



Northop and nearby, North West England & North Wales

Compiled by Simpson Crowden LLP, Spring 2009

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Please note that the information contained within this document has been gathered from publicly available sources. We have taken every reasonable care to ensure that this information is correct, however Simpson Crowden LLP and BHP Billiton take no responsibility for any inaccuracies that may be present.

Cover photograph: Chester City Centre

General Overview

Northop

Northop is a small village in Flintshire, North Wales, approximately 12 miles west of the city of Chester, mid-way between Mold and Flint, and situated just off junction 33 of the A55 North Wales Expressway.

Northop's location means that all major regions of the UK are accessible. **Mold**, a county town, and the city of **Chester** are close by. Other key UK locations and approximate distances via road are set out below;

- Liverpool – 30 miles
- Manchester – 54 miles
- Birmingham – 97 miles
- Bath – 177 miles
- Cardiff – 164 miles
- London – 200 miles
- Southampton – 232 miles
- Edinburgh – 249 miles

Northop is an historic village with a rich mix of building types and styles evolved over the last eight centuries. In particular the medieval church is prominently located and the visual signature of Northop.

The High Street is the centre of village life: the Post Office provides a real "Community" service; the Edith Bankes Memorial Hall hosts many community activities and the pubs are real local pubs. Northop has a vibrant social and cultural life.

For a village with a population of no more than 1,000 people, the community supports a nationally recognised Championship Silver Band, a regionally successful cricket club, an equine competition centre attracting competitors from throughout North Wales and the North West of England, a championship golf course and a drama group which stages a pantomime each year featuring many local characters.

Mold

Mold is the county town of Flintshire and, as the largest historic market town in this County, is also a major cultural centre of North Wales. Situated just 3.2 miles from Northop, Mold is located in a small and fertile plain, surrounded by rugged hills, richly productive of mineral treasure. It consists principally of one long and spacious street. On the north side is a mount, partly natural, and partly artificial, from where is a fine view of the circumjacent country and the Clwydian hills.

Chester

Just twelve miles away is the historic city of Chester. Lying on the River Dee, close to the border with Wales, it is home to 77,040 inhabitants, and is the largest and most populous settlement of the wider local government district of the City of Chester.

Chester was founded as a "castrum" or Roman fort with the name *Deva Victrix* in the year 79 by the Roman Legio II Adiutrix. Its four main roads, Eastgate, Northgate, Watergate and Bridge, follow routes laid out at this time – almost 2,000 years ago. One of the three main Roman army bases, Deva later became a major settlement in the Roman province of Britannia.

It was one of the last Cities in England to fall to the Normans in the Norman conquest of England. William the Conqueror ordered the construction of a castle, to dominate the City and the nearby Welsh border. In 1071 he created Hugh d'Avranches, the 1st Earl of Chester.

Chester has the reputation of being the "English medieval city *par excellence*", but many of its buildings are from the Victorian era. It has the most complete city walls in Britain, and most sections of the walls are listed Grade I. The Industrial Revolution brought railways, canals, and new roads to the city, which saw substantial expansion and development – Chester City Hall and the Grosvenor Museum are examples of Victorian architecture from this period.

Brief History

Northop

The name seems to be derived from *North Hope*, to distinguish it from the nearby village of Hope, which has also been known as East Hope.

Another source claims the name originates from *North* and *Thorpe*, the latter word meaning village or town in the Saxon language. Written in ancient records as *Northorpe*, the name *Northop* was in use after the surrender of Chester to Egbert of Wessex, circa AD 828, when Flintshire was brought under Saxon rule.

There has been evidence of a church in Northop since the 6th century. It is said that Eurgain, a niece of St Asaph, passed through Northop and founded the church here on a Celtic mound, upon which it still stands. The Welsh name for Northop, *Llaneurgain* translates as "The holy enclosure of Eurgain". Records indicate that there was a stone church erected here during the 12th century, with the tower being completed to its 98-foot height in 1571. The present building was extensively rebuilt during 1840, with further alterations being carried out in 1877.

The churchyard of St Eurgain and St Peter still houses the old grammar school for Northop, constructed during the 16th century.

St Eurgain and St Peter's church is the seat of the Parish of Northop, which comprises the districts of Northop, Northop Hall, Sychdyn, Halkyn, Rhosesmor, and Flint Mountain. Formerly it also included Connah's Quay. It is a member of the diocese of St Asaph, Church in Wales.



Northop Church taken from the High Street

Mold

The town developed around the now ruined Mold Castle, built by Robert de Montalt in around 1140, and was the site of frequent battles between English and Welsh forces. The castle was apparently captured for the Welsh by Owain Gwynedd in 1146. It was lost to Henry II of England in 1167, and recaptured by the Welsh in 1201. A further period of English authority commenced in 1241, when Dafydd ap Llywelyn yielded possession of the castle to the de Montalt family; however, the prince recaptured the castle in 1245.

About a mile west of the town is Maes Garmon, (*The Field of Germanus*), which is thought to be the site of the *Alleluia Victory* by British forces, led by Germanus of Auxerre over invading Picts and Scots, fought shortly after Easter 430.

In 1833, workmen digging a prehistoric mound at Bryn yr Ellyllon (*Fairies' or Goblins' Hill*) discovered a unique golden cape, which dates from 1900-1600 BC in the Bronze Age. The cape weighs 560 g and was produced from a single gold ingot, which now forms one of the great treasures of the British Museum in London.

Chester

Roman

The Romans founded Chester as Deva Victrix in AD 70s as a fortress during the Roman expansion north. The civilian amphitheatre which was built in 1st century could sit between 8,000 and 10,000 people, is the largest known military amphitheatre in Britain and is also a Scheduled Monument. The Minerva Shrine in the Roman quarry is the only rock cut Roman shrine still in situ in Britain.

Medieval

Deverdoeu was one of two Welsh language names for Chester in the late 12th century; its other and more enduring Welsh name was 'Caerlleon', literally "the fortress-city of the legions", a name identical with that of the Roman fortress at the other end of the Welsh Marches at Caerleon in Monmouthshire. The colloquial modern Welsh name is the shortened form, Caer. The early Old English speaking Anglo Saxon settlers used a name which had the same meaning, Legacæstir, which was current until the 11th century, when – in a further parallel with Welsh usage – the first element fell out of use and the simplex name Chester emerged. From the 14th century to the 18th the city's prominent position in north-western England meant that it was commonly also known as Westchester

Industrial History

Chester played a significant part in the Industrial Revolution which began in the North-West of England in the latter part of the 18th century. The city village of Newtown, located north east of the city and bounded by the Shropshire Union Canal was at the very heart of this industry. The large Chester Cattle Market and the two Chester railway stations, meant that Newtown with its cattle market and canal, and Hoole with its railways were responsible for providing the vast majority of workers and in turn, the vast amount of Chester's wealth production throughout the Industrial Revolution.

Modern Era

A considerable amount of land in Chester is owned by the Duke of Westminster who owns an estate – Eaton Hall – near the village of Eccleston.

Grosvenor is the Duke's family name, which explains such features in the City such as the Grosvenor Bridge, the Grosvenor Hotel, and Grosvenor Park. Much of Chester's architecture dates from the Victorian era, many of the buildings being modeled on the Jacobean half-timbered style and designed by John Douglas, who was employed by the Duke as his principal architect. He had a trademark of twisted chimney stacks, many of which can be seen on the buildings in the city centre.

Douglas designed amongst other buildings the Grosvenor Hotel and the City Baths. In 1911, Douglas' protégé and city architect James Strong designed the then active fire station on the west side of Northgate Street. Another feature of all buildings belonging to the estate of Westminster is the 'Grey Diamonds' – a weaving pattern of grey bricks in the red brickwork laid out in a diamond formation.

On 13 January 2002, Chester was granted Fair-trade City status. This status was renewed by the Fair-trade Foundation on 20 August 2003.

Geography and Environment

Northop

At the 2001 Census, the population of Northop was 2,983. The village is home to two pubs, a cricket club, and a golf course. The Welsh College of Horticulture is also based in Northop, offering horticultural courses for students of all ages, in areas such as Animal Studies, floristry and agricultural machinery.



Northop, shown within Wales

Chester

Chester lies at the southern end of a 2-mile (3.2 km) Triassic sandstone ridge that rises to a height of 42 m within a natural S-bend in the River Dee (before the course was altered in the 18th century). The bedrock, which is also known as the Chester Pebble Beds, is noticeable because of the many small stones trapped within its strata. Retreating glacial sheet ice also deposited quantities of sand and marl across the area where boulder clay was absent.

The eastern and northern part of Chester consisted of heathland and forest. The western side towards the Dee Estuary was marsh and wetland habitats.



Chester, shown within Cheshire

Local Facilities and Attractions

Northop

Like most other small villages, Northop has its own local shop, providing foodstuffs, newspapers, and a variety of other items. The shop is situated on the High Street and also incorporates a one-counter post office.

Its pubs: The Red Lion and The Boot are situated at either end of the High Street. The Red Lion, recently refurbished, has an adjoining restaurant serving food during the pub's normal opening hours. The Boot incorporates a dining area in traditional pub style. The Boot is the last remaining of the six original coaching inns present in Northop; from the 18th century, Northop was the first stop on the Chester-Holyhead stagecoach route.

Northop also plays host to a bridal shop (*Karen Lesley Bridal Emporium*) where wedding dresses are hand-made on the premises, 'The Old Police Station', Church Road which is now the home of Susan Price-Williams' Gallery & Photographic Studio - *cameracat.co.uk*, an antiques shop/furniture restorer (*Nick Eastwood*) and a hairdressers (*Colettes*). The longest established, repair & MOT Garage is "Brookfield Garage" (Keith Jones) which is next to the village Institute behind the Bridal Shop.

Northop Silver Band

In 1892 a group of young men met at Soughton (Sychdyn) and committed themselves to playing for a year with the newly formed band. Within two years they had relocated to nearby Northop. A bass drum, which was in use until fairly recently, has the mark 'Northop 1894' as proof of this fact. Very little is known of the early years as there are no written records but it is known that the bands' first contest success was in 1921 at Flint. The band at that time rehearsed at the Boot Inn which now supplies refreshments after practices. As a result of its success and professional attitude, the band has been fortunate enough to play at some of the most prestigious venues in the country including, the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, St. David's Hall, Cardiff and the Royal Albert Hall in London. The 1980s saw the band become 'internationals' with a visit to Menden in Germany where, again, they performed with great professionalism. Recently band members joined forces with Parc and Dare (South Wales) in a return visit to Germany to play at a Police Festival in Hamburg.

St Eurgain Church

At the centre of the village stands the church of St Eurgain and St Peter, towering 98 feet tall. It is open to visitors every day, between 1st April and 30th September between the hours of 9am and 5pm. During the rest of the year the church is open during day-light hours, weather permitting. Northop Hall church is opened by appointment with the Churchwarden

Northop Country Park

A beautiful location for Championship golf, world class shooting or for a relaxing Sunday lunch. Founded in 1993, Northop Country Park golf course is the work of former Ryder Cup player and renowned golf coach John Jacobs. Northop Country Park, set in the beautiful North Wales countryside, sits in 250 acres of awe-inspiring parkland. The park is renowned for its fantastic views, beautiful Georgian club house and first class golf and function facilities. The course opened in 1994, and immediately hosted the Welsh PGA National Championships before going on to play host to a number of top amateur events and regional competitions. October 2003 saw Northop host a European Challenge Tour event – the first of its kind ever to be held in Wales.

Mold

Mold has two successful secondary schools that serve the town and the surrounding villages. With approximately 1,800 pupils, the Alun School is the largest school in the county. It is adjoined by the only Welsh language secondary school in Flintshire, Ysgol Maes Garmon.

Attractions in Mold include the 15th century parish church, a small museum and the regional arts centre, Clwyd Theatr Cymru.

Mold is a *cittaslow* (slow food town), which became the first town in Wales to achieve this distinction. It has a market at which much fresh produce can be obtained. There are several producers in the Mold markets who also appear regularly at the famous Borough Market in London. The Mold Food & Drink Festival is held during September each year. The festival has a central event area on the edge of the town centre, and many central and nearby businesses contribute to the event.

Mold hosted the National Eisteddfod (a major Welsh culture festival) in 1923 and 1991, and again in 2007.

There is an 18 hole golf course based in the village of Pantymwyn near Mold. Mold also boasts a very successful ruby club with past members representing the British and Irish Lions team.

See Appendix 1 for a list of Sports Clubs and other Activity Centres in or near Northop and Mold.

Chester

The city has a shopping centre that contains its unique 'Rows' or galleries which date from medieval times. The city is populated by chain stores both in the centre and on retail parks to the west, and also features an indoor market, a department store and two main indoor shopping centres: The Grosvenor Mall and the Forum (a reference to the City's Roman past).

Quality local produce is available across the county at many farmers markets, butchers, bakers and fishmongers and used in many of the pubs and restaurants - where you get great food and superb service.

Chester has its own university, the University of Chester, and a major hospital, the Countess of Chester Hospital, named after Diana, Princess of Wales and Countess of Chester.

Chester's more unusual landmarks are the city walls, the rows and the black-and-white architecture. The walls encircle the bounds of the medieval city and constitute the most complete city walls in Britain, the full circuit measuring nearly 2 miles (3 km). On Eastgate is Eastgate Clock which is said to be the most photographed clock in England after Big Ben.

The rows are unique in Britain. They consist of buildings with shops or dwellings on the lowest two storeys. The shops or dwellings on the ground floor are often lower than the street and are entered by steps, which sometimes lead to a crypt-like vault. Those on the first floor are entered behind a continuous walkway, often with a sloping shelf between the walkway and the railings overlooking the street. Some of the architecture of central Chester is medieval. However the greatest part, including most of the black-and-white buildings, is Victorian.

The most prominent buildings in the city centre are the City hall and the cathedral. The City hall was opened in 1869. It is in Gothic Revival style and has a tower and a short spire. The cathedral was formerly the church of St Werburgh's Abbey. Its architecture dates back to the Norman era, with additions made most centuries since. A series of major restorations took place in the 19th century and in 1975 a

separate bell tower was opened. The elaborately carved canopies of the choir stalls are considered to be one of the finest in the country. Also in the cathedral is the shrine of St Werburgh. To the north of the cathedral are the former monastic buildings. The oldest church in the city is St John's, which is outside the city walls and was at one time the cathedral church. Much of the interior is in Norman style and this is considered to be the best example of 11th–12th century church architecture in Cheshire. Other notable buildings include the preserved shot tower, the highest structure in Chester.

Roman remains can still be found in the city, particularly in the basements of some of the buildings and in the lower parts of the northern section of the city walls. The most important Roman feature is the amphitheatre just outside the walls which is undergoing archaeological investigation. Roman artifacts are on display in the Roman Gardens which run parallel to the city walls from Newgate to the River Dee.

Of the medieval city the most important surviving structure is Chester Castle, particularly the Agricola Tower. Much of the rest of the castle has been replaced by the neoclassical county court and its entrance, the Propyleum. To the south of the city runs the River Dee, with its 11th century weir. The river is crossed by the Old Dee Bridge, dating from the 13th century, the Grosvenor Bridge of 1832, and Queen's Park suspension bridge (for pedestrians). To the southwest of the city the River Dee curves towards the north. The area between the river and the city walls here is known as the Roodee, and contains Chester Racecourse. The Shropshire Union Canal runs to the north of the city and a branch leads from it to the River Dee.

The major museum in Chester is the Grosvenor Museum which includes a collection of Roman tombstones and an art gallery. Associated with the museum is 20 Castle Street in which rooms are furnished in different historical styles. The Dewa Roman Experience has hands-on exhibits and a reconstructed Roman street. And one of the blocks in the forecourt of the castle houses the Cheshire Military Museum.

The major public park in Chester is Grosvenor Park. On the south side of the River Dee, in Handbridge, is Edgar's Field, another public park, which contains Minerva's Shrine.

A series of festivals is organised in the city, including mystery plays, a summer music festival and a literature festival.

The Snowdonia National Park

A short drive from Northop is the beautiful Snowdonia National Park. The Snowdonia National Park (Welsh: *Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri*) was established in 1951 as the third national park in England and Wales . It covers 2,142 square kilometers (827 sq mi), and has 60 kilometers (37 mi) of coastline and is home of Snowdon (Welsh: *Yr Wyddfa*), the highest mountain in Wales and is Great Britain's highest mountain south of the Scottish Highlands.

Snowdonia may be divided into four areas:

- The northernmost area is the most popular with tourists, and includes (west to east):
 - Moel Hebog, Mynydd Mawr and the Nantlle Ridge; the Snowdon Massif; the Glyderau, and the Carneddau. These last three groups are the highest mountains in Wales, and include all Wales' 3000-foot mountains.
- The second area includes peaks such as Moel Siabod, Cnicht, the Moelwynion, and the mountains around Blaenau Ffestiniog.
- The third area includes the Rhinogydd in the west as well as the Arenig and the Migneint (this last being an area of bog). This area is not as popular with tourists as the other areas, due to its remoteness.
- The southernmost area includes Cadair Idris, the Tarren range, and the Aran group, including Aran Fawddwy, the highest mountain in the United Kingdom south of Snowdon.



Snowdonia Panorama

The summit of Snowdon is known as *Yr Wyddfa* (Welsh for "the tumulus") and lies at an altitude of 1,085 meters (3,560 ft) above sea level. In terms of 'absolute height' it is the same height as Table Mountain in South Africa.

As the highest peak in Wales, Snowdon is one of three mountains climbed as part of the National Three Peaks Challenge. The English name *Snowdon* comes from the Saxon "Snow Dun," meaning "snow hill," although the amount of snow on Snowdon in winter has been decreasing recently, having dropped by more than 55% since 1994.



Snowdon seen from Llyn Llydaw

The area is steeped in history and benefits from some of the most beautiful views in all of Britain. Each year hundreds of thousands of visitors visit the mountain to enjoy its unique presence and share the exhilaration of scaling its slopes by one of the Snowdon Paths.

The mountain is not only tall, it has its own unique bio-diversity of plants and animals and much effort is made to maintain the fragile mountain ecology. Snowdon is a national symbol for the Welsh people, something they are rightly proud of and offers an icon of stability in our rapidly changing political and technological world.



Views of Snowdon

Topography

Snowdon has six ridges; these are steep and rocky to the north and east, shallower and grassy, but more remote to the south and west. There are many cwms formed by glaciation in the ice age, some filled with tarns (meltwater lakes). Subsidiary summits include Garnedd Ugain (1,065 m), the knife-edge summit of Crib Goch (923 m), Y Lliwedd (898 m) and Yr Aran (747 m).

Snowdon offers some of the most extensive views in the British Isles; on exceptionally clear days, Ireland, (the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland), Scotland, England, and the Isle of Man (as well as Wales) are all visible, as well as 24 counties, 29 lakes and 17 islands. From here, it is also possible to view the newly built Beetham Tower in Manchester and mountains of the Peak District and South Pennines that surround Manchester. The view between Snowdon and Merrick (southern Scotland) is the longest theoretical line of sight in the British Isles at 144 miles (232 km). In practice atmospheric conditions make such sightings extremely rare. The mountain itself may also be viewed on takeoff and approach to both Manchester Airport and Liverpool John Lennon Airport on very clear days.

Further Places of Interest

Albert Dock Liverpool

Albert Dock is the largest group of Grade I listed buildings in Britain -1.25 million square feet - and was built to the design of engineer/architect Jesse Hartley. Plans were submitted in 1839, approved in 1841 and the Dock was officially opened on 30 July 1846 by Prince Albert.

Bangor on Dee Racecourse

The Racecourse, Bangor-on-Dee, Wrexham LL13 ODA

Blue Planet Aquarium

Tel. 0151 357 8804

Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet

The largest Designer Outlet in the UK, with an incredible 140 stores.

Clwyd Theatr Cymru

Wales' major drama producing operation, originally built as a Regional Arts Centre. It is the home of a highly acclaimed producing company, which also presents much of its work on tour throughout Wales and the rest of the UK. The company produces mainly in English, but also in Welsh. There is a fully integrated Theatre for Young People department which uses the same performers, technicians and creative staff to achieve the same high production values as the mainstream product. The theatre also hosts a variety of touring drama, dance, music and a community Festival in the Summer. There are around 900 public performances per year.

Ellesmere Port Boat Museum

South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 4FW

Liverpool Museums

National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside was established as a national museum in 1986 because of the outstanding quality of its collections. In 2003 they changed their name to National Museums Liverpool. Their origins go back to 1851 and the founding of Liverpool Museum.

Today there are seven National Museums Liverpool venues, together attracting more than 2.7 million visitors in 2008

Llandudno Dry Ski Slope

John Nike Leisuresport Llandudno offers a wide variety of activities for everyone to enjoy. Situated 415ft above sea level, Llandudno Ski & Snowboard Centre boasts spectacular views of Llandudno and the Irish Sea.

Mersey Ferry

There's no better way to experience Liverpool & Merseyside than from the deck of the famous Mersey Ferry. Take the ferry as part of the BIG Mersey Adventure to learn about the city region's fascinating history and see its spectacular sights.

North Wales Music Festival, St Asaph

The North Wales International Music Festival was founded by William Mathias in 1972. The aim of the Festival was and still is to bring the finest international artists to North Wales.

The Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl

The Auditorium was designed to accommodate theatre and orchestral concert audiences together with conference delegates. The lighting system adapts to the varying requirements of a theatre audience and caters for delegates writing notes in a conference.

Tate Gallery Liverpool

Tate Liverpool presents displays of work from the Tate collection alongside special exhibitions of modern and contemporary art. The special exhibition programme, presented on the Gallery's fourth floor, brings together works from national and international collections, both public and private. Since the gallery opened in 1988, Tate Liverpool has presented over 150 different exhibitions and collection displays of work by hundreds of different artists, some seen for the first time in the UK at Tate Liverpool.

Venue Cymru

Venue Cymru is based in Llandudno on the North Wales coast and consists of a theatre, conference centre and Arena. There has been a theatre on the Venue Cymru site since 1894. Originally named the Victoria Palace, it was only intended to be a temporary building but became a landmark on the promenade for over 100 years. The current facility was officially opened on Monday 15th January 2007 by Andrew Davies AM and has been described as the beginning of a new era for Entertainment, Conferencing and Events in Llandudno.

Tir Prince Harness Raceway Abergele

The Tir Prince complex consists of the Amusement Park, Market & Car boot, Raceway, Silks Bar and Restaurant, Trackside Bookies, Full Tote Betting and Parking for 1000 cars.

Tweedmill Factory Outlet

Tweedmill Shopping Outlet is a free attraction and is set at the gateway to the Vale of Clwyd in St Asaph one of the UK's smallest Cathedral Cities. It offers hassle free shopping all under one roof with adequate free parking in a delightful setting. Tweedmill Shopping Outlet offers quality products at affordable prices with savings up to 50% off normal High Street prices.



Venue Cymru, Llandudno

Eating and Drinking

Northop, Mold and nearby

56 High Street

Since opening its doors in May 2006, 56 High St Restaurant rapidly gained a reputation for excellent food, wine and service.

Honored in the Which Good Food Guide the same year and consecutively in the three that followed. More recent acclaims have been received from Hardens UK Restaurant Guide 2009. Furthermore, 56 are the only representatives in Flintshire.

All ingredients are extremely fresh, locally sourced and carefully selected to ensure that quality dishes are served. They pride themselves as being the only restaurant in the area specialising in seafood but also catering for meat eaters and vegetarians.

Address. High Street, Mold, Flintshire, Tel. 01352 759225.

Beaufort Park Hotel

Originally the land that the hotel stands on was farmland belonging to a local farmer and the farmhouse attached to the land still stands opposite the hotel.

Wat's Dyke runs through the hotel grounds, the dyke runs from Basingwerk on the Dee Estuary to just outside Oswestry. The name Wat was a personal name during the Anglo-Saxon period. There is no reference to the dyke being called Wat's Dyke before the fourteenth century and the word could mean "wet" or "rough".

The first building was completed in 1982 when the Arches Inn and Hotel opened. In 1987 the hotel was extended and opened by The Duke of Westminster and the name of the hotel changed to Arches Hotel. In 1988 the hotel was bought by the Beaufort Group and the name changed to The Beaufort Palace Hotel. In 1994 the name was changed to The Beaufort Park Hotel when it was acquired by the present owner and over the last 12 years has become one of Wales' most successful independent hotels.

Address. Altami Rd, New Brighton, Flintshire, CH7 6RQ Tel. 01352 758 646.

Bluebell Inn Jazz, Halkyn

Built in the local 1700s at the crossroads of two old coaching routes, the Bluebell Inn is purportedly named after a local privateer's boat the Blue Bell. Legend has it that he was later caught and hanged for his piracy and is thought to be buried a few hundred yards away in the cemetery next to Halkyn Castle.

They have had hundreds of different cask ales to date and their own local Welsh brewed Blue Bell Bitter is always on along with other regularly changing real ales, ciders and perrys – they even make their own Rosie's Blue Bell Cider. Featured in the Good Pub, Cider and Beer Guides and they have a Cask Marque for quality; in fact they are one of the highest scoring cask marque pubs in the UK with a maximum 100% score. They also have a good selection of great wines from around the world, a large range of soft drinks and Fair-trade teas, coffee's and hot chocolate.

The food is a mixture of locally sourced, home-made and traditional meals ranging from lighter bites to those that challenge the hungry.

Address. Rhosesmor Road, Halkyn Tel. 01352 780309.

Chequers Restaurant, Northop Hall Hotel

Address. Chester Rd, Northop Hall, Flintshire, CH7 6HJ Tel. 1244 816161.

Clwyd Theatr Cymru

Address. Expressway, Mold, Flintshire, CH6 5SU Tel. 0845 330 3565.

Cross Foxes

Address. Village Road, Nannerch, Flintshire, CH7 5RD Tel. 01352 741293.

De Vere St Davids Park

Address. St Davids Park, Ewloe, Flintshire, CH5 3YB Tel. 01244 520800.

Druid Inn

The Druid Inn combines a traditional stone built pub with restaurant standard modern British cuisine. Wooden beams, open fires and original features give the Druid a cosy feel.

Address. Pontybyddn, Mold, Flintshire Tel. 01352 770292.

Glasfryn Pub & Restaurant

Address. Raikes Lane, Sychdn, Flintshire, CH7 6LR Tel. 01352 750 500.

Hot Wok

Address. King Street, Mold, Flintshire Tel. 01352 755 575.

Northop Golf & Country Club

Address. Northop Golf & Country Club, Northop, Flintshire, CH7 6WA Tel. 01352 840 440.

Stables Restaurant

Nearly 300 years old and once a home to bishops and nobility, the hall is now privately owned by John & Rosemary Rodenhurst. The stately historic elegance of the exterior hides a boutique hotel with a warm and welcoming atmosphere that's perhaps more relaxed and informal than you may expect from a country house.

Recently refurbished and redecorated by Rosemary, Soughton Hall's fifteen sumptuous bedroom suites, stunning dining room and functions suites, private library and bar all have the highest standards of interior design, using handmade carpets and beautiful fabrics and are filled with antiques and curios.

Address. Soughton Hall, Northop, Flintshire, CH7 6AB Tel. 01352 840 577.

The Boot Inn

Address. High St, Northop, Flintshire, CH7 6BQ Tel. 01352 840 257.

The Crown

Address. Pantymwyn, Mold, Flintshire Tel. 01352 740347.

The White Horse

A lovely unspoilt 500 year old inn. The pub is warmed by 4 log fires in winter. Set in beautiful conservation village on the slope of Moel Fammau. They are very popular with walkers, cyclists & horse riders.

Address. Cilcain, Mold, Flintshire Tel. 01352 740142.

We Three Loggerheads

Address. Loggerheads, Mold, Flintshire Tel. 01352 810 337.

Chester

Eating out in Chester is popular and the standards are high. From the superb Michelin starred Simon Radley Restaurant at Chester Grosvenor & Spa to Chester's many chic restaurants and gastropubs, there is a lot to choose from in Chester.

Oddfellows is Chester's new open-house members' club; a place for eating, meeting, fine dining, champagne sipping, cocktail shaking, afternoon teaing, dancing and general enjoyment.

Please see below for details of some wonderful places to eat.

Simon Radley at The Chester Grosvenor

A French gourmet restaurant with an exceptional menu, which changes seasonally. The emphasis is on using the very best, fresh, local produce in imaginative and innovative ways.

Simon Radley at The Chester Grosvenor is a gourmet restaurant with a much-coveted Michelin star. It has recently retained its coveted Michelin star for the 18th year running, making it one of only five restaurants in England that have held a star for 18 consecutive years.

Its cellar is one of the most extensive in England, with over 600 bins from all over the world and the Library Bar is well stocked with interesting malts, vintage ports and a wide range of liqueurs.
Tel. 01244 324024

Cock O'Barton Bar & Restaurant

A newly-converted, 16th-century coaching inn set in the Cheshire countryside only a short drive from Chester. Its modern blending of old and new features create a unique place to wine and dine
Tel. 01829 782277

Restaurant 1539

A new glass fronted restaurant set within the grounds of the historic racecourse, enjoy panoramic views and mouth watering a la carte Modern British Cooking.
Tel. 01244 304611

Duttons

Tucked away on Godstall lane, not far from Chester's stunning cathedral, is one of the city centre's best kept secrets. Serving fresh food accompanied by real ales and fine wines, Duttons is popular with visitors and locals alike.
Tel. 01244 401869

Housing and Property

Estate Agents

The closest estate agents serving the Northop area:

- J Bradburne Price & Co, 14 Chester Street, Mold, CH7 1EG
- Dodds Property World, 9 Chester Street, Mold, CH7 1EG
- J Bradburne Price & Co, 14 Chester Street, Mold, CH7 1EG
- Molyneux, Tudor House, 13-15 Chester Street, Mold, CH7 1EG
- Town & Country Property Services, 4-6 Chester Street, Mold, CH7 1EG
- Cavendish Ikin, The Cross, 1 High Street, Mold, CH7 1AZ

Property Purchase prices in Chester 2009

AREA	POSTCODES	STUDIO	1 BED	2 BED	3 BED	4 BED
CHESTER CITY CENTRE	CH 1	£76,000	£120,000	£175,000	£275,000	£450,000
CHESTER SUBURBS	CH2	N/A	£150,000	£185,000	£275,000	£350,000+
TARPORLEY	CW6	N/A	N/A	£165,000	£265,000	£375,000
KENSALL	CW6	N/A	N/A	£160,000	£240,000	£300,000
NORTHOP	CH7	N/A	£82,000	£125,000	£225,000	£285,000+
MOLD	CH7	N/A	£72,000	£125,000	£215,000	£245,000
HAWARDEN	CH7	N/A	£90,000	£125,000	£215,000	£245,000
HESWALL	CH60	N/A	£145,000	£215,000	£299,000	£425,000
ELLESMERE PORT	CH65	N/A	£55,000	£85,000	£130,000	£195,000

Rental prices in Chester 2009

AREA	POSTCODES	STUDIO	1 BED	2 BED	3 BED	4 BED
CHESTER CITY CENTRE	CH 1	£350 PCM	£550 PCM	£700 PCM	£850 PCM	£1200 - £2200 PCM
CHESTER SUBURBS	CH2	N/A	£500 PCM	£600 PCM	£750 PCM	£9900 - £2200 PCM
TARPORLEY	CW6	N/A	550 PCM	600 PCM	800 PCM	£1200 - £1600 PCM
KENSALL	CW6	N/A	£500 PCM	£575 PCM	£750 PCM	£950 PCM
NORTHOP	CH7	N/A	£450 PCM	£525 PCM	£675 PCM	£850 - £2000 PCM
MOLD	CH7	N/A	£400 PCM	£500 PCM	£700 PCM	£750 - £1200 PCM
HAWARDEN	CH7	N/A	£500 PCM	£400 PCM	£700 PCM	£750 - £1200 PCM
HESWALL	CH60	N/A	£550 PCM	£650 PCM	£900 PCM	£1400 - £2500 PCM
ELLESMERE PORT	CH65	£300 PCM	£400 PCM	£500 PCM	£650 PCM	£700 - £900 PCM

Also see Appendix 3 for location maps

Education

Mold has two successful secondary schools that serve the town and the surrounding villages. With approximately 1,800 pupils, the Alun School is the largest school in the county. It is adjoined by the only Welsh language secondary school in Flintshire, Ysgol Maes Garmon.

Cheshire is one of the largest local education authorities and has a population over 679,000. They maintain 341 schools in Cheshire, including Nursery schools, Primary schools, Secondary schools, Special schools and a Pupil Referral Unit.

Detailed below are just some of the many schools in the Cheshire local authority area who have received "Outstanding Provider" status by Ofsted in the past year.

Primary Schools

Clutton Church of England Primary School, Chester

Ofsted Inspection in Jan 2008 awarded the school Grade One's (outstanding) in all 5 areas. The inspector praised many areas but in particular the quality of teaching and learning deemed as outstanding. National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools report, Feb 2008, judged the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as outstanding. The school also has a well-integrated Toddler/Carer group with the Foundation stage. Multi Skills PE training for all a great success, now run by Y5 and Y6 for the younger children in play times.

Upton Westlea Primary School, Chester

Upton Westlea is situated just outside the City of Chester. They are a small school with for 140 children aged 3-11 and a 26 place nursery class (26 morning; 26 afternoon). They also have a seven-place resourced provision for children with Autism.

Although small in number they have a spacious building with a well stocked library and technology room, the latter having a computer suite. They also have a large playing field and playground which gives the children plenty of space in which to play.

Bollington Cross CofE Primary School, Macclesfield

The school has successfully educated many generations of Bollington children being first opened in 1845. The main school building is an attractive Victorian design, modernized and in excellent repair and decoration. There is one classroom housed in the main building and a large private nursery unit. A spacious new building was opened in January 2004 that houses four classrooms, a canteen, hall and large atrium. The school has extensive grounds. There are two halls which provide a natural focus for school activities, being used for assemblies, physical education and drama. There are two hard surface play areas suitably organised for both quiet and more active play activities, a large adjoining sports field and a soft surface play area. An area called 'The Hollow' at the back of the school contains woodland, meadow land and a pond. This area provides a natural resource for environmental and scientific study.

Secondary Schools

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School, Secondary, Crewe

The school was founded in 1978 and is located in Holmes Chapel, Cheshire. A Specialist Science College and designated Training School which has also been accredited with both Sportsmark and Artsmark awards, the school consistently performs well in academic performance League Tables, invariably exceeding both National and Local Education Authority averages.

Sir John Deane's College, Sixth Form College, Northwich

They celebrated their 450th anniversary in October 2007. Formerly Sir John Deane's Grammar School, founded in 1557, the College has enjoyed a fine reputation for high quality education and strong academic standards across many generations of local people. The College provides a broad range of courses, excellent teaching and a high level of personal support for each student. They offer a large number of Advanced Level courses, preparing students for Higher Education and a wide range of careers. Students' programmes are further enriched through sporting and recreational options, General Studies, work experience, charity and community work, the creative and performing arts and much more.

Colleges

South Cheshire College, General FE/tertiary College, Crewe

South Cheshire College is a further education college, located in Crewe, England. The College is a single campus situated in a residential area about one mile from Crewe town center. South Cheshire College opened in 1966 and was officially opened by the Queen Mother in 1968. The engineers were the first to enter the College with one of the students being Tom Binkley who is now an engineering lecturer at the College.

See Appendix 2 for a list of other schools, as well as nurseries, in the area.

Arts and Sport

Chester has its own film society, a number of successful amateur dramatic societies and theatre schools for youngsters.

To the east side of the city are the UK's largest zoological gardens, Chester Zoo.

Chester City football club plays in the Coca-Cola League 2, the fourth tier of English football and the lowest fully professional division. They were elected to the Football League in 1931, and have played at their Deva Stadium, straddling the England–Wales border, since 1992. Notable former players include Ian Rush (who also managed the club), Cyrille Regis, Arthur Albiston, Earl Barrett, Lee Dixon, Steve Harkness, Roberto Martinez and Stan Pearson.

The city also has a professional basketball team in the national league, the BBL Championship. BiG Storage Cheshire Jets play at the city's Northgate Arena leisure centre; and a wheelchair basketball team, Celtic Warriors, formerly known as the Chester Wheelchair Jets.

Chester Rugby Club (union) plays in the English Midlands One Division. It won the EDF Energy Intermediate Cup in the 2007-08 season and has also won the Cheshire Cup several times.

There is a successful hockey club, Chester HC, who play at the County Officers' Club on Plas Newton Lane, and also an American Football team, the Chester Romans, part of the British American Football League.

Chester Racecourse hosts several flat race meetings from the spring to the autumn. The races take place within view of the City walls and attract tens of thousands of visitors. The May meeting includes several nationally significant races such as the Chester Vase, which is recognised as a trial for the Epsom Derby.

The River Dee is home to several rowing clubs, notably Grosvenor Rowing Club and Royal Chester Rowing Club, as well as two school clubs, The King's School Chester Rowing Club and Queen's Park High Rowing Club. The weir is regularly used by a number of local canoe and kayak clubs. Each July the Chester Raft Race is held on the River Dee in aid of charity. Chester Golf Club can also be found near the banks of the Dee.

Gyms and Leisure Facilities

- Motorcise Healthy Living Centre, 2-6 Brookdale Place, Chester, CH1 3DY
- Dutch Houses Fitness Centre Ltd, 20 Bridge Street Row West, Chester, CH1 1NN
- Northgate Arena Leisure Centre, Northgate Arena Leisure Centre, Victoria Road, Chester, CH2 2AU
- Mold Sports Centre, The Campus, Wrexham Street, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1HS
- David Lloyd Leisure Club, Stanney Lane, Ellesmere Port, CH65 9JN

Cinemas

- Woolton Cinema Ltd, Greenfield, Overdale Road, Neston, CH64 1SZ
- Cineworld Ltd, Chaser Court, Greyhound Retail Park, Chester, CH1 4QQ
- Vue Cinemas Ltd, 3 Coliseum Way, Cheshire Oaks Outlet Village, Ellesmere Port, CH65 9HD
- Odeon Cinemas Ltd, Welton Road, Croft Business Park, Wirral, CH62 3PN
- Vue Cinemas Ltd, Europa Boulevard, Birkenhead, CH41 4PP

Transportation

Train Stations

The main train links with Northop are listed below with approximate distances:

Shotton	CH5 1BX	3.42 miles
Buckley	CH7 3BB	3.61 miles
Flint	CH6 5NW	3.65 miles
Hawarden Bridge	CH5 3EG	3.67 miles
Hawarden	CH5 3EG	3.67 miles
Penyffordd	CH4 0JT	4.60 miles
Hope (Flintshire)	LL12 9NJ	6.52 miles
Neston	CH64 3RG	6.93 miles
Caergwrle	LL12 9DU	7.10 miles
Cefn-y-Bedd	LL12 9UU	7.77 miles

Taxis

- Sutton's Cars - 0151 339 2136
- Kath's Cars, Unit 30 Pinfold Lane Industrial Estate, Buckley, Clwyd, CH7 3PL - 01244 545400
- Bee Line Taxis, Chester Street, Mold, Clwyd, CH7 1EG - 01352 755101
- BC For Private Hire, 31 Wrexham Street, Mold, Clwyd, CH7 1ET - 01352 756300
- Stanways Taxis, 63 Wrexham Street, Mold, Clwyd, CH7 1HQ - 01352 756669
- Countess Cars, 3 Mill Lane, Buckley, Clwyd, CH7 3HA - 01244 545141

Airports

- Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Speke Hall Avenue, L24 1YD - 0870 129 8484
- Manchester Airport, Olympic House, M90 1QX - 0161 489 3000
- Blackpool International Airport, Squires Gate Lane, Blackpool, FY4 2QY - 08700 273777
- Leeds/Bradford International Airport, Yeadon, LS19 7TU - 0113 250 9696
- Birmingham International Airport, Birmingham, B26 3QJ - 08707 335511

Hospitals

- 15.7 miles
(25.3 km) The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Countess of Chester Health Park, Liverpool Road,
Chester, Cheshire
01244 36500 24hr major A&E
unit
- 11.4 miles
(18.4 km) Wrexham Maelor Hospital
Croesnewydd Road, Wrexham, LL13 7TD
01978 291100 24hr major A&E
unit
- 16.5 miles
(26.5 km) Glan Clwyd Hospital
Rhuddlan Road, Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire, Rhyl,
LL18 5UJ
01745 583910 24hr major A&E
unit
- 30.5 miles
(49.0 km) Llandudno General Hospital
Hospital Road, Llandudno, Conwy, LL30 1LB
01492 860066 24hr minor A&E
unit

Other hospitals in the area

- North Wales NHS Trust East (Flint Community Hospital)
Flint Community Hospital, Old London Road, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5LT
Tel. 01352 732215
- Holywell Community Hospital
Pen-Y-Maes Road, Holywell, CH8 7UH
Tel. 01352 719350

Appendix 1 - Sports Clubs and other Activity Centres in or near Northop and Mold

Northop Cricket Club

Northop, Mold
Tel. 01352 761347

Northop Golf Course

Northop Golf & Country Club, Northop, Flintshire, CH7 6WA
Tel. 01352 840 440

Northop Institute Bowling Club

Northop, Mold
Tel. 01352 733158

Buckley Sports Centre

Mill Lane, Buckley, Clwyd CH7 3HQ
Tel. 01244 546458

Wepre Park

Connah's Quay, Deeside, Clwyd CH5 4HL
Tel. 01244 814931

Children's Activity Centre, Jolly Roger

21 Mold Road, Buckley, Clwyd CH7 2JA
Tel. 01244 549349

Zoo, Greenacres Farm Park

Mancot, Deeside, Clwyd CH5 2AZ
Tel. 01244 531147

Ten Pin Bowling

The Greyhound Park, Chaser Court Greyhound Retail Park, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 4QG
Tel. 01244 380125

Mold Golf Club

Pantymwyn
Tel. 01352 741513

Appendix 2 - Other schools in the Northop area

Other Primary schools

Northop Hall C.P. School

Address Llys Ben,
Nr.Mold
CH7 6HS
Telephone 01244 815980

Sychdyn C.P. School

Address Vownog Road,
Mold
CH7 6ED
Telephone 01352 753654

Mynydd Isa Junior School

Address Chamber's Lane,
Nr.Mold
CH7 6SJ
Telephone 01352 752714

Ysgol Maes Edwin

Address School Lane,
Nr. Flint
CH6 5QR
Telephone 01352 761331

Wat's Dyke Infants School

Address Mynydd Isa,
Flintshire
CH7 6UL
Telephone 01352 753043

St David's R.C. School

Address St David's Lane,
Flintshire
CH7 1LH
Telephone 01352 752651

Other Secondary schools

Argoed High School

Address Bryn Road,
Nr Mold
CH7 6RY
Telephone 01352 756414
Age range 11-16

Elfed High School

Address Mill Lane,
Flintshire
CH7 3HQ

Telephone 01244 550217

Age range 11-18

Connah's Quay High School

Address Golftyn Lane,
Flintshire
CH5 4BH

Telephone 01244 813491

Age range 11-18

Ysgol Maes Garmon

Address Stryd Conwy,
Sir Y Fflint
CH7 1JB

Telephone 01352 750678

Age range 11-18

Mold Alun School

Address Wrexham Road,
Flintshire
CH7 1EP

Telephone 01352 750755

Age range 11-18

Private Schools

Mostyn House School Ltd

The Parade, Neston, CH64 6SG
Distance: 6.80 miles

Queens School

City Walls Road, Chester, CH1 2NN
Distance: 9.18 miles

Kings School

Wrexham Road, Chester, CH4 7QL
Distance: 9.30 miles

Ruthin School Ltd

Ruthin, LL15 1EE
Distance: 9.38 miles

Howell's School

Denbigh, LL16 3EN
Distance: 20 miles

Greater Grace School Of Christian Education
Church Lane, Chester, CH2 4BE
Distance: 9.42 miles

Nurseries

Buttercups Day Nursery
Bryn Coch Hall Farm, Upper Bryn Coch, Mold, CH7 4AE
Distance: 3.13 miles

Little Peoples Day Nursery
High Street, Mold, CH7 6BQ
Distance: 0.89 miles

First Step Ltd
Unit 2, The Croft, Alltami Road, Buckley, CH7 3PG
Distance: 2.11 miles

Playpen Day Nursery
Mold Road, Mold, CH7 6TG
Distance: 2.16 miles

Playpen Nursery
6 Park Villas, Ruthin Road, Mold, CH7 1QG
Distance: 2.55 miles

Sure Start
Westwood Early Years Centre, Tabernacle Street, Buckley, CH7 2JT
Distance: 2.56 mile

Appendix 3 – Location Maps



Northop and surrounding countryside



Northop and surrounding area



END