

The Dukeries Trail

The Dukeries Trail runs across north Nottinghamshire, to the Derbyshire and Lincolnshire borders, through the former ducal estates of Clumber, Welbeck and Thoresby which were established using profits made from the region's industrialisation.

The area, between Worksop and Mansfield is still known as 'The Dukeries'; follow the waymarking along the trail to link sites of historic and industrial interest, and Sherwood Forest itself.



Area covered by this map



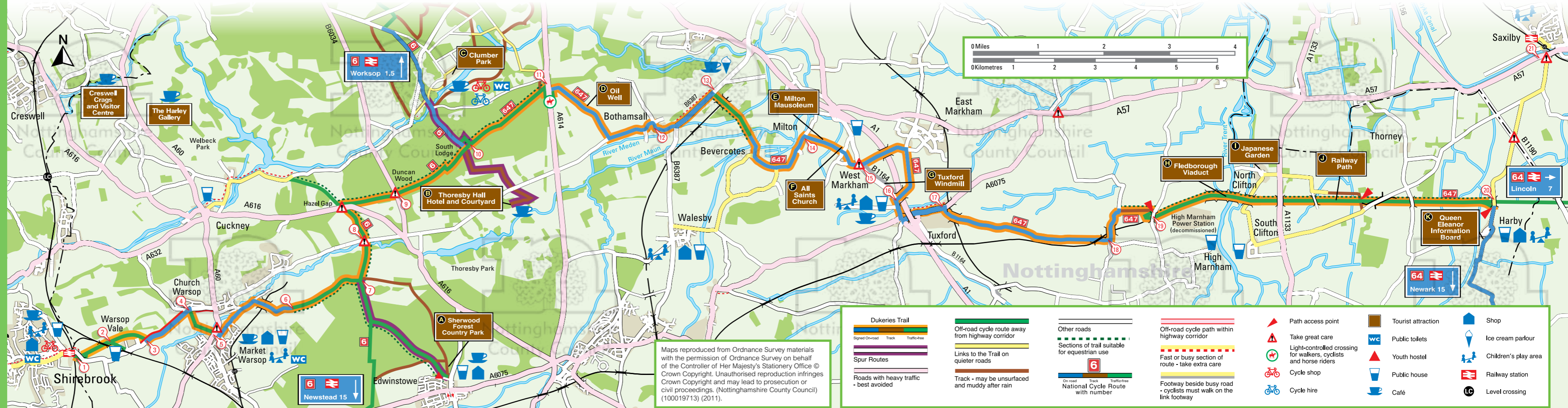
- Start at the east side of Shirebrook station (trains to Nottingham). Coming out of the station car park take the path on the right just before the car park entrance meets the road. Dip down and turn L along the path under the road.
- Just after the railway bridge, where the path splits, bear L and follow the path through the wooded area to the T junction with the B6031 road.
- Turn L using the shared use path beside the road to where it stops and crosses the B6031.
- Cross to the path on the opposite side of the B road which is signed Public Footpath and Permissive Cycle Track and goes away from the B road. This goes between fields and through a park, passing the Warsop Egg sculpture and reaches another road (A60).
- Use the island crossing to go up Hett's Lane opposite. At the T junction, turn L and follow Burns Lane out of the village, bear R by Assarts Farm and over the railway bridge.

- The road becomes a stone path. Follow the Bridleway signs beside fields and into the start of the forest. Go straight across several bridleway junctions until you reach a cross roads of paths signed Warsop (the way you have come), straight on to Budby, R to Centre Tree and L to Hazel Gap.
- To go to Sherwood Forest (A) and Edwinstowe, go R on National Cycle Route 6 (NCR6) and follow the bridleway signs to Sherwood Forest. Bear L from National Cycle Network 6 after 1/2 mile, heading into the Country Park and follow the waymarkers. To continue on the Dukeries Trail turn L and follow National Cycle Route 6 (NCR6).
- Cross the road with care and continue along NCR6 to the A616 crossing at Hazel Gap. Cross with care. After this road, the Dukeries Trail makes a sharp R turn and continues to Duncan Wood.
- Cross the busy B6034 with care and follow the forest path (still NCR6) straight on to the junction with the gates of the South Lodge of Clumber Park on the L.

- For Thoresby Hall and Courtyard (B), turn R and follow the signs. To continue on the Dukeries Trail, go on for another 100m to the next junction of paths. To visit Clumber Park (C), go L and follow the park signs along NCR6. The main route continues straight on as National Cycle Route 647 (NCR647). Follow this to the main A614 road.
- The route continues along the lane opposite signed, to Bothamsall 2. There are paths by the A614 to reach the light controlled crossing of this busy road. The road takes you to Bothamsall, passing the "Nodding Donkey" (D) on your left before you turn L at a T junction after 1 mile.
- Follow the road round to the R through Bothamsall and turn L at the T junction along the busier B6387. There is no footway alternative on this short section. Take the second track on the R after 3/4 mile. This bridleway is actually a surfaced road.
- Follow the track through the site of the old Bevercotes Colliery until you turn L at a T junction. After 1/2 mile, turn L again at another T junction and follow the lane into Milton.

- Turn R in the village and up the sharp rise with the Mausoleum (E) on your L. Continue through West Markham with a stop to admire the church (F). The road takes you on up a rise to the B1164.
- To visit Tuxford Windmill (G) turn R and it is 800m on the left. (there is a footway alternative to the B1164.) To continue on the Dukeries trail, cross the B road and go straight on, over the A1 on a bridge and turn R as you come into East Markham. Turn R again, signed to Tuxford and cross the A1 on another bridge. Continue to the T junction of the B1164.
- Turn L and follow the B1164 through Tuxford following the road round to the left in the centre of the town. There is a footway alternative on this section as there is on the next where you follow the A6075 to the edge of the town.
- Turn R onto Marnham Road and across a mini roundabout and over the main railway line. After 2 miles you go under a railway bridge and shortly afterwards reach a T junction.

- Turn L onto Crabtree Lane and over the railway line. After 1/2 mile, where the road makes a sharp L turn, take the track straight on. This is a rough track and some cyclists may prefer to walk this short section.
- At the end of the track, where it meets the road, turn right down a ramp to join the start of the path along the old railway line (I) to Lincoln. This path takes you over the impressive Fledborough Viaduct (J). The first access is at Thorney level crossing gates which enables a short circular ride to North Clifton for the Japanese Garden (K) and South Clifton for a pub. Use the 2nd exit signed to Harby and Newark.
- Signs for the Dukeries Trail end at Harby and parking is available by the village hall. Please do not park in the field entrances by the path. For Saxilby station, turn L at the top of the ramp and follow Saxilby signs on the road to the T junction of the A57 at Saxilby.
- To avoid cycling on this busy road, cross it and use the footpath which goes diagonally R, beside the houses. Walk through and over the Fossdyke (originally a roman canal). At the road, turn R and over the level crossing, turning L at the T junction. Station approach is the first turning on the left after 250 metres.



Fledborough Viaduct

This dramatic viaduct takes the Dukeries Trail over the River Trent on 59 arches and 4 spans with a total length of 814m (891 yards). Over nine million bricks were used in its construction and its cost, in the 1890's, was £65,000. It is over twice the length of the more famous Ribbleshead Viaduct which is only 402m (440 yards) long.



Nicola Jones

Japanese Garden

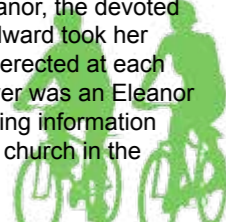
This beautiful garden has been created from scratch since 1980. Its two acres reflect a harmony between the traditional Japanese elements of water, stone, bridges, planting and winding paths with English plants too.

The Railway path

The path through Harby east towards Lincoln and westwards over the River Trent is built on the trackbed of the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway which opened its line from Chesterfield to Lincoln in 1897. It was an ambitious project, conceived late in the railway building era to run from Warrington on the Manchester Ship Canal to Sutton-on-Sea on the east coast of Lincolnshire. It was sponsored by a group of coal owners but due to lack of investment, only the portion from Chesterfield to Lincoln was ever built.

Harby

The Manor House at Harby has long since been demolished but was where Queen Eleanor, the devoted wife of Edward I, died in 1290. King Edward took her body back to London and a cross was erected at each stopping place on the route. There never was an Eleanor Cross at Harby, but there is an interesting information board about the crosses alongside the church in the village.



The Dukeries Trail

A 32 mile route, mainly in rural Nottinghamshire, funded through the East Midlands Development Agency (emda). The route is a mixture of disused mineral railway line, public rights of way, and roads. Whilst the entire route is available to cyclists and walkers, substantial sections between Harby and Fledborough, from Warsop to the A614 and links into Clumber and Sherwood Forest can also be used by horse-riders. A permissive route from Clumber to Thoresby Stableyard is available to walkers and cyclists.

Railway connections

The route has been designed so that a round trip can be made by using the train. Trains run from Saxilby to Worksop and another train goes from Worksop to Shirebrook. Each train takes two cycles without the need to reserve a place.



Contacting us

email countrysideaccess@nottscc.gov.uk
phone 08449 808080
post Environment and Resources,
Trent Bridge House,
Fox Road, West Bridgford,
Nottingham, NG2 6BJ

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The Dukeries Trail

A Multi-User Route



Sherwood Forest

Sherwood became a royal hunting forest after the Norman invasion of 1066 and by the 1200s, popularly thought to be the time of Robin Hood, Sherwood covered about a fifth of the entire county of Nottinghamshire. Medieval Sherwood was not - as many imagine - a continuous swathe of dense virgin forest. It comprised birch and oak woodland, interspersed with large areas of open sandy heath and rough grassland.

By the 18th century, large areas of Crown land in Sherwood had been sold or gifted to nobles and court favourites. These private landlords created the fine country estates of Thoresby, Rufford, Welbeck, Wollaton and Newstead that we know as the 'Dukeries'.

The Major Oak, a world famous tree, is at least 800 years old and weighs an estimated 23 tons. Its trunk circumference is 10m (33 feet) and its branches spread to over 28m (92 feet).

Sherwood Forest has a visitor centre not far from Edwinstowe which, as well as offering a mine of information about the Forest, also offers a refreshment stop for visitors.

Thoresby Hall and Courtyard

This incarnation of Thoresby Hall dates from 1865–1875. The Great Hall, which contains a gallery originally for minstrels, is 19 metres long and 14 metres high. In the 20th century the house was threatened by subsidence caused by coal mining. The buildings were sold in 1989 and were bought eventually by the Warner Leisure Group who reopened it in 2000 as a 200-room country house hotel with spa facilities.

Thoresby Courtyard hosts an art gallery with a changing exhibition programme, together with a collection of work



by Marie-Louise Pierrepont, who lived at Thoresby until her death in 1984. Her work records the lifestyle of people and places both at Thoresby and during her extensive travels throughout Europe and North Africa. The Courtyard also hosts a wide range of arts and retail outlets and a fully licensed café.

Clumber Park

Clumber House, by the River Poulter, was at the centre of the park. When, in March 1879 a serious fire destroyed much of Clumber House, the 7th Duke of Newcastle rebuilt it to designs by Charles Barry, Jr. Another fire, in 1912, caused less damage, but the effects of the First World War and the Great Depression forced the mansion to be abandoned and it was demolished in 1938. The National Trust now looks after the Park which still includes a Grade I listed Gothic Revival Chapel built by the 7th Duke of Newcastle, and a walled kitchen garden with glass houses. The Park offers extensive cycling trails and a cycle hire service together with opportunities for refreshments.



National Trust



National Trust, A. Butler

The Nottinghamshire Oil field

You can see a "nodding donkey" in a field beside the trail between Bothamsall and the A614. The history of oil exploration in Nottinghamshire goes back to 1939. The high quality oil recovered in Nottinghamshire is mainly used in the plastics and chemical industries,

rather than as a fuel. The majority of oil is taken by rail from the central collecting station at Gainsborough to refineries at Immingham on Humberside.

Milton Mausoleum

This is the Mausoleum for the Duchess of Newcastle who died in 1822. Sir Robert Smirke (architect of the British Museum and other famous buildings) built it for the fourth Duke of Newcastle.



Realistic Solutions

All Saints Church, West Markham

The church is a small, simple building of Anglo Saxon origin with Norman and medieval additions. There is a door which is at least 600 years old, a Norman font and a Jacobean pulpit, several high old oak benches and an earthen floor. The bell in the tower, still in use today, dates from the 15th century.



Realistic Solutions

Tuxford Windmill

Tuxford Windmill is a working mill built in the 1820's and fully restored between 1982 and 1993. The tea room and mill are open all year round between 10am and 4.30pm except Tuesdays and Wednesdays when it is reserved for group bookings.



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