

Waterways

Many of Leicestershire's canals and navigable rivers are popular linear walking routes, providing flat, easy to use paths where you can enjoy watching wildlife and boating activities. Cycling is also permitted on some sections.

FREE
access to
waterside
paths




51 Ashby Canal (main section)

Tel: 01827 252000

Email: enquiries.centralshires@britishwaterways.co.uk

www.britishwaterways.co.uk

The canal was built to connect the Coventry Canal with coal mines around the Ashby Wolds. Built to follow the 300 feet contour it has no locks as it meanders north through the tranquil countryside of West Leicestershire, passing near Bosworth Battlefield. Cycling is allowed on the Leicestershire section though the towpath is narrow and uneven in places. It ends at Snarestone.  Map ref: 5B

52 Ashby Canal (restored section)

Tel: 0116 305 7090 Email: ashbycanal@tiscali.co.uk

www.leics.gov.uk/ashbycanal

A 1½ mile (2½ km) section of the Ashby Canal has been recreated linking the Donisthorpe Woodland Park to Moira Furnace and the Waterside site of Conkers. The wide surfaced towpath is ideal for cyclists as well as puchchairs and wheelchairs. Fishing permits available from Moira Furnace.

 at Donisthorpe, Moira Furnace or Conkers Waterside,  at Moira Furnace  Map ref: 4A



53 Grantham Canal

Tel: 01636 704481 Email: enquiries.eastmidlands@britishwaterways.co.uk
www.britishwaterways.co.uk

The Grantham Canal towpath offers an excellent quality trail for walkers and cyclists snaking its way through the beautiful Vale of Belvoir. The canal was closed to boating many years ago but most sections are still filled with water and have become a valuable wildlife habitat. From West Bridgford to Harby the towpath has an all weather surface, from Harby to Woolthorpe the towpath is rough grass and suitable for cyclists in the summer only. A British Waterways cycle permit is required.  Map ref: 2F



54 Grand Union Canal Leicester Line

Tel: 01636 704481

Email: enquiries.eastmidlands@britishwaterways.co.uk

www: britishwaterways.co.uk

The Leicester Line branches off the main Grand Union Canal in Northamptonshire to link with Leicester and the River Soar. It meanders through the rolling hills and beautiful countryside of South Leicestershire and includes the historic landmark of Foxton Locks (see page 20) and a branch to Market Harborough. From Foxton to Leicester the towpath is open to cyclists though care and a British Waterways permit are required.







H (at Foxton Locks). **Map ref:** 6E

55 River Soar

Tel: 01827 252000 **Email:** enquiries.centralshires@britishwaterways.co.uk

www: britishwaterways.co.uk



The River Soar Navigation extends north from Leicester to the River Trent; through quiet meadows, villages, and Loughborough. This river corridor is rich in wildlife and history, combined with the riverside pubs and villages. It is a lovely route to walk. Note, flooding is common in winter and during periods of heavy rain.     **H** **Map ref:** 4D

56 Leicester Riverside and Aylestone Meadows Country Park

Tel: 0116 229 4249 **Email:** leicester.riverside@leicester.gov.uk

www: leicester.gov.uk

The Riverside is a 12 mile long green corridor running through the city along the river Soar and the Grand Union Canal and a focus for regeneration in Leicester City. It is regionally important for wildlife and comprises a network of open spaces, nature reserves and parks. It has a range of cycle paths and footpaths, connecting different parts of the City.

Aylestone Meadows, Leicester's most prominent 'green wedge', is located along the Soar Valley a couple of miles south-west of the city centre. From Freeman's Weir, next to the Leicester City football stadium, to Soar Valley Way near Glen Parva, this area of pasture, riverside scrub and small pools is criss-crossed by many footpaths, and the Great Central Way runs through the site.



Map ref: 5D

