

Sustrans and the National Cycle Route Network

Sustrans was founded in 1977 to help people travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. Now a leading charity, the organisation works with families, communities, policy makers and other agencies to encourage and enable people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys they make every day.

The first route which was created by Sustrans was the Bristol and Bath Railway Path, a 17-mile traffic-free trail along a disused railway. The charity went on to set out plans for a national network of routes in 1995 with a grant from the then newly-created National Lottery. Routes are a mixture of on-road and traffic-free. The length and popularity of the network has grown enormously, and it now carries over a million walking and cycling journeys daily and passes within a mile of 57% of the population.

The refurbishment of the Hockley Viaduct created an opportunity to complete the final stretch of National Cycle Route Network Route 23 which now connects Reading all the way to Southampton, and on to Sandown in the Isle of Wight.

The section through Winchester is one of the most exciting, running alongside the River Itchen, making use of parts of the old railway embankment and – of course – passing over the Hockley Viaduct.



- On road sections
- Large traffic-free sections
- Proposed routes

