

- ◆ Starting near the City Hospital's Hucknall Road entrance (near where Hucknall Road joins the ring road (Valley road))
- ◆ There's a short section of the pavement here that's not really a shared path, but ride on it anyway! On the same side as the hospital.
- ◆ Where Heathfield road splits off to the left, you will notice a shared path for pedestrians and cyclists splitting off from the pavement on your right, still heading parallel to Hucknall road.
- ◆ Continue on this shared path (be kind to pedestrians and dogs) through the trees which leads you to Bestwood country park—you'll arrive on National Cycle Route 6 and see signposts for the park and for the mill lakes.
- ◆ The tracks in Bestwood country park are unsealed gravel, or forest paths—take care on these surfaces.
- ◆ You'll have to cross a bridge with slalom barriers to get into the mill lakes—don't follow the slope down to the side, this will lead you onto the road.
- ◆ Enjoy the parks and either return the same way you came, or find a new way to get home!



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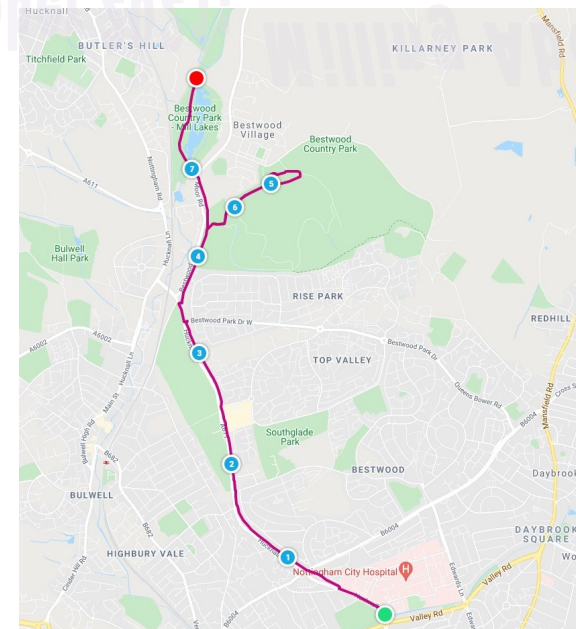
Nottingham Bikeworks



GPX
ROUTE
FILE

Route of the Month

#3 October 2021: *Milling About*



- ◆ **Linear route from City Hospital (Hucknall Road entrance) to Bestwood Country Park and the Mill Lakes**
- ◆ **Roughly 7.7km / 8.7 miles each direction**
- ◆ **Entirely off-road - may be muddy in places**



Bestwood country park dates back to mediaeval times, when it was a royal hunting estate. It was gifted by King Charles II to his mistress Nell Gwyn and their son in the 17th century. The story goes that the king and his guests used to tease Nell for sleeping in late, so he offered to give her as much land as she could ride around before breakfast. The next day she was up before the king and rode around what is now the park, dropping handkerchiefs to mark out her new territory! On your visit please take care not to drop any litter, though.

Bestwood was home to a working colliery until 1967, and was actually the first in the world to produce a million tonnes of coal in a year! All that remains of the colliery is the restored winding house, formerly used to lower and raise miners and coal in and out of the pit. At time of writing, it's closed due to the pandemic, but it used to open on Saturdays for free guided or self-guided tours. You can access a virtual tour on the Gedling Borough Council website.



The mediaeval hunting lodge was demolished in the Victorian era by then owner William Beauclerk (who established the colliery). He hired architect Samuel Sanders Teulon to build the current lodge, now a Best Western hotel. You can see the gatehouse pictured here.

The mill lakes park is a beautiful area full of wildlife, being constructed from former water mill lakes along the river Leen. It has a resident bird population but is also visited by migratory birds.

