

WOW

Wakefield District



Cycle Forum

Wonders of Wakefield Cycle Trail



Five Wonders of Wakefield

Nostell (National Trust) is a Georgian treasure house on the site of a disused priory and was built by the Winn family between c.1727 and 1785. It was started by James Paine and completed by the fashionable architect Robert Adam. The house contains a world-class Thomas Chippendale collection, together with a rare 18th century doll's house, an exquisite painting of Sir Thomas More and his family and one of the first longcase clocks made by the famous inventor, John Harrison.

The parkland is free to access and open all year. It contains lakes, woodland, open meadows, an adventure playground and two cycle trails. There is a café.

The Chantry Chapel of St Mary the Virgin, on the medieval bridge over the river Calder, is the only survivor of four chantries in Wakefield and the oldest and most ornate of the three surviving bridge chapels in England. It was originally built in around 1356 by the townspeople of Wakefield and is a Grade I Listed building.

The chapel has had three west fronts, the original medieval façade having been removed to Kettlethorpe Hall in 1843 where it adorned the boathouse there. The main body of the chapel dates from 1847 and was designed by the great Victorian architect George Gilbert Scott. Unfortunately, the stone used for the 1848 front was quickly eroded by the polluted air of what was then a heavily industrialised area of Wakefield. The present front was designed by Sir Charles Nicholson in the 1930s and is built of Denby Dale stone.

Sandal Castle is best known for the role it played in the Battle of Wakefield in 1460 during the Wars of the Roses. Richard, Duke of York was killed in the fighting, just outside the castle in a resounding Lancastrian victory. Remains of the 13th century stone

castle and the fine motte and bailey stand in a commanding position overlooking the river Calder. Entrance is free and there is a cafe.

The Hepworth was designed by the acclaimed architect Sir David Alan Chipperfield and named after Barbara Hepworth, a world-renowned artist born and educated in Wakefield. The Hepworth houses exhibitions of international modern and contemporary art, including works by Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, Henry Moore, Frank Auerbach, Eva Rothschild, Maggi Hambling and Anthea Hamilton, as well as the Victorian artist John Atkinson Grimshaw. Entrance is free for Wakefield District residents and there is a cafe.

Heath Village near Wakefield has been called the “village of mansions” because of the number of large period houses of historic and cultural importance there. These range from the spectacular Heath Hall built in 1707 to The Kings Arms, a traditional pub with gas lights and open fires, parts of which date back to the 15th century.

The Old Hall is remembered as being haunted by Dame Mary Bolles, who died in 1661. In her will, she directed that the room where she died be permanently sealed. The room was closed off but after fifty years it was opened and from then on the ghost of the infamous Blue Lady haunted the Hall. The door of the haunted bedroom has been preserved in Wakefield Museum. You can still see Dame Mary Bolles’s water tower. Built in the 1600s over a hillside spring, it contained a water wheel which pumped a water supply to Heath Old Hall on the hill above.

Wakefield Parks

Anglers Country Park is a stunning public open space on the site of the deepest opencast coal mine in the country, which

reached a depth of 250 feet. It features a lake, wildlife habitat, trails, woodland, bird watching hides, an adventure playground, Visitor Centre, shop and café.

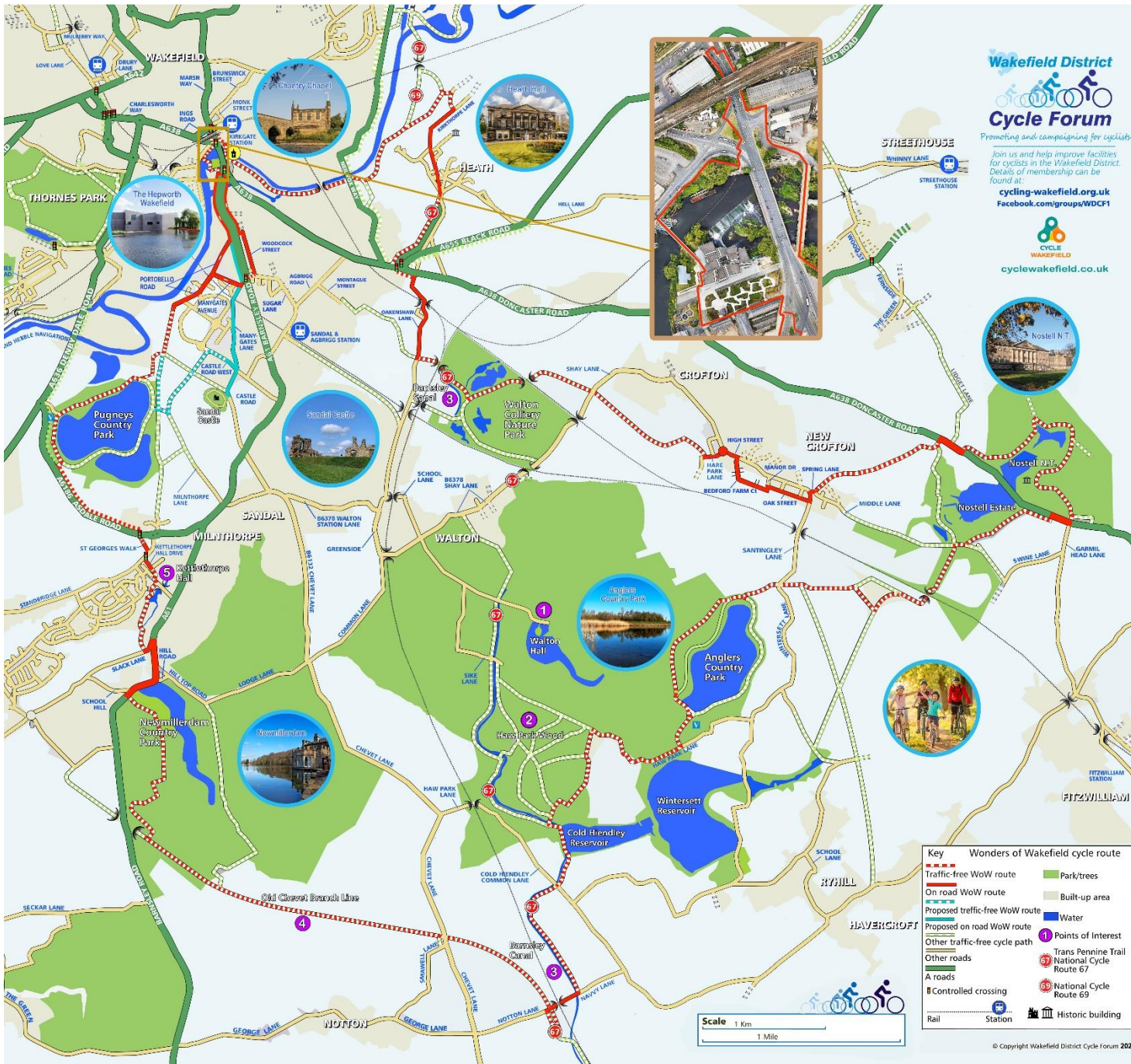
The Room on the Broom Trail there is based on Julia Donaldson’s book of that name. Pick up an activity pack from the Visitor Centre and follow the flat, accessible and easy to follow trail round the lake, spotting statues, animal footprints, trace rubbings and fun activities along the way.

Pugneys Country Park has two lakes, the smaller of which is local nature reserve with birdwatching facilities whilst a circular walk around the larger lake is flat and 1.5 miles. The park features a pirate play area, a light railway and the Blown Away Adventure trail to try. The trail is based on the book Blown Away by Yorkshire author Conrad Burdekin and has lots to keep kids entertained. There is a café.

Walton Colliery Nature Park, a local nature reserve featuring ponds and grassland, was created on the site of Walton Colliery, which closed in 1979. The park is bounded on three sides by railway lines and the Trans Pennine Trail and National Cycle Route 67 go through it. It is popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Newmillerdam Country Park, with its central lake, is in an area once called Thurstonhaugh, an old Norse name, until it became known as New Mylle on Dam when a new corn mill was built around 1285.

It was once part of an estate owned by the Pilkington family, who built nine lodges there in the 1870’s to house the gamekeepers who protected the site from poachers. Two lodges can still be seen today guarding the Dam.



Wakefield District
Cycle Forum
 Promoting and campaigning for cyclists
 Join us and help improve facilities for cyclists in the Wakefield District. Details of membership can be found at:
cycling-wakefield.org.uk
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CYCLE WAKEFIELD
cyclewakefield.co.uk

Five Wonders of Wakefield

- Nostell
- The Chantry Chapel
- Sandal Castle
- The Hepworth
- Heath Village

Wakefield Parks

- Anglers Country Park
- Pugneys Country Park
- Walton Colliery Nature Park
- Newmillerdam Country Park

Points of Interest

1. Walton Hall
2. Haw Park Wood
3. Barnsley Canal
4. Old Chevet Branch Line
5. Kettlethorpe Hall



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