

Top to bottom:
Foxton locks – there's a flight of 10. Launde Abbey. The village of Medbourne



Weekender

Rutland Water loop
An easy 25-mile ride around the reservoir:
cyclinguk.org/route/rutland-water-loop-matt-lamy

Sulley Challenge Rides

Every March, Leicestershire & Rutland CTC kickstart the cycling season with a day of reliability rides. **Neil Dixon** is your guide to the 100km route



NEIL DIXON
Neil is president of Leicestershire & Rutland CTC and takes part in the Sulley Challenge Rides every year

The Sulley Challenge Rides are Leicestershire & Rutland CTC's traditional early spring reliability rides, giving local cyclists a chance to test their legs after the less demanding days of winter. This guide describes the 100km route but if you don't want to 'test yourself' over this distance, or if the weather is inclement (it often is), then there are also shorter options of 25, 50 and 75km.

All the rides start and finish in the traditional market town of Lutterworth. Its most famous historical figure is John Wycliffe, who produced the first translation of the Bible into English in 1374. The event HQ is in Lutterworth Town Hall, a Regency-style building designed by Joseph Hansom, of hansom cab fame. All of the rides explore quiet rural roads, on routes designed to ensure that a café stop to refresh and refuel is never too far away.

The rides are named for David and Doreen Sulley. David was secretary of the Lutterworth Section of Leicestershire and Rutland DA. He passed away in 1989, and the first memorial rides were organised in 1990. Aside from during lockdown, they've continued to this day.

