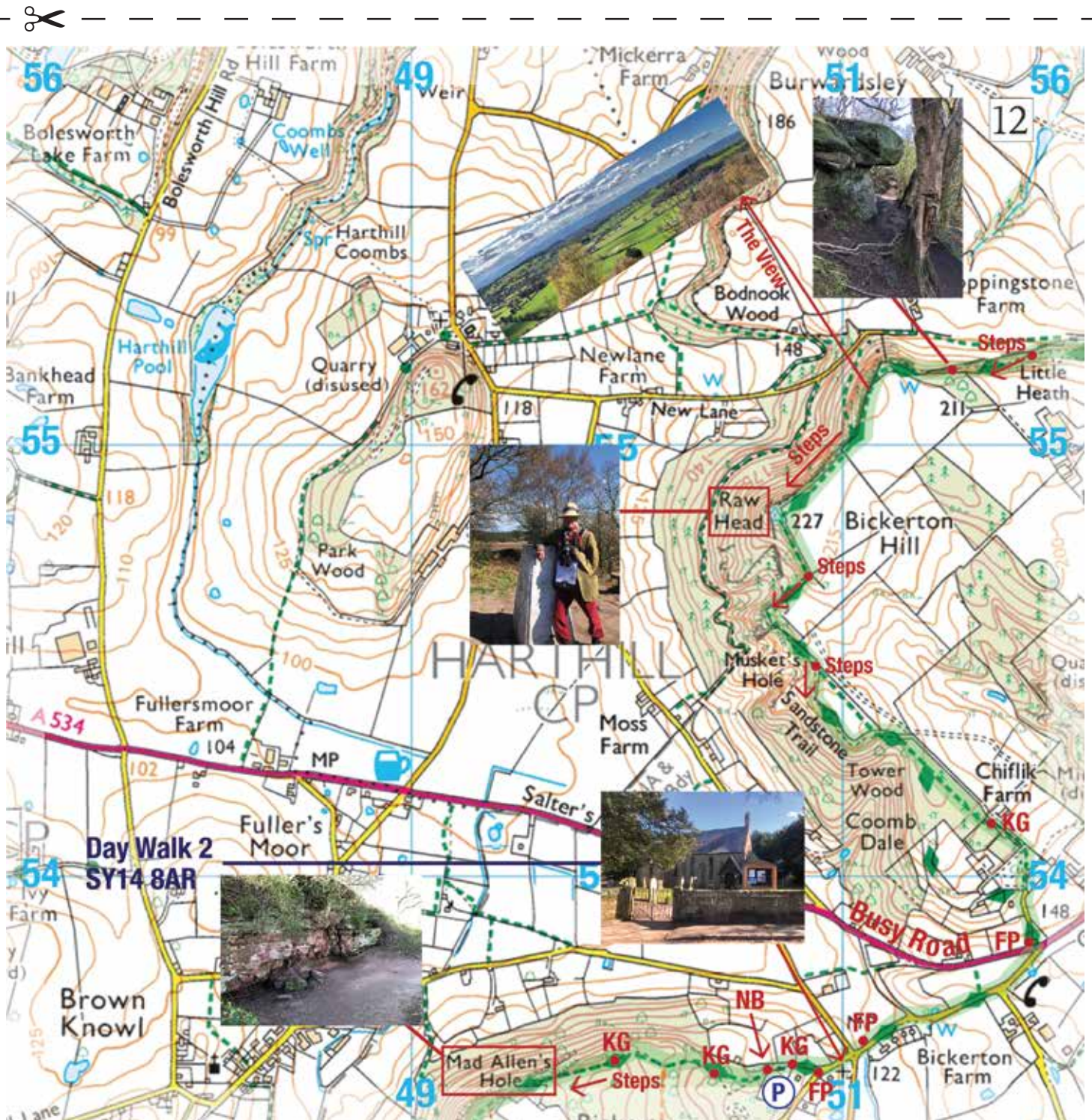
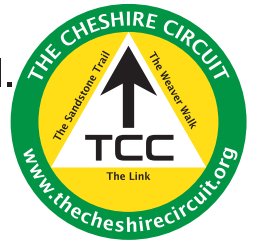
Beginning at Moathouse Farm Horsley Lane we walk round Peckforton Castle, The Table Rock and on to Higher Burwardsley and the beginning of Peckforton Hills.



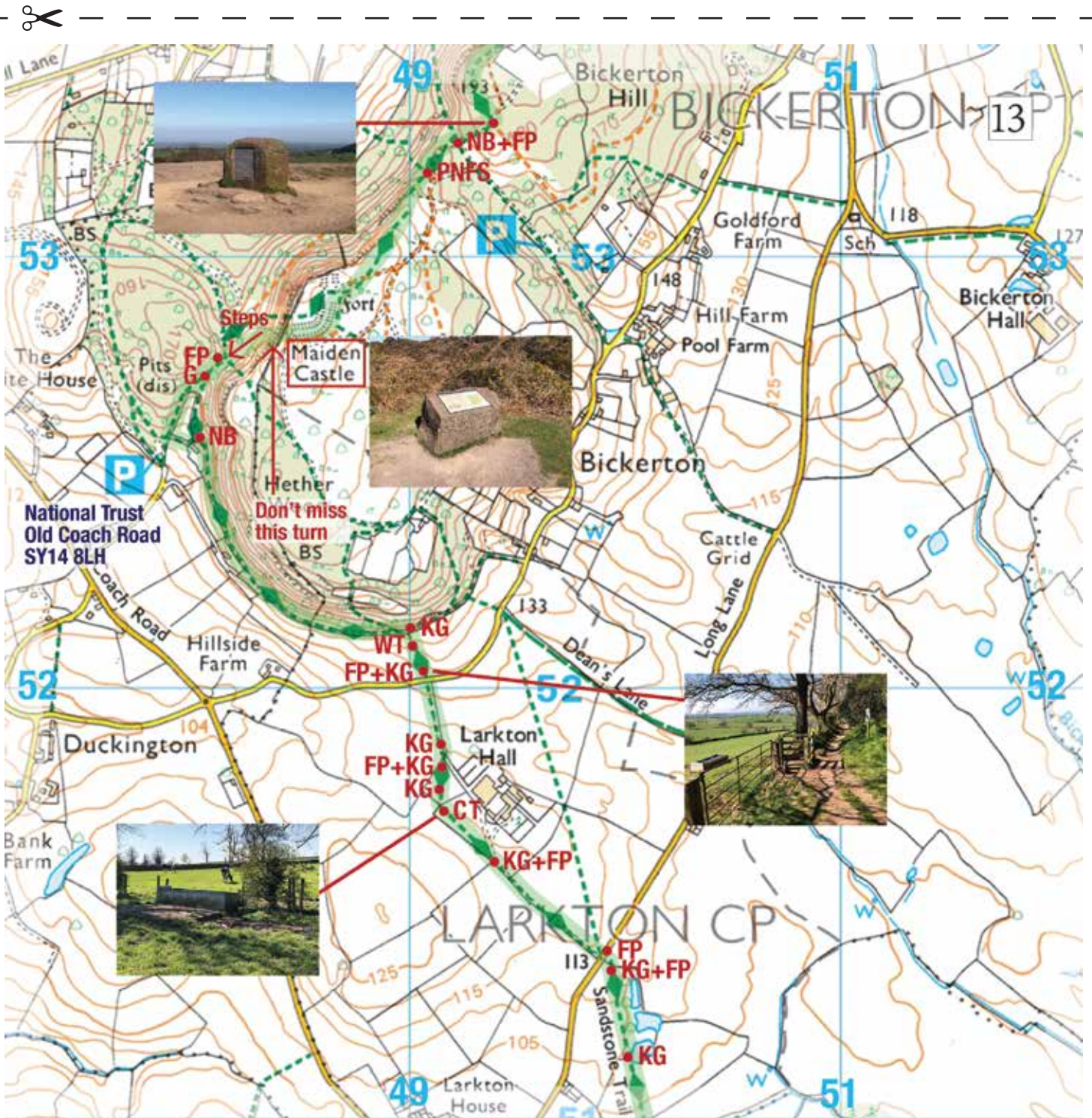
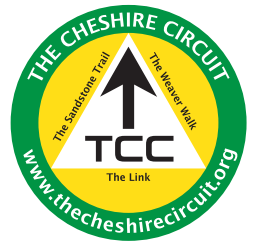


On map at 12 we walk up to the trig point at Raw Head and down to Bickerton Church before we start the second climb over Bickerton Hill.

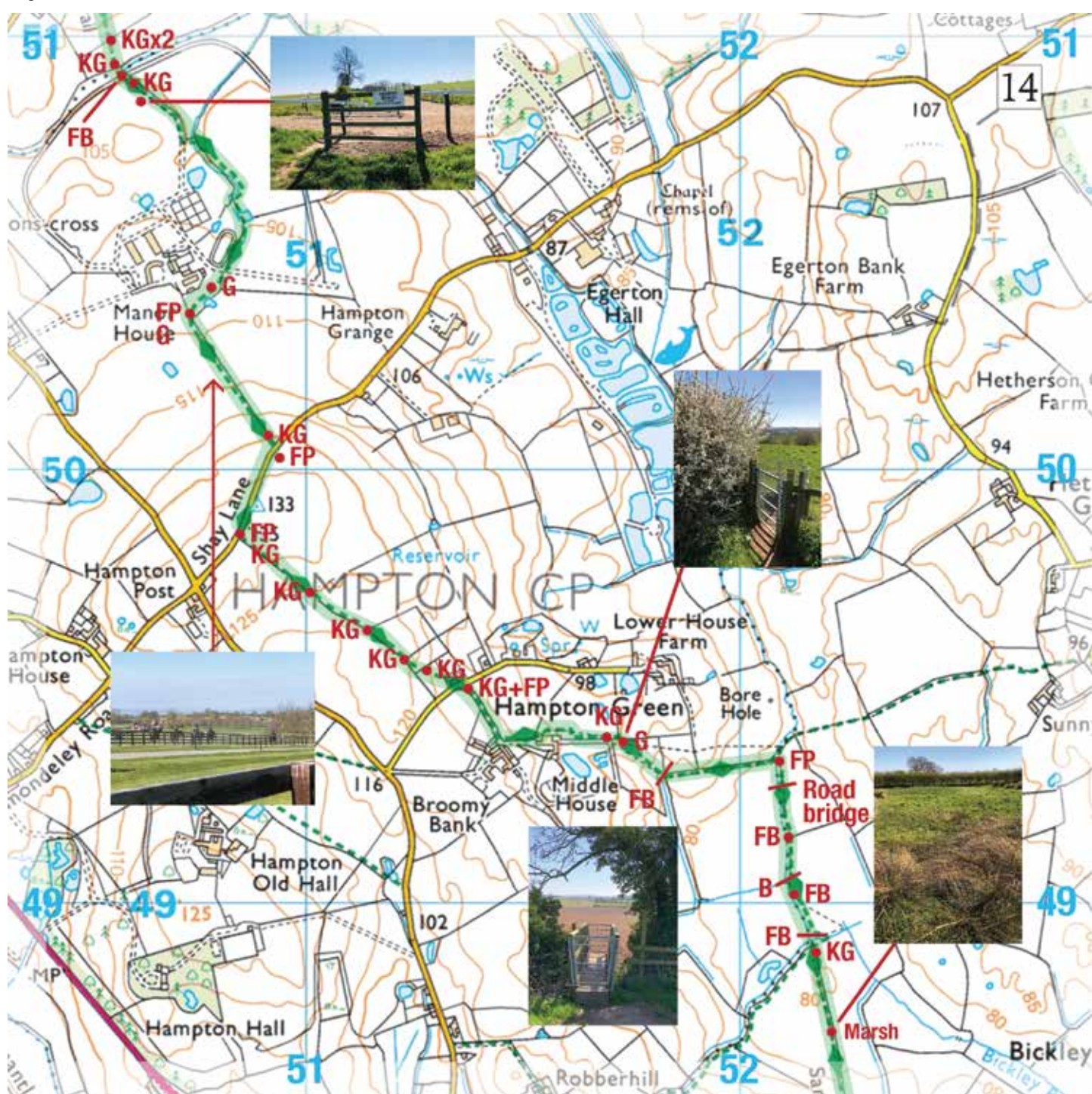
Slightly more demanding walk but still only to be described as strenuous.



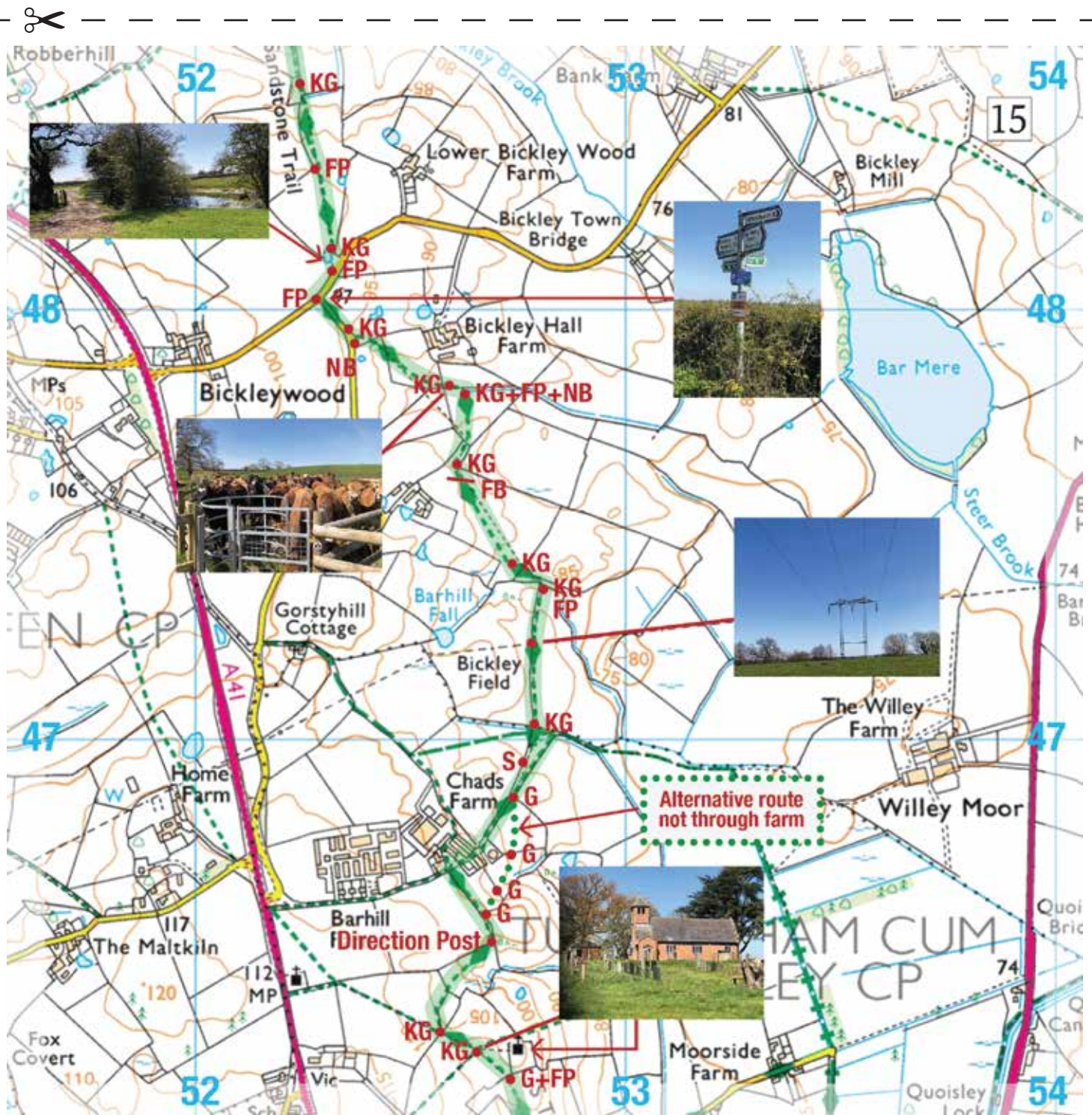
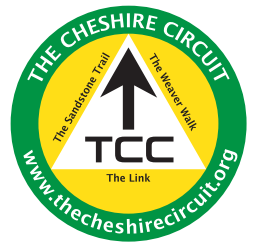
We climb from Bickerton village passed Mad Allen's Hole and on to the top of Bickerton Hill. Again wonderful views as far as Liverpool. Follow the contour down and East around the hill and then south across the fields passed Larkton Hall.



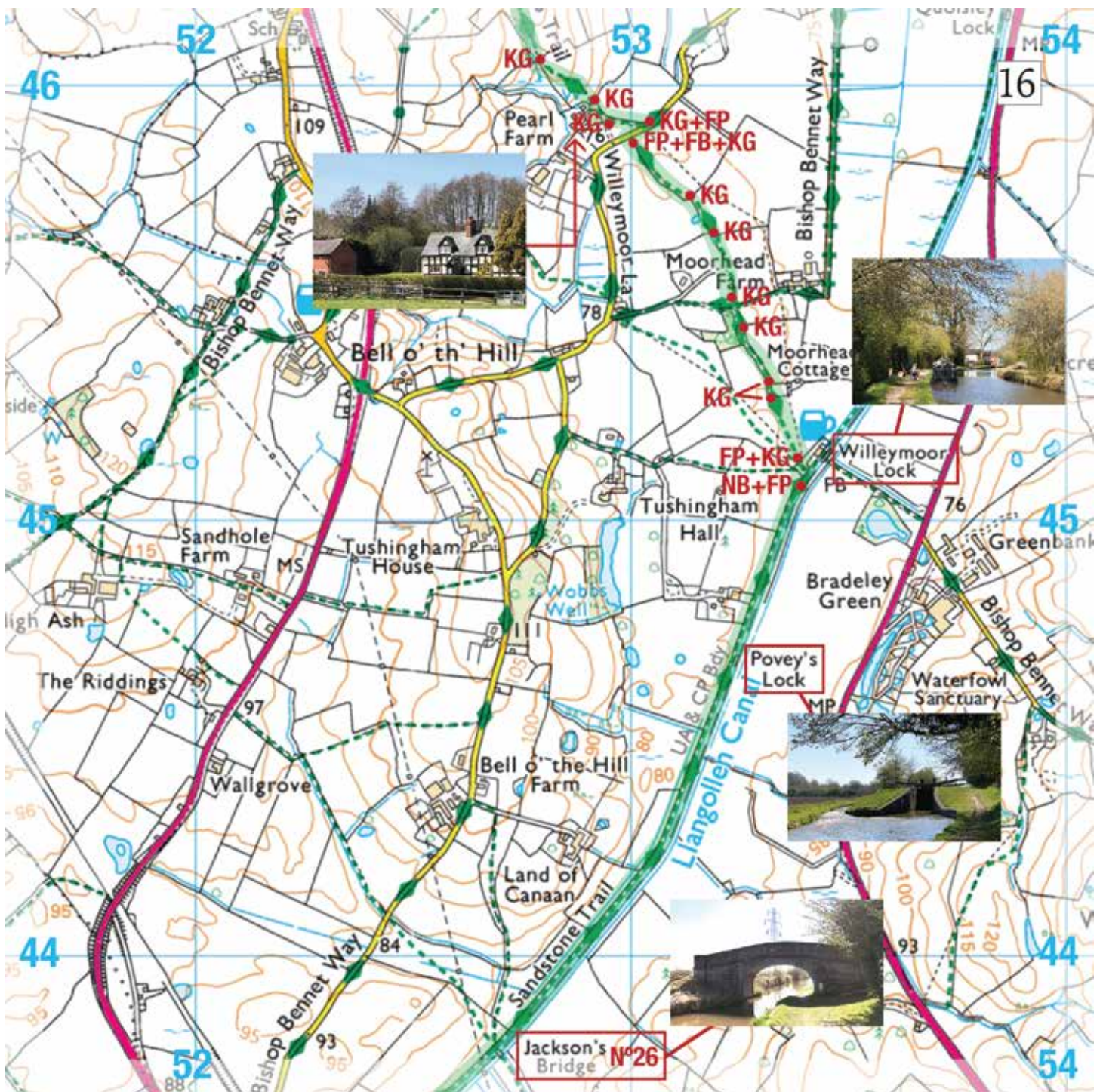
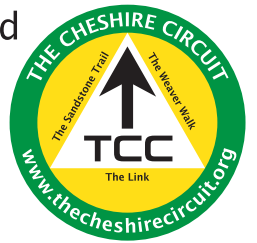
The route passes the gallops and racing stables, continues over Hampton Green Lane passed Middle House and a series of foot bridges and through a the marsh – cross with care – go round if you can.



Here at Bickelywood is a good place to break before the final walk into Whitchurch, a few hundred meters east of the A41.

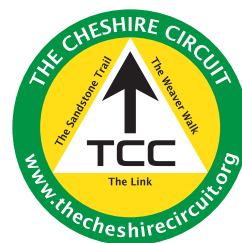


From Pearl Farm we walk through lovely countryside passed Moorhead Farm and cottages joining the Llangollen canal at Willemoor Lock. The towpath is followed south to Jackson's Bridge No 26.

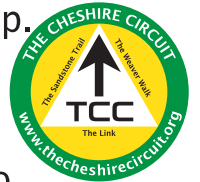


This is the last map following the Sandstone Trail.

An interesting towpath walk passing Grindley Brook Locks to a small cantilever bridge. Turn east, walking the towpath of the old Whitchurch Canal (soon abandoned and paved over) and then the final walk into Whitchurch, to a car park and the official end of the Sandstone Trail.

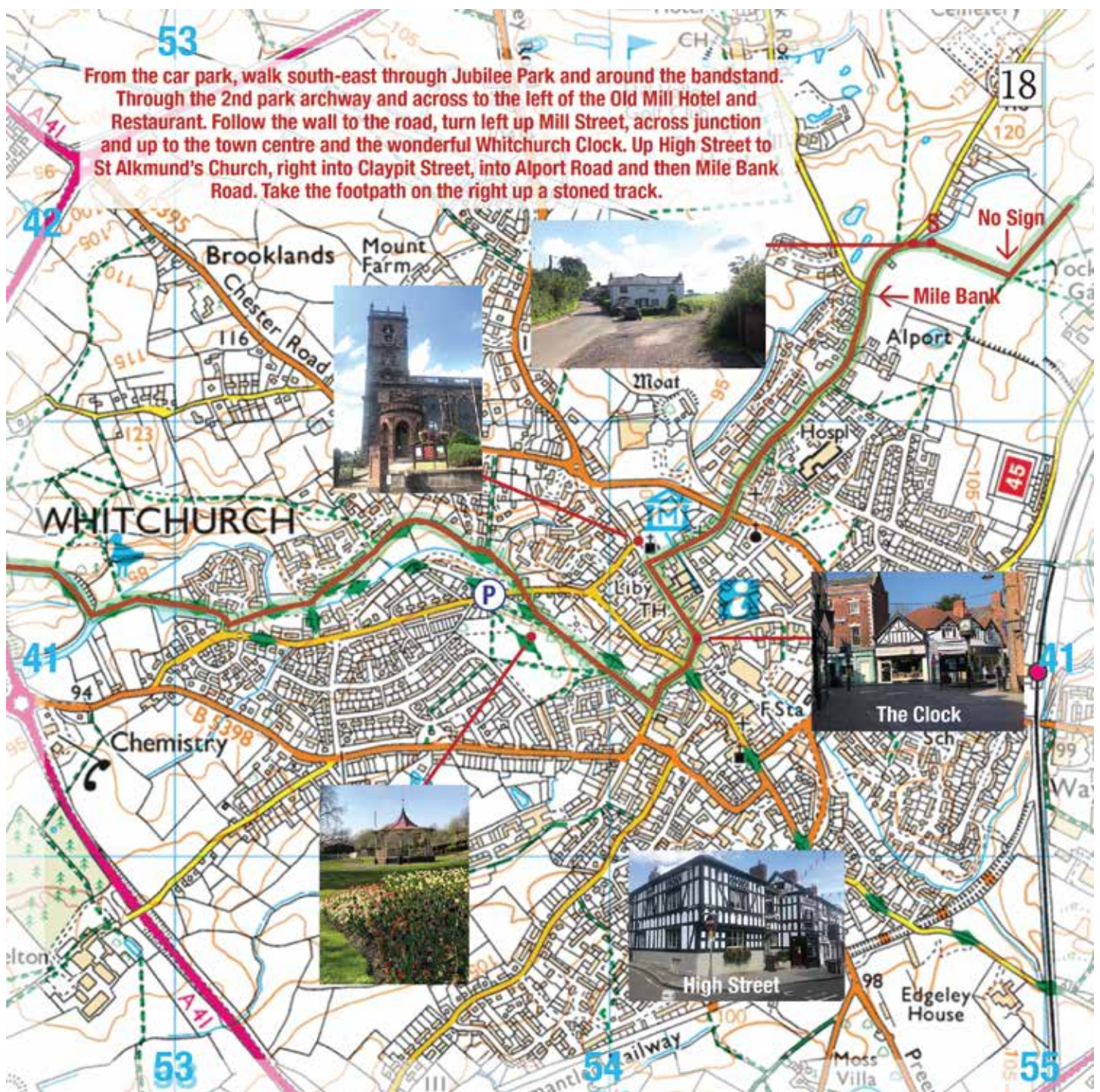


You begin your walk from Whitchurch across to the River Weaver on this map. When putting together a chain of public footpaths and a very small bit of very quiet tarmac – there were two false starts. My first attempt stopped on a footpath that had been removed by local residents and there was an ongoing range war. I fully support the demands of local walking groups who wanted the footpath reinstating but did not want to hold up the TCC Link across to the River Weaver. So I found a deviation.

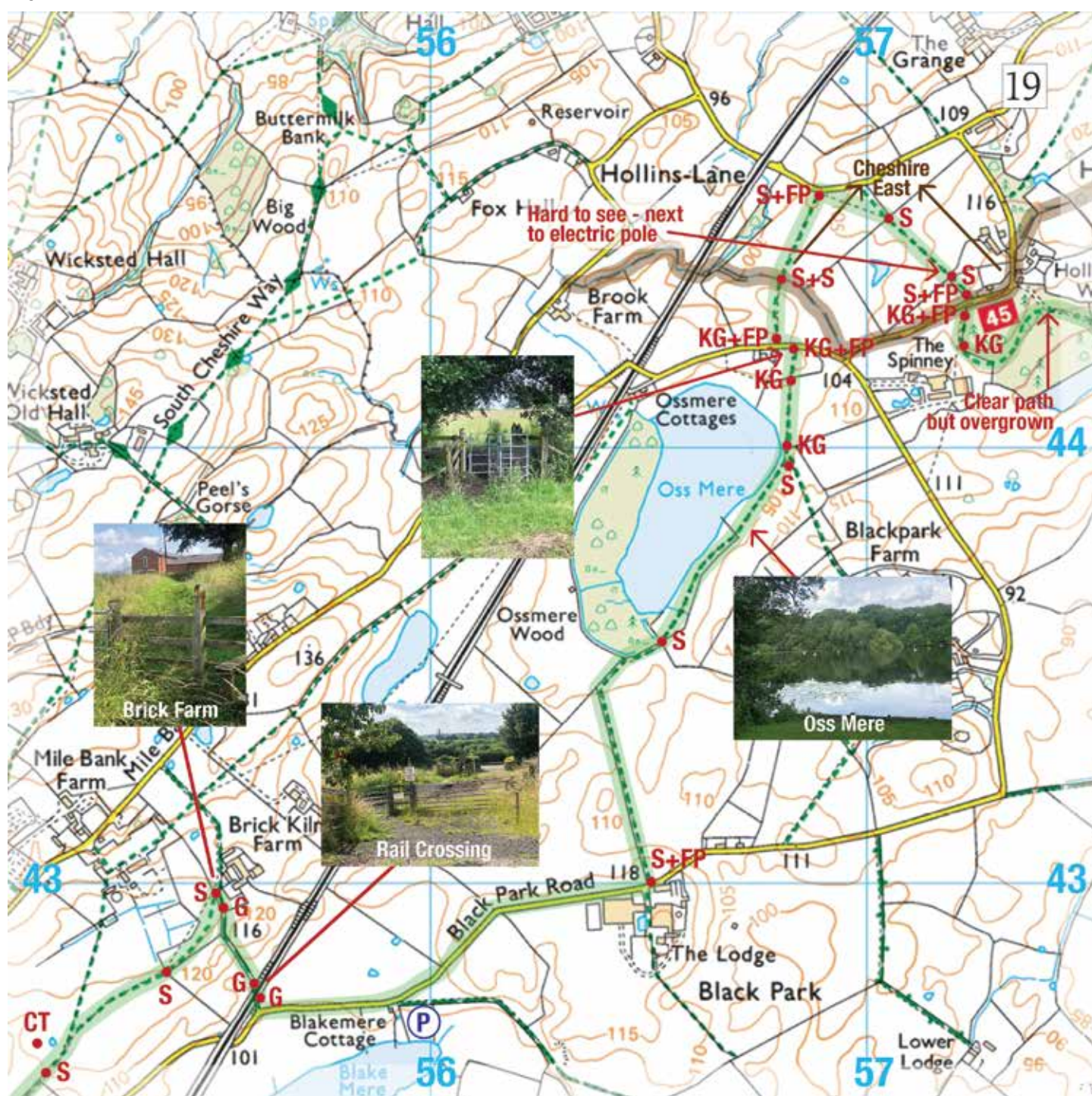


However, when I was reconnoitering the first link I met a local walker who recommended I look for a route further north which passed through more interesting country passing Oss Mere. This I did and is now the northern part of the TCC Link across to the River Weaver. There is a very small but very quiet walk on tarmac but certainly should not distract from your enjoyment.

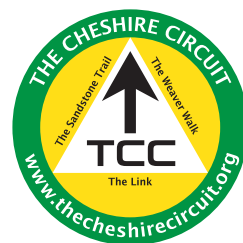
Follow the script instructions on this map to take you from Jubilee Park and out to the north east of Whitchurch where you pick up a cross country Link.



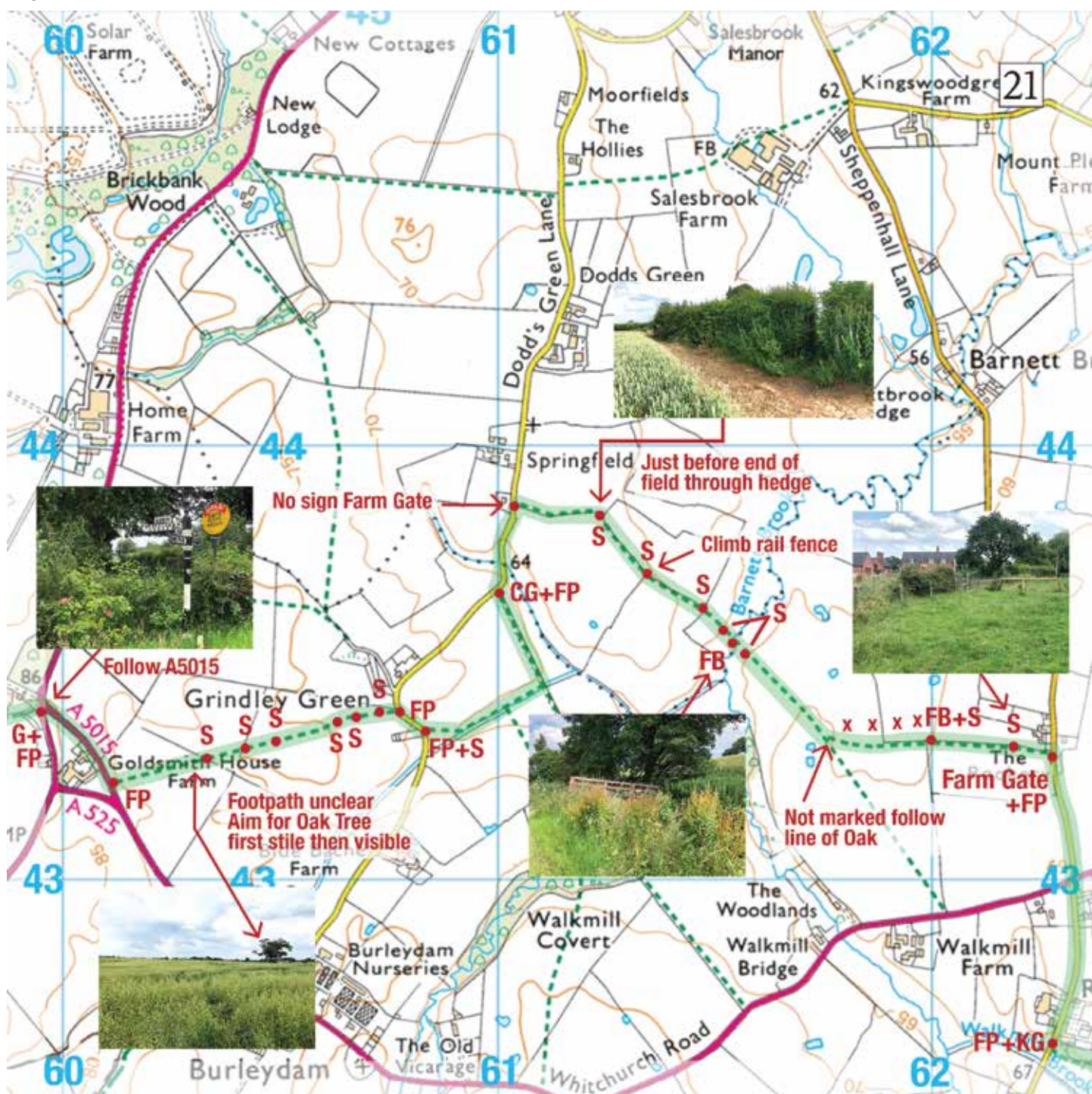
Walk to Brick Kiln Farm (the old brickworks is situated just to the west – buildings remains still visible). After crossing the railway, Oss Mere is a delight, slow down and enjoy. Walk north and then East to Larder Wood – the beginning of Combermere Park, careful navigation here.



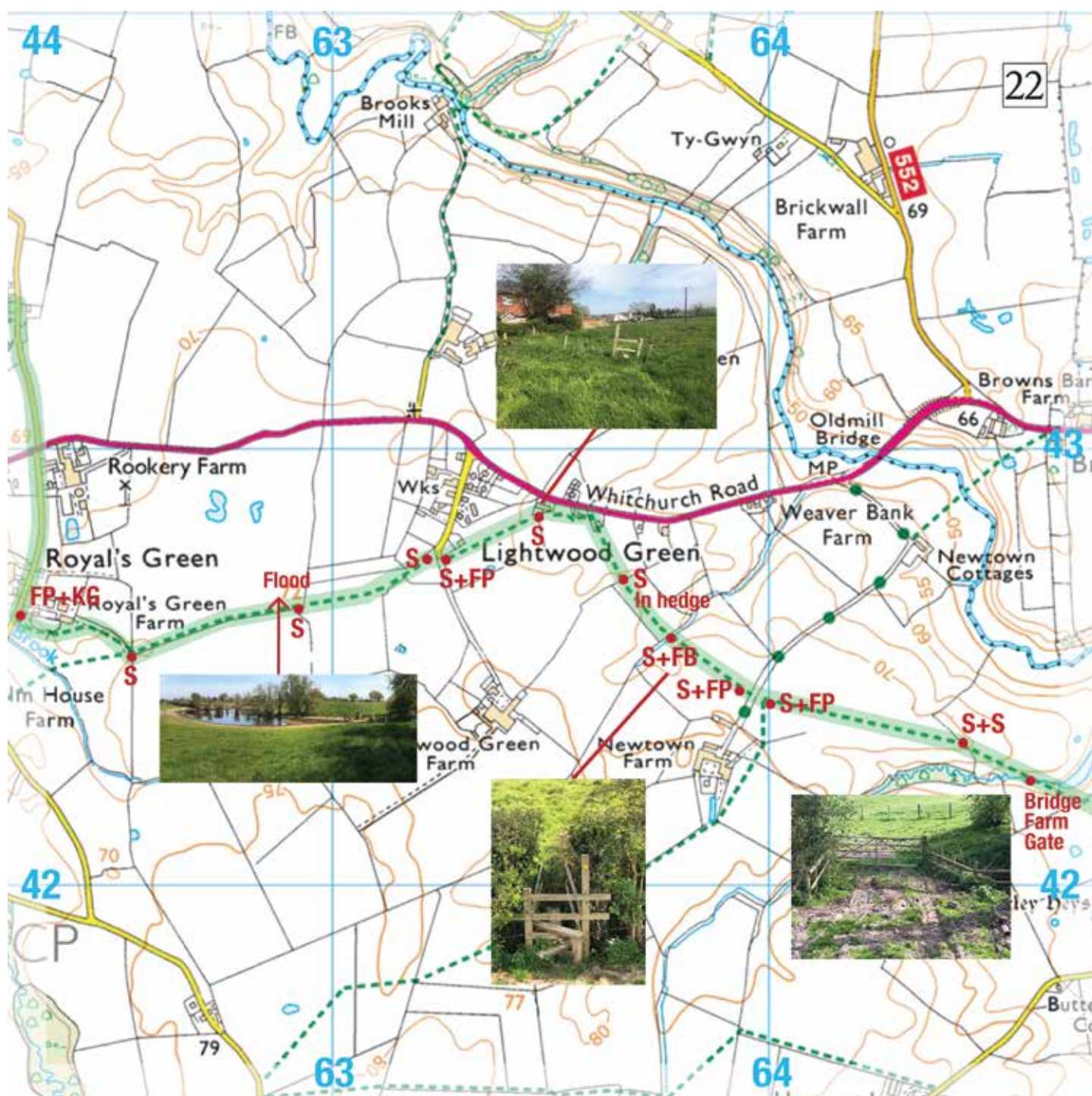
As you leave map 19 to map 20 walk through Hollyhurst Wood, Larder Wood through the Combermere estate the path is heavily overgrown (to be cleared I'm told).



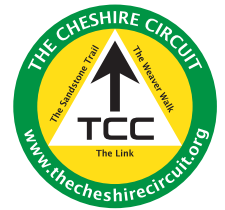
An easy walk – care with navigation; Goldsmith House Farm – turn east to Grindley Green and follow the map to Barnett Brook, turn south onto a small lane, cross Whitchurch Road to Royal's Green.



From Royal's Green Farm an easy walk to Lightwood Green, turn south east cross Newtown Farm's drive and on to a farm bridge and gate. Care with your direction – finding some of the stiles could be tricky and a compass is always useful.



I always wanted the walk north to be a River Weaver walk – wherever possible.

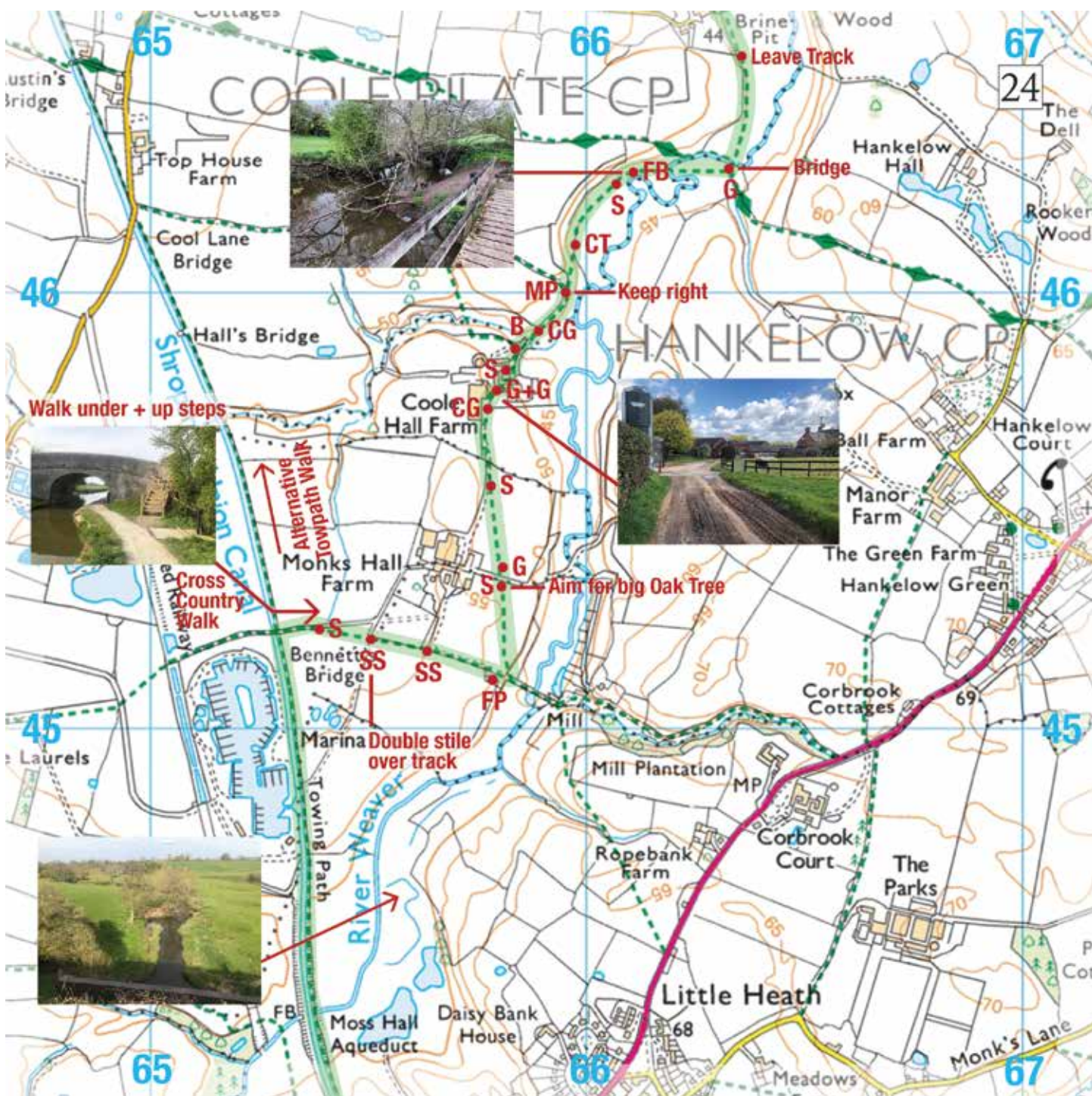


My first thoughts were to end the link at the Shropshire Union Canal, South of lock 3, and begin the walk back to Frodsham by the canal. However if The Weaver Walk begins at the River Weaver on map 23 and ends at The Manchester Ship Canal map 43 it feels more like a river walk with bits missing! So The Link ends here, at the River Weaver and The Weaver Walk begins.

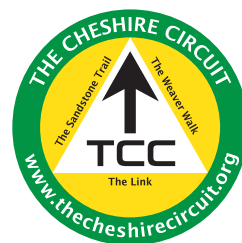
Much of the walk returning north will follow some parts of the Weaver Way but will pick up footpaths to take you as near as possible to the River Weaver. The route cuts out large chunks of towpath walking (though the towpath is always given as an alternative deviation). This “leg” has much to enjoy.



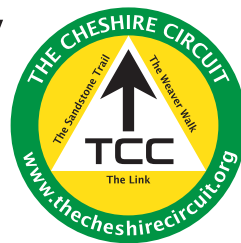
Leave Audlem on the Shropshire Union towpath. Over Moss Hall aqueduct with splendid views of the River Weaver Valley, at Bennetts Bridge leave the tow path, (or take the alternative towpath walk) turn east following the impressive Weaver Valley to Brinepits Farm.



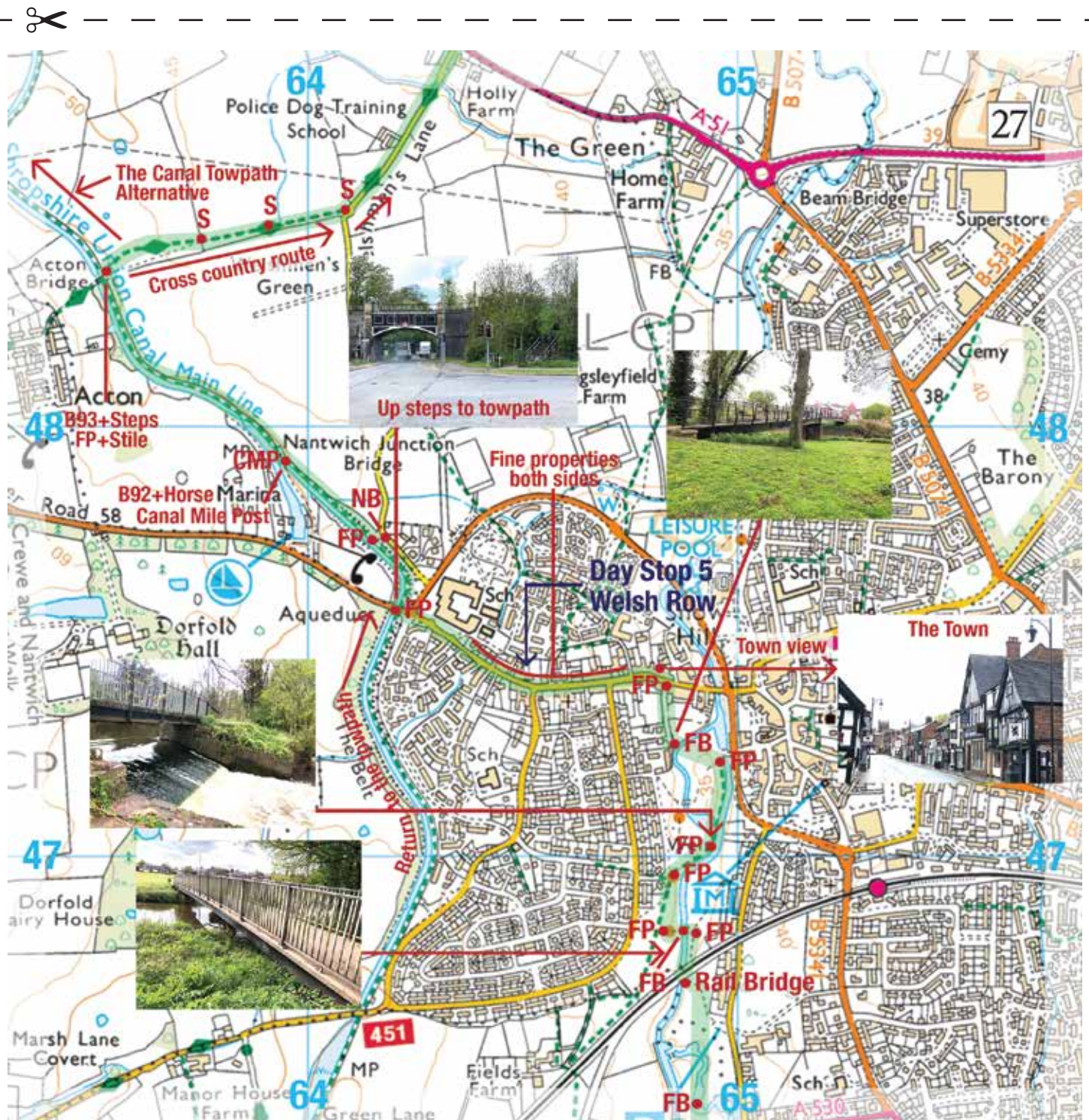
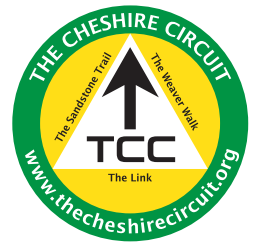
From Brinepits Farm west to Coole Lane then north and east back to Dairy House Farm and the lovely River Weaver Valley.


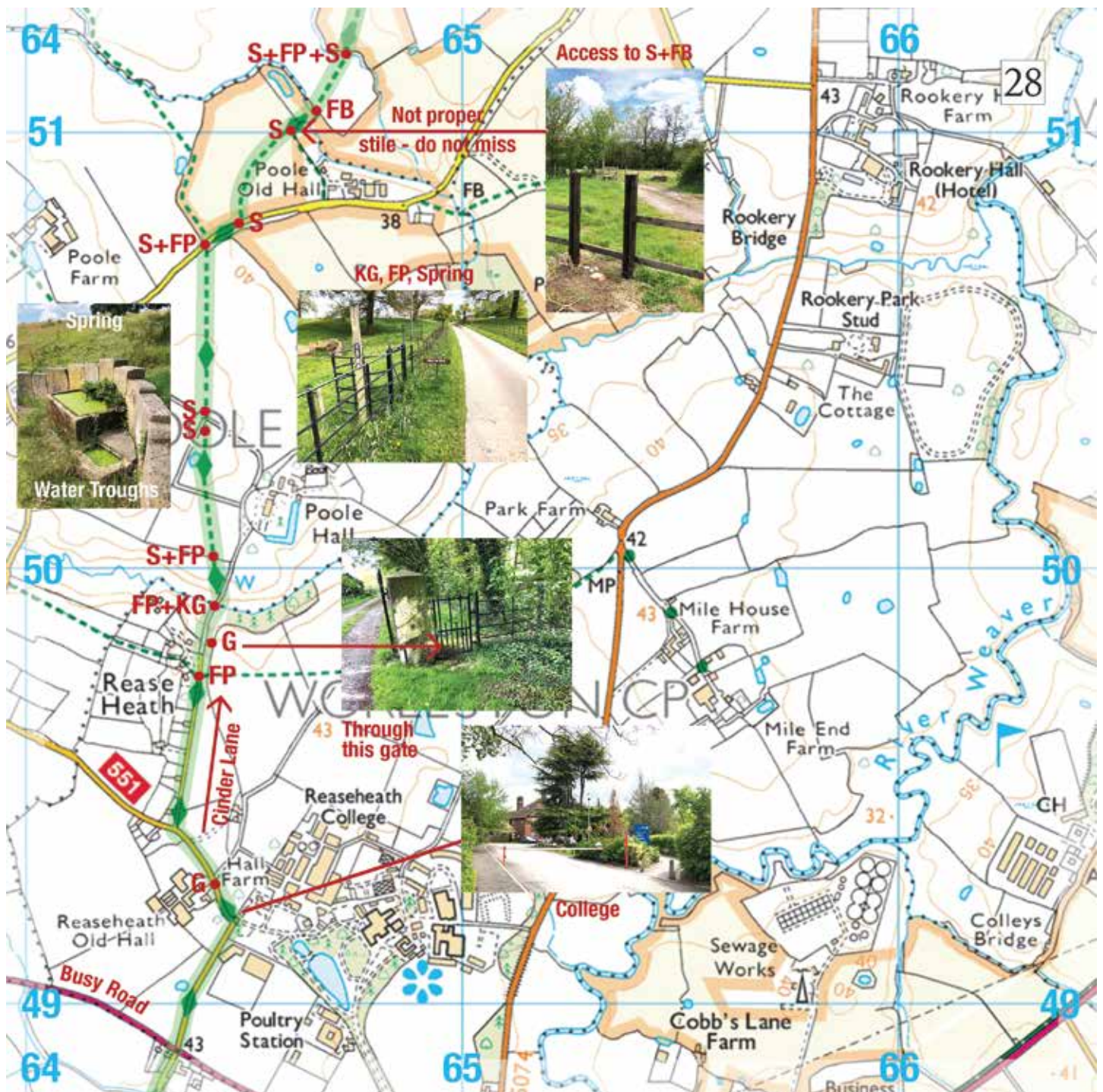


Continue passed Ash Tree Farm with more views of the Weaver Valley to the A530 into Nantwich.

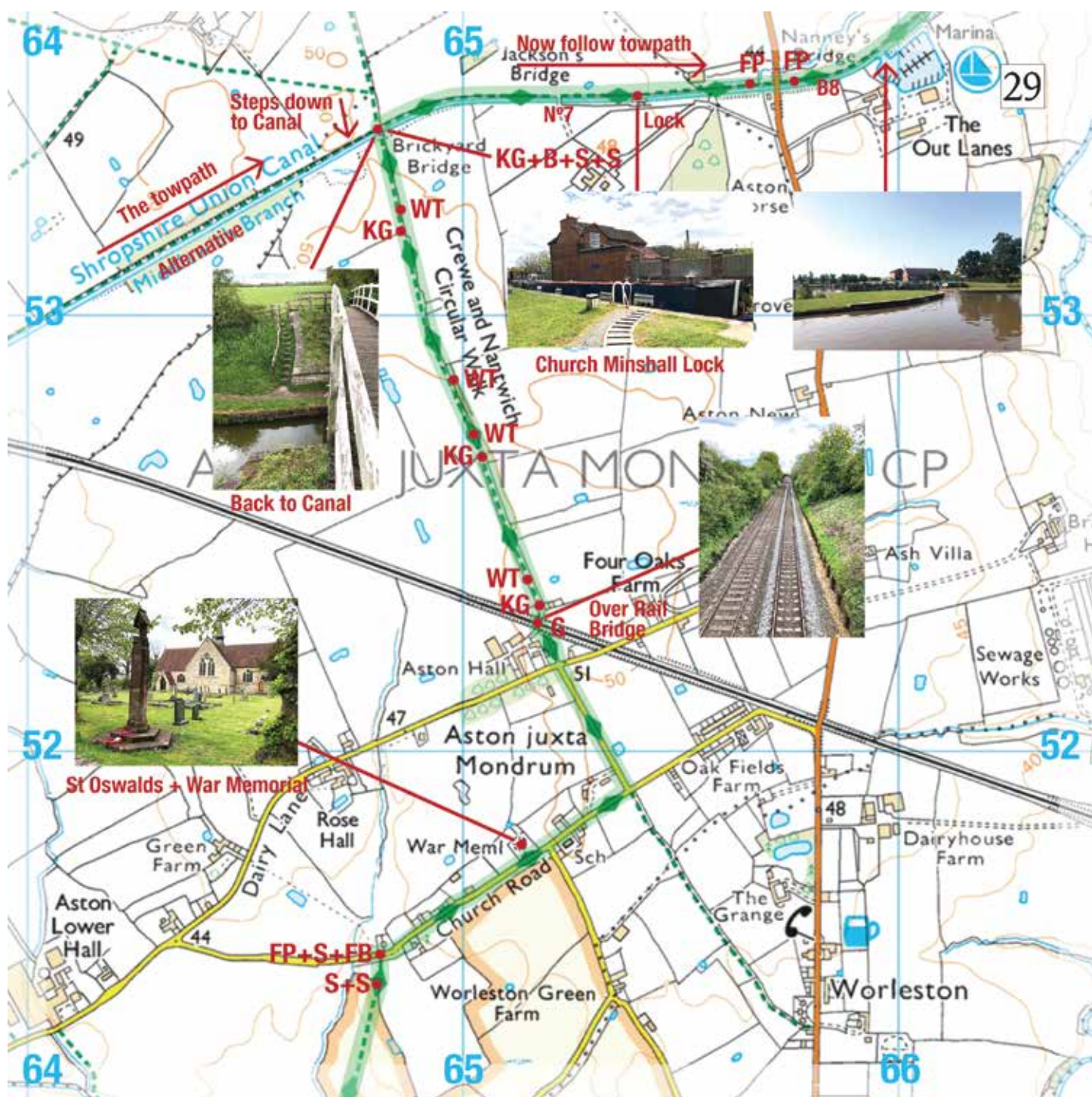


Just passed the 30MPH over the road bridge immediately left (care here) to follow the River Weaver's lovely meanderings through Nantwich River Park to Welsh Row (exceptional Georgian and older properties) then follow this to the aqueduct, up the steps and back on to the Shropshire Union Canal (and join the alternative). Cross country – follow the towpath for 1km to Acton Bridge the follow this path east. The alternative continues on the canal towpath.

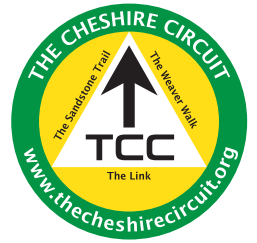


The logo is a circular emblem with a green outer ring. Inside the ring, the text "THE CHESHIRE CIRCUIT" is written in white, uppercase letters along the top arc, and "www.thecheshirecircuit.org" is written along the bottom arc. The center of the logo is a yellow triangle. Inside the triangle is a large black upward-pointing arrow. To the left of the arrow, the text "The Sandstone Trail" is written in black. To the right of the arrow, "The Weaver Walk" is written in black. Below the arrow, the letters "TCC" are written in large, bold, black font. Underneath "TCC", the words "The Link" are written in a smaller black font.

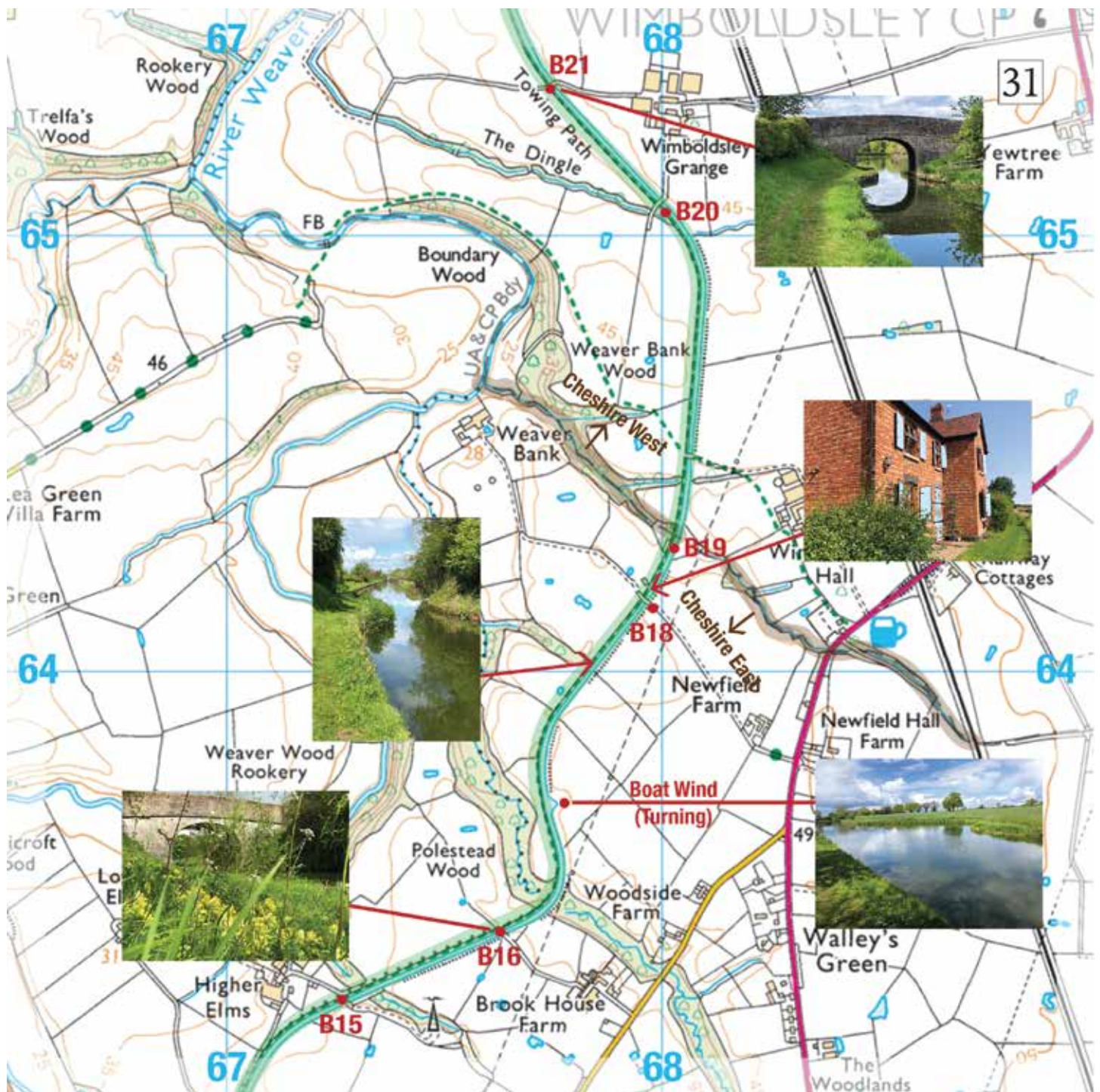
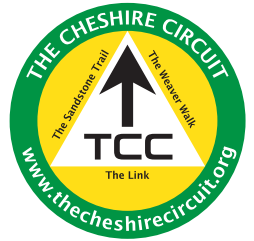
Join Church Road, and first left to the railway bridge at Aston Hall and then North to the Shropshire Union Canal at Brickyard Bridge where you meet the “alternative” towpath walk.

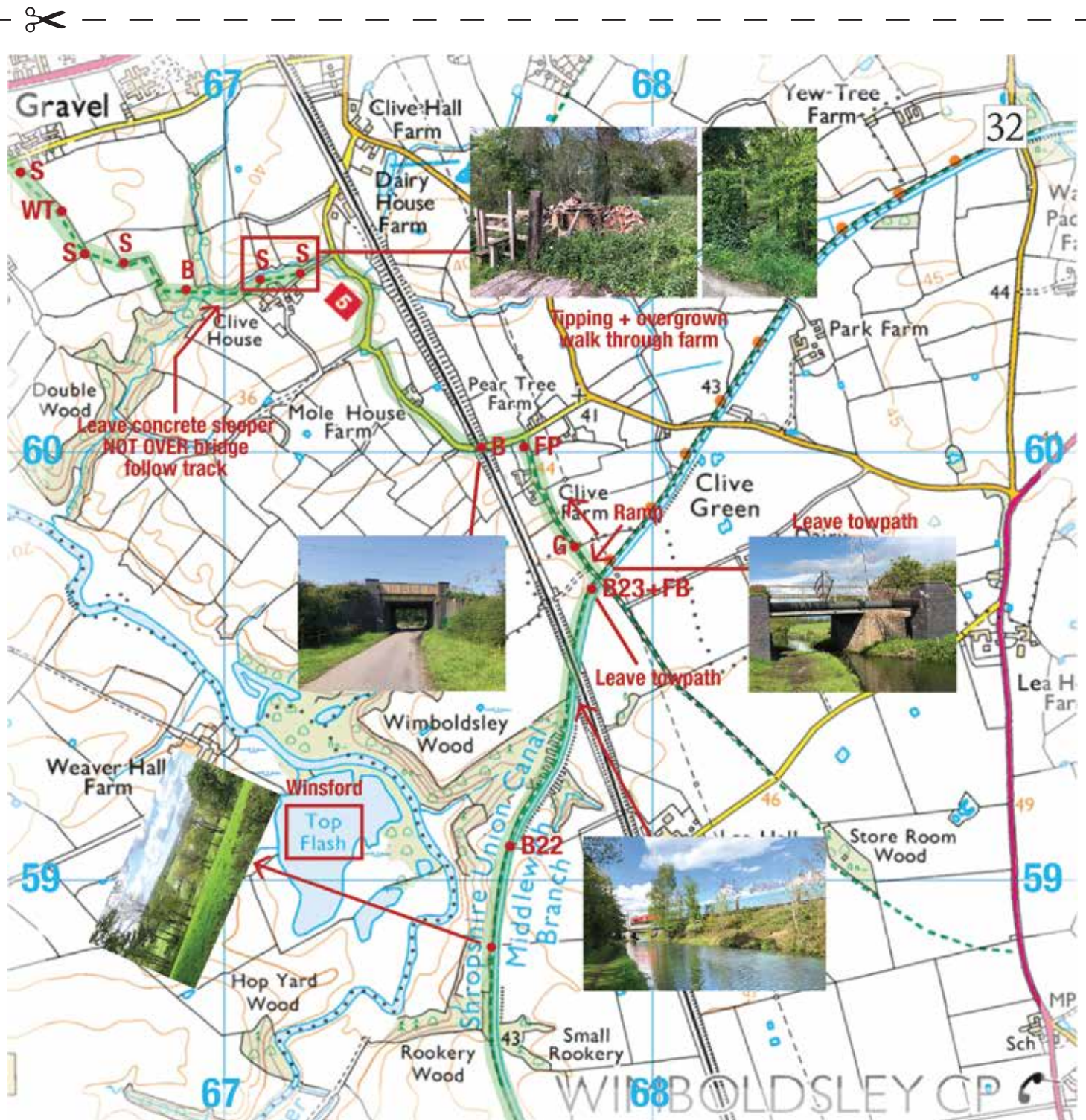


Follow the Shropshire Union Canal towpath to bridge 23.

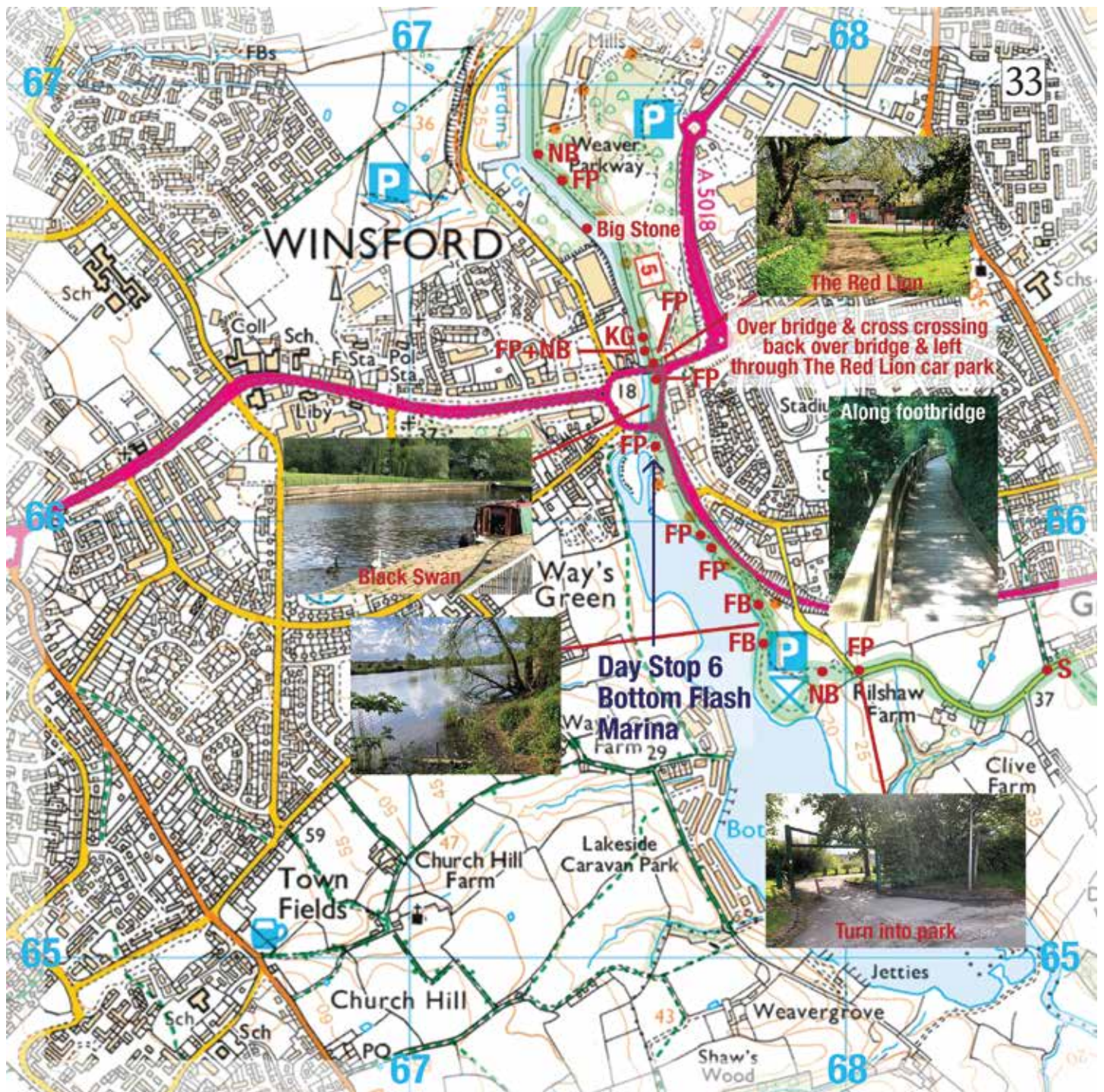
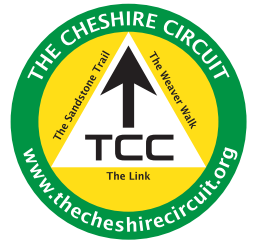


And easy towpath path walk from bridge 15 to bridge 21 near Wimboldsley Grange.

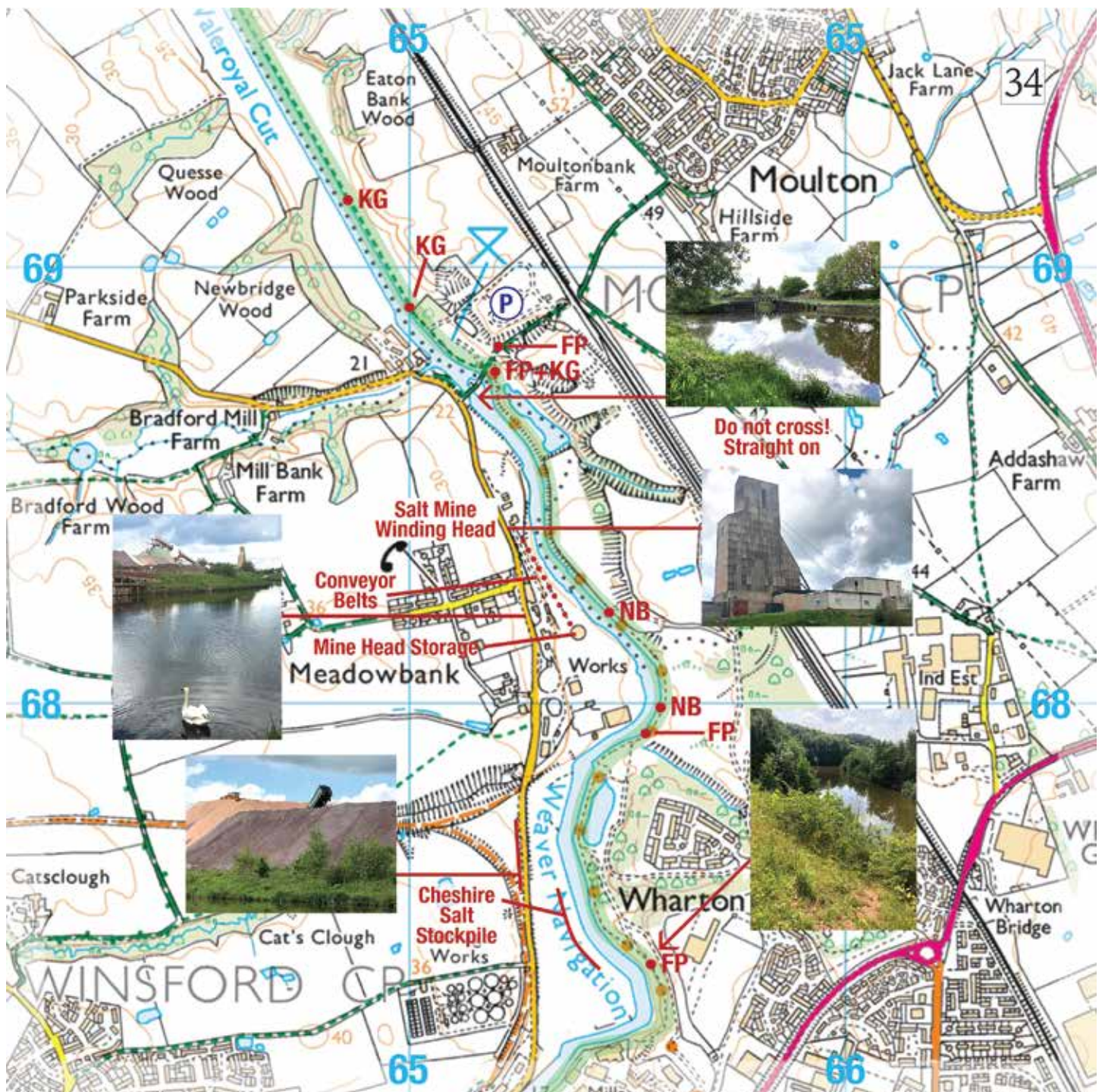
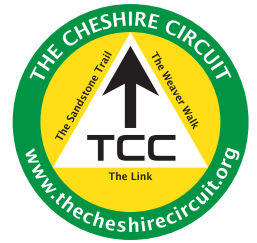




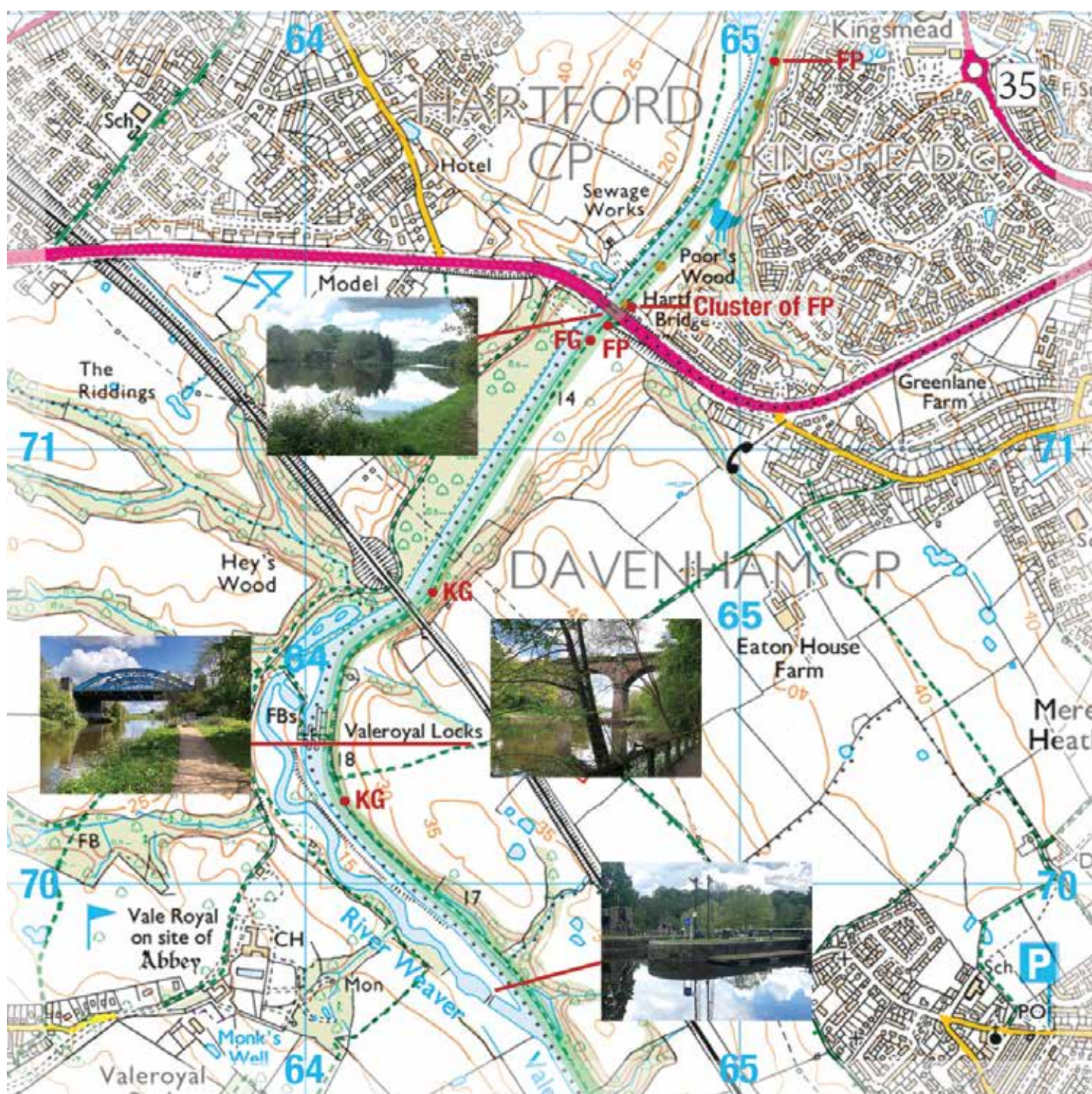
Leaving Rilshaw Lane, walk along the lovely Winsford Bottom Flash and over several foot bridges to the marina. Continue under the road bridge then up and over the road, round the Red Lion Pub and continue walking along the River Weaver.



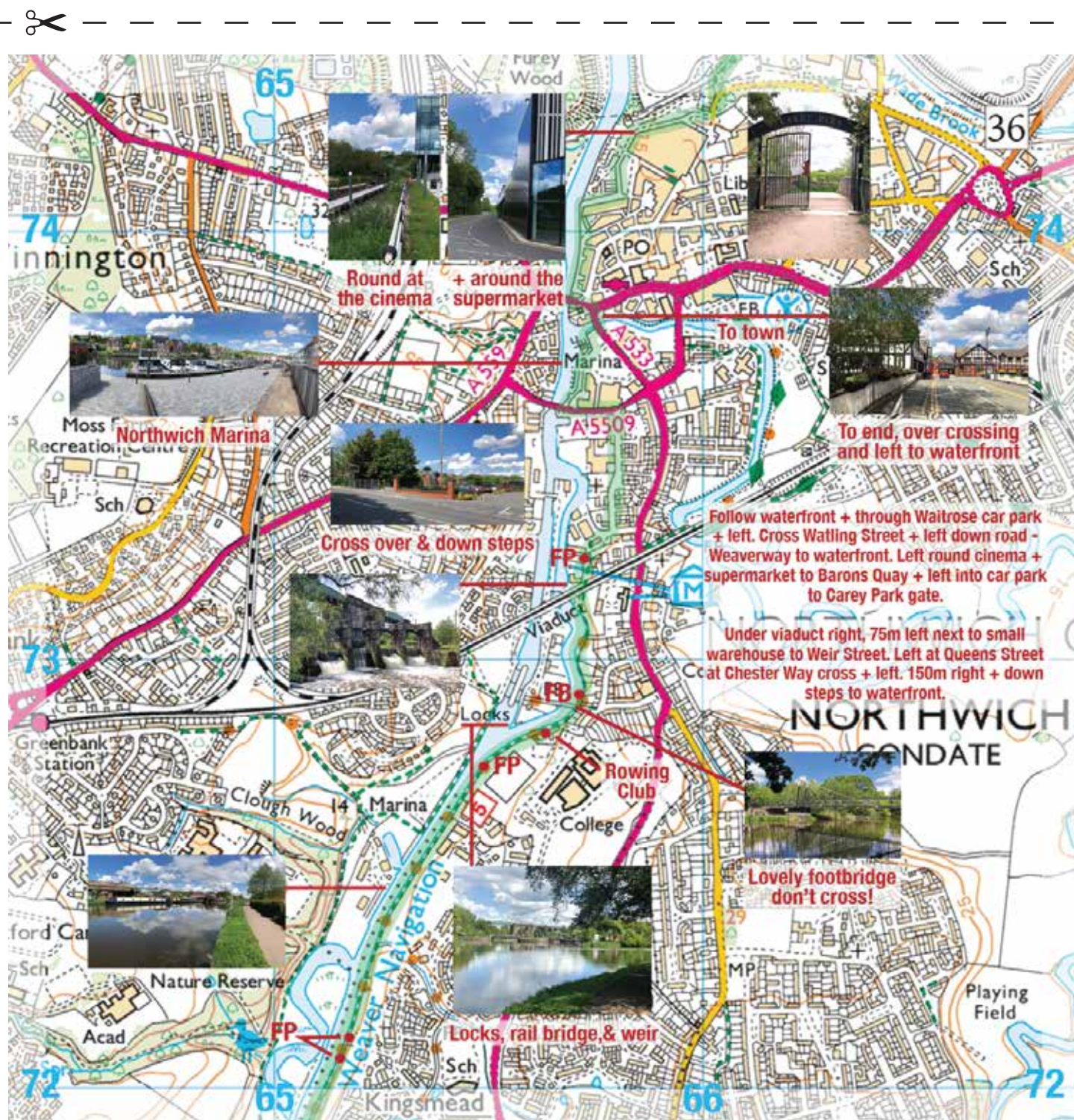
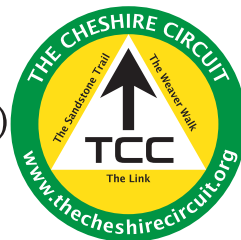
As well as an active works at Wharton we see clear signs of the old river moorings, old river engineering and man-made remains of when the river was busy with commercial ships; days long gone. Today, however, on the west bank we see the still active Cheshire rock salt mine with its winding head and very large stockpile of rock salt waiting for the winter roads.



The River Weaver continues broadening and continues it's peaceful meanderings past Vale Royal Locks; under the magnificent railway viaduct, under the impressive steel arched road bridge to Hartford.



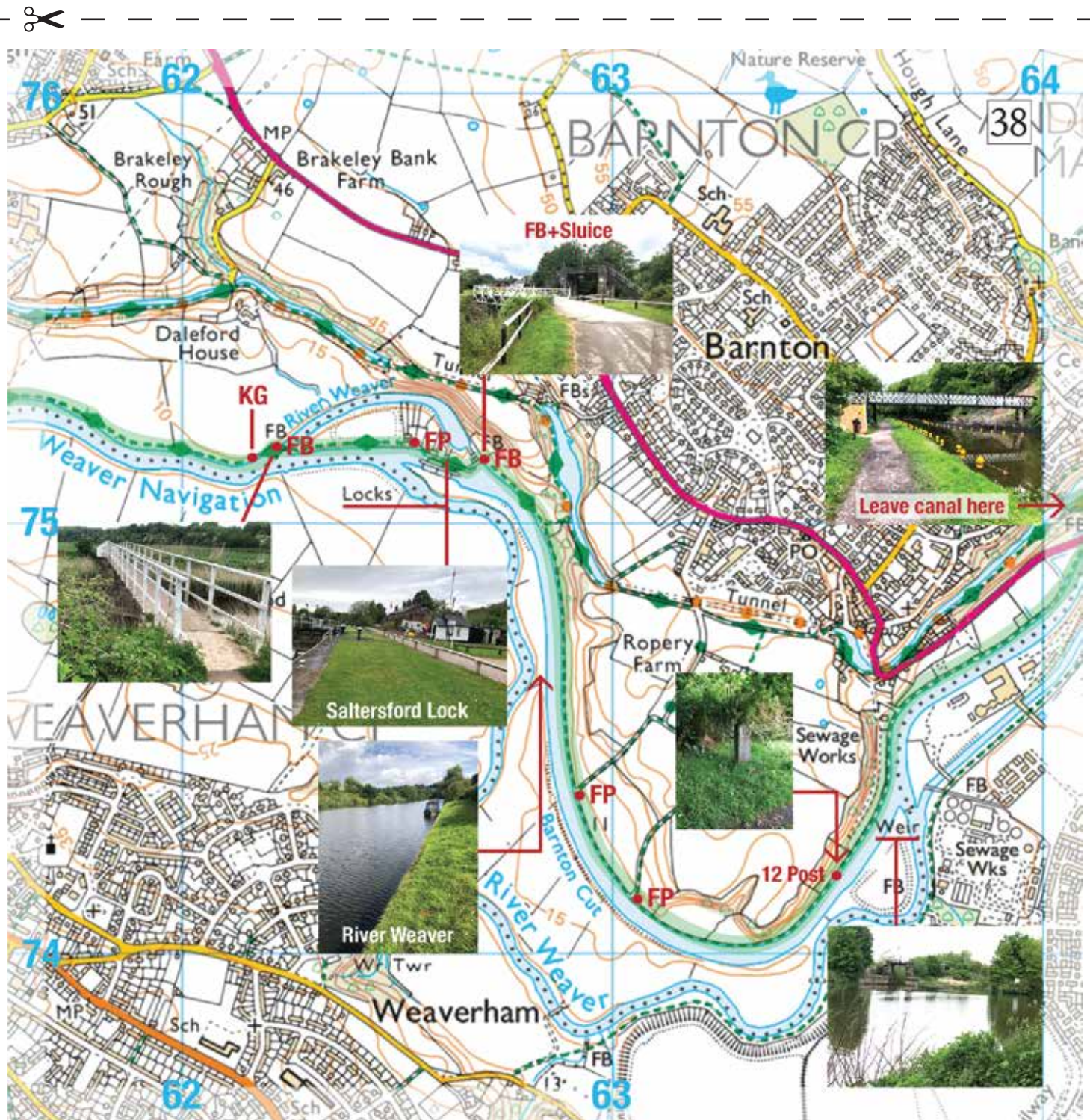
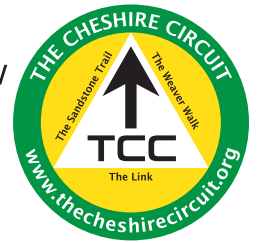
This map has everything. Old ship building wharfs, great Victorian engineering and an elegant foot bridge. (Navigation care – weaving under the rail viaduct and passed the pumping station to Weir Street.) Follow map to the Northwich waterfront, past Waitrose waterfront and to the black-and-white buildings of Northwich town centre and back on to the waterfront. Enjoy the contrast of a new 21st century development; cinema, supermarket and multi story be car park etc. I think the contrast works well. Follow the road round to Carey Park gates.



Through Carey Park with open views of the river Weaver, over the bridge into Anderton Nature Park then walk up to the iconic Anderton Lift. Stop here for a good look and possibly pit stop in the cafe. Follow the canal to the lattice bridge and turn down to Winnington Bridge Of Civil War fame – 19 August 1659.

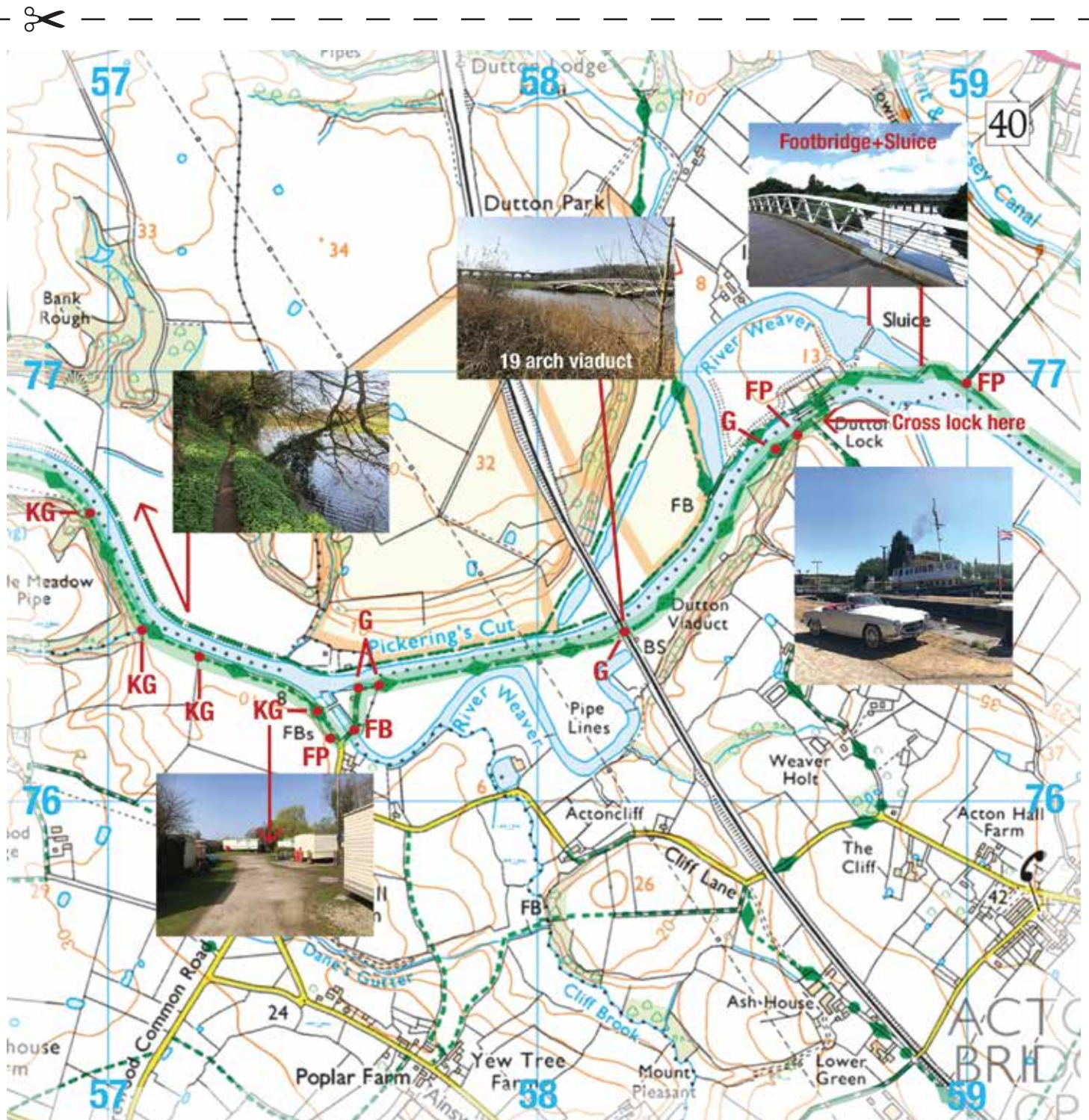
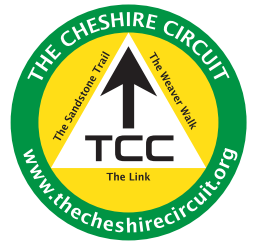


From Winnington swing bridge follow the River Weaver to Salterford Lock and over two lovely foot bridges. Pass an MOD bunker (we know not what!), pass the rowing club towards the interesting Bartington swing bridge and cross the A49.

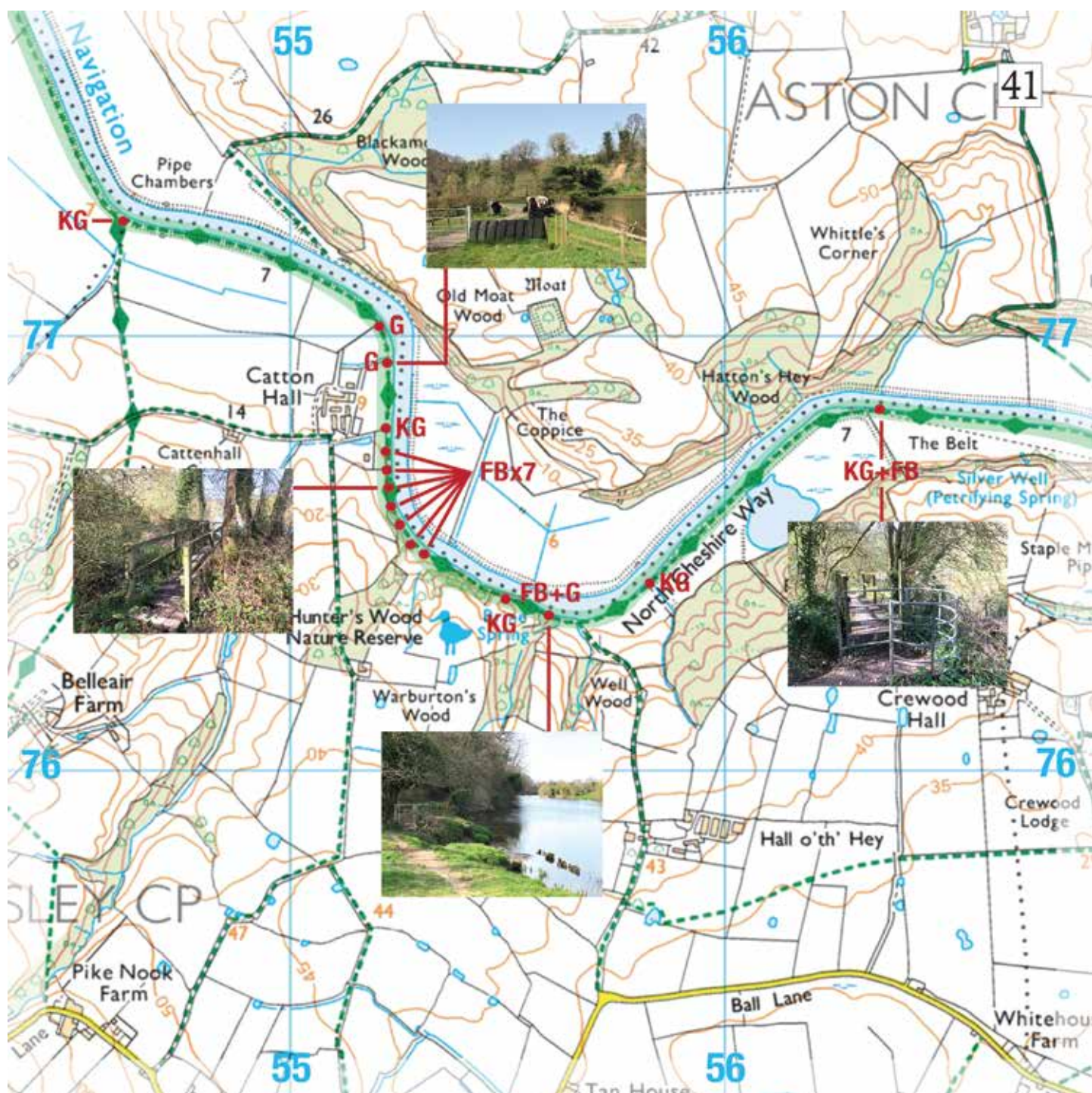




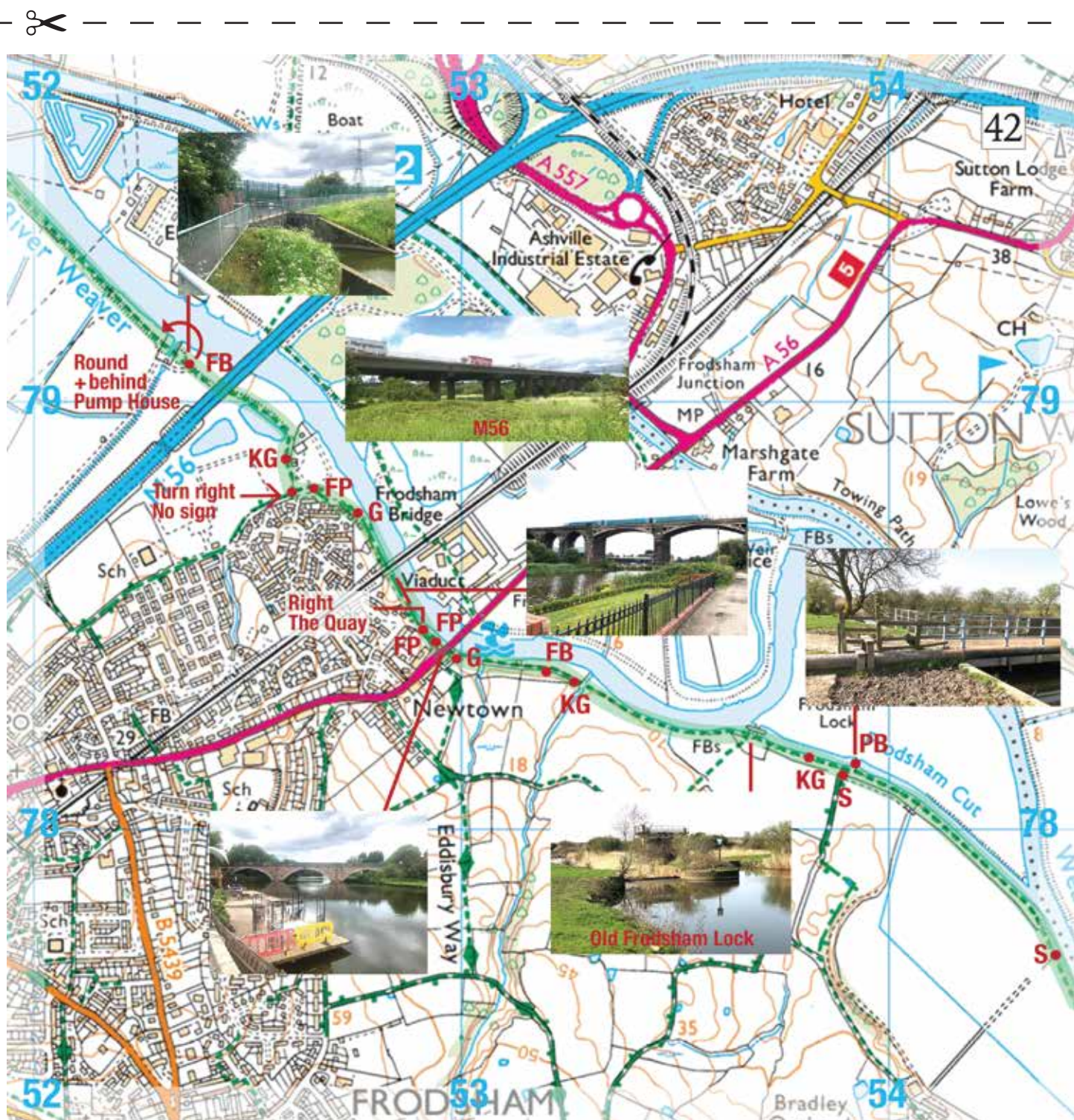
Dutton Lock, we CROSS the River Weaver over the lock gates and begin walking on the south side of the river. Under the impressive 19 arch railway viaduct, round/through the little caravan park, through Hunter's Wood nature reserve and over its 7 foot bridges and past Catton Hall.



Lovely elegant river views combine with some difficult walking through undergrowth and wet woodland with many foot bridges.



The route now follows the old Frodsham Cut, passes an old lock, over A56 road bridge, under another equally impressive railway viaduct, and under the M56 motorway to the old pump house.



The estuary of the River Weaver and meeting the Manchester Ship Canal. This map covers the important Frodsham Marshes; there are spectacular views with everything – a nature reserve, fine river views, the last great canal built in Great Britain, the Manchester Ship Canal, and Cheshire's important chemical industry on the banks of the Weaver estuary. And finally the walk from Marsh Farm to Frodsham goes through an impressive wind farm with its towering and magnificent 21 Century turbines; carefully located to include a corridor for migrating birds.

