

16 miles | 25 km

cycle route

7

Iron and Agriculture



Start - Civic Centre, Scunthorpe

Description

A circular route, through the parks of Scunthorpe to the rich flood plains of the Trent, returning through the attractive village of Messingham and historic Bottesford. The route connects with the Sandhills and Windmills ride.

Attractions

Scunthorpe Heritage Trail, North Lincolnshire Museum, Central Park and the Ridge Walk, and St. Peter's Church in Bottesford.

Traffic Levels

Low to moderate for most of the route but high in Scunthorpe.



16 miles | 25 km cycle route



Our journey starts in Scunthorpe's beautiful 100-acre Central Park. On the skyline to the east, there are the four blast furnaces, affectionately known as the Queens – Mary, Bess, Anne and Victoria. A Steel Heritage Trail starts from North Lincolnshire Museum (a 5 minute detour towards town), tracing Scunthorpe's development.

The cycle route through the park leads to the crossing over the busy Kingsway (A18), and down Glover Road. A right turn at the mini-roundabout will bring you onto West Common Lane, past John Leggott College.

The woodland to your right as you descend the steep hill marks the 15-mile Ridge Walk, created in the 1940s, linking open spaces on the west side of Scunthorpe, north to the confluence of the Trent, Ouse and Humber.

At the bottom of the hill, dismount and cross the busy Scotter Road, leave the town behind, following Brumby Common Lane due west towards the Trent.

This farmland was much improved in the past by warping, the silt rich waters of the Trent flooding the low lands, turning sandy soils into fertile lands. The old warping drains are now part of the field drainage system.

The small areas of woodland near the start of Tanners Lane mark fragments of heathland that escaped warping. To the west, beyond the motorway bridge, is the low ridge of the Isle of Axholme.

Turn along Stone Lane now, past the Village Hall and into Burringham. Follow the busier road south past the church, along the riverside towards East Butterwick.

The high Trent side banks with low willow on the waterside are an ideal place for a rest. Follow the river, passing under the motorway to the small village of East Butterwick, with its mid 19th century farms overlooking the river and the village of West Butterwick beyond.

Turn east now, after the Dog and Gun pub, past the Grange golf course and old sand workings to North Moor Road. Careful over the cross roads to take the hillside road, shaded by a tunnel of large trees, up into Messingham.

This attractive, growing village was home to the Victorian Ironmaster, George Dawes. His house, 'Trent Holme' (1875) at the southern end of the High Street, originally had a tower from which he could view his ironworks in Scunthorpe.

North through the main street, leave the village and turn right into Holme Lane, over the motorway to a T-junction. Turn left here, past Holme Hall dating from the 1700s.

Down the winding hill, cross Bottesford Beck, into Bottesford, turning left into Manor Road. A short detour off Manor Road along Church Lane, the 13th century 'Church of St. Peter in Chains' is well worth a visit. The 18th century Manor House, with its array of chimney stacks, coach house and turreted library was the home of Edward Peacock, the antiquary. The Knights Templars once held the Manor of Bottesford before their suppression in 1306. Close to the church and Manor House is the 19th century ironstone St. John's Well. Returning to the route, a right turn at the busy junction with Messingham Road leads into Scunthorpe, turning right at the junction with Burringham Road, then left onto Ashby Road. From this junction there is a cycle lane back to Pittwood House.

The grades for cycle rides - **ride easy**, **ride steady**, **ride well** and **ride strong** have been developed by British Cycling to help cyclists to decide whether a particular route is appropriate for their ability and experience.

The routes shown on the N Lincs map have been designed and approved by North Lincolnshire Council and the colour grading system serves only as a guide as to the terrain, duration and nature of the ride.