

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYCLING STRATEGY

How many miles of cycle route do we have in Staffordshire?

163.5 miles or 263.1km

The main routes are as follows:

National Cycle Network



In Staffordshire, when complete, **National Cycle Network Route 5** will cross into the county from Cheshire via the Trent & Mersey Canal near Kidsgrove, pass through Stoke-on-Trent then go on to Stafford and Lichfield before leaving the county near Burntwood via the Wyrley & Essington canal.

The links for **National Route 5** thus far developed are as follows:

Lichfield to Burntwood (distance 8 miles)

Starting at Lichfield Cathedral the route runs along Dam Street, through Beacon Park onto the A51 Western Bypass. From there the route turns left in to Abnalls Lane and continues on to Spade Green.

At Spade Green it turns right in to The Roache and on along Hobstone Hill Lane to Creswell Green. Turning left along Coulter Lane the route then turns right in to Nether Lane. Continuing on along to the end of Nether Lane it then turns left into Rugeley Road, after a short distance it turns right into Meg Lane then left into Rake Hill. The route then follows a series of side roads into the centre of Burntwood.

At Burntwood Town Centre Shopping Centre the route then heads south for a short distance along High Street before turning right on to Milestone Way past Morrison's superstore. At the end of Milestone Way the route then enters Chasewater Country Park.



NCN Route 5

View looking west alongside the Wyrley & Essington canal, between Wharf Lane and Pool Road, Burntwood.

Winding through the Country Park the route then goes part way along Pool Road, which forms the head of the Chasewater dam, before bearing left down a short, steep incline to pick up the path running alongside the Wyrley & Essington Canal. It then passes underneath the M6 Toll road before leaving the canal towpath and turns round upon itself up on to White Horse Road where it leaves Staffordshire for Brownhills in the West Midlands.

Kidsgrove to Stoke-on-Trent (distance 2 miles)

Entering Staffordshire from Cheshire the route follows the towpath alongside the Trent & Mersey canal, before turning right up in to Kidsgrove station car park. Going over the station car park canal road bridge the route bears left into Station Road and then turns left at the Harecastle P.H. into Liverpool Road. Carrying on along Liverpool Road for a short distance the route then bears right onto an 'unsegregated' pedestrian/cycle track (near the Tesco's supermarket petrol station). Continuing along a former disused railway line the track then goes down a steep flight of steps before crossing Heathcote Street at the bottom. From there the route then continues on as an 'unsegregated' pedestrian/cycle track along the disused railway line, crossing Valentine Road, before passing through a small railway tunnel. After the tunnel there remains a short stretch in cutting before the route leaves Staffordshire and enters Stoke-on-Trent.



NCN Route 5

View looking west towards the small railway tunnel near Birchenwood Way, Kidsgrove

Stafford (distance 4.8 miles)

At the A513 Beaconside / B5066 Sandon Road junction, Stafford the route currently starts at the end of The Haybarn cul-de-sac on a former disused railway line. This off-road section of track, called "The Isabel Trail" has recently been resurfaced in tarmac and provides an excellent ride towards Stafford town centre. Passing under three road bridges the route then crosses the River Sow, and goes through a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) where the off-road surface is stoned-based in order to protect the important ecological environment of the area. At the end of the off-road section, which also denotes the end of "The Isabel Trail", the route then divides and is signed left towards the town centre and right for NCN 55 to Derrington. Taking the left route towards Sainsbury's superstore and the town centre the route rejoins the highway network at the Doxey Road / Sainsbury's car park entrance roundabout. Crossing over Broadeye roundabout the route bears right along Tenterbanks. At a mini roundabout the route then bears right over the River Sow bridge into Victoria Road. At the end of Victoria Road it bears left at another mini-roundabout into Station Road. Part way along Station Road the cycle route then leaves the highway at a bus lay-by and is marked an 'unsegregated' cycle/ footway. At the end of Station Road it turns left into Newport Road. At the Newport Road / Tesco Supermarket entrance traffic signals the route then bears right and follows the left-hand footway into the car park. This footway then turns left and joins Friar's

Road. Bearing left and crossing over Friar's Road the route then passes along Friar's Walk. At the end of Friar's Walk it turns sharp right into Bailey Street. At the top of Bailey Street it then turns left and crosses over the A518 Lichfield Road at the traffic signals near the Baptist Church. Following a 'segregated' cycle/footway the route goes over the River Sow footbridge and bears right and passes underneath Queensway road bridge. The route then follows the side of the River Sow, going past Asda's Supermarket and on underneath Riverway road bridge before eventually climbing up a gentle slope on to Fairway. Turning right along Fairway, again a 'segregated' cycle/footway it continues on up to the roundabout. The route then leaves the highway and becomes an 'off-road' track crossing open land and passing underneath the main Stafford to London railway line before eventually crossing the River Penk service bridge. At the end of the service bridge the route turns right alongside the Staffordshire & Worcestershire canal. After a short distance the 'off-road' route then bears left over the canal at Meadow Bridge and rises up a short slope before getting back onto the highway at Osbourne Crescent. Turning right onto Osbourne Crescent, then left at Sandringham Road the route rises gently up to Baswich Lane. Crossing over Baswich Lane at the pedestrian signals the route then enters Porlock Avenue. On Porlock Avenue, after a short steep slope, it turns right into Bodmin Avenue. Continuing along Bodmin Avenue, the route passes shops and the local library. At the end of Bodmin Avenue it then turns right into Stockton Lane. At the end of Stockton Lane the route crosses the A513 Milford Road via a toucan crossing, turning left it currently finishes at The Rise, near Walton Garage.



NCN Route 5 – "The Isabel Trail"
View looking north-east near Aston Terrace, Stafford.

When complete, **National Route 5** will run from Reading up through Birmingham to Chester and then along the North Wales coast to Holyhead.



In Staffordshire **National Cycle Network Route 54** starts at Lichfield and crosses into Derbyshire via the A38 Trunk Road.

Lichfield to Burton upon Trent (distance 18 miles)

Starting at Lichfield Cathedral the route runs north alongside Stowe Pool before crossing St Chad's Road and winding around the side of Netherstowe High School.



NCN Route 54

View looking north between St.Chad's Road and Netherstowe, Lichfield

Entering Netherstowe the route then crosses the A5192 Eastern Avenue via a toucan crossing into Netherstowe Lane. It then crosses a railway bridge and bears left, following a long winding country road through Curborough and on up to Wood End Lane. Turning right into Wood End Lane it then bears left into Gorse Lane.



NCN Route 54

View looking north-east along Gorse Lane towards the hump-backed canal bridge, Fradley

Along Gorse Lane the route then goes over a hump-backed canal bridge and continues straight across the Hay End Lane crossroads into Sale Lane. Sale Lane eventually becomes Daisy Lane, and continues on up to the A513 bypass at Alrewas. Crossing straight over the A513, still following the line of Daisy Lane, the route then turns left into Fox Lane and on into the centre of Alrewas. The route then follows a series of side roads before reaching the A38 Trunk Road. Turning left alongside the A38 Trunk Road the route is an 'unsegregated' cycle/footway which passes over the River Trent, before turning left at Wychnor Bridges and up over the Trent & Mersey canal. At the small hamlet of Wychnor the route then turns right along Green Lane, which is an off-road section. At the end of Green Lane it then turns left onto Dogshead Lane and follows the highway to Barton Green. At Barton Green it turns right at the junction with Bar Lane and The Green and continues on up to Main Street, Barton-under-Needwood. Turning right into Main Street the route goes past local shops. Opposite St James's Church it then turns left into Dunstall Road. Continuing on along Dunstall Road it then becomes Armitage Hill (where on the left is seen Dunstall Hall). Just past Dunstall Hall the road turns sharp left, where at the 'T' junction it bears bear right towards Tatenhill. At Tatenhill it turns right at the crossroads and head towards Branston. At Lawns Farm Cottage the road to Branston bears sharp right, but NCN 54 continues on straight ahead and becomes an off-road section which passes through Lawns Farm. After Lawns Farm the route then runs parallel at the bottom of the embankment with the A38 Trunk Road. Eventually leaving the off-road section and entering the highway at Anglesey

Street, Burton upon Trent with the Albion P.H. on the left-hand side. Turning right along Shobnall Road it then goes underneath the A38 Trunk Road overbridge, passing the old Marston's Brewery on the right-hand side. The route then turns left, entering the Shobnall Fields Recreation Grounds (another off-road section). After the playing fields the route then goes over the Trent & Mersey canal bridge and bears left, and runs parallel with the existing canal towpath. After passing underneath three road overbridges the route then turns right round upon itself (making the end of the off-road section), and leads up onto Princess Way. Turn right on Princess Way and go underneath the A38 overbridge heading for Stretton. The route then turns right into Beech Drive, and at the end turns left along Beech Lane towards Stretton. Turning right on to Main Street the route goes straight across the crossroads on into Church Road, with St. Mary's Church on the right-hand side. At the end of Church Road it then turns right onto Claymills Road. Following Claymills Road round to it's junction with the A38 Trunk Road slip road, the route then bears left and runs alongside the A38 Trunk Road towards Derby, passing over the River Dove which denotes the county boundary.

National Route 54 of the National Cycle Network runs from Stourport through Kidderminster to Dudley. After a stretch on Route 5, Route 54 resumes at Lichfield and continues on to Derby.



In Staffordshire, when complete, **National Cycle Network Route 55** will cross into the county from Congleton, Cheshire via the disused railway line over the A527 Biddulph Road. Remaining on the the disused railway line it then passes into Stoke-on-Trent at Brindley Ford. After a stretch on Route 5 it resumes again at Stafford and continues on along another disused railway line into Telford & Wrekin area via Newport.

In Staffordshire the link for **National Route 55** thus far developed is as follows:

Biddulph (distance 0.6 and 0.7 miles)

This trail runs along the course of a former railway line between Stoke-on-Trent and Congleton, through pleasant countryside. In Staffordshire there are two sections of bridleway on the disused railway line where cycling is allowed.

The first lies between Well Lane and Halls Road, Biddulph. There is a car park situated on Smokies Way, just off Halls Road, Biddulph.



NCN Route 55
View looking north-east from Halls Road, Biddulph

The second section is between Newpool Road and Brown Lees Road, Biddulph.



NCN Route 55
View looking north between Brown Lees Road and Newpool Road, Biddulph

As can be seen from the photographs above this off-road route is easy. The first section between Well Lane and Halls Road is stone-based, and the section between Newpool Road and Brown Lees Road has a tarmac surface.

When complete, **National Route 55** of the National Cycle Network will connect Telford to Stafford. After a stretch on Route 5 it resumes again at Stoke-on-Trent and continues on to Preston via Macclesfield, Stockport and Wigan.

Stafford to Haughton (distance 4 miles)

Starting at Stafford, at the end of NCN 5 "The Isabel Trail", at the Timberfields Road / Doxey Road junction the route goes a short distance along Doxey Road heading towards Stafford Town Centre. The route then turns right into Jerningham Street. At the end of Jerningham Street the route then turns left into Castle View, then right on Castle Street and over the railway bridge. Past Palmbourne Industrial Estate the route then turns right onto Martin Drive. Carrying on across a roundabout to the end of Martin Drive, the route then bears right on to a private access road for Burleyfields Farm, which is also a right of way. Part way along this access road the route then turns right onto the former Stafford to Newport railway line, now called Stafford Greenway. Keeping on along the route of the railway line, this off-road section of NCN 55 passes underneath the M6 motorway, goes through the village of Derrington and on to Haughton where the route currently ends.



NCN Route 55
View looking north-east from Brazenhill Lane, Haughton.

Other local routes

The Manifold Trail (distance 8 miles)

This is one of the best trails in Staffordshire, it runs along the course of a former railway line between Waterhouses and Hulme End in the Peak District. There are car parks located at either end of the trail.

To find the car park in Waterhouses , turn off the A523 Leek to Ashbourne Road at 'Ye Olde Crown Hotel' signposted Cauldon Lowe. Go under the bridge and turn immediately left into the car park. To get to the start of the Manifold Trail go to the far end of the car park and follow the arrows which direct you back across the A523. Take care when crossing the road.

To find the car park in Hulme End follow the B5054, immediately west of the hamlet turn where the signs to the 'Manifold Valley Visitor Centre' are directed.

Mainly off-road with some sections on quiet lanes. There is a gentle 180-ft climb from the junction of the rivers Hamps and Manifold, south to the road at Waterhouses



The Manifold Trail
View looking north-east towards the Visitor Centre, Hulme End

Churnet Valley Trail (distance 4 miles)

This trail runs along the course of a former railway line between Oakamoor and Denstone, through pleasant woodland at the southwest edge of the Peak District. It passes close by Alton Towers Theme Park which lies in parkland just to the north of the village of Alton. There is a car park located at the Oakamoor end of the trail, but parking in Denstone is very limited.

The car park in Oakamoor is just off the B5417, at the bottom of the hill just to the west of the bridge spanning the River Churnet. To get to the start of the trail go to the end of the second car park and fork left.

At the Denstone end of the trail access is gained off the B5031. Turn into College Road and a pair of metal gates on the right-hand side, just before the petrol station, marks the start of the route. Low stone walls on either side of the track also mark where the former Denstone railway station platforms used to be. At the end of College Road lies the Village Hall where a very small car park is situated in front of the building.

This off-road route is easy, but can become muddy and rutted after wet weather.



The Churnet Valley Trail
View looking south-east at Mather's Wood near Oakamoor



The Churnet Valley Trail
View looking west near Farley Lane, Alton.

South Staffs Railway Walk (distance 1.6 and 1.3 miles)

This trail runs along the course of a former railway line between Wolverhampton, Wombourne and Dudley, through pleasant countryside. In Staffordshire there are two sections of bridleway on this disused railway line where cycling is allowed. The first lies between Greyhound Lane, Lower Penn and Bratch Lane, Wombourne. The second section is between the B4176 Bridgnorth Road, Wombourne and the county boundary with Dudley (i.e. south-east of Himley).

This off-road route is easy, but can become muddy and rutted after wet weather.

Tamworth (the overall local cycle network in the town totals 27.5 miles)

Tamworth has quite a comprehensive local cycle network that serves most parts of the town.

Stafford (the overall local cycle network in the town totals 11.7 miles)

Stafford has a developing local cycle network.

How do we link into other organisations?

Although much of the work is carried out by the County Council we do work in partnership with Sustrans with regard to the provision of the National Cycle Network and Regional Routes in Staffordshire. Sustrans have purchased long stretches of disused railway in the county in order to work with the Authority to construct traffic-free routes.

For example in Biddulph Sustrans owned 0.8km of disused railway land and in 2005, under the National Cycle Network Links to Schools Programme, awarded the County Council a grant of £200,000 to develop a high-quality link from Brown Lees Road to Newpool Road.

Similarly in 2004, under the New Opportunities Fund, Sustrans awarded the County Council a grant of £50,000 to upgrade the length of National Cycle Network Route 5 from Beaconside to Eccleshall Road, Stafford.

How much do we spend annually on cycling?

Financial year	LTP funding £ 000	Other funding £ 000	TOTAL £ 000
2002/2003	635	28	663
2003/2004	641	134	775
2004/2005	721	199	920

Future proposals for cycling development.

For the financial year 2005/2006 the main emphasis will be to extend National Cycle Network Routes 5 and 55, and progress the Chase Heritage Trail between Rugeley to Cannock.