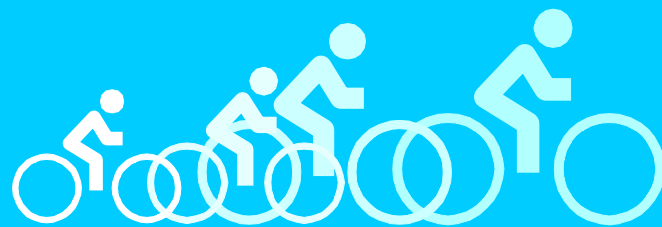


# CYCLING Wakefield

Newsletter of Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



Edition No.32

July 2016



## IN THIS EDITION

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# Special Edition

This Special Edition celebrates another step by the Cycle Forum to develop a joined-up network of traffic-free cycle routes in Wakefield District.

The latest 'missing-link' to be filled in is on the Nostell Estate and is at the heart of the 'Wheel' and the 'WoW' cycle trails.

The new all-weather surface will make the path accessible all year round

## Grand Official Opening

There will be an Official Opening of the new path to which all members are invited.

Please come along and join in the celebrations.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July  
11 am**

**Nostell Estate, Nr Foulby  
(see map inside for location)**



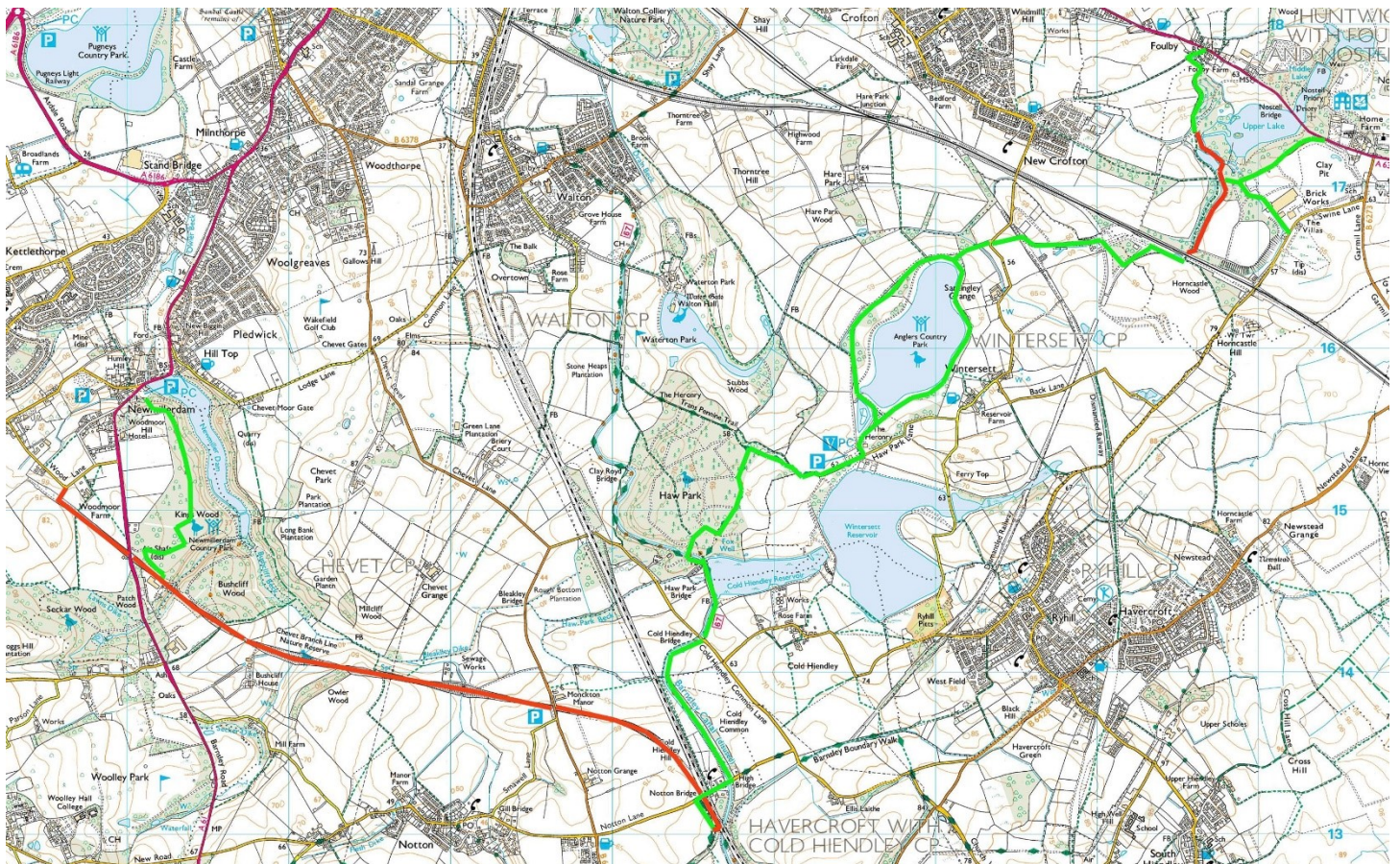
# Another Link in the Chain

A major aim of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum (WDCF) is to improve infrastructure for cycling in the district. And one of the main vehicles for that is our ambition to complete ‘missing links’, that is small, and not so small, gaps in what might otherwise be a joined-up network of cycle routes.

Part of the Forum strategy is to persuade Wakefield Council to adopt this ambition and to include ‘missing-links’ in its Highways and Rights of Way programmes. This has not always been easy and has of course become more difficult as local authority budgets are cut to the bone.

It is not in our nature at WDCF to just complain about what others are not doing, we get out there and do it ourselves. Our perseverance eventually paid off when we persuaded Network Rail to reopen the path under the railway at Walton Colliery Nature Park, which completed an off-road route from Crofton to Sandal and Agbrigg Station. Our Workgroup has managed to upgrade and add small sections of path throughout the district. But the two largest projects have now created a traffic-free (nearly all the way), all-weather route of 12 miles from Nostell to Newmillerdam.

The map below illustrates the network of paths created by the completion of the Chevet Branch Line path (the longer of the red lines) over two year ago and our new path in Nostell Estate (the shorter red line) completed last month.





# The Lord and the Lease

Nostell Estate to the south of Foulby and Nostell villages is at the heart of the network of traffic-free cycle routes that extend from these villages, through Anglers Country Park, to the Trans Pennine Way and Walton in the north and Barnsley to the south, and on to Newmillerdam.

This network started to take shape around a decade ago when our Vice-Chair persuaded the owner of the Nostell Estate, Lord St Oswald, to give permissive rights, for cyclists, on the footpaths that run through his estate. Unfortunately, over the last few years some of these paths have become damaged by farm traffic and are almost impassable after bad weather, especially for the 'easy' ride which the forum runs for less confident riders from Nostell. With agreement from Lord St Oswald the forum applied for a lottery grant to construct a new path of just under 400 meters with an all-weather surface and inaccessible to farm traffic.

Unfortunately our application failed as we did not own or have a lease on the land over which the path was to be built. Fortunately, however, Lord St Oswald came to the rescue again and agreed to grant us a lease on the land. It has taken us nearly two years to sort out all the necessary technicalities, and we had to spend nearly £2,000 of our path fund money on legal fees, but on our second attempt we succeeded in acquiring a grant of just under £10,000.

After the grant was confirmed we approached Nostell Estate to see if we could install a further all-weather path to extend the original project for a further 500 meters. This was agreed and the two paths were completed at the end of May.

The photos on the next page show the old path (in the best state you will find it), 1 & 2, the before, 3 under construction, 4, the new path, 5, and 6, the first Nostell ride to cross the new path. The feedback from cyclists, walkers and dog walkers has been very positive (although a lot of them wrongly credit the council with the work). We hope the construction of this new path will encourage more people to join our rides and build their cycling confidence.

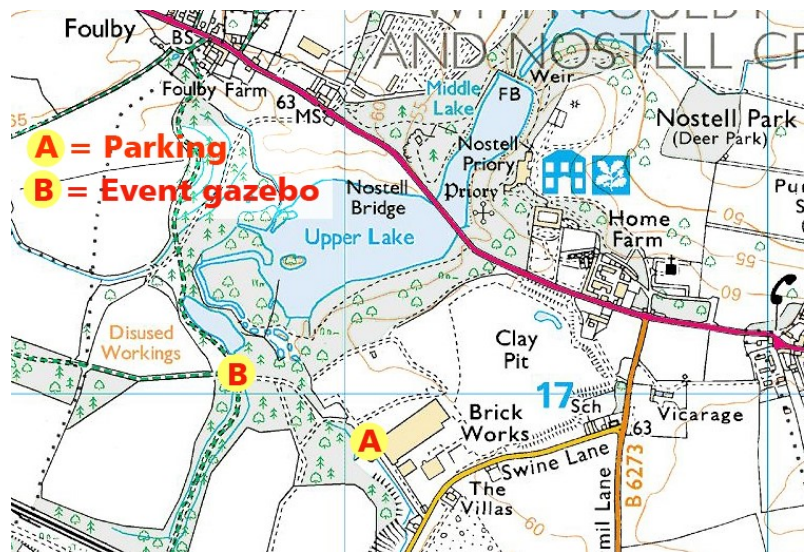
## Grand Official Opening

The Grand Official Opening of the path will take place on the path on:

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 11 am**

The map on the right indicates the location of the event. The best way to approach the location, if you don't already know how to get there, is via the Ibstock brickworks on Swine Lane near Nostell and then follow the WoW signs (Wonders of Wakefield cycle trail) till you see our gazebo.

We have invited some important people to help us cut the ribbon but more important is the presence of as many cyclists as possible to give support to the efforts of the cycle forum and all its volunteers for the hard work and perseverance that has helped to realise this project and the many other achievements over the last 8 years of our existence.



**Come along and help us celebrate.**



