

Places of interest

- ① Denhall
- ② Quayside
- ③ Old Quay
- ④ Neston Reed Beds
- ⑤ RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands
- ⑥ Ness Gardens
- ⑦ Park Fields
- ⑧ Neston Rock Cutting
- ⑨ Lees Lane Ponds
- ⑩ Cuckoo Lane

Key

- National Cycle Network on-road
- Traffic-free cycle path
- Station and railway
- School / College
- Public toilets
- Wirral Cycle Trail
- National and Regional Cycle Network route numbers
- Car parking / Park n Ride
- Toucan crossing
- Place of interest (named and numbered)

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Neston welcomes cyclists

GO NESTON!

Neston is well served by the Wirral Way, national cycle routes 56, and 568 (the Burton Marsh Greenway), the Wirral Circular Trail, and regional cycle routes 70 and 71. For further information on these and other great rides in the area and further afield into Cheshire and North Wales visit neston.org.uk/about-the-area/things-to-see-and-do/cycle-rides

Many of the routes on this map are part of the National Cycle Network (NCN), set up and developed by Sustrans, a leading UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day.

To find out more about Sustrans and how you can become a Sustrans supporter visit www.sustrans.org.uk

Acknowledgements

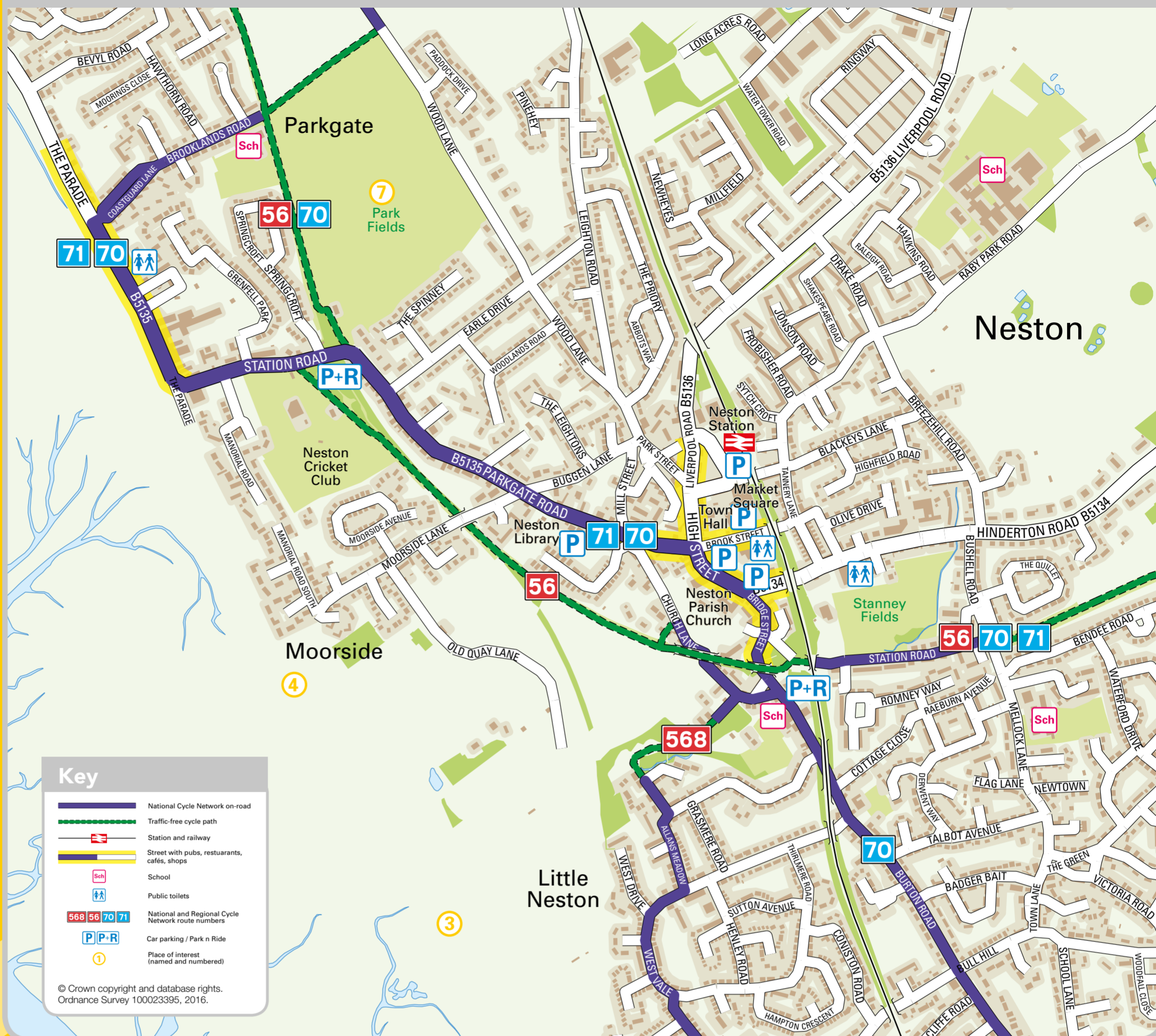
Robin Hughes (for creation of historical details), Dave Hall (for original artwork), Peter Williams (Local cycling advocate), Rob Ward (Local cycling advocate)



Neston Cycle Town
Enjoy the ride



Neston town centre



Neston's story is the story of the river

It was the Holy River (Deva) to ancient Britons, Dee in English and Dyfrydwy in Welsh, boundary between England and Wales. Find yourself a high vantage point, squint a little and imagine Roman warships heading for their base in Chester. When they left in AD 410, Celtic ships plied their trade, superseded by Anglo-Saxons around AD 616. There were constant scraps with the Welsh and with Viking pirates. Can you see the dragon ships moving rapidly up river on a rising tide? Around AD973, so the story has it, Edgar, first king of all the English, was rowed up the Dee to Chester by eight Scottish and Welsh kings summoned to swear fealty thus bringing a (temporary) end to the struggle.



Soldiers and sailors

The Normans launched successive invasions of Wales (1081-1283) and Ireland (1169-1541) with troop carriers departed from the Wirral shores. All this time and thereafter, a busy maritime trade continued and Parkgate became the preferred passenger port for Ireland.

By 1815 it was largely over. Silting, competition from Liverpool and Holyhead and advances in ship design had done for the Wirral Coast.

The Dee reacquired something of its turbulent past in WWII when the drone was heard of Dorniers and Heinkels carrying bombs for Liverpool heading in from the sea across decoy fires on the marsh.

Today the tide of history has ebbed but the Cheshire Riviera is left for your enjoyment; space to breathe fresh air, relax and muse on times past.

Parkgate seafront

You're looking at a well-preserved 18th Century bathing resort where the fashionable regency set came for a dip. Notice the Georgian boarding houses where visitors would lodge while taking the waters. Stroll the breezy promenade built for Victorian tourists, famous ice cream in hand.

Parkgate had grown to be the main port for Dublin in the 16/17th Century and many famous people passed through including John Wesley and George Frederick Handel as well as Lady Emma Hamilton who came for a holiday. The famous medical missionary Wilfred Grenfell of Labrador was born and grew up here. Fishing also grew in importance when the railway came in 1876. Spend some time near the lagoons watching the birds. Twice a year, in March and October, we see Parkgate as it used to be, when seasonal high tides bring the water up to the wall again. At the north end of The Parade the **Old Baths Car Park** has extensive views and information. 'Parkgate Heritage Trail' leaflet available from local outlets. Large choice of pubs, cafés and restaurants.

Park and Ride: car parks at both ends of The Parade are best.

Along the shore

1 Denhall: On the Burton Marsh Greenway. Magnificent views and good for high tides. Remains of a 13th Century hospital for shipwrecked mariners in the fields. Café nearby.

Park and Ride: Head south and you'll soon be in the Welsh foothills or Chester.

2 Quayside: Also on the Burton Marsh Greenway, this is the site of Neston collieries (1791-1927). Pub on site. Tunnels out to sea enabled coal to be brought from the face in barges. Trail leaflet obtainable from Library and Town Hall.

3 Old Quay: Remains of an unsuccessful attempt by Tudor Chester to create a port down river. An inn, later a House of Correction for itinerant Irish awaiting deportation, was used by the WWII Home Guard for target practice. Note access is via footpaths.

4 Neston Reed Beds: the well-known Neston Reed Bed, a sea of tall grasses. They shimmer and shake and whisper providing an interesting habitat for birds that like that sort of thing.

See also Old Baths at Parkgate.

Must-see attractions

5 RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands offers an excellent spot for a break from your ride and a chance to experience the rich and varied wildlife of the Dee Estuary in all seasons.



From vast flocks of ducks and geese in winter, to colourful dragonflies and butterflies in summer, each season has its highlights and spectacles. Complete with toilets, small drink and snack selection and a wonderful pellet burner in the Reception Hide to warm up in winter, this hidden gem in the corner of the Wirral is not to be missed. Situated on south edge of Burton village, off Puddington Lane.

6 Ness Gardens, the extensive University of Liverpool Botanic Gardens, has wonderful year-round displays including snowdrops in February, rhododendrons in April and heathers later on. Restaurant.

Garden centres are a feature in the Neston area though balancing plant pots on the handlebars may be a problem.

Inland points of interest

7 Park Fields: This vast, lofty open space provides a flavour of the views that GMW Turner painted and was once part of a mediaeval deer park that gave Parkgate its name. It's being turned into a traditional flower meadow.

8 Neston Rock Cutting: hand-excavated for the railway in c1866 you can see the pick marks left by navvies. Now a site of Geological Interest and a haven for shade-loving plants and animals.

9 Lees Lane Ponds: a group of flooded marl pits have been brought into the Country Park and provide a pleasant picnic spot. **Park and Ride.**

10 Cuckoo Lane: this old greenway allows you to explore this area of what used to be common land with, unusually, views to the east rather than the west. Note the route is often muddy at the mid point. Take care accessing Cuckoo Lane from the busy A540.

Park and Ride: Gorstons Lane.

Neston's ancient town centre

A quaint and interesting place with an old-fashioned air, Neston retains its mediaeval street layout and a pleasant mixture of small-scale features, complex roofscapes, characterful shop fronts, old cottages and georgian houses. Small alleys called 'weints' lead off the main streets. A guide to places of interest, 'Neston Town Trail', may be obtained from the Town Hall or Library. A traditional market is held every Friday (8.00am to 3.00pm) and a Local Produce Market on the first Saturday of every month. Pubs, cafés and restaurants. Food and other shops. Cycle hire and repair is available.

Park and Ride: people in the know use the Station Road car park in Neston rather than the town centre.