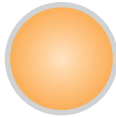


Trail Guide:



Some muddy, rough terrain in winter and spring.

The 'Fancy That' Factor

Discover the connection with Mary, Queen of Scots

Find out what a bodger really is

Who lends his SMILE to a bench?

What lies under the middle car park?

Despite one-way streets in Chesterfield town centre, the cyclist can smile benignly at motorists, whilst riding the 'wrong' way on the dedicated cycle paths and thus doing this cycle trail in an anti-clockwise direction from the town centre.

It is also possible to drive and park at Linacre Reservoirs, then walk or ride.

Leave the **Tourist Information Centre** going west to the **Town Hall** where you turn **right** and then **left** along **Albion Road**, left down **Foljambe Road** and then **right** after **Alexandra Road West**. Continue to the end of the road and onto the **cycle path** to **Chester Street**. Turn **right** onto **Chester Street** and follow the cycle path signs to **Holmebrook Valley**

Park, which follows the Holme Brook. This is then well signed and is only for cyclists and walkers apart from a couple of easy road crossings. Do follow our map – local children have been known to play with some of the early signs!

Holmebrook Valley Park offers 8 miles of trails for riding or walking. The lake is full of fish and covered with wildfowl and gulls. **Cross the 2nd wooden bridge and follow the path straight up the hill, passing a lake on your right-hand side.** At the **fork in the track**, take the **right-hand track** up a short steep hill and follow round to the left. This track opens out into a narrow lane and joins the **B6050** on a bend in the road, just outside Cutthorpe. The track can be very muddy and rough so persevere!

Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance

Difficulty Rating

for cycling:



Easy



Moderate



Strenuous

This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

Turn **left** and follow the road into the picturesque village of **Cutthorpe**, a perfect place to stop for lunch at one of the two pubs on our route. From here you can see Chesterfield's famous Crooked Spire, which was probably caused by using unseasoned wood in its construction, although many other amusing reasons are suggested by locals. Cutthorpe's Old Manor House was built in 1625.

Continue following the road up out of the village. The turning for **Linacre Reservoirs** is on the **left**, shortly after passing Cutthorpe Primary School. Follow the road into **Linacre Reservoirs**, past 3 car parks. Look out for the totem pole in the 3rd car park (on the right). **Drop down the hill and take a sharp right (through a wooden gate) onto a track.** If you miss this turn and end up at the Rangers Station/toilets, you have gone too far.

The area is very popular with walkers and may well qualify for the highest number of off-lead dogs in England! So do ride carefully!

Linacre means "arable land where flax is grown" (as in linen and other items) and the woodlands were here before 1066, when Domesday records show that Walter de Linacre's land was worth 5 shillings and 4 pence – less than 30p today!

Linacre Hall was superseded by Linacre House where Dr Thomas Linacre, physician to Mary, Queen of Scots, was born. The foundations of both houses lie under the middle car park today.

The three reservoirs were built between the 1860s and early 1900s to supply water to Chesterfield but today are no longer used for water supply. A newspaper article at the turn of the century said of the water "the poor used it as soup, the middle classes for washing their clothes and the elite for watering their gardens"! How lucky we are today.

Follow the track to the dam wall then continue straight onto the next dam wall and cross this wall. The top reservoir will be on your right as you cross the wall. Do not cycle around the top reservoir, as this area is a nature reserve.

Linacre Reservoirs now abounds with wildlife and the varied habitat makes it superb for birds – there are dozens of species to be observed and many activities and trails to enjoy.

Turn **left** and follow the track back round the middle

reservoir and continue on the track round the lower reservoir. **At the fork in the path, with the lower reservoir wall in sight, take the right hand fork up the short hill.** At the top of this track, turn **left** onto the **bridleway** and follow down hill to a **junction by a stone bridge.**

Turn **right** at the junction and follow the bridleway until you reach a **stone cottage on the right-hand side.** Just past the cottage, you will see a track going off to the left into a housing estate. Do not take this track, instead **follow the track straight up the hill** and continue until you reach the road at the end.

Next turn **left** onto **Ashgate Road** and follow it until you come to the **roundabout** and then **turn right.** At the bottom of the road, turn **left**, then **immediately right** at mini-roundabout onto **Storrs Road.** At the traffic lights go straight on into **Linden Avenue** (dangerous junction, please use the pelican crossing). This road is not accessible to cars. At the end of Linden Avenue, you will see the entrance into **Somersall Park.**

Follow the cycle path through the park and across the bridge into the playing fields. At the junction turn **left** and follow the signs to the town centre. On entering the woods turn **immediately right onto Hipper Valley Walking and Cycling Route.** Continue to the main road keeping **Walton Dam on your right.**

Cross the main road **at the pelican crossing then turn right and continue past Morrisons supermarket.** Turn **left** and the cycle path continues through some metal **barriers on the right**, bringing you out onto **Goytside Road.** Continue to the right hand bend, and carry straight on to **Dock Walk.** At the main road, cross into **Queen's Park** car park, **follow the cycle route** left through the car park and along the marked route. Please note; cycling is not permitted anywhere else in the Park.

Queen's Park is worth a look with the lake full of wildfowl and even a miniature railway. **Take the footbridge back over the A619 into town.**

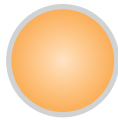
And if you still have any energy visit the famous 'Crooked Spire' church of St Mary and All Saints which has been a landmark during your ride. There you can also see the Anniversary stained glass window, which tells of the way of life, work and heritage of local people.

Chesterfield Trail No. 13

Bike, Birdsong, Wildlife and Water



18 km
11 miles



Some muddy,
rough terrain
in winter and
spring.

Key

- Alternative Route
- Main Route
- A-Roads
- B-Roads
- Minor Roads
- Track / Trail



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