

The Best of the Trent Valley

Including 10 walks to discover the culture, waterways and wildlife of the Trent Valley



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Welcome to the Trent Valley

This is a landscape that is defined by its rivers. The River Trent, the River Tame and the River Dove, flow through a landscape that is distinctive in character. The low, flat floodplains create rich grazing meadows and arable farmland, which have attracted settlers to the area since prehistoric times. The river deposits that have been laid down over millennia provide the aggregates and raw materials that supply construction industries. Over time the river itself has transformed: its course has been altered and straightened by man and artificial weirs have been created. This is a landscape that has changed continually and provided what is needed when it is needed without fuss or sudden change. As a result of this evolution the landscape is peppered with a richness of cultural and natural heritage that doesn't just tell one story, it offers an eclectic and interwoven narrative of a landscape in continual flux.



History

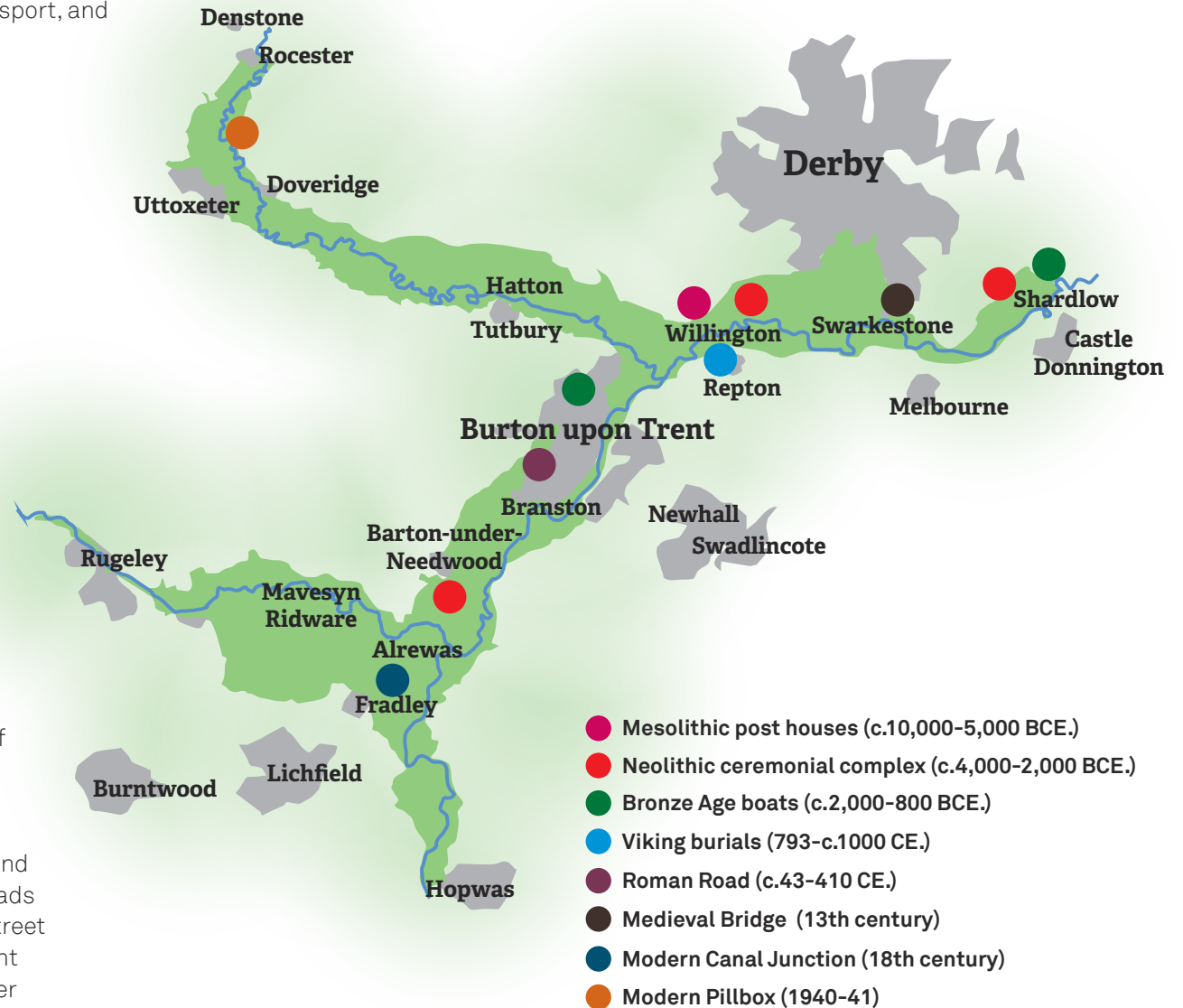
Rivers have always played a significant role in human culture. Since prehistory they have provided water, food, protection and transport, and still do today.

Prehistory:

The Trent river system became established about 300,000 years ago (after the retreat of the Anglian ice sheet). The first occupants of the valleys were mobile hunter-gatherer groups in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods and evidence for domestic dwellings have been found at Willington. The earliest evidence for ceremonial monuments in the Trent Valley date from the early Neolithic period, including long linear enclosures known as cursus monuments, stone and timber circles, and circular enclosures with an outer ditch and bank known as henges. Three groups of these ceremonial monuments are known within the Trent Valley at Catholme, Aston upon Trent and Twyford; their proximity to river confluences suggests they may have been at boundaries or meeting points between territories. Three Bronze Age log boats found in gravel pits at Burton-upon-Trent and Shardlow are the earliest examples of river transport in the area.

Ancient history:

Evidence of Anglo Saxon activity has been found in the form of pagan grave goods associated with cemeteries, whilst Viking burials have been recovered from an overwintering camp at Repton. By the late Iron Age and Roman periods evidence of permanent settlement is sparse, however prehistoric tracks and droveways crossed the area, and more substantial military roads were laid out during and after the Roman invasion. Rykneld Street Roman road ran through the Trent Valley, roughly on the current route of the A38. Medieval stone bridges survive at several river crossings such as the Swarkestone Bridge in Derbyshire. By the time of the Norman conquest in 1066 the majority of settlement appears to have become focused in more nucleated villages.



Modern history:

During the 18th century, industrial centres such as Burton-upon-Trent grew, thanks to the driving force of river powered watermills, and the deep aquifers of mineral-rich waters supplying the beer industry. Burton-produced beer had a unique flavour thanks to the minerals in the bedrock that dissolved as the water seeped through the surrounding hills. As well as giving it flavour, the mineral helped to preserve the beer, meaning it could be traded further afield.

In the later 18th century, demand for transporting large cargoes led to the creation of the canal network. The Trent and Mersey Canal opened in 1770, and was the first of the major inland waterways, linking the ports of Hull and Liverpool. The Coventry/Birmingham and Fazeley Canal was completed around 1789, linking the Trent and Mersey to the Oxford Canal. Its junction with the Trent and Mersey at Fradley is still the focus of a wharf, warehouses, inns and canal workers' cottages.

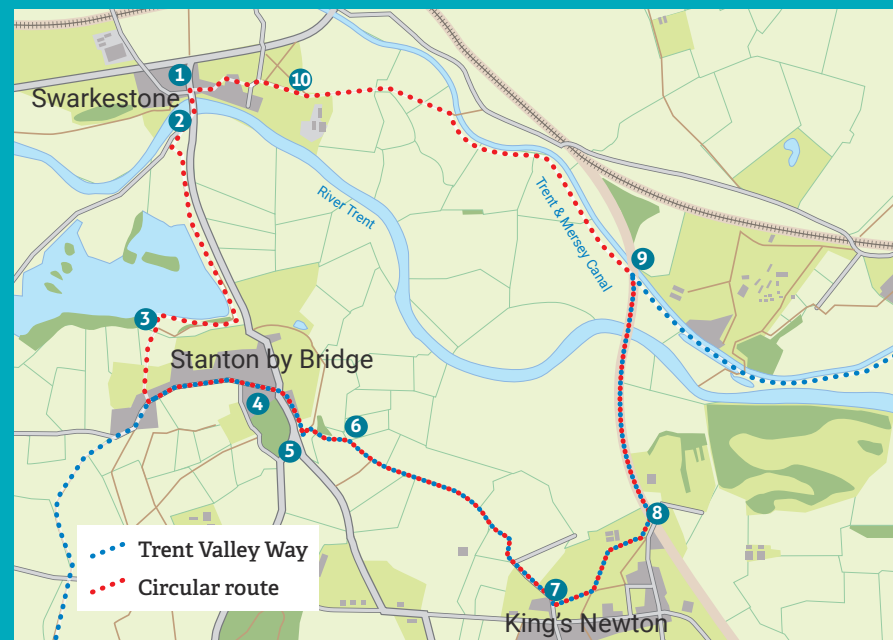
The majority of the 20th-century defence features across the Trent Valley are associated with Second World War activity, including Stop Line no.5, a series of anti-tank pillboxes constructed along the rivers in 1940, to counter a feared German invasion of Britain. Although the stop line was a short-lived operation, many of the pillboxes survive along the river banks, often sited close to road, canal and railway bridges.

Place names:

In 886 a treaty was signed dividing much of what we now know as England, into 'The Kingdom of the English' and the 'Danelaw'. The eastern side and beyond was under Viking rule and the western side was ruled by the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Wessex. There are many local clues to this old frontier, like the old Scandinavian (OS) for island 'holmes' in Catholme, Horseholme and Broadholme. To the east of the Trent you will often encounter the suffix 'by', OS for farmstead or village, as seen in Derby, Bretby, Blackfordby, Ashby. The old English equivalent 'ton' is common to the west of the river and can be found in Burton, Hatton, Barton and Stretton.

Swarkestone Circular Walk

5.3 miles (8.5km)



Approximate time: 3 hrs

Parking: in Swarkestone

Refreshments: Crewe and Harpur pub and Swarkestone Nursery, Hardinge Arms in Kings Newton, and cafes, pubs and restaurants in nearby Melbourne

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 245 (Burton upon Trent, Swadlincote, Ashby-de-la-Zouch & Coalville)

Waymarking (including custom-made fingerposts) plus surface and infrastructure repairs by Melbourne Footpaths Group. Brief road walking along Ingleby Road in Swarkestone; on pavement through Stanton by Bridge and then briefly along the A514. Otherwise, good surfaces for walkers.

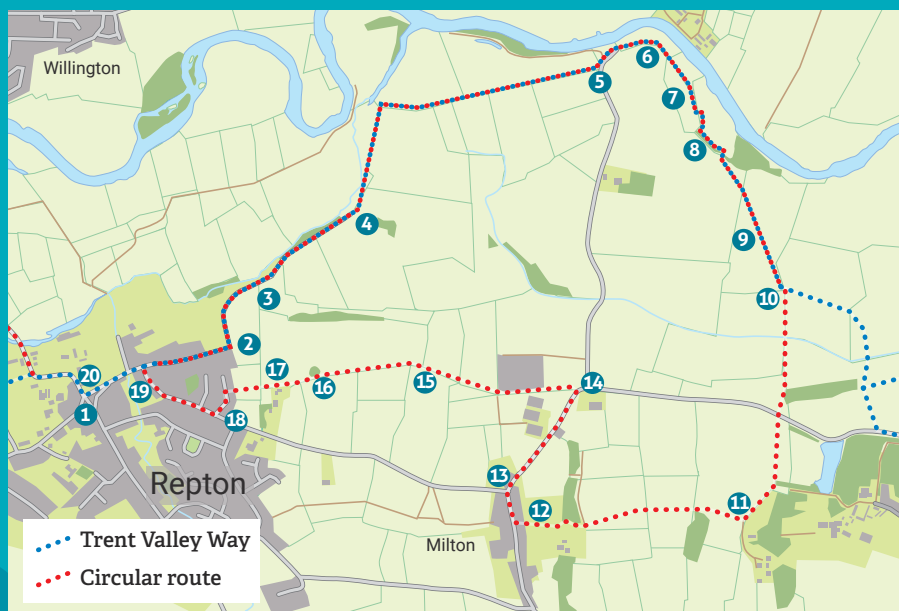
- 1 Leaving Swarkestone southwards, cross river bridge over the Trent and turn immediately right into Ingleby Road. After about 100 metres, the footpath is signposted on the left at a new kissing gate. It crosses the meadow in a south-easterly direction, after which it follows the line of the causeway southwards. At the end of the third meadow turn right through a metal farm gate. Avoid the arches under the causeway to your left which are NOT a public footpath.
- 2 After the gate the path heads west alongside a small stream. After a short distance with a tree-covered bank on the right and meadows on the left, the path crosses a small bridge over the stream.
- 3 Continue uphill through horse pastures divided by rope barriers, using gates provided, until a stile takes you into Stanton by Bridge next to the Village Hall and opposite St Michael's church. Turn left into the main street of Stanton by Bridge and proceed until you reach the A514.
- 4 Here there is just sufficient visibility both left and right to cross safely if care is exercised. Turn right towards Melbourne for about 200 metres to just after the last houses on your left.
- 5 Turn left towards Waterworks House, a Victorian pumping station. Almost immediately there is a small gate on the right for the footpath leading up to Wards Lane coming up from the causeway.



- 6 Turn right onto Wards Lane towards Melbourne. Just before the lane arrives at Kings Newton there is the site of 'Holywell' on the left, down a short set of steps installed by Melbourne Civic Society. A few metres past this the Trent Valley Way turns off left.
- 7 At this point, follow the path eastwards through a meadow dotted with fine mature trees to Trent Lane.
- 8 From Trent Lane veer left just before the old railway bridge and follow the Sustrans Path (Cycle Route no. 6) in the direction of Derby. This was once a branch line between Derby and Ashby. About 100 metres after this the route turns left down to the towpath of the Trent and Mersey canal.
- 9 From Trent Lane veer left just before the old railway bridge and follow the Sustrans Path (Cycle Route no. 6) in the direction of Derby. This was once a branch line between Derby and Ashby. About 100 metres after this the route turns left down to the towpath of the Trent and Mersey canal.
- 10 Follow the tow path westwards for three quarters of a mile to Massey's Bridge (bridge no. 12), just after a cast iron milestone dated 1819. Climb to the track over the bridge and exit on the far side on to a path which crosses three fields. It then reaches the southern wall of the enclosure at Swarkestone Pavilion, now a holiday let. This enigmatic building was the site of a colourful photo shoot for the Rolling Stones in 1968. Continue along a very large meadow, keeping the boundary fence on your left.
- 11 The churchyard of St James' Church is at the end of the meadow on the left. You can either cross the stile ahead of you in the corner of the meadow, or take a pleasant detour into the churchyard itself through a wooden gate. In either case you join the small road which heads south for a few metres towards the river. At the river bank turn right, heading for the Crewe and Harpur pub and Swarkestone itself. Leave the path at the A514 where the walk terminates, and if you need to, cross with great care as visibility to the left is limited by the hump of the bridge.

Repton Circular Walk

6 miles (9.7 km)



Approximate time: 3 hrs

Parking: Village car park Burton Road, Repton, DE65 6FL, outside Repton Parish Church, or street parking in the village.

Bus service – Villager V3 from Burton on Trent. Check times on Traveline

Refreshments: Pubs and cafés in Repton and the Swan pub at Milton

Ordinance Survey Map: Explorer 245 (National Forest)

Easy Walking along well-defined paths, across arable fields, farm tracks and country lanes. There are stiles, gates and narrow footbridges. Care should be taken when walking along lanes without footpaths.

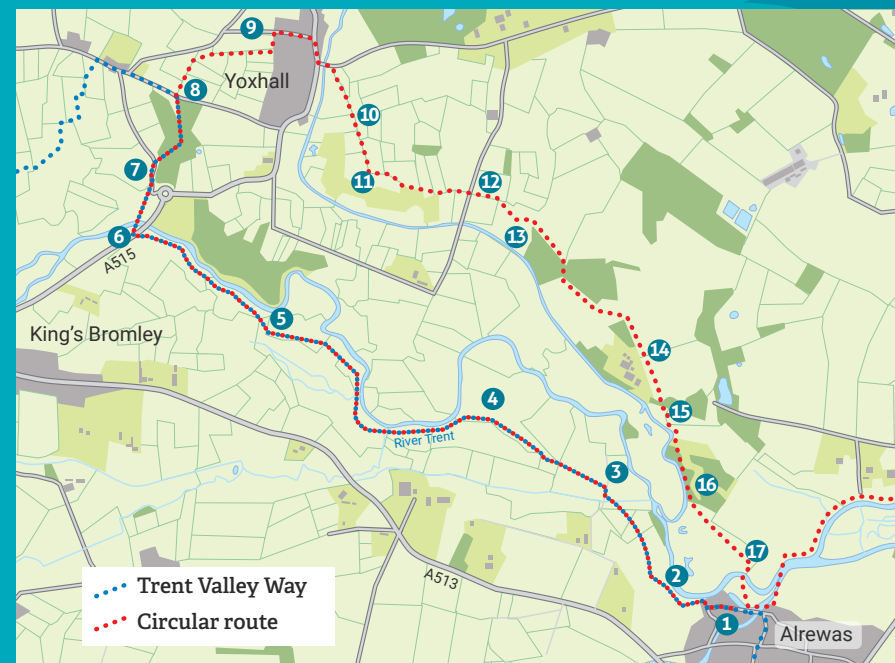
- 1 Turn right out of the car park on to Burton Road. Cross over the Village Cross roundabout and proceed along Brook End, continuing along Monsom Lane.
- 2 At the end of Monsom Lane, turn left at the public footpath sign and continue along the farm track. Twyford church spire soon comes into view in the distance.
- 3 At a fork in the track, keep left down to a stile and gate. Cross stile and continue ahead keeping fence to right.
- 4 At the next stile, turn right, initially keeping the hedge to the right and after approximately 150 metres follow the path on to the other side of the hedge. Now, keeping the hedge to the left, cross five more fields with stiles and/or gates.
- 5 At the wicket gate at the end of the last field the route connects with Meadow Lane. Turn left onto a grassy track, using another stile at the end to enter a field on the flood plain of the River Trent.
- 6 Follow the track, keeping the hedge on the right. This is the point where the Twyford Ferry used to cross the river and where sand martins nest in holes in the river bank in the spring. The parish boundary of Twyford includes a field, Hailstones, on this side of the river showing that the river changed its course in the past.
- 7 Bear right, away from the river, aiming for a gap in the hedge near the corner of the field and then look out for a footbridge in the hedge on the right after 150 metres.
- 8 Enter a field and turn left, following its boundary until reaching another footbridge crossing a ditch, which leads into a field with a pylon.
- 9 Cross this field, aiming to the immediate right of the pylon in the middle of the field until reaching a farm track, where the main Trent Valley Way is left. Follow the orange waymarkers.
- 10 Continue up the Farm Track until reaching a stile to the left of a gate. Cross the road where a rough surfaced track leads to Foremark Church, which is well worth a visit often open during daylight.

Just before the church, take the footpath on the right, passing a woodland



- 11 on the left (used as a 'starfish site' in the Second world War) and maintaining the same direction to cross three fields.
- 12 At the bottom of the third field bear left to reach a footbridge over a brook in the left corner. Cross the bridge to a stile and follow the path uphill with a house wall on the right until reaching the road.
- 13 Turn right on to Main Street. Do not bear left at the next junction but continue ahead towards Foremark and then down the hill.
- 14 At the bottom of the hill, just before the junction with Meadow Lane, take the stile on the left into a field. Keep the hedge on the left and exit via another stile in the left corner of this field, taking the path between the farm buildings and sewage works.
- 15 A stile at the end of this path leads into a field. Head for another stile on the opposite side and then walk across the next field towards the hill.
- 16 Enter the next field by crossing a narrow bridge. Continue uphill where the path opens onto another field, keeping the hedge to the right.
- 17 Follow the path downhill behind houses until reaching the road at Burdett Way.
- 18 Turn left and then right along Milton Rd.
- 19 Follow Milton Road to the High Street
- 20 Retrace your steps back to the car park.

Alrewas & Yoxall Circular Walk 8 miles (13km)



Approximate time: 3 hrs 30 mins

Parking: Car park at All Saints Parish Church or along Church Road

Refreshments: Pubs and cafés in Alrewas and Yoxall

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 245 (Burton upon Trent, Swadlincote, Ashby-de-la-Zouch & Coalville)

Starting on roads in Alrewas this walk is across farmland fields and woodland tracks with stiles, gates and narrow footbridges. Some paths across farmland are not well defined and there are livestock in some fields; keep dogs under control. Care should be taken when walking along narrow footpaths and crossing roads in villages.

- 1 Start by the canal bridge on Church Road, Alrewas and continue past All Saints church, turning right into Mill End Lane.
- 2 At the end of Mill Lane, turn left at the public footpath sign and go through a metal gate to a stile. Take the path that crosses the field diagonally towards the bend in the river and then bear right to cross over a brook to a gate. Cross the next three fields through gaps in the hedges. On entering a fourth field, cross to a stile in the left corner.
- 3 Turn right along a lane and then left to follow a track over one field and across the next field to a stile. Cross the bridge into a long field and walk towards a stile in the far-left corner.
- 4 Orgreave Hall comes into view on the left. Follow the river over two further stiles and a concrete bridge. Continue to a wooden bridge and walk towards the hedge and oak trees to the left. Keep the hedge on the left to enter into another field, now keeping the hedge to the right to reach a stile by a gate.
- 5 Cross the lane and the field to a stile in the hedge on the right. Turn left, keeping the river on the right until reaching another stile. Cross the field, passing the copse and pillbox on the left to a stile next to Yoxall Bridge.
- 6 Cross the road (A515) and take the path onto a lower bridge to the end of a tarmac track. Continue ahead on the road for a short distance until reaching a stile on the right.
- 7 Follow the footpath uphill with the hedge on the left, cross the next stile on the left into a field and continue ahead, over another stile and then over a stile and footbridge on the right. The path continues uphill though the woods and over Bondfield Lane.
- 8 Keep the hedge to the left and cross into another field, now keeping the hedge on the right. On entering the next field, walk towards a stile by the road until another path crosses over. Turn right and go through a metal gate into another field. Keep the hedge on the right and pass through a gap in the hedge, now keeping the hedge on the left to a stile. Cross the playing field towards houses and then turn left along the tarmac path to Savey Lane.

- 9 Turn right towards the village centre and right again onto Bond End (A515). There are interpretation boards near here for the Way for the Millenium and The National Forest Way. Cross over, along Town Hill (B5016) and turn right to the end of Brown's Lane.
- 10 Continue straight ahead at the stile and follow the path.
- 11 Turn left at a gate into a field and then over a stile to another stile in the right corner of the next field. After a short distance, cross a stile onto a track that leads to Meadow Lane.
- 12 Walk across the middle of this large field towards a public footpath sign leading into the woods. The path climbs upwards, past the Swarbourne Meadows viewing platform, before descending to cross a grass track into a field.
- 13 Keeping the hedge to the left, the path continues into the edge of the wood. Then cross over a field to a stile in the left corner and along the road towards Wychnor Park Country Club.





Wildlife and water

Rivers and their associated floodplains are the lifeblood of the valley's wildlife. If we go back a few hundred years, the Trent Valley was very different. The Trent was untamed and allowed to meander across the valley floor. The landscape would have been much wetter and the wildlife was much more diverse. In more recent times, land drainage and industrialised agriculture has led to the marginalisation of wildlife and a badly polluted river. River channels have historically been reinforced, deepened and straightened, which limits the natural functioning of the river. As a result, rivers have become disconnected from their floodplains and communities, and habitats across the valley have been impoverished or destroyed completely. However, as the locals will tell you, the river cannot be tamed for long and flooding is a frequent concern for many. As you explore the valley you will notice recent efforts to reverse these trends.

- 14 Follow a track along the edge of the golf course and then downhill, turning right and then left through the woods to a gate and footbridge into a field.
- 15 Follow the hedge line through a metal gate back into the woods. Keep to the right where the path runs alongside the River Swarbourne.
- 16 Exit the woods through another metal gate and then bear left across a field and cross to a small footbridge. Continue to bear left and leave the next field by a stile in the right corner.
- 17 Cross the bridge and follow the path along the hedgerow until reaching a stile. Turn right up the track, crossing over two bridges, to arrive back at Church Road.



Signs of a healthy river

Meanders and multiple channels:

Meanders are the natural bends of a river, and channels or 'braiding' is where the water diverges into an ephemeral network, rather than a single, straight watercourse. Both of these features significantly slow the flow of the water and provide more varied habitat opportunities for wildlife.

Ponds and lakes:

The valley is host to large numbers of both lakes and ponds, mostly the result of extensive quarrying in the area, which have since been naturalised in partnership with conservation groups. The succession of lakes of varying size and ages is a huge contributing factor to the area's rich avian fauna, as well as managing flood risk in residential areas, water quality management, storage of drinking water and carbon sequestration.

Varied vegetation and woodland:

The strip of land adjacent to a natural water course is called the 'riparian zone'. The vegetation within this zone provides a haven for wildlife, and also traps sediment runoff containing chemical pollutants from the surrounding landscape. Riparian habitats such as reedbeds provide opportunity for multiple species such as Reed Bunting and roosting sites for Starling.

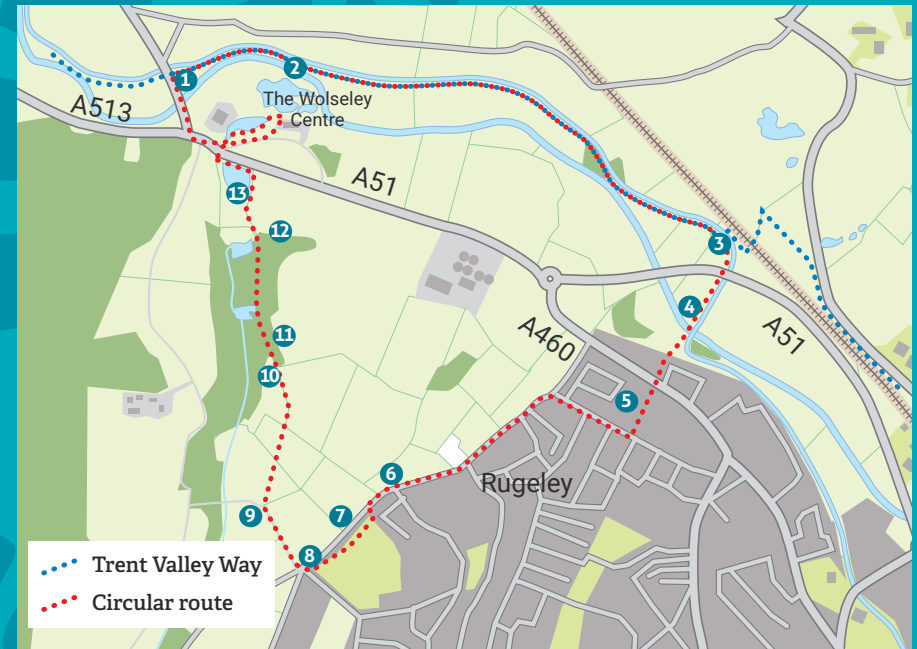
Shallow banks and sediment traps:

Woody debris or deadwood in the river and on river banks slows the flow of water, and acts as a natural sediment filtration system, much like riparian vegetation. Variation in the gradient of the bank also slows the flow, and allows shallow 'riffles' to form, which are crucial for aquatic species and oxygenating the water.

Floodplains and wetlands:

Floodplains and wetlands store water, providing natural flood protection and habitats for wildlife. Grassland and pastures which are allowed to flood seasonally support breeding populations of Lapwing, Skylark and Yellow Wagtail, whilst nearby hedgerows and scrub support populations of Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Yellowhammer, Linnet, Whitethroat, Kestrel and Tree Sparrow.

Wolseley Circular Walk 4.3 miles (7km)



Approximate time: 1 hour 30 minutes (40 minutes for shorter version)

Parking: Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre, Wolseley Centre, ST17 0WT. A small donation is requested. Visit the website staffs-wildlife.org.uk and check the information board for opening and closing times

Refreshments: Visitor Centre, pub and café at Wolseley Bridge; Local Store at Springfields Road

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 244 (Cannock Chase & Chasewater)

Easy Walking along well defined paths, although some sections may be muddy after rain. Steps, but no stiles to climb. Care should be taken when walking along narrower sections of towpath and along lanes without footpaths.

- 1 Follow the pedestrian route from the Wolseley Centre and turn right onto the A51 footpath to Wolseley Bridge. Proceed over the River Trent and cross the road to the steps down to the canal towpath. Turn right under the bridge.
- 2 Continue along the towpath and cross the narrow metal footbridge over the weir. Bishton Hall and then the Taft Christian Centre can be seen on the opposite side of the canal.
- 3 Stay on the right-hand side towpath at Bridge 68. Do not cross the bridge - that way continues along the Trent Valley Way and through Rugeley. Instead we will continue to follow the canal.
- 4 After crossing the bridge over the River Trent at Brindley Bank Aqueduct, note the Canal & River Trust interpretation sign (site of the 'Bloody Steps'). Take the steps and path alongside the pumping station that leads up to the A460, Wolseley Road.
- 5 Cross the road and take the walkway alongside the children's play area into the housing estate. At the end of Jeffrey Close turn right onto Springfields Road and continue past the Co-op store along Shugborough Road. At the end turn left onto Bower Lane.
- 6 Continue on this road, passing Bower House on the right. There is an option here to take the public footpath at the gate opposite Penk Drive North. This leads across the fields over stiles through a small wood and down another field, before re-joining the end of the main route (13) and crossing the A51 to complete the walk.
- 7 Turn left into Etching Hill Wood passing an interpretation board and then immediately right to follow the path roughly parallel to the road which eventually drops down to a barrier on Mount Road. (This is instead of continuing along Bower Lane which is very busy and has no pavement beyond this point).
- 8 Turn right to the finger post opposite Mount Road on Bower Lane. Go into the field and follow the wide track keeping to the hedgerow on the left.
- 9 At the next finger post, take the path on the right and walk across the field. (no sharp right or sharp left turn)

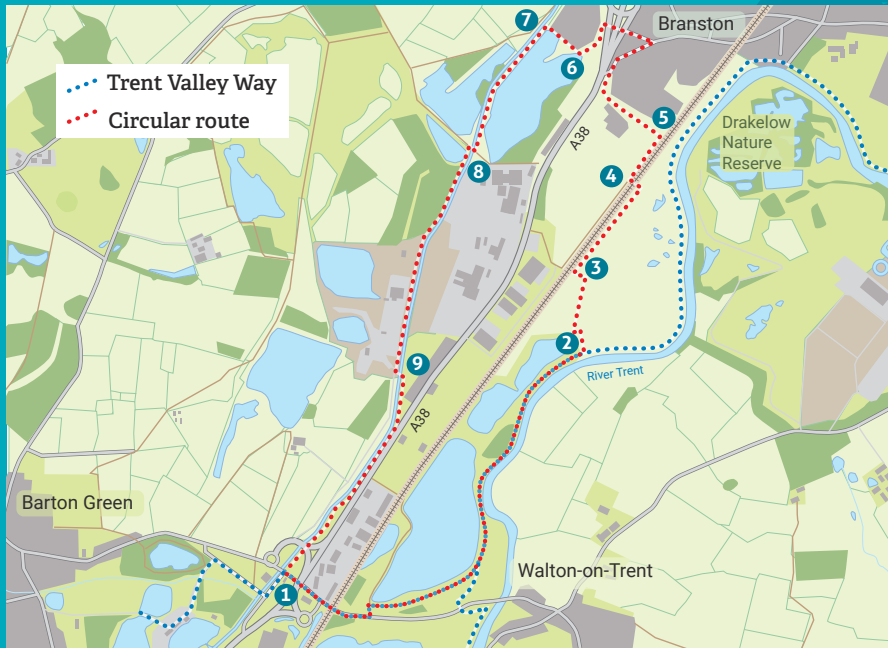


- 10 Bear left at an opening into the wood, leaving the field boundary at this point, and then go through a metal gate a little further on.
- 11 Continue along the path, bearing left past a pool.
- 12 Continue to the end of the track, past the finger post and cross over the A51 to return to the starting point at the Wolseley Centre.

Shorter route. For a shorter circular walk (3.5km, 40 minutes) start at this finger post and follow the route from stage 13 in reverse through to stage 6. Here, at the finger post on Bower Lane's intersection with Mount Road, take the footpath across the field (6A) for panoramic views across the Trent Valley. Go through the small wood (6B) on Chapel Hill and down another field to return to the finger post at the A51 (13). Note: this route has stiles.

Tucklesholme & Branston Circular Walk

5.5 miles (8.8km)



Approximate time: 2hrs 30 mins

Parking: Free car park at Tucklesholme nature reserve, or at Branston Water Park

Refreshments: Pubs in Walton-on-Trent and Hub café at Branston Water Park

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 245 (Burton upon Trent, Swadlincote, Ashby-de-la-Zouch & Coalville)

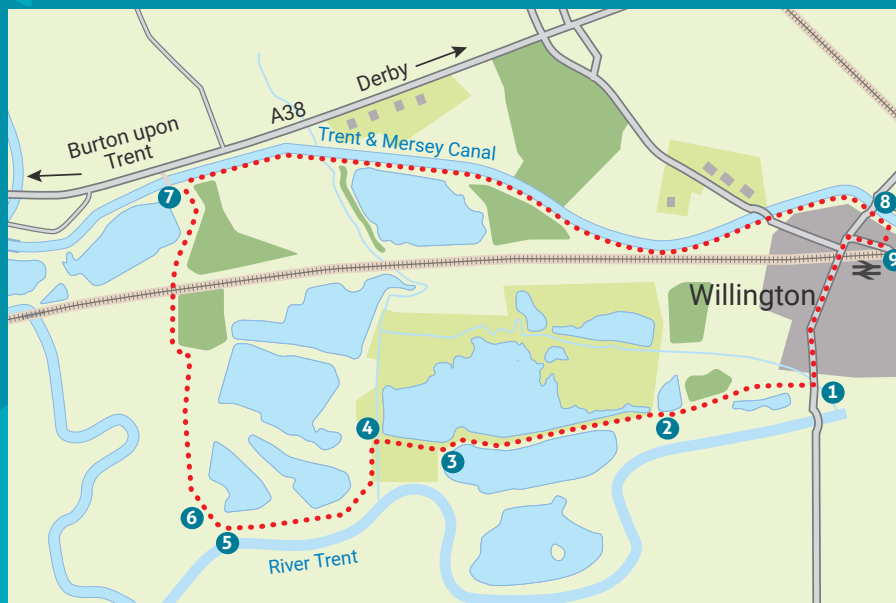
In this flat 5.5mile walk partly alongside the River Trent and the Trent and Mersey canal, expect to see plentiful birds, trains and boats. Walking along well-defined paths, there are steps and a footbridge over a railway line. Care should be taken when walking along the road over the A38.

- 1 Follow the blue Trent Valley Way disc to the right of the lake along a wide gravel pathway. Walk under the electricity pylons then through a kissing gate. You will soon join a path alongside the River Trent.
- 2 After 1.25 miles, at the end of the lake just through a large gap in a hedge, turn left off the Trent Valley Way onto the National Forest Way (marked with a disc).
- 3 Just after passing a bench and before the railway line, turn right onto a wide grassed path, parallel to the railway line (1.55 miles).
- 4 After 10 minutes cross over the railway line via the footbridge, and continue along the other side of the track.
- 5 Turn left into the Branston Leas development onto a tarmaced path, and follow this until you reach a large wooden fence, where you turn right. Pass to the left of The Gate Inn onto the road and follow this to Court Farm Lane, where you turn left towards a subway under the A38 road. Go through the subway, which bends to the left and emerges at Branston Water Park.
- 6 Take the right path next to the Water Park sign and follow the lake path clockwise. You may wish to visit the Hub Café or the childrens' playground here. You are halfway round the circuit here.
- 7 Head for the exit at the far-right hand side of the car park, to the Trent & Mersey canal opposite Burton Rugby Club.
- 8 The remaining part of the walk is mainly on the canal towpath. Cross the canal bridge at Tatenhill Lock, and cross back over at the next bridge (4.25 miles).
- 9 Walk along the towpath and under another bridge but at the 5 mile mark exit the towpath and walk to the left of a lorry park and up to the road. Turn right and pass over the A38 and continue on the path until you reach the roundabout with business parks either side. Go straight ahead signposted Walton-on-Trent and walk along the path to the right of the Walton road for a few minutes until you see Tucklesholme Nature Reserve on your left.

Willington Wetland Reserve

Circular Walk

4 miles (6.5km)



Approximate time: 2 hr

Parking: Repton Rd, Willington, Derby DE65 6PD, opposite Bargate Lane

Refreshments: The end of the walk takes you past several pubs and cafés in Willington

Ordnance Survey Map: Landranger 128

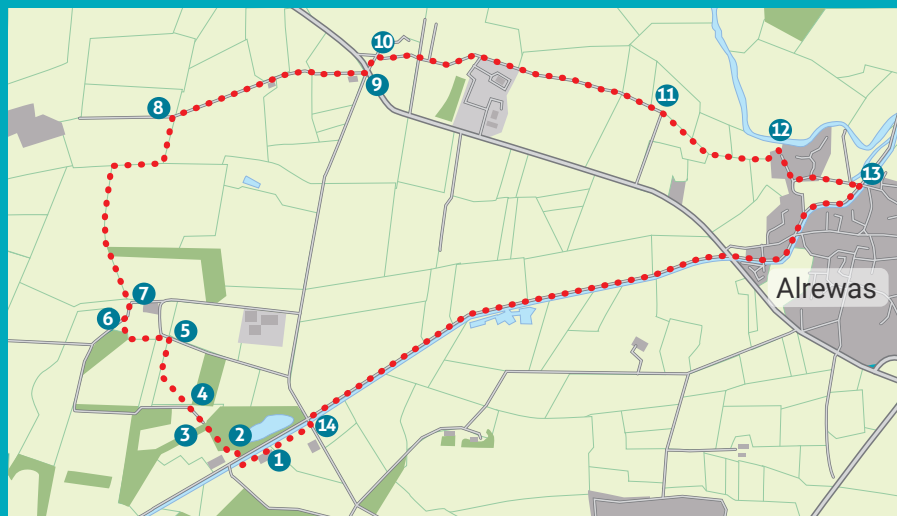
A mostly flat walk, with some large gates, steps, and some roadside walking. Sections of path in the reserve may be inaccessible after heavy rain.

- 1 With the houses on your right, follow the main track for about 500 metres and enter the wetland reserve via the signposted metal gate.
- 2 Continue along this track, taking advantage of the viewing platforms along the way, until you reach a gate.
- 3 Go through this gate, keeping the reserve on your right, and exit the reserve via another large metal gate onto a metal bridge.
- 4 Cross the bridge and follow the path to the left. Soon after the path bends to the right and leads you between a small lake and the River Trent.
- 5 Continue to follow the path as it veers right, this time taking you between two small lakes.
- 6 After a slight incline you will reach another gate. Pass through this onto a track to the right. Follow this track for just over 1km, keeping an eye out for potential quarry traffic, until you reach a canal bridge.
- 7 Take the steps to the right of the bridge, leading onto the towpath with the canal on your left. Continue for about 2½ km.
- 8 After passing under the B0058 the towpath opens onto a small green behind the The Dragon pub. Take the trodden track to the right that leads onto the B5008 heading south.
- 9 Follow the B5008 for about 600 metres, passing several pubs on the way, until you find yourself back at the entrance to the car park on your right.



Fradley to Alrewas Circular Walk

5.5 miles (8.9km)



Approximate time: 3 hr

Parking: Pay and display at The Laughing Duck, DE13 7DN

Refreshments: Cafés and pubs at both Fradley Junction and Alrewas

Ordnance Survey Map: Landranger 128

A mostly flat walk with mixed path surfaces, and several stiles and bridges.

- 1 From the car park, head through the café courtyard and follow the towpath up to bridge 51, with the canal on your right. Cross the bridge and take the garden track directly opposite you.
- 2 Follow this track as it curves left, then right, into a small copse. Make your way through the copse, keeping the holiday park close on your left, and you will reach a stile in the far left hand corner.
- 3 Climb this stile and follow the narrow path between two hedges, which ends in a small footbridge that leads to an open field.
- 4 Cross the field diagonally north-west to a strip of trees opposite. Turn right when you reach the trees and follow the field boundary until you hit a private driveway.
- 5 Turn left here, passing the strip of trees and entering a second field with a small hedgerow on your right. When the hedgerow reaches a second strip of trees, turn right onto a tarmacked drive.
- 6 Follow this as it merges onto another track from the left, passing the buildings on your right, eventually crossing a small brook and entering an open field.
- 7 Continue on the farm track until it turns to the right, at which point you should go through the bridle gate in front of you into another open field. Keeping the hedged ditch on your right, follow the perimeter of the field to the far right corner.
- 8 Take the opening into the adjacent field here and continue north-east along the track (which becomes Lupin Lane) for about 900 metres, passing open farmland and the occasional building.
- 9 Eventually you will reach a busy junction on the A518. When it is safe to do so, cross the A518 to reach the lane opposite Lupin Lane.
- 10 About 50m up the lane, you will see a gated driveway to your right. Access this via the pedestrian side gate and follow it past the estate buildings on your left, continuing onto Overly Lane which runs through an open field where the driveway veers left.
- 11 Stay on Overly Lane until it bends firmly to the right, where you will take the farm track leading straight on. This track will take you along



the boundary of more open fields, eventually leading you to a narrow footbridge on the outskirts of Alrewas.

- 12 Go through the gate onto a short alley, before turning right onto Mill End Lane. Once you reach a small green triangle, turn left onto Church Road.
- 13 Follow Church Road until you reach the canal at Gaskell's Bridge. Do not cross the bridge, but head down to the towpath on your right. Stick to the towpath for just over 2½km, passing through the scenic village of Alrewas and a stretch of open countryside.
- 14 To return to the car park, turn left once you reach the road, where you will see the car park entrance on the other side of the bridge. Alternatively you can continue down the towpath to explore Fradley Pool on your right, before heading back over bridge 51 as you did at the start.

Community and Culture

There are many community groups and activities taking place within the Trent Valley which encourage people to explore the river environment, care for wildlife and habitats and celebrate the culture and historical significance of the area.



Active Lifestyle Clubs:

- 1 Shobnall cycle hub and Wellbeing Walks
- 2 Manor Park Sailing Club
- 3 Rugeley Power Station Angling Club

Wildlife and nature:

- 1 Brook Hollows
- 2 Scalpcliffe Woods
- 3 Woodhouse Farm and Garden

Community Gardens:

- 1 Alrewas Jubilee Garden
- 2 Marchington Community Orchard
- 3 The Hollows Woodland Walk

Culture and Heritage:

- 1 Sinai Park House
- 2 WELLIES
- 3 Shardlow Heritage Centre

Doveridge to Uttoxeter Walk

2 miles (3.5km)



Approximate time: 1 hr

Parking: Mill Lane, DE6 5NP

Refreshments: There is a pub in Doveridge, and ample cafés and pubs in Uttoxeter.

Ordnance Survey Map: Landranger 128

A flat, linear walk that can be started at either end, with some stiles and raised footpaths. Sections of the route may be inaccessible after heavy rain.

- 1 Starting at the gates to St Cuthbert's Church, Doveridge, follow Mill Lane to its end, taking the left-hand track through an avenue of trees before crossing the 'Swinging Bridge'.
- 2 Continue on the marked path straight through the field, towards a stile beside the confluence of the River Dove and River Tean.
- 3 Cross the stile onto a narrow path that leads to a surfaced track adjacent to the A50.
- 4 Follow this track for about 200 metres until you reach a stile on your left. Go over this and cross the farm track to climb a second stile immediately facing you.
- 5 Take the path leading diagonally right, over two historic footbridges and toward the remains of a metal Victorian stile.
- 6 Climb over this stile and continue along the path, through a Victorian kissing gate, ending up at a wooden kissing gate that leads onto Dove Walk. Return the way you came to finish the walk. Alternatively you can head south-east to explore Uttoxeter town centre, or, upon returning to Mill Lane in Doveridge, visit the ancient yew in St. Cuthbert's Churchyard and the historic village beyond.



Burton Washlands Circular Walk

1.2 miles (1.9km)



Approximate time: 40 mins – 1hour

Parking: Public car park near the Centenary woodland off the B5018 Branston Road. NGR: SK250220

Refreshments: Cafes and pubs available in Burton town centre

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 245 (Burton upon Trent, Swadlincote, Ashby-de-la-Zouch & Coalville)

Easy walking along grass and farm tracks, although sections can be uneven and muddy after rain. Also, be aware that this is a floodplain and can be inaccessible after heavy rain. There are no steps or stiles on this route.



- 1 Look for the finger post near to the brick building and follow the sign for "Riverside Path to Branston and Walton".
- 2 Continue down the all weather track, then turn right at the junction and follow the Riverside Path through the gate where the all weather track ends and on for approximately 1/4 mile.
- 3 At the waste bin, turn right onto the track and into the woodland area. Continue up the track, passing the interpretation board for Upper Mills Farm, and at the end of the track turn right.
- 4 Follow the track, passing the bird observation area, until the track ends and the road to the car park is reached, with the supermarket straight ahead.
- 5 Turn right onto the road and continue down to the car park at the end of the walk.

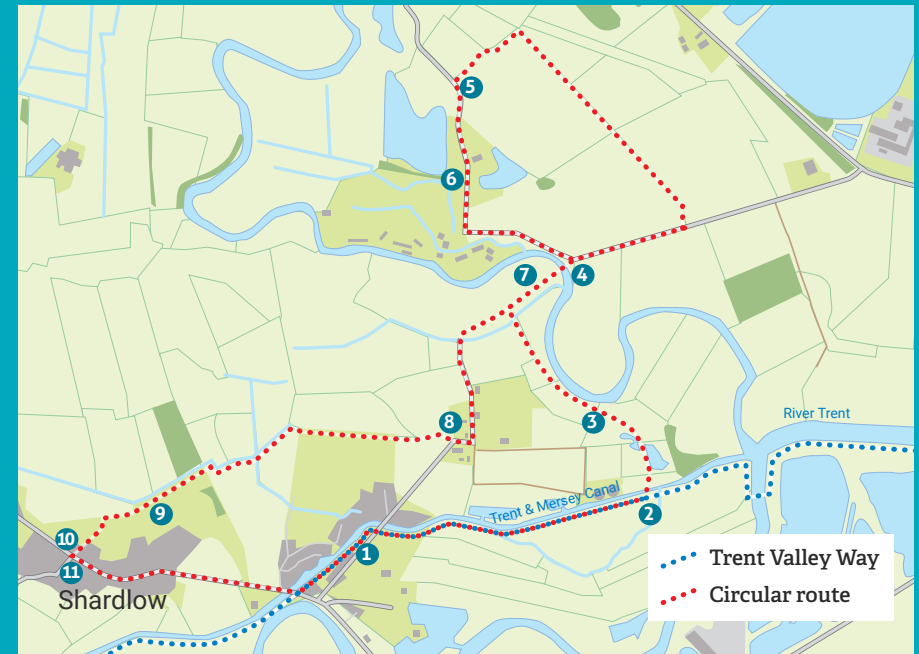
Alternatively at point 3 carry on along the track until you reach the railway viaduct and then turn right with the wooden fence to your right. Carry on until the path turns right again. Follow the path until it reaches point 4 and then continue as above.



St Modwen:

In the mid 7th century, an abbess called Modwenna passed through Burton on her way to Rome. Apparently attracted by the smooth, sweet and clear spring water, she decided to stay, and people soon began to believe the water had healing properties thanks to her efforts in curing the sick. Modwenna founded a church dedicated to God and St Andrew on an island of the River Trent, known as Andressey Island. She stayed in Burton for seven years before continuing her pilgrimage to Rome. Modwenna later returned to Burton where she built a second church at the foot of Scalpcliffe Hill, before continuing to Scotland where it is said that she died at the advanced age of 130. Her body was returned to Burton for burial and a shrine was built on Andressey Island. Legend says that when she died her soul was carried to heaven by silver swans, which became her emblem. Saint Modwen is now the patron saint of Burton-upon-Trent, and you can see the use of her emblem throughout the town.

Shardlow Circular Walk 6 miles (9.7km)



Approximate time: 2 hrs 30 mins for the full walk

Parking: the walk starts and finishes at the car park in Wilne Lane, Shardlow, but other parking can be found in Shardlow

Refreshments: although the route does not include any cafes, Shardlow has several pubs serving food and two or three restaurants

Ordnance Survey Map: Landranger 129 (Nottingham and Loughborough).

Whilst the walk is on the flat and in general terms comfortable, it must be noted that there are frequent stiles to negotiate. There is a stretch of the bridleway between Church Wilne and Breaston which is muddy after rain, but surfaces are otherwise good. Care should be taken when walking along narrower sections of towpath and along lanes without pavements.

- 1 Leave Wilne Lane car park in Shardlow, at the opposite end from the vehicle entrance, along a path between hedges. After about 30 metres the path enters a grassy area bringing you to the tow path of the Trent and Mersey Canal. Turn right on to this. Pass Bridge 1 and continue to Derwent Mouth Lock.
- 2 The top lock gate has a solid and safe footway attached - use this to cross the canal. Enter the bushes on the far side, over the overflow channel of the lock. The path winds briefly through bushes and enters a meadow by a stile. Keep the hedge on your right. Cross the meadow diagonally to your left. In the far corner you reach the bank of the river Derwent.
- 3 A stile leads into a wood after which another stile leads into a meadow through which the path follows the bank of the Derwent, crossing yet another stile in a wire fence before it reaches a footbridge over the river.
- 4 Cross the footbridge. On the far side a fence faces you, but do not cross this as it leads into private ground. Turn sharp left and after a few metres reach the lane. Turn right into the lane and follow it for 500 metres to where a sign indicates a bridleway on the left. Take this, which has hedges on either side. The bridleway continues for a kilometre, with Wilne Reservoir to the right and to the left St Chad's Church tower. Eventually you reach the junction with the bridleway from Church Wilne to Breaston where you turn left. After 200 metres you reach the lane into Church Wilne.
- 5 Turn left into the lane, which soon enters what remains of the deserted medieval village of Church Wilne.
- 6 Leave Church Wilne, turning left after fifty metres into a path which at first goes through bushes and then across a field. At a stile it joins the lane between Church Wilne and the footbridge. Fifty metres after the stile take the very short path to the footbridge on the right.
- 7 After crossing the footbridge take the path straight ahead across the meadow, towards a brick house. When the path reaches this house, you turn sharp left towards a metal gate with a stile on its left hand side. This leads into the lane through Great Wilne. The lane continues, bending right after 200 metres. After less than 100 metres the lane then bears left.

- 8 There the lane bears away left, facing you there is a small gate. Take this gate and follow the fence on your left until there is a gate through it, leading into two meadows. Enter the lefthand meadow and keep the hedge on your right. At the end of this meadow, the path enters a narrow way between walls, on your left, and a hedge on your right.
- 9 After the garden wall, the route continues with paddocks on the left and hedge on the right. Eventually a gate leads out on to a gritted farm track for a few metres and then a path to the left on top of a flood embankment. There is a stile just before the embankment bears right and soon after, there is another where the embankment has veered back.
- 10 After about 300 metres, a grassy track to the left takes the path to a small gate into a tiny copse. The route then follows a concrete farm track until the path bears left towards a barn with a circular window. The barn is passed on its righthand side along an alley between a fence and an old brick wall. There is one last stile before the path reaches the B5010 opposite the Dog and Duck pub.







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