

1st June 2009

Photocal

Date/time: Friday 19th June at 11am

Venue: CONKERS Circuit, Albert Village Lake, Albert Village
Meet at Albert Village School, Occupation Road, Albert Village; car parking opposite the School

Get walking and cycling on the new CONKERS Circuit

Official Opening Friday 19th June

Local school children get on their bikes to officially launch the new CONKERS Circuit on Friday 19th June. The launch takes place during National Bike Week which encourages everybody to get more out of life by regularly riding a bike.

The Circuit is one of the central features of the Heart of the National Forest Foundation's vision for a 1000-acre woodland park – 'Heart of the Forest' – being created around CONKERS; and it is the initial part of the network of green routes that will in the future radiate out into the wider National Forest.

It makes it easy for local people and visitors, particularly families and young people, to explore the woodlands, lakes and green spaces within and all around CONKERS. It takes a circular route and is surfaced over a 5 mile total length, although shorter loops can be followed; it is suitable for walkers, including disabled users, cyclists and, in part, for horse riders. The very final short section of the Circuit will be converted to off-road for cyclists shortly.

The CONKERS Circuit is easy to follow by using the special CONKERS Circuit markers and gives access to many different attractions and woodlands along its way, including:

- CONKERS Discovery and Waterside
- Sarah's Wood
- The Ennstone Trail
- National Forest Youth Hostel
- CONKERS Camping and Caravanning Site
- Albert Village lake and woodlands
- Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Woodland
- Church Gresley Wood
- Moira Furnace.

The Circuit also joins the Sustrans National Cycle Network which runs close to CONKERS and which itself links to the Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail running to Measham. In the future, the Circuit will have links to nearby villages and towns and beyond to attractions and woodlands within the 200-square mile National Forest.

Stephen Woolfe, Chairman of the Heart of the National Forest Foundation, said: "Our Foundation's vision for the 'Heart of the Forest' woodland park is to create an inspiring landscape over 1000 acres for people to enjoy and use every day.

"Our first priority in fulfilling this vision is to create a wide network of green routes and trails that can be used by all people. The CONKERS Circuit is the first part of this network and it will help local people, as well as visitors to the area, to stay healthy and get the best out of life by exploring woodlands and the local countryside – on foot, bike or horseback."

Alan Leather, Funding and Partnerships Officer for the National Forest Company said: "It's great to see that the creation of the The National Forest is bringing with it new facilities for a range of recreational pursuits.

"The CONKERS Circuit makes an attractive route linking a network of trails giving opportunities to explore the Heart of the Forest area and its mature and developing woodlands."

The CONKERS Circuit has been made possible with the generous support of the following organisations:

- East Midlands Development Agency
- Leicester Shire Economic Partnership
- Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership
- The National Forest Company
- Derbyshire County Council
- The Maud Elkington Charitable Trust
- Ennstone plc
- The Midlands Co-operative Society

The CONKERS Circuit runs right around the impressive 40-acre lake at Albert Village and has been chosen for the official launch on Friday 19th June. Present at the launch will be the following:

- Stephen Woolfe, Chairman, Heart of the Heart of the National Forest Foundation
- Alan Leather, Funding and Partnerships Officer, the National Forest Company
- Simon Watts, British Cycling who are organising schools events on the day
- School children from Albert Village Primary School

**Press photographers and reporters are invited to attend the official launch of the
CONKERS Circuit on Friday 19th June at 11am
at
Albert Village Lake, Albert Village, Leicestershire
Meet at Albert Village School, Occupation Road, Albert Village;
car parking opposite the School**

For further information please contact:

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