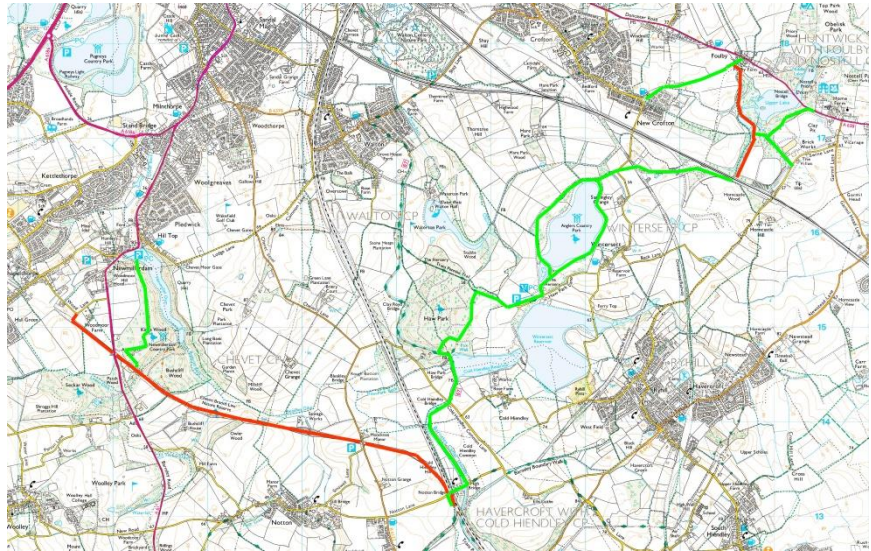


Nostell Estate Cycle Paths

Nostell Estate, which lies to the south of the villages of Foulby and Nostell, is at the heart of the traffic free network of cycle routes that extends to Anglers Country Park and links with the Trans Pennine Trail to Walton in the north and Barnsley to the south and on to Newmillerdam in the west. The map opposite illustrates the network of paths created by the completion of the Chevet Branch Line path (the longer of the red lines), over two years previously, and the new path in Nostell Estate (the shorter red line).



This network started to take shape around a decade ago when our Vice-Chair, David Keighley 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, some of these paths became damaged by farm traffic and were almost impassable after bad weather, especially for the 'easy' ride which Wakefield District Cycle Forum (WDCF) still runs from Nostell for less confident riders.

With agreement from Lord St Oswald, WDCF applied for a lottery grant to construct a new path of just under 400 meters, which was to be inaccessible to farm traffic and have an all-weather surface. Unfortunately, our first 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 took 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 2016. The second path was funded by WDCF from its own money.

The path was opened in July 2016 with an enthusiastic welcome from a large group of cyclists.



The photos opposite show the 'before' and 'after' with the old and new paths



Old path on Nostell Estate



Location for new path



New path under construction



New path



New path in use