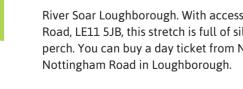
All information was believed to be correct at the time of printing. We cannot accept liability for any inaccuracies or omissions or subsequent alterations to any of the information included. We recommend you check all details directly with establishments before making a journey. Large print format is available. Please call 0116 225 4000.



tackle. Top recommendations include:

Grand Union Canal at Crow Mills, South Wigston. With entry via Countesthorpe Road, LE18 4AD, and free car parking. The canal has a sizeable stock of tench, roach & carp, and you can pick up day tickets on the bank from the Wigston Angling Society's bailiffs.

For further information please visit www.getfishing.org.uk.

River Soar Loughborough. With access via Swingbridge Road, LE11 5JB, this stretch is full of silver fish and large perch. You can buy a day ticket from Netbusters on

Environment Agency Rod Licence - available at any post office, or order online at www.getfishing.org.uk. It's free if you are under 16. There are many chances to fish, but it is worth checking

that the traditional 'close season' does not apply at

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk before you pack up your

Angling is a relaxing way to experience the natural surroundings of the waterways. You must purchase an

**1. AWESOME ANGLING** 

Leicestershire's waterways, here you'll discover everything you need to quickly get stuck into a wide range of activities

If you've been inspired by our virtual cruise along based around the water.

### THE NEXT STOP - THINGS TO DO AND SEE ALONG THE WATERWAYS



www.lrwt.org.uk.

**3. SCENIC CYCLING** 

Country Park.

leicester-cycling-route1.

from the centre. centre. The river runs alongside the village, just minutes a range of local shops, pubs, restaurants and a garden Continue to the bustling village of **Birstall 🔆**, which offers

metal corrugated isolation hospital. now under restoration. Note the former Toll House and with the River Wreake, canalised to Melton in 1797 and North of Birstall is the junction of the Leicester Navigation

drink in a selection of pubs set along or near the river. Barrow is a lovely place for an amble, topped off with a excavated there in 1851, nicknamed the "Barrow Kipper". in a conservation area. The village is famous for a plesiosaur (approx. 6 miles) which enjoys an enviable riverside location Mountsorrel lock 🤫 to arrive at Barrow upon Soar 🕂 Follow the river north, past Rothley Brook, Sileby Marina and

worth a visit in its own right. of Pillings Boat House restaurant and bar which is well of the River Soar floods. The nearby marina is the location the Grand Union Canal route when a neighbouring branch A few miles on, Pillings Lock is a flood lock built to protect

Railway and numerous places to eat and shop. in spacious Queen's Park, the atmospheric Great Central the fascinating Charnwood Museum, Carillon War Memorial ten minutes on foot from many attractions which include Loughborough 🥂 where the renovated canal basin is five to

fishing, boating and picnicking. which are renowned for walking, cycling, bird watching, place to enjoy the river and surrounding meadows truly a focal point for the village, making this the perfect The river leaves Leicestershire at **Kegworth** 🥨 where it is

mentioned visit www.goleicestershire.com For times, prices and more details of all the places

> don't buy a ticket for the whole attraction. There is a gift shop and café, accessible even if you artefacts and exhibits and the UK's largest planetarium. gnitenioset to noitosiloo a sesuod osla ti trofalumis dc aupinu a bna sairalleg avitoaratni xiz dtiW. dtaqwot a day full of wonder for all ages just a minute from the award-winning National Space Centre 🎊, which promises The river continues north, winding just behind the

The Soar Valley features multiple places of interest to

birdwatchers. Specific picks for ornithologists in the area

include Watermead Country Park as well as Wanlip Meadows

and Cossington Meadows which are both Leicestershire

& Rutland Wildlife Trust nature reserves. Access and

parking details can be obtained from their website at

Closer to Leicester city, Aylestone Meadows is another

fantastic location in which to find varieties including

bullfinch, willow tits, little owls, sparrowhawks and

this is also the perfect time of year to come across

Society's website at www.lros.org.uk.

kestrels. In spring, warblers return in their droves, and

fieldfares and black redstart. More fascinating facts can

be found on the Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological

Towpaths form a network of scenic routes for cyclists to

enjoy, whether for a family afternoon out or traffic-free

route to work. These leafy green corridors can be relaxing

and inspiring, with so much to appreciate as you pedal along.

The Canal & River Trust has a towpath code which it's useful

to be aware of before you set off on your two-wheeled

adventure. You can read it at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/

about-us/our-campaigns/share-the-space-our-towpath-code.

An interesting route suggested by website www.letsride.co.uk

involves a steady twelve-mile circuit from Bede Park in

Leicester city centre to King Lear's Lake at Watermead

Parts of the river are also on National Cycle Route 6 -

head to www.sustrans.org.uk for the full picture and

local route 1 - www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/file/

wildlife for themselves. boardwalks to encourage people to explore the aquatic new pond area and wetland habitat, bridged by scheme to improve flood defences. Ellis Meadows is a on the banks of Leicester's River Soar as part of a major Just north of here, a new wildlife park has been created magnificent original steam powered beam engines. technological and scientific heritage complete with its Victorian building displaying Leicester's industrial, Next door is the Abbey Pumping Station 🥂 , an extraordinary

heritage train and which also has refreshment facilities. Central Railway 🎌 where you can take a round trip on a takes you to the Leicester north terminus of the Great Leaving the river here, a walk of around 10 minutes

out for the woolly mammoth! martins, plovers or even the elusive kingfisher. Look hides from which you can sometimes witness sand celebrate the diversity of local birdlife, and include the River Soar in the park, where three nature reserves the Grand Union Canal from the River Wreake flows into along with walking, picnicking and cycling. A stretch of works and extremely popular for fishing and water sports network of lakes created from 340 acres of former gravel Follow the river to Watermead Country Park 🕂 - an extensive

### **4. NEIGHBOURHOOD NATURE RESERVES** Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust manages over 30 important wildlife and geological sites which contain amazingly varied animal and plant species, some of

Some fall along the waterways. To the north, Loughborough Big Meadow is within a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and one of the few Lammas meadows left in England (areas of common land dating back to mediaeval times). Accessed by a stile near the River Soar. Kingfishers are year-round visitors, and skylarks are seen during Spring. Further south, Mountsorrel Meadows lies on the floodplain of the River Soar and is a patchwork of valuable wetlands The site has been designed to encourage overwintering birds including lapwing, snipe and redshank. Visitors are

asked to use the viewing platform as this ensures an unobstructed view of the reserve without causing

Cossington Meadows and Wanlip Meadows have both been created on the site of former gravel works. Although most have been filled, some of the pits have been left to produce a more diverse habitat. As the reserves also lie in the flood plain of the River Soar, when flood water recedes shallow pools form. These dry up in the summer to expose areas of mud, attracting plentiful birds. For more information, please visit www.lrwt.org.uk/nature -reserves.

them extremely rare.

LTS gninnede evreser enter e - ewobeeM enoteelyA Leave the Leicester Line of the Grand Union Canal 🏃 at

accessed off Parsons Drive or over the locks from the acres. Look out for the Glen Parva local nature reserve,

can be found in its southern half along with a children's forms the eastern border of the reserve and King's Lock and are criss-crossed by numerous footpaths. The canal pools which are the habitat for many diverse species The meadows contain pasture, scrubland and small

lanes house important buildings such as Mary de Castro bounded on one side by the waterway. Nearby cobbled rock garden and mixed borders, the formal gardens are from the lively city centre and attractions. Featuring a Leicester's **Castle Gardens 🎋** are just a ten-minute stroll

bne muesum nemor JJeW y WeL edt ni estet bne vrotsid was re–interred in March 2015. Explore 2000 years of park, and take a short walk to the Cathedral where he See the original site of his burial in the now famous car the incredible story of the King's life, death and discovery. The King Richard III visitor centre 🏸 is a 'must see.' Re-live

lake, tea rooms and miniature railway, you can enter Cavendish House. With decorative planting, boating today, along with ruins of the Abbey and 17th Century St Mary's Abbey. Large mediaeval walls are still visible include the area west of the river that had formerly been of Leicester. Opened in 1882 and expanded in 1932 to Continue to Abbey Park 🔀 , a haven on the northern edge

the Park from the river near 5t Margaret's Pastures.

.yew adi gnola lladbliuð lavasiðan.

.lled eltec castle hall.

play area and tea rooms.

.diseq woi

Trail

### NSEEUL INFORMATION (DETAILS OF ACCESS/CAR PARKS)

**RIVER SOAR** 

For ideas of great short-breaks and holidays in

the area please visit www stayplayexplore.com

For tourist information about Leicester visit

For tourist information about Leicestershire

To find out about the many opportunities for

getting involved with our waterways through

section of www.leicestershirewaterways.com

volunteering opportunities please see the relevant

Supported by

Leicestershire County Council

including bookable accommodation visit

www.leicestershirewaterways.com

www.visitleicester.info

www.goleicestershire.com

Produced by

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River Soar & Grand Union Canal

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### SANIAAM (VEE MAP OVERLEAF FOR LOCATIONS) (SEE MAP OVERLEAF FOR LOCATIONS)

Leicester Marina

Bebdale Wharf Marina

Union Wharf Narrowboats Ltd

North Kilworth Marina

bısytsoð JliM ydəli2 🚺

Pillings Lock Marina Ltd

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disturbance to the wildlife.

5. WATERSIDE WALKING

for more ideas and insights.

and the National Space Centre.

6. WHERE FOR WATERSPORTS?

### LEICESTERSHIRE'S SCENIC WATERWAYS JOIN US FOR A JOURNEY ALONG

relaxation for all the family. endless opportunities for leisure, recreation, exercise and of Leicestershire with urban and rural landscapes and The River Soar Trail is a 39 mile route through the centre

Savour the sights and sounds of our waterways on foot.

In addition to the attractions and destinations mentioned

in this guide, there are numerous other access points to

the river and canal towpaths. You can plan a walking

route and view walks on www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk

and there are plenty more walking routes around the river

and canal on The Ramblers website www.ramblers.org.uk

Foxton Locks is great for a wander and in the city why

Aylestone Meadows? Visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

If you'd like to ramp your enjoyment of the water up to

a new level, there are plenty of ways to get wet! A number

of exciting watersports are available at both Watermead

situated on the banks of the River Soar between Birstall

Park and Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre which is

You could try out canoeing, kayaking, bell boating or

'katakanuing' – where the boat is a hybrid of a canoe

club.co.uk, www.lrysa.org.uk, www.lopc.co.uk and

www.gocanoeing.org.uk for information.

www.leicestertriathlonclub.co.uk.

Wharf and Sileby Mill Boat Yard.

and a bell boat. Sailing, windsurfing and stand-up paddle

boarding are also available. visit www.leicestersailboard

In addition, the Leicester Triathlon Club runs open water

swimming sessions at King Lear's Lake within Watermead

Park from May to October, if you feel like a challenge.

You can take a boat trip at Foxton Locks or hire a narrowboat

including Barrow upon Soar, Pillings Lock Marina, Union

More independent 'paddlers' can find lots of routes and

inspiration by visiting www.soartour.org.uk

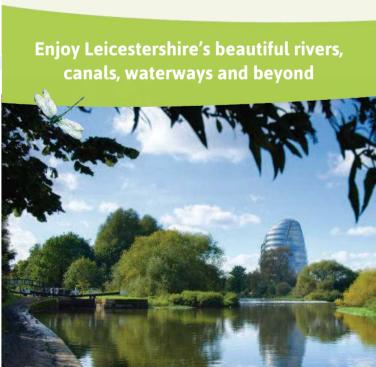
from there or various providers along the waterways

not follow the water from Castle Gardens down to

larger retailers, coffee shops, and restaurants. Independent local shops nestle comfortably next to for its stilted Old Grammar School, next to the Church. and a restaurant. The attractive market town is known a thriving centre with workshops, apartments, businesses won si 🕂 The restored canal basin Union Wharf 🅂 is now south than here. About 15 minutes' walk from the town Leicester line of the Grand Union Canal made it no further it enters Leicestershire near Market Harborough. The We start our journey following the flow of the river where

towpaths are ideal for both walking and cycling. the latest digital technology. A network of footpaths and lift. The Boiler House brings the historic site to life using and remains of the historic Victorian inclined plane boat for its flight of 10 locks, built in the early 19th Century Follow the canal north to Foxton Locks 🔀 - celebrated

countryside just minutes away from the water. country walks around St Wistan's Church and the caté, garden centre and model village. There are numerous together a range of eclectic shops with an art gallery, summer and the thriving Rural Centre which brings Enjoy the Maize Maze which features a new design each Around 4 miles north, is the delightful hamlet of **Wistow** 🕺 Head through (or over if not in a boat!) Saddington Tunnel.



River Soar & Grand Union Canal

Partnership

# **RIVER SOAR** Trail

## NOLLONAOXLNI

junction with the River Trent. to 'canalise' the River Soar, starting at the Soar's early as 1776, the Soar Navigation Company began once profitable commercial navigation routes. As the county's heritage, parts of the waterways were to find here's and beauty along the way. A rich part of through Leicestershire, they visit numerous places As the Grand Union Canal & River Soar meander

excellent transport links. as it needed both a constant supply of water and reicester's hosiery industry expanded so rapidly, established. It was also thanks to the canal that wind and watermills, brewing and malting became transportation mechanism. Industries including develop along the canal, as it created a vital This expansion meant that industry could start to

longest route of canals linking London to Birmingham. to become part of the Grand Union Canal – Britain's Variation in a seventually bought by the Grand Union in 1932 What became known as 'The Leicester Line' of canals

recreation and leisure. the waterside to enjoy a wealth of facilities for sning along the many miles of towpath, or leaving to enjoy the city and county, whether walking or Today the waterways offer numerous opportunities

# 



ROUTE 3

This out and back r route above for a l

# ABBEY PARK TO WOLSEY ISLAND AND ELLIS MEADOWS (3 MILES)

Follow the canal to where it rejoins the river at Swan's Nest Weir, visit the newly created Ellis Meadows, with boardwalks over wetland areas and a picnic area, and then follow the river back to Abbey Park. Suitable for family cycling or walking, although you may need to dismount at pinch points around bridges.

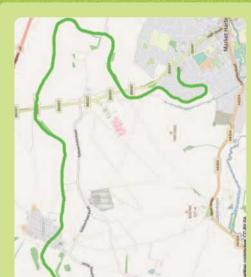
ve.co.uk/riversoartrail-route3







www.cho



ket Harborough

SCALE: 5 MILES