

These trails link Pleasley Vale and Kingsmill Reservoir, via Pleasley, Teversal and Sutton in Ashfield, a distance of approximately 5 miles, largely along disused railway lines.

Apart from a steep descent on the Meden Trail, the route is mainly flat and passes through unspoilt countryside and farmland along the Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire border before emerging into Sutton Town Centre with some short on-road sections. Beyond Kingsmill Reservoir, the route reverts to off-road bridleways before continuing along the Timberland Trail to Mansfield Town Centre, and Rainworth (see NCC leaflet Ashfield and Mansfield Trails - East).



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This information can be made available upon request in alternative formats and languages.

For more information on cycling and recreational routes, see www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/leisure/l-cycling

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The Meden Trail

Along this section, the route runs alongside the River Meden, using the former track of the old Midland Railway. The Meden valley, rich in resources of water, timber and stone, also provided the humid micro-climate and energy needed for early cotton mills, and became the home of Viyella, exported worldwide from this location in its heyday.

The valley was also thought to be used as a hunting ground for Neanderthal communities living at nearby Creswell Crags during the Ice Age; in 1862 extensions to Pleasley Vale Hall unearthed a large cave with the skeletal remains of wolves, woolly rhinoceros and reindeer.

Part of the route now runs through a Local Nature Reserve, managed by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.



The Teversal and Skegby Trails

At the former Pleasley colliery, now a country park, two established routes run south to link into the legacy of the Victorian railway boom, now an established part of the countryside access network of the Teversal Trails. The route passes through attractive undulating farmland reminiscent of Derbyshire's hills, alternately running through deep cuttings, and crossing river valleys on steep embankments.

At Teversal, a brief diversion takes in an unspoilt and charming village whose manor house was immortalised as Wragby Hall in DH Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Located south of the linking section, the Teversal Visitor Centre provides an ideal stop for refreshments.

Sutton in Ashfield is a small industrial town of Saxon origins, although its name probably derives from the Norman de Sutton family. Coal mining supported the local economy between the Middle Ages and the closure of the pits in the late 20th Century.



Parts of the trails are particularly important for their wildlife, being designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The scarce calcareous grassland habitat found here supports a number of unusual plant species, including Fragrant Orchid and Pale St. John's Wort, as well as butterflies such as the Common Blue. Scrub along the trails is an important breeding habitat for Willow Tit and Bullfinch, birds which have both declined nationally, and Grass Snake is also known to occur.



