

The Route

Where: Stonehouse to Nailsworth

National Route Number: 45

Distance: 6.5 miles

Terrain: traffic-free route on old railway line

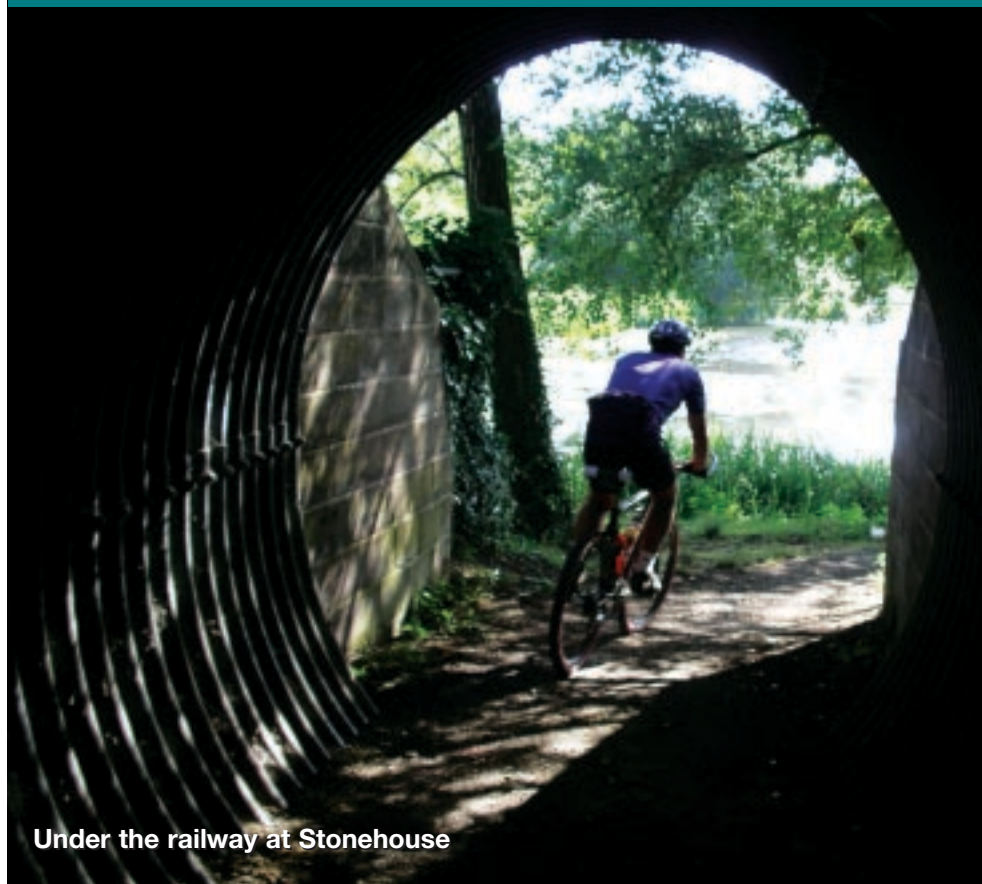
Public transport: railway stations at Stonehouse and Stroud

Maps: leaflet available for 75p plus 30p p&p from Stroud TIC - 01453 765768

OS maps: Explorer 168, Landranger 162

Towns to search for on Sustrans website mapping: Stonehouse (Stroud), Nailsworth

Stonehouse to Nailsworth



Under the railway at Stonehouse

This delightful traffic-free route follows the line of the old Midland railway and provides a welcome alternative to the busy A419 and A46 for local cyclists. You begin in Stonehouse in the Stroud Valley and pick up the railway path just south of the town at Ryeford.

The route is an ideal easy ride for families, with wonderful views of the Cotswolds to the east while you pedal between shady trees. You are never far from the water, periodically joining the River Frome, the disused Stroudwater canal (which should soon be restored to use following a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund), and the Nailsworth Stream. Watch out for water mills and other interesting buildings along the way. The route takes you through an orchard, so take a pannier if you are riding it in apple season!

The ride ends in Nailsworth, a friendly little town with excellent cafés and independent shops, and a farmer's market on the fourth Saturday of the month. If you fancy a challenge, the lovely village of Minchinhampton and its Common (managed by the National Trust) are a 2.5-mile climb away on a minor road. It's a long hill, but the views at the end are worth it.



A Trailblazing ride before the route was built