

COMMERCIAL 4x4 OF THE YEAR



THE VENUE: ELLESMERE

WHERE BETTER TO TEST THE CONTENDERS FOR COMMERCIAL 4X4 OF THE YEAR THAN A WORKING FARM IN SHROPSHIRE

Beautiful and charming, Ellesmere was the location of choice for our Commercial 4x4 Of The Year extravaganza. Easy to reach off the A5, the town is the unofficial capital of Shropshire Lake Land and boasts a wide variety of attractions, especially if you're fond of activities of the outdoor persuasion.

Standing within a short distance of the area's nine Meres, or lakes, Ellesmere not only attracts those who enjoy fishing, sailing and other watersports, but also stalwart walkers and nature lovers drawn to the area for its gentle but beautiful scenery and wide-ranging wildlife.

Home to a variety of fine buildings, the town centre is set on one of these Meres and enjoys a healthy tourist trade. Many visitors spending time looking around the town church, St Mary's, nicknamed the Cathedral of the Lakes. With a fully operational peal of bells and an enthusiastic bell-ringing team, the church plays an important role in the town.

Another building worthy of your interest is the Town Hall. Built in 1833, the Town Hall was a gift to

the town by the Countess of Bridgewater. Beautifully designed, the Town Hall has a series of lovingly crafted murals, painted by a local artist.

THE SITE

Situated just to the north of Ellesmere, Park Hall Farm is a newly developed off-road venue. Using a section of the site originally designated for dairy farming, the landowner has created an off-road venue incorporating woodland trails, muddy trenches and much more.

During our visit last year, the site was still under construction, but the trails and sections open to us were neat and easily accessible, even in less competent vehicles. Plus, of course, the benefit of an off-road site on a farm is the proximity of tractors should you need rescuing from the sticky stuff.

The venue for the final round of last year's British Off Road Championship, Park Hall Farm is an ideal location for any off-roaders based in the Midlands or North West. And while it doesn't boast a cafeteria or the like it does have what most 4x4 enthusiasts look for in a pay-and-play off-road site – off-road entertainment by the bucketload.

