

## Introduction

Over recent years cycling has become very popular. Our cyclists have excelled at the last few Olympics, the Tour de France came to Yorkshire and Derbyshire in 2014 and The National Forest is becoming an increasingly cycling friendly area.

Recently Derbyshire Sport unveiled its blueprint for an ambitious cycling strategy to create the most connected county in terms of cycling infrastructure by 2030. While there is still a lot of work to be done to achieve this, this leaflet aims to promote the current facilities available.

Swadlincote is on National Cycle Route 63 (NCR 63), which runs from Burton all the way to Wisbech via Leicester and Peterborough.

There are miles of cycle paths suitable for families waiting to be explored. Aside from the traffic-free cycle paths, there is pleasant scenery and lots of heritage and nature for you to enjoy.

## Maurice Lea Memorial Park

The first section of off-road cycle path is through Maurice Lea Memorial Park in Church Gresley. The route cuts through the park via the bandstand. There is a path along the perimeter of the park as well.

The Green Flag-standard park has several facilities including play areas, outdoor gym equipment, bowling green, multi-user games area and tennis courts. The park plays host to a successful junior parkrun on Sunday mornings and other events, such as the popular Festival of Leisure, take place in the park. For more details email [culturalservices@south-derbys.gov.uk](mailto:culturalservices@south-derbys.gov.uk)

The route leaves the park and crosses two roads before descending through the Thorpe Downs estate. At the end of Thorpe Downs Road the route is fully off-road.



## Conkers Circuit and Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail

The beginning of the off-road section marks the start of the Conkers Circuit and offers an array of options for all ages and abilities. These include:

- A short trip around Albert Village Lake.
- A short trip to Conkers.
- Longer versions of the above via the Conkers Circuit.
- A ride to Castle Gresley via Tunnel Woods
- A ride to Donisthorpe Woodland Park and return by canal via Moira Furnace.
- A ride to Measham along the Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail.
- Further links to Hicks Lodge and Ashby

## Signage of the routes

The Conkers Circuit is signed with wooden posts with colour-coded bands around the posts to show the three different routes (red, blue, orange). The Conkers circuit and NCR 63 do coincide on certain stretches.

The National Cycle Network signs are blue with the route number marked in red with white text. Where possible they feature destination signs to give an idea of distances

The main NCR 63 route runs from Swadlincote to Measham via Gresley Woods, Swainspark Wood and along the old Ashby & Nuneaton Joint Railway past Conkers Campsite and Youth Hostel. An alternative route is signposted (63) – this takes the canal route from Donisthorpe to Conkers and returns to Church Gresley via Albert Village Lake. In other places (63) will indicate a route that leads to NCR 63.



# CYCLING TRAILS AROUND SWADLINCOTE














For more information about cycling in the area visit [www.south-derbys.gov.uk](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk) or [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

## Links beyond the off-road section

The following links are based on roads and are more suited for confident cyclists.

- Beyond Measham NCR 63 consists of quiet rural roads and is an ideal route for those looking for Bosworth and the Battlefield.
- The end of the Castle Gresley and Tunnel Woods section gives access to Linton and Rosliston Forestry Centre via local roads. An off-road link is planned in the future.
- Hicks Lodge Cycling Centre in Moira can be reached via either Donisthorpe or Moira. The off-road link via Moira Furnace is in progress.

## Key

-  Major Road
-  On-road National Cycle Network
-  Off-road NCR (alternative route)
-  Conkers Circuit Orange route (3.75m)
-  Off-road non NCR Cycle paths
-  Railway Line
-  Local Road
-  Off-road NCR (non Conkers Circuit)
-  Conkers Circuit Blue route (4.5m)
-  Conkers Circuit Red route (1.75m)
-  Off-road link planned but still in progress

Refreshments on routes shown available at:

**1** Conkers Youth Hostel **2** Café at Moira Furnace **3** Measham Leisure Centre **4** Donisthorpe Miners Welfare.

All of the above include toilets which are also available at Maurice Lea Memorial Park.

Pubs can be found near the route in Swadlincote, Church Gresley, Moira, Donisthorpe, Measham and Albert Village. Convenience stores available on route at Swadlincote, Church Gresley, Moira and Measham.

## Places worth a visit

- **Rosliston Forestry Centre** has a number of cycle-friendly paths and bike hire is available. Several cycling groups frequent the centre, which has a café and toilets and car parking. [www.roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk](http://www.roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk)
- **The National Forest Cycle Centre** at Hicks Lodge has several family friendly trails, bike hire as well as a café, toilets and car parking (pay and display). Again, several groups use the centre. [www.forestry.gov.uk/hicks lodge](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/hicks lodge)
- **Conkers** is the centre at the Heart of the National Forest. Lots of activities take place at this interactive attraction, with the emphasis on nature and the environment. [www.visitconkers.com](http://www.visitconkers.com)
- **Sharpe's Pottery Museum** in Swadlincote houses displays relating to the pottery based history of the area. Within the building is the Tourist Information Centre, which has a good selection of leaflets for local attractions, walks and cycle routes. [www.sharpespotterymuseum.org.uk](http://www.sharpespotterymuseum.org.uk)

For more information about cycling in the Swadlincote area see the local cycling blog: [swadrangers.blogspot.com](http://swadrangers.blogspot.com)