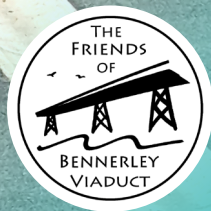


# THE BENNERLEY VIADUCT SKYWALK

A short walk for families of all abilities



- Walk across the longest wrought iron viaduct in the country
- Get a birds eye view of the Erewash Valley 20 metres above ground
- Learn about local history and our railway heritage
- Spot lapwings and other rare birds, wildlife and flowers
- Two short walking routes to suit all abilities, including those with pushchairs, wheelchairs & mobility scooters
- Get there by bus, train or car



# THE BENNERLEY VIADUCT SKYWALK

This walk over and around Bennerley Viaduct offers a unique experience to get up close to a magnificent piece of history. Located near Ilkeston, the viaduct straddles the border between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and is easily accessible by public transport from Nottingham and Derby. Thanks to a devoted grassroots group, The Friends of Bennerley Viaduct, the viaduct has been restored and is now a walking and cycling path for all to enjoy. The new viaduct platform offers an exhilarating skywalk and with its new ramp approach on the Erewash canal side, it is accessible for wheels of all kinds – mobility scooters, wheelchairs, child buggies. Choose the shorter accessible wheels friendly route or the longer circular route.

## DIRECTIONS

- 1 Walk over Cotmanhay bridge to cross over the Erewash canal and turn right to walk along the left bank of the canal towpath.
- 2 Continue along the tow path, ignoring signposts to Bennerley Viewpoint off to the left, until you see a wide opening in the wooden fence on your left signposted as Bennerley Viaduct The Iron Giant. This is the entrance to the ramp up to the top of the viaduct.

Walk up the ramp and experience the exhilarating skywalk across the Erewash Valley. Keep your children close and away from the edges and make sure they stick to the deck path.

Once you've walked the full length of the viaduct you can retrace your steps back to the starting point at the Church Street bus stops. This is the Wheels Friendly Version.

If you want to continue along the longer circular route, and steps are not a problem, continue to follow the directions.

- 3 Carefully walk down the steps to come down off the viaduct and follow the well laid path straight ahead until you reach a wooden gate.
- 4 Pass through the wooden gate and turn right, signposted to Bennerley Viaduct Viewing point, and pass through a metal barrier to join the right bank of the Nottingham Canal towpath.
- 5 Continue along the canal tow path until you reach the Bennerley Viaduct Viewpoint on your right. There is an information board with the history of the viaduct, the railway, and other snippets of local history and a fantastic view of the viaduct.

Once you've taken in the view and the facts and figures, continue along the canal towpath for 0.3 miles (500m).

There are benches all along this stretch of the canal for a snack break or to rest a while and watch the people fishing.

- 6 Pass through the kissing gate to exit the canal towpath

and turn right onto the Newtons Lane pavement. This is a fast road so keep your children close.

- 7 Walk along the pavement for 150 metres (200 yards) and continue where it turns into a public footpath, signposted as 'Public Footpath to Bennerley Viaduct & Cotmanhay'. Cross back over the Erewash River enjoying the views up the valley towards the viaduct.
- 8 Continue straight across the access road to follow the path onto a wide tarmac road which leads you all the way back and under the viaduct.

Take a moment beneath the viaduct to marvel at the magnificent wrought iron structure. The lattice work resembles that of the Eiffel Tower. There is a bench where you can rest and take it all in. This would be a great picnic spot.

- 9 To continue the walk, follow the narrow passageway path between a metal fence to the left and a metal post to the right until you reach the railway bridge.



### Accessible Wheels Friendly Route

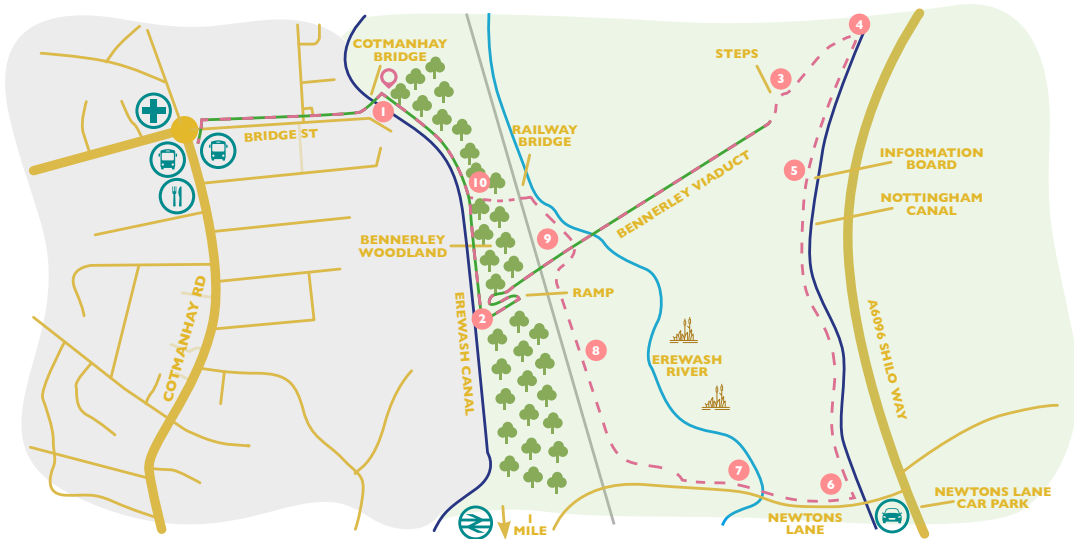
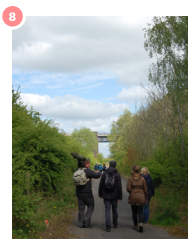
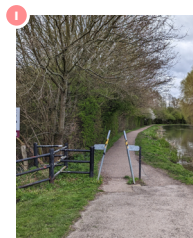
## I DID THIS WALK!



Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### Circular Route



### MAP KEY



10 On reaching the railway bridge take the steps up to cross to the other side and continue on the path straight ahead through the

Bennerley Woods and up a few steps back onto the Erewash canal.

For those returning to the bus stops on Cotmanhay Road, turn right and retrace your steps over Cotmanhay bridge and back along Bridge Street. For those with cars parked at the Newtons Lane car park, turn left along the Erewash Canal towpath and follow the walk instructions from number 2.



# HOW TO GET THERE



## BY BUS:

Trent Barton's 'The Two' bus from Nottingham's Victoria Bus Station and Trent Barton's 'Ilkeston Flyer' from Derby's Bus Station. Get off at the Church Street stop in Cotmanhay – approx 35 minutes from both cities. Get off at the Church Street bus stop on Cotmanhay Road (Postcode DE7 8RB) and turn right down Bridge Street to its end.



## BY CAR:

There is free parking at the Newtons Lane car park, Postcode NG16 2SD, just off the A6096 Shilo Way. To join the walk, leave the carpark the same way you drove in and cross to the opposite side of Newtons Lane. Turn left and join the circular walk at number 7. You can also park at Ilkeston train station and follow the walking directions from there.



## BY TRAIN:

Ilkeston train station is a 1.6km/1 mile walk away from Bennerley Viaduct. Exit the train station by the steps and turn right onto Coronation Road and the footbridge. Follow the pavement down the hill and take the first right turn into Wentworth Street. Walk to the end of the street and continue on the footpath that leads off on the left. Cross the River Erewash. Shortly after keep right and take the right footpath onto the Erewash canal tow path (Erewash Valley Trail). Follow the tow path under the bridge and continue until you reach the viaduct. Join the walk at number 2.



400 m long Bennerley Viaduct Skywalk

**BENNERLEY VIADUCT HISTORY:** This walk is a great opportunity to learn about and get up close to an engineering marvel as it is just one of two wrought iron viaducts in the UK. Bennerley Viaduct was part of the old Nottingham to Derby 'Friargate' railway line. The last train passed over it in 1968 and it sat dormant for over fifty years until it was restored and reopened up as a walking and cycling path in January 2022 by The Friends of Bennerley Viaduct and Railway Paths Ltd, the land owner. Bennerley Viaduct is a quarter of a mile long (400m).

**GET CLOSER TO NATURE:** This family friendly walk passes through a rich variety of wildlife habitats along the Nottingham and Erewash canals the River Erewash and its marshy floodplain and through Bennerley woodland. Between March and July listen and look out for breeding lapwings, a threatened species globally, who choose marshy grasslands in which to lay their eggs. Volunteers are nurturing the area beneath the viaduct into a nature reserve, creating a wildlife corridor between the two canals. A woodchip trail now winds along beneath the length of the viaduct and is well worth spending time to explore with children. To get onto these paths when you're under the viaduct you have to pass through the gap in the metal gate to cross over the River Erewash and turn sharp right onto the wood chip path. It's well worth a few visits to fully explore all that this area has to offer.

*Check the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct website and social media for information on upcoming guided walks and events.*

**The Friends of Bennerley Viaduct**  
Castledine House, 5-9 Heanor Road,  
Ilkeston DE7 8DY

🌐 [www.bennerleyviaduct.org.uk](http://www.bennerleyviaduct.org.uk)  
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## SCAN ME:

Scan QR code for a PDF of this walk that you can save to your phone.

