

# WERAKATA NATIONAL PARK

## CYCLING AND HORSE RIDING TRAILS

**1 WERAKATA EXPLORER** Difficult

START POINT	Astills Picnic Area (K9)
COLOUR	<span style="color: blue;">—————</span>
CLIMB	88m
LENGTH	15.8km
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	<span style="color: orange;">—————</span>
CLIMB	79m
LENGTH	11.4km
TIME	36 minutes
SURFACE	Dirt and gravel roads

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

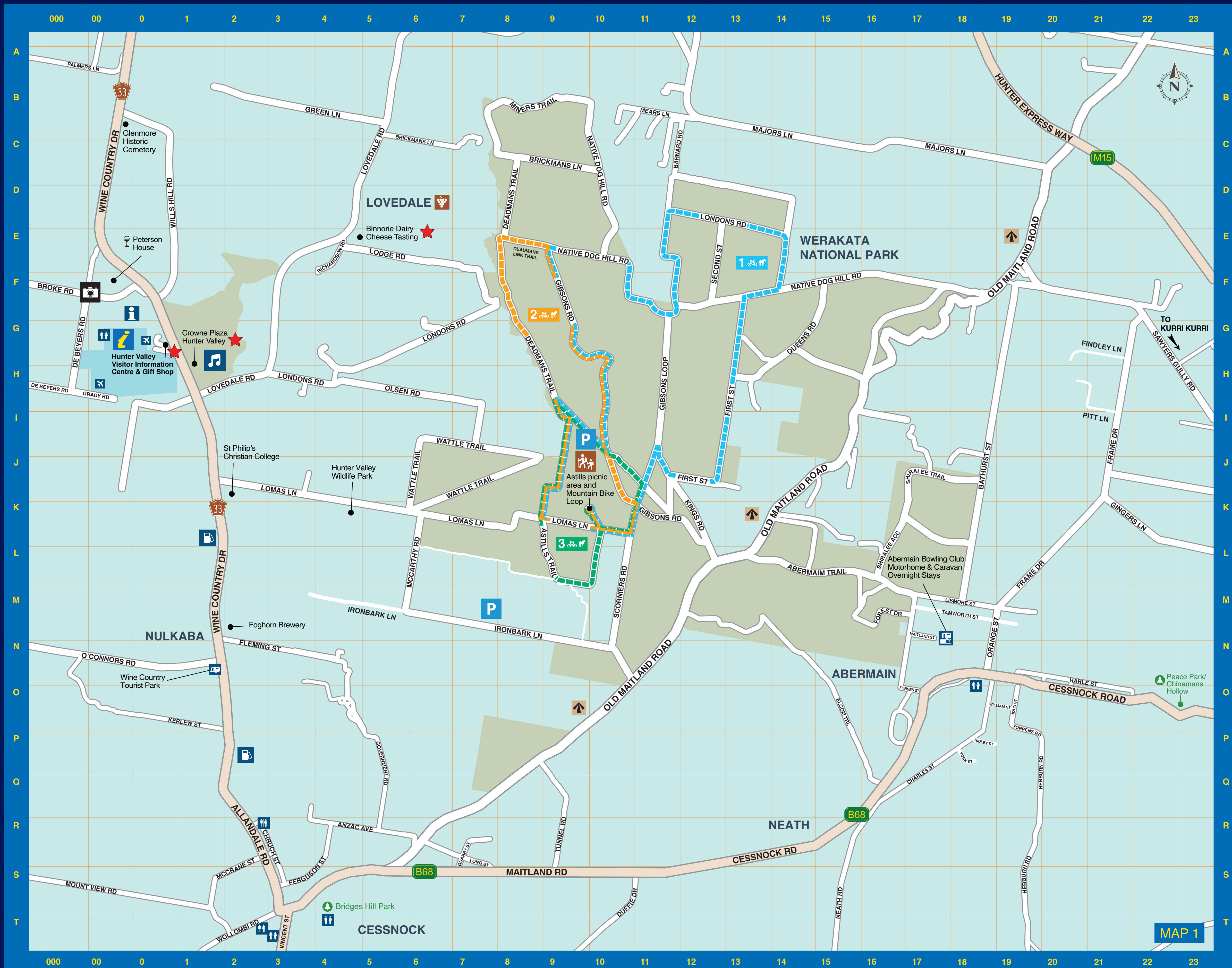
**3 ASTILLS** Easy

START POINT	Astills Picnic Area (K9)
COLOUR	<span style="color: green;">—————</span>
CLIMB	60m
LENGTH	6.36km
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


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



MAP 1

# WERAKATA EXPLORER

# DEADMAN'S TRAIL

# ASTILLS

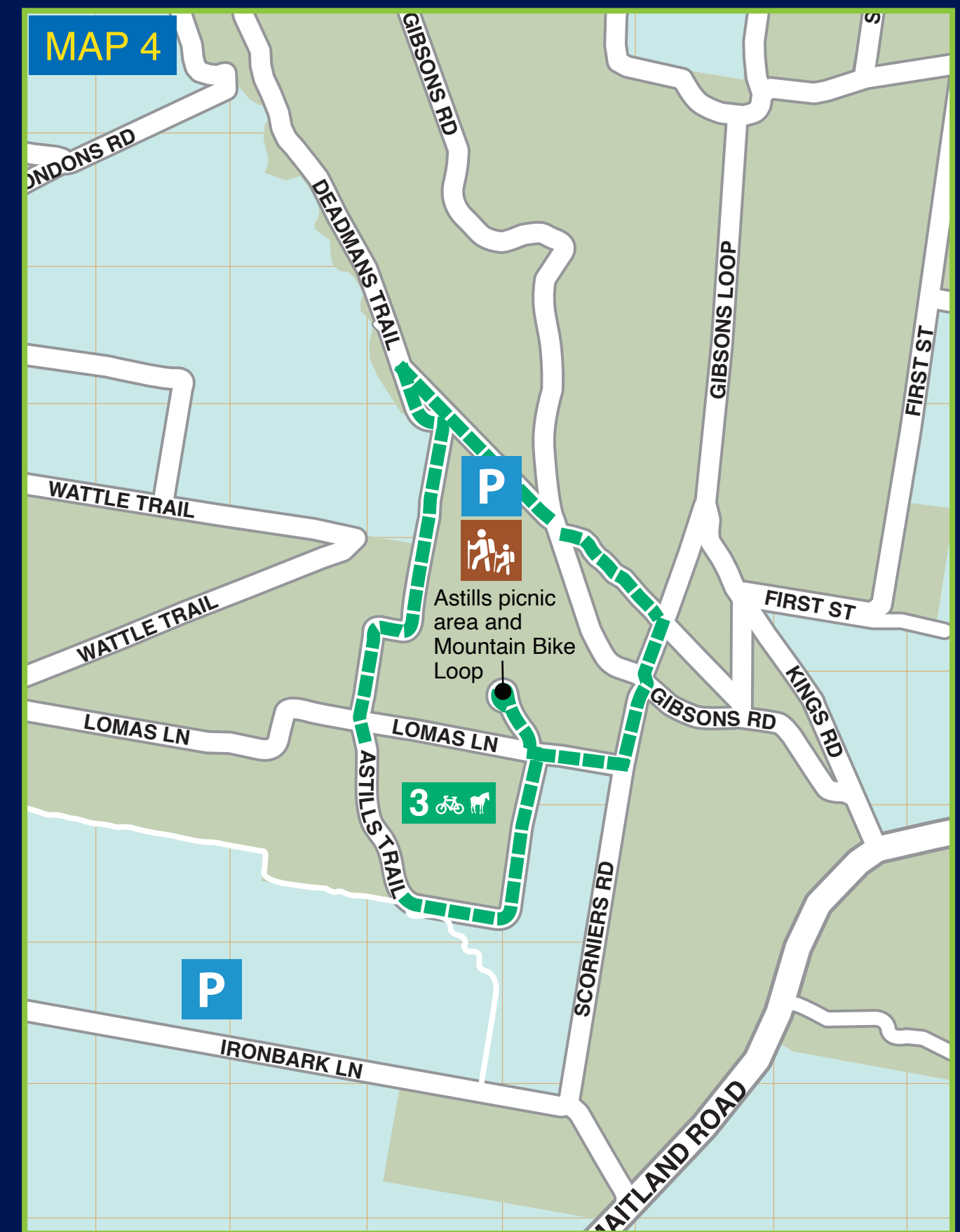
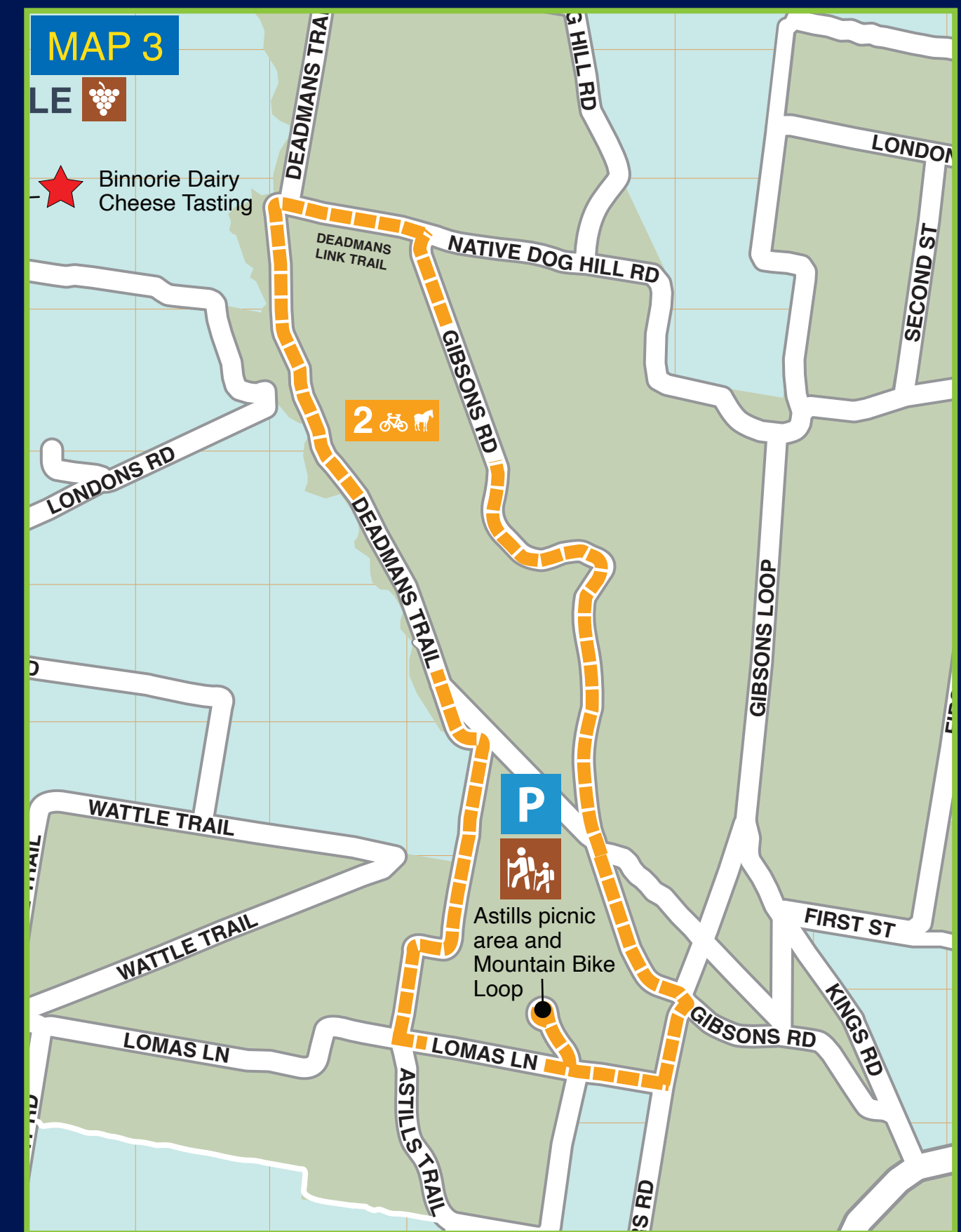
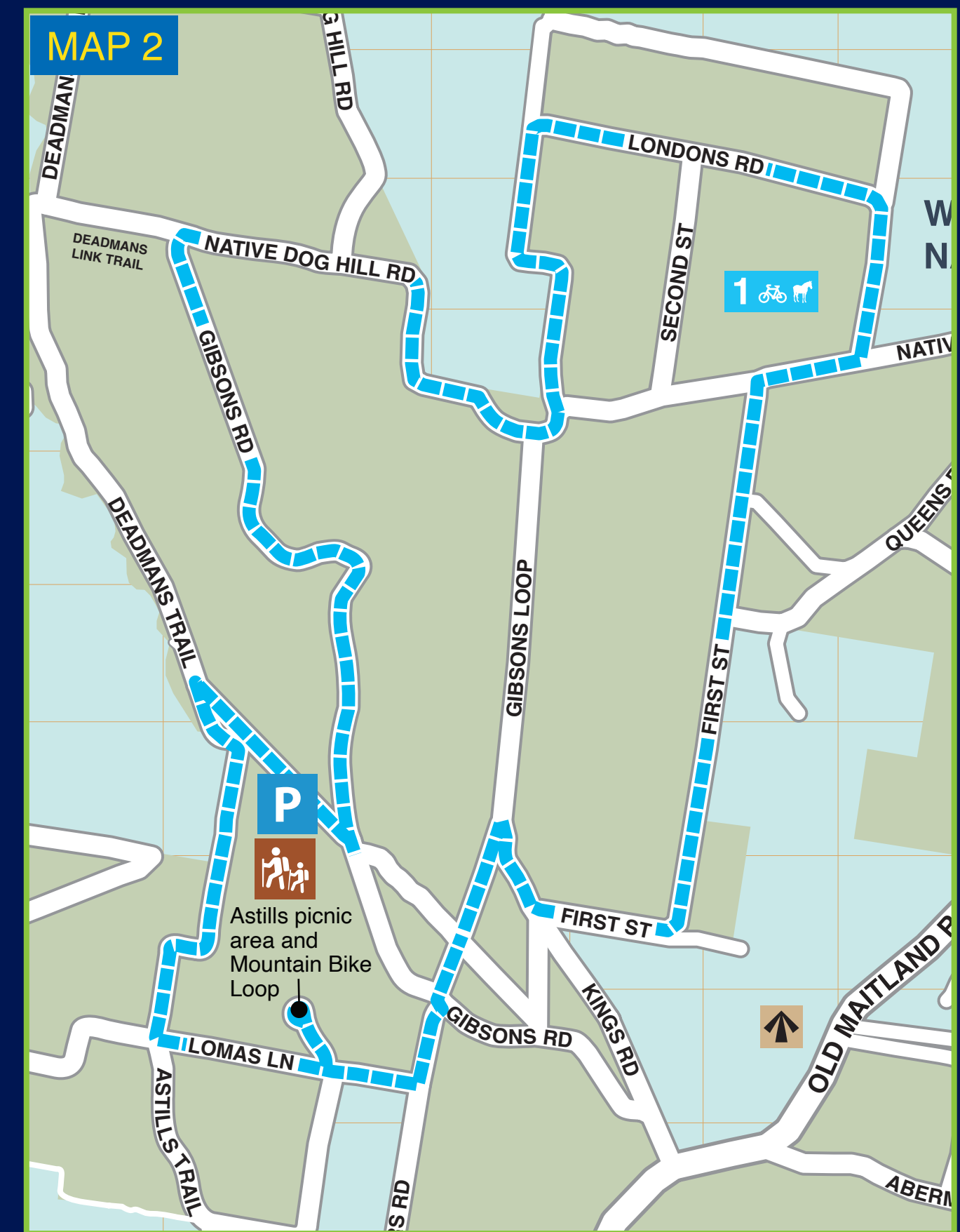


## ASTILLS PICNIC AREA

Astills picnic area is the ideal place for a feed. 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 winter's day, rug up, pack the thermos and enjoy the amazing variety of birds from the comfort of your eucalypt canopy. Owls, speckled warblers, black-chinned honeyeaters, grey-crowned babbler, and serenading kookaburras, will keep you company.

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



### NSW BICYCLE REFERENCE GUIDE

**Where can cyclists ride?**

- Footpath:** See below for details.
- Shared path:** Shared with pedestrians.
- 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, i.e. fallen tree or parked vehicle.

**A marked bicycle lane has a sign OR a 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 60 km/h and under.
- Give 1.5m:** when road limit is over 60 km/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.

**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.

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



**FREE MAP**

## WERAKATA NATIONAL PARK

Werakata National Park is great for birdwatching, home to native animals and has exceptional spring wildflowers. The riding trails and scenic picnic ground are real highlights.

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

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, found mostly in a special section of endangered habitat.

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 food in the park attracts the likes of the threatened swift parrot or regent honeyeater as well as several species of robin.

Visit the NPWS website when planning your trip [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au).



### 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

- For further information visit:**
- Horse riding safety [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/horse-riding-safety](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/horse-riding-safety)
  - Mountain biking and cycling safety [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/mountain-biking-cycling-safety](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/mountain-biking-cycling-safety)

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