

WERAKATA NATIONAL PARK

CYCLING AND HORSE RIDING TRAILS

1

WERAKATA EXPLORER

Intermediate

START POINT	Astills Picnic Area (K9)
COLOUR	<div></div>
CLIMB	88m
LENGTH	15.3km
TIME	49 minutes
SURFACE	Dirt and gravel roads

Advanced trail suited to exploring the park with challenging hills and natural bushland.

2

DEADMAN'S TRAIL

Intermediate

START POINT	Astills Picnic Area (K9)
COLOUR	<div></div>
CLIMB	79m
LENGTH	9.3km
TIME	36 minutes
SURFACE	Dirt and gravel roads

Intermediate trail for walkers and cyclists hoping to see wildlife and native trees.

3

ASTILLS

Easy

START POINT	Astills Picnic Area (K9)
COLOUR	<div></div>
CLIMB	60m
LENGTH	5.4km
TIME	20 minutes
SURFACE	Dirt and gravel roads

Easy fun walking trail for all the family looking at a small section of the park.

LEGEND

Easy Bike Trail

Intermediate Bike Trail

Difficult Bike Trail

Visitor Information Centre

Information Bay

Scenic Lookout

Walking Trail

Convict Trail

Bike Service Point

Parking

Concert Venues

Toilets

M15 Route Marker

Tourist Drive

Park

Minor Roads

Major Roads

Airport

National Parks

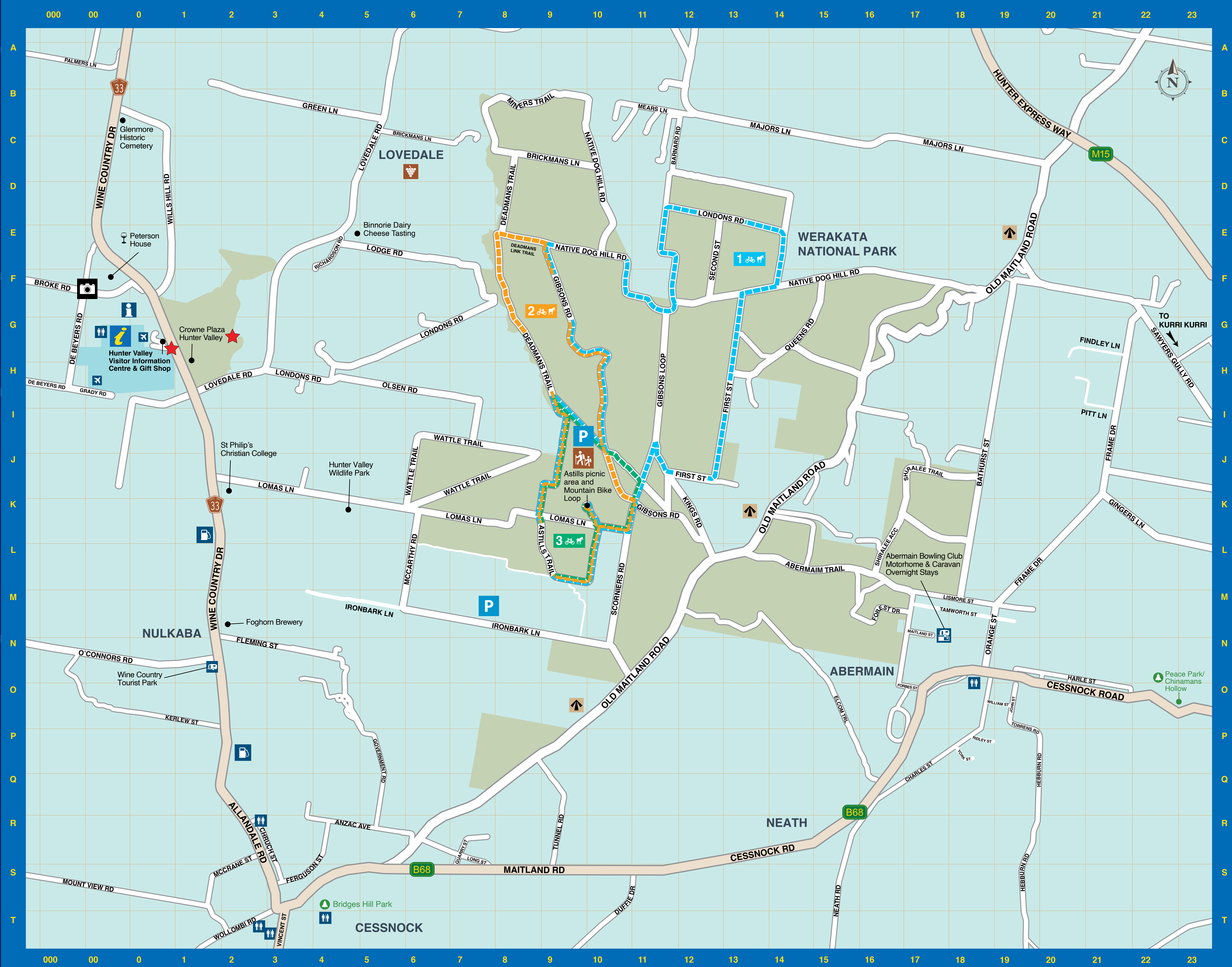
Service Centre

Caravan Park

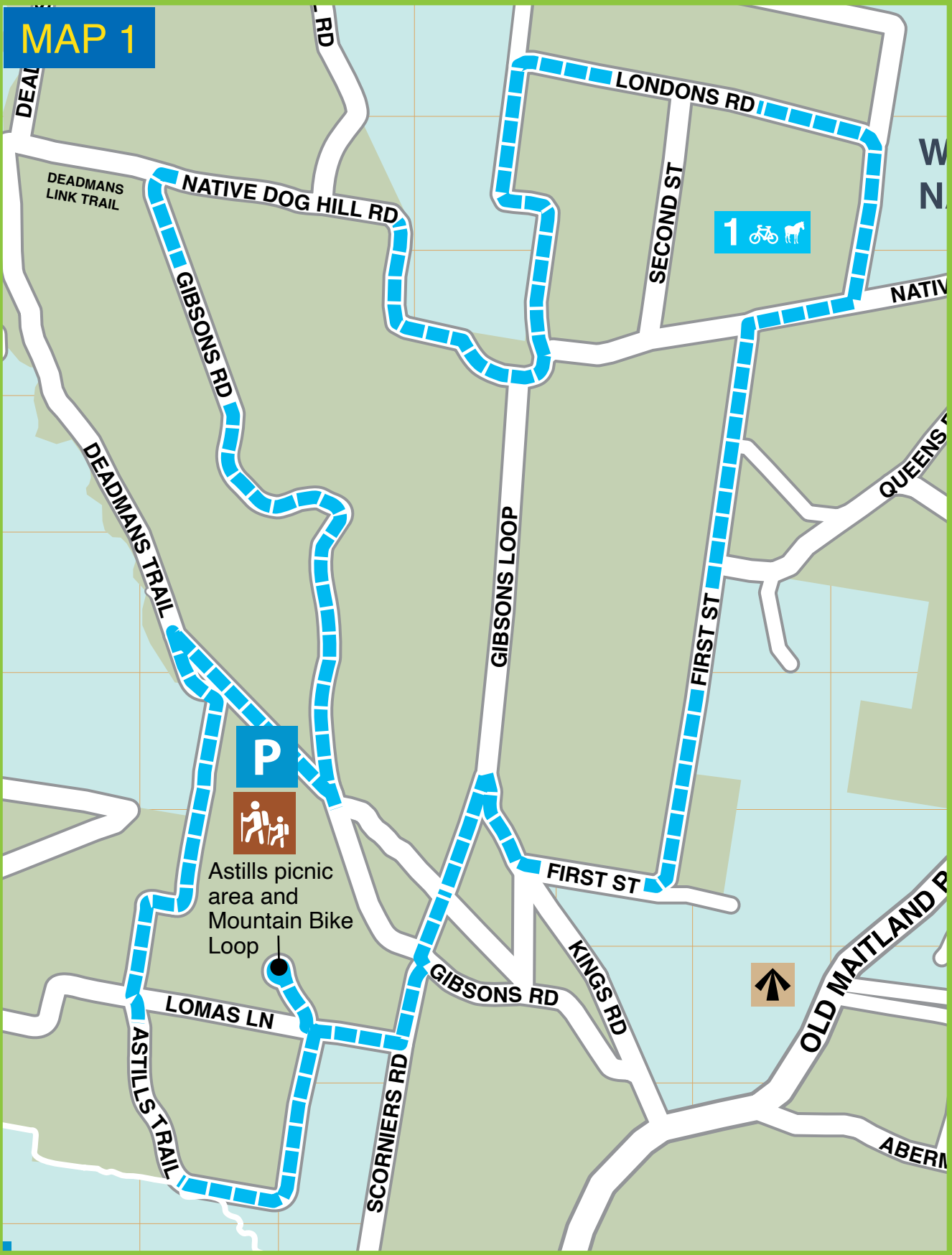
RV Dump Points

Airport

Cessnock Police: (02) 4991 0199
Cessnock Hospital: (02) 4991 0555
Kurri Kurri Police: (02) 4937 1593
Kurri Kurri Hospital: (02) 4936 3200



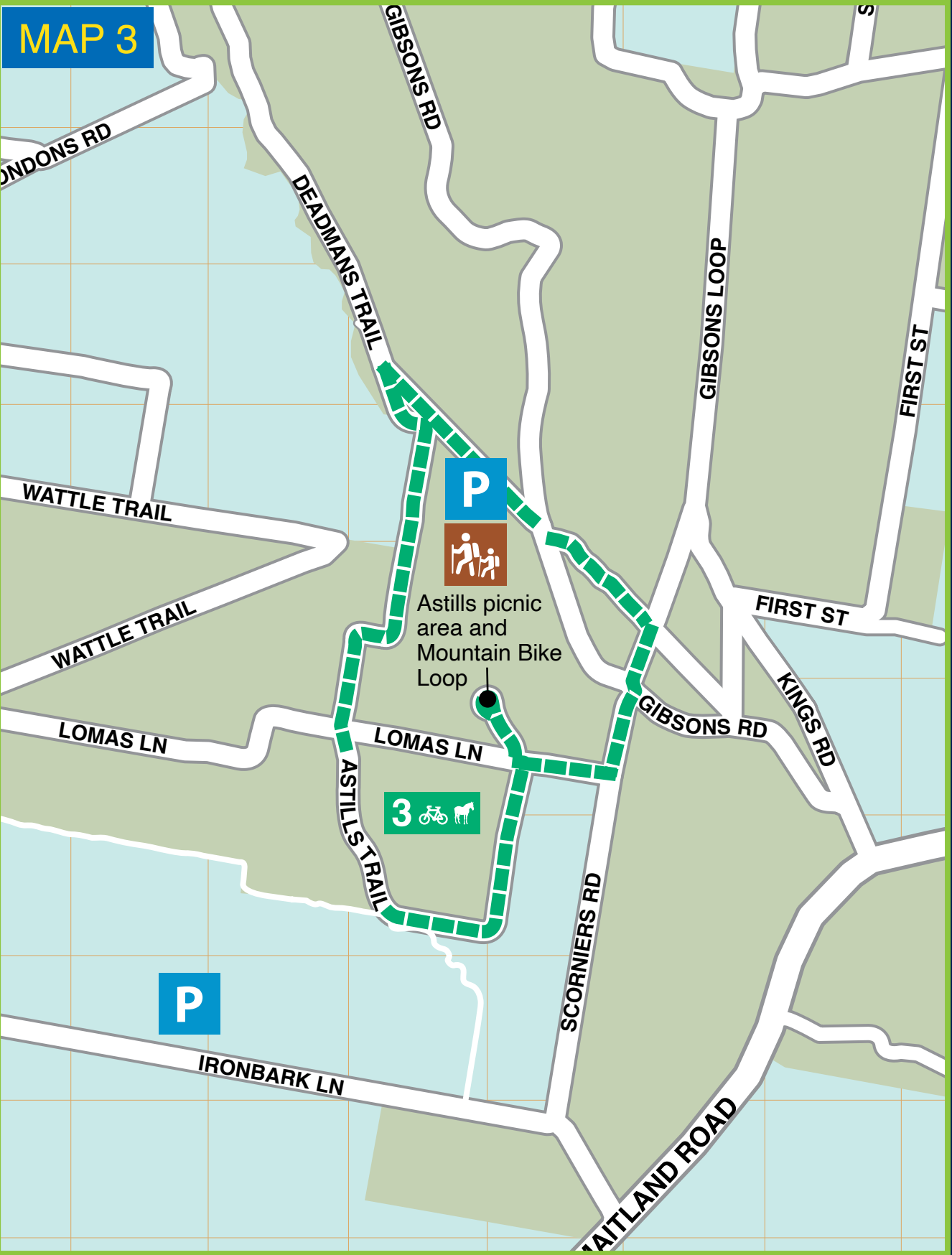
WERAKATA EXPLORER



DEADMAN'S TRAIL



ASTILLS



ASTILLS PICNIC AREA

Astills picnic area is the ideal place for a break. It's rarely busy, and the picnic tables let you sit and take in the surroundings, with plenty of open grassy areas for games or chilling out.

Hunter Valley bushland. On a sunny day, pack a picnic and thermos and enjoy the amazing variety of birds above you in the eucalypt canopy. Owls, speckled warblers, black-chinned honeyeaters, grey-crowned babblers, and serenading kookaburras, will keep you company.

After lunch, ride the bikes around Deadmans Trail, an easy 8km ride through



TIPS FOR CYCLING AND HORSE RIDING

Carry a first-aid kit for both horse and rider on all long trips, along with other emergency gear such as rope and torches. It is recommended that you bring your own water for yourself and your horse.

Check all equipment is in good working order before setting out. Ensure horses are accustomed to the things they may encounter in parks, such as wildlife, vehicles, motorbikes or cyclists, and are under adequate control at all times.

Keep all emergency gear in backpacks, not saddlebags, so it isn't lost if you become separated from your horse. If planning a long trip, tell someone you are not riding with about your plan. Check predicted weather conditions before beginning the ride.

Have a lead rope handy so that the horse can be lead if the terrain gets too difficult. Riders under the age of 18 must wear helmets when riding in parks. It is strongly recommended that all other riders also wear helmets.

There is a high likelihood of encountering walkers and other park users who are unfamiliar with horses. Such people may be intimidated or unsure of how to act in their presence. Exercise caution and keep speed low in high-use areas where such people may be encountered. When passing them, do so in single file and make sure all horses in the group are walking calmly.

All trails are public fire trails/roads as such you are likely to encounter vehicular traffic and must exercise caution.

Horses must be under competent control at all times. If tethering horses to vegetation (permitted during the day only), make sure horses are tied to sturdy trunks or branches where there is no evidence of previous damage to the soil or tree and place padding between the rope and the tree. Don't tie horses to trees if they become restless and paw the ground or chew trees when tied up as this can quickly cause damage to soil and vegetation.

A horse's impact on soils can be minimised in the following ways: Avoid riding during wet weather or in any area where soils are waterlogged. In these conditions the soil is more susceptible to erosion.

If training horses on park trails, do so by riding one or two times over a longer section of trail rather than by riding along a short section of trail a large number of times in quick succession. This helps stop impacts from becoming overly concentrated on small areas.

For further information visit:

- Horse riding safety www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/horse-riding-safety
- Mountain biking and cycling safety www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/mountain-biking-cycling-safety

NSW BICYCLE REFERENCE GUIDE

Where can cyclists ride?

Footpath
See below for details.

Shared path
Riders may use the path, but not a BUS ONLY lane.

Road
Riders may need to cycle in the middle of the lane.

Bus lane
Riders can use the bus lane, but not a BUS ONLY lane.

Bicycle lane
Riders must use a marked bicycle lane if available, unless impractical to do so, ie. fallen tree or parked vehicle.

A marked bicycle lane has a

sign

OR

white painted symbol plus word LANE

Not all painted bicycle symbols on the road represent bicycle lanes, but can be suggested bike routes.

Minimum passing distance law

Give 1m
when road limit is **60km/h** & under

Give 1.5m
when road limit is **over 60km/h**

Exemptions permit motorists to:

- Cross lines (double, unbroken centre lines included)
- Straddle lane lines
- Drive on painted islands

but **ONLY** if it is safe to do so.

Who must wear a helmet?

All bike riders, required by law.

Riding two abreast

Riding two abreast is legal in NSW however bike riders must cycle within 1.5 metres of each other.

A third rider can overtake these two riders, but cannot continue to ride beside them.

Must bike riders carry ID?

No, but carrying ID with you is a good idea in case of an emergency.

Riding at night?

Bicycle riders must not ride a bicycle at night/dusk or in hazardous weather conditions unless the bike displays a flashing or steady white light from the front, and a flashing or steady red light from the rear. The bike also requires a red reflector which is visible from the rear.

This document is only a guide. For more information on NSW bicycle laws visit the Road Rules 2014 legislation: www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

Who can ride on footpaths in NSW?

Children under the age of 16 and parents with children in child carriers.

An adult (18 or over) supervising a child under 16.

A person who has a medical certificate.



FREE MAP

WERAKATA NATIONAL PARK

WERAKATA NATIONAL PARK



Werakata National Park in the Lower Hunter Valley is loved by locals. It's also close to Sydney, which makes for the perfect day trip. There are great cycling and walking trails and in spring they're lined with purple, orange and yellow wildflowers, like acacias and banksias. There are rare plants here too, found mostly in a special section of endangered habitat.

Werakata National Park is great for birdwatching and is also home to many varieties of native animals. The riding trails and scenic picnic area are real highlights.

Bring binoculars and a camera – you'll find brightly coloured bush birds

flying low enough for great photography. Birdwatchers who come to Werakata are never disappointed: the abundance of insects (worms, grubs, and mosquitos) plant material (seeds, grasses, flowers), small berries or fruit, and nuts in the park which attracts the likes of the threatened Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater as well as several species of robin.

Bring some local Hunter Valley produce to the park and set up at pretty Astills picnic area. Then cycle along Deadman's mountain bike loop or Astills trail, which are both easy, flat and suitable for any fitness level.

Visit the NPWS website when planning your trip www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au.