

EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Attenborough Nature Reserve

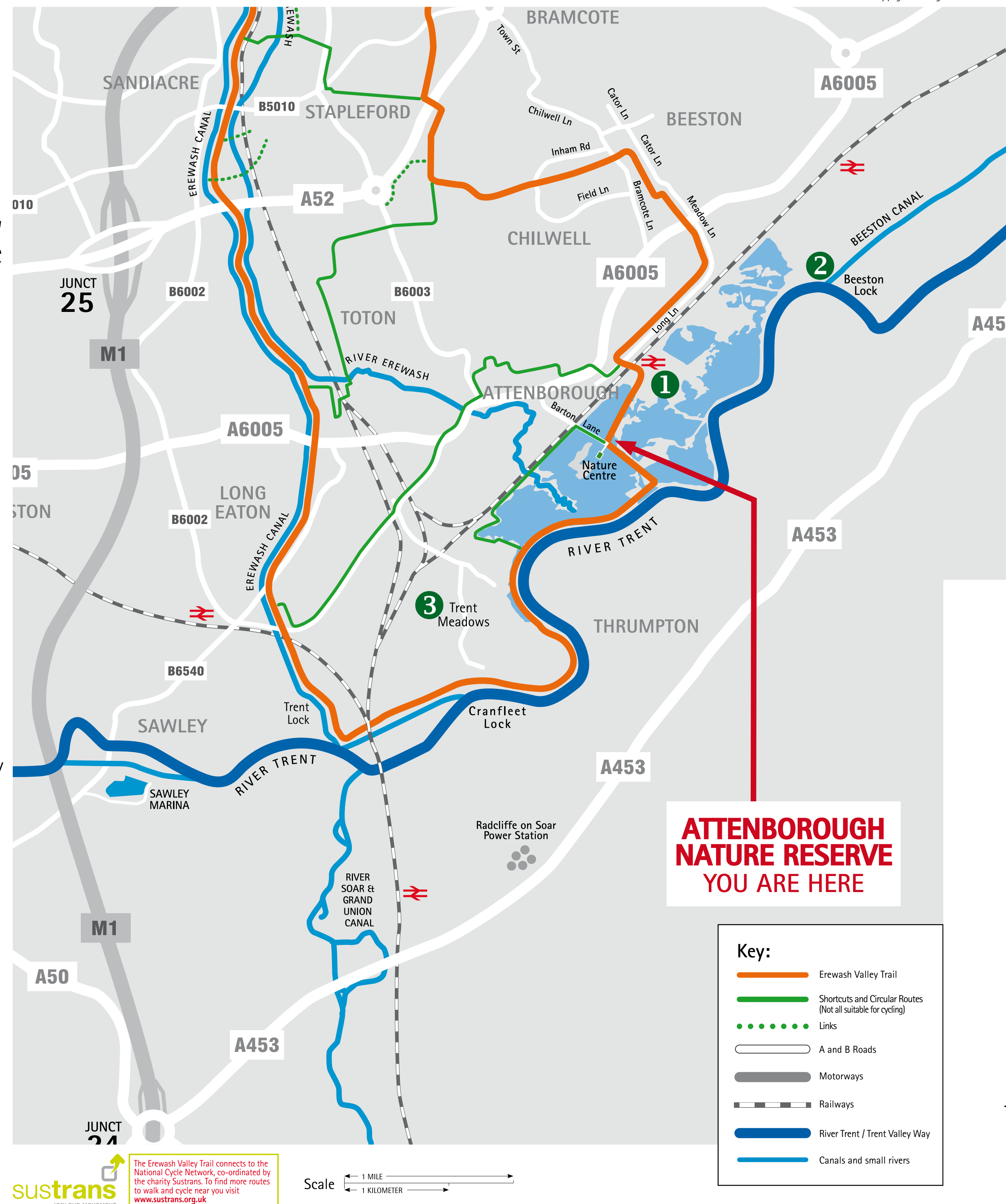
At this point the trail passes through Attenborough Nature Reserve. The trail heads southwards towards the river Trent following a bridleway formerly called Barton Ferry Lane, named after the ferry which once linked to Barton in Fabis across the river. The ferryman's cottage stood at the end of the lane until the 1960's.

On reaching the Trent the trail turns upstream to the right. The Trent Valley is associated with a number of long distance trails including the Trent Valley Greenway which links Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and the Trent Valley Way a long distance footpath running from Trent Lock for 75 miles to West Stockwith in Yorkshire.

To the east the trail follows a bridleway towards the pretty village of Attenborough and its ancient church.

Attenborough Nature Reserve is a former gravel quarry but now a site of Special Scientific interest due to its rich wetland biodiversity. Attenborough holds a fantastic range of wildlife so for more information and perhaps refreshment visit the award winning nature centre next to the car park. The site is managed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in partnership with site owners CEMEX, Broxtowe Borough Council, Attenborough Management Committee and an army of volunteers.

We are about 1½ miles from Beeston, 2 miles from Long Eaton and 3 miles from Trent Lock.



The Erewash Valley Trail connects to the National Cycle Network, co-ordinated by the charity Sustrans. To find more routes to walk and cycle near you visit www.sustrans.org.uk

Local points of interest

1 Attenborough Village

Attenborough is a pretty village with an old church, a cricket ground and bowls green lying close to the river Trent. The origin of Attenborough lies in Saxon times and derives from the name "Adenburgh" which means "the settlement of Adda's people". Adda is thought to have provided the first chapel here, a clay and wattle "House of Prayer" in 946AD. The present day stone chancel of St. Mary's Church is built on this site and is thought to have existed in 1042. It is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.



2 Beeston Lock

If you are following the trail southwards you will reach the river Trent and if you turn left (rather than right to follow the trail) you will reach Beeston Lock about one and a half miles downstream. Here you can gain access to the busy town of Beeston or join the ten mile circular Big Track route which takes in the paths alongside the Trent and Beeston Canal. You can also access Nottingham City Centre, simply by following the canal or the slightly longer riverside route.

Big Track leaflets are usually available at Beeston Marina café or by visiting www.thebigwheel.org.uk



3 Mining in the Trent Valley

Much of the area on the northern side of the River Trent between Cranfleet Lock and Beeston has been and continues to be used for gravel extraction creating a mosaic of habitats for wildlife and providing an excellent example of positive outcome from mining.



Around the UK, many hundreds of active and restored quarries have been designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest and many more restored sites are havens for wildlife, helping to promote and sustain biodiversity. In this way, the act of extracting essential materials for the maintenance, development and enhancement of the built environment can often provide an extremely beneficial outcome as farmland is transformed into much richer and diverse habitats.



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The partners shown below work together to enhance the biodiversity, amenity and healthy living opportunities in the valley and recognising the unique character of the area, this partnership created the Trail in 2010. Substantial financial support from the 6C's Green Infrastructure Fund as well as partner contributions, have enabled work to improve habitats and access in the valley and promote the opportunities it offers.

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project partners include:



EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Bramcote Hills Park and the Hemlockstone

At this point the trail enters a corner of the park connecting with Coventry Lane to the north and Ilkeston Road and Stanley Drive to the south.

Bramcote Hills Park is a delightful area of parkland with a range of attractions including a popular play area, fitness trail, cricket club, woodland nature reserve, memorial garden, ice house and leisure centre. The award winning park also has a programme of seasonal events including the Hemlock Happening - a celebration of local arts activities held in June. The park is managed through a local forum which includes user groups and schools to help to maximise the potential of the area for people and wildlife.

The park is the site of "The Hills" manor house and the footprint of this impressive property can be seen on the edge of the woodland. The house was built in 1805 and was home to the Sherwin and the Gregory families. One of the last occupants before demolition in 1966, were the FitzHerbert Wrights, great grand parents to Sarah Ferguson Duchess of York.

Across the road from the park is the Hemlockstone an impressive natural geological feature created by millennia of weathering. The stone stands in a nature reserve and has many myths associated with its various uses and powers. One of the more likely suggestions is that the stone was a focal point for Celtic festivals with records of Druids lighting fires on the stone during the night before May day up until the early 19th Century.

Along the edge of the woodlands at dusk you may see Common Pipistrelle Bats flying and the woodlands are also home to birds such as the Greater-spotted Woodpecker, Song Thrush, Bullfinch, Nuthatch, Treecreeper and in summer, Chiffchaff and Blackcap.

The park is about 3 miles from Beeston and 4 miles from Ilkeston.



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Local points of interest

1 Bramcote Village

The village lies astride a wooded sandstone ridge, which contributes considerably to the character of the area. A distinctive feature of this Conservation Area is the local sandstone walling, often with some courses of stones laid in herringbone fashion. Most dramatic of these are the high retaining walls, which flank Chilwell Lane, forming a 'gateway' as it winds into the village from the south. The church with its elegant spire is a landmark visible for miles around and contrasts with the other church in the village St Lukes which is locally referred to as the Sunken Church. The village has good examples of framework knitters' cottages fronting Derby Road and a quaint old pub the White Lion or "Top House" built in 1750.



2 Wollaton Hall & Deer Park

Wollaton Hall is a spectacular Elizabethan mansion in the heart of Nottingham. It is a prominent Grade One Listed building and following its major programme of restoration, visitors of all ages are welcome to visit the hall and park.

Standing on a natural hill three miles west of Nottingham City Centre, Wollaton Hall is set in five hundred acres of spectacular gardens and parkland.

On site, in addition to the historic hall and its sumptuous grounds, visitors will find Nottingham's Natural History Museum, Nottingham's Industrial Museum and the Yard Gallery. For information call 0115 915 3900.



3 Stanton by Dale 4 Dale Abbey

Lying just over two miles from Bramcote, Stanton by Dale is a pretty village with cottages dating back to at least 1790 and a church dating back to the 14th century. The village once served workers at the ironworks nearby and having a single owner now remains unspoilt by significant alteration.

Two miles on from Stanton by Dale lies the small settlement of Dale Abbey which is dominated by the remains of a 13th century Abbey destroyed by Henry the Eighth in 1538. Dale Abbey is also famous for its Hermit's cave, once occupied by a local monk giving rise to creation of the Abbey.



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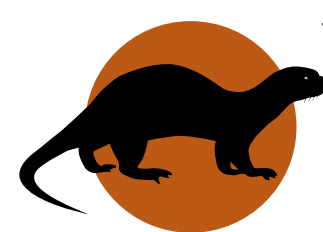


EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Bridge Street, Cotmanhay

Cotmanhay is a great location for access to walking and cycling routes, wildlife and history.

The Erewash Valley Trail follows the canal towpath here but the eastern and western sides of the trail are close at this point. Follow the path away from the bridge towards the railway and you will be rewarded with great views of the Bennerley Viaduct, interesting old meadows and wetlands and once under the railway, fantastic views of the Erewash floodplain with the meandering river. Follow the shortcut to reconnect with the trail on the eastern side or explore the villages of Cossall and Asworth or the town of Kimberley with its railway and brewing heritage.



This is an excellent area for wildlife habitats, not only the wetlands of the valley but impressive sites like Shipley Country Park close

by. The wetlands are home to plants like Trifid Bur-marigold and Water Crowfoot and the wet meadows provide a great display of wildflowers in the spring. This vegetation in turn supports a vast insect population providing food and cover for birds and animals. Expect to hear Warblers, see Herons and perhaps enjoy a glimpse of a Water Vole.

There have been several interesting archaeological finds near Cotmanhay including a Roman bronze coin dated to 367-383 AD and a Neolithic flint knife thought to be part of a burial collection dating back to around 2000 BC. Both items are held at the Erewash Museum in Ilkeston.

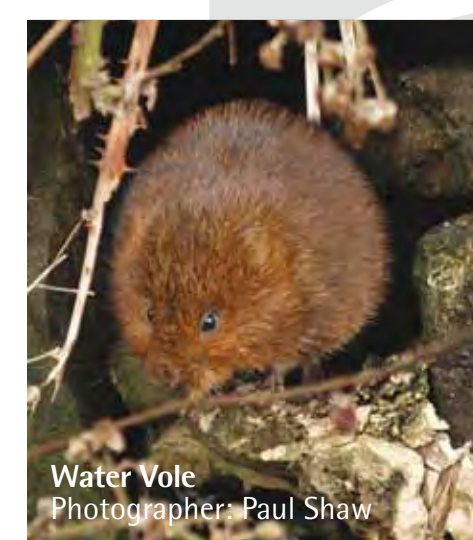
The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges help provided by the Ilkeston and District History Society in the preparation of this information panel.



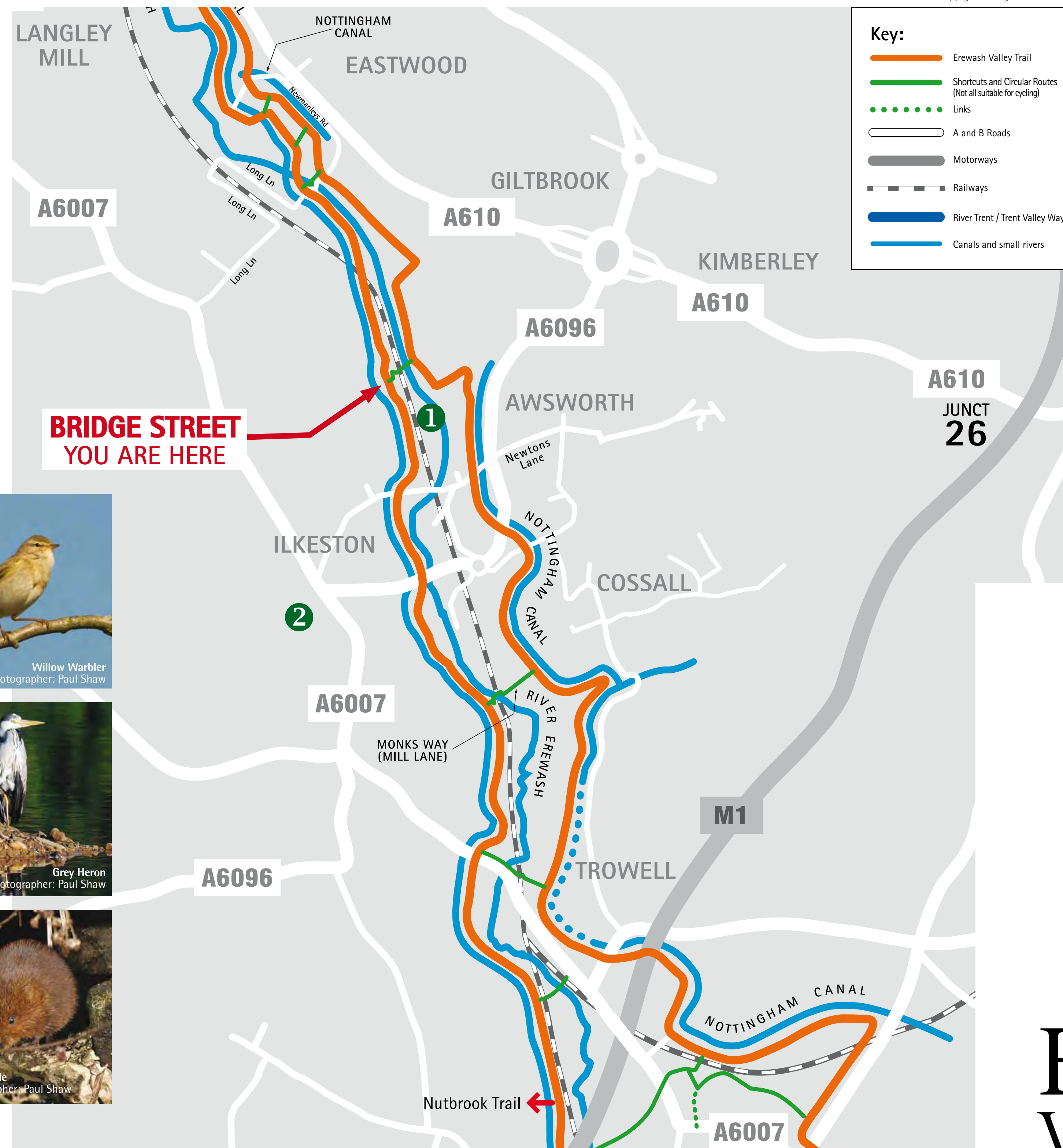
Willow Warbler
Photographer: Paul Shaw



Grey Heron
Photographer: Paul Shaw



Water Vole
Photographer: Paul Shaw



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Local points of interest

1 Bennerley Viaduct and Marsh

The valley at this point is dominated by the Bennerley Viaduct which is over 1400 feet long and 60 feet high. Built in 1877 by the Great Northern Railway this is an unusual wrought iron lattice bridge of which there are only two in the country. It is a grade 2 listed structure and although it was closed in 1973 it remains as testament to the rich railway heritage associated with this area. It also provides a great nesting and roosting spot for a range of birds including Kestrels.



Below the viaduct is an area which was opened in the 1980s. It floods seasonally from the River Erewash and provides an important site for wetland birds including Snipe, Golden Plover, Redshank and Lapwing. The summer brings a range of Dragon Flies and Damselflies such as Black Tailed Skimmers and Red-Eyed Damselflies.

2 Ilkeston and the Erewash Museum

Ilkeston town is just over a mile from the trail here and is the third largest town in Derbyshire. Standing on a hill, this former mining community was mentioned in the Domesday Book when it was known as Tilchestune. The pits have closed in Ilkeston but it is still a busy industrial town, whose many industries include engineering, hosiery, lace and fabrics, electronics, plastic and food distribution. A history of the town's industrial past is told in the Erewash Museum, housed in a fine Georgian building in High Street. The market place is brought to life every Thursday and Saturday offering an excellent range of goods and the Ilkeston fair, held in October is one of the largest street fairs in Britain.



St Mary's Church dates back to around the year 1200, but little is left from this period apart from the 3 East piers between the nave and the South aisle. Opposite the church is the Town Hall, a modest baroque brick building of 1868. Another interesting building in the market place is large red brick Carnegie Library, built in 1904.



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Cator Lane, Chilwell

The trail turns at this point following the road network southwards to Attenborough Village. Cyclists please take particular care as traffic can be busy in this area. Northwards the trail passes through a chain of open spaces leading to countryside on the edge of Stapleford.

Chilwell is mentioned in the Domesday book as credited with 'half church' meaning that it was part of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Attenborough where its register entries are to be found.

Land ownership in the area crossed both sides of the Trent River and this led to strong ties with Barton in Fabis making the ferry at Barton Lane an essential facility until the early 1900 hundreds.

During the 1800's the village was noted as one of the most significant fruit growing areas in the country. This was part of a tradition for horticulture including roses and other flower growing which became established locally.

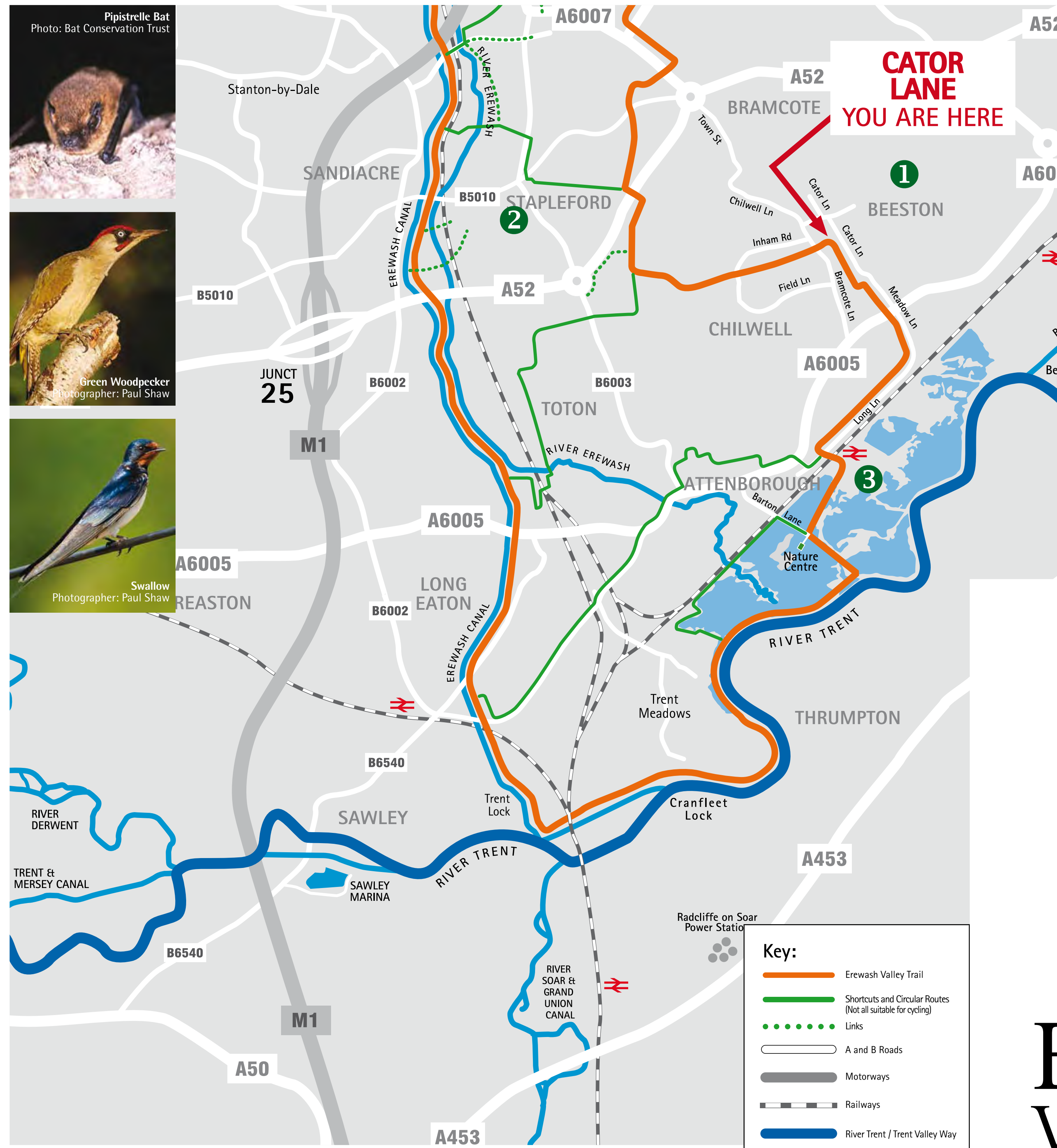
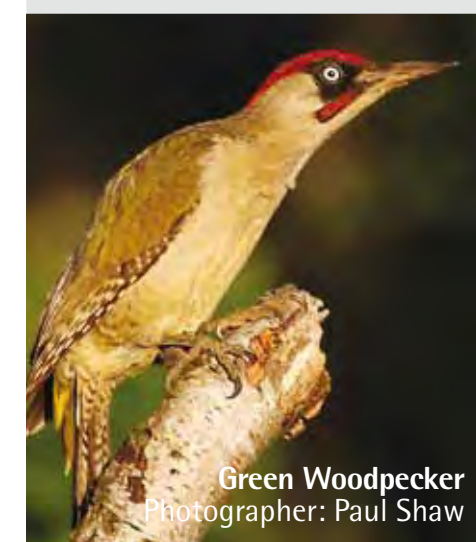
Chilwell Shell Filling Factory occupied land which lies between Chilwell and Toton. It was created by Lord Chetwynd at the beginning of the 1st World War to help address the demands for shells for British forces in Europe. On July 1st 1918 it was the scene of a major explosion resulting in the deaths of 134 workers many of whom are buried in Attenborough Churchyard. The site developed as Chilwell Ordnance Depot supplying tanks and other equipment to the front during the Second World War and in subsequent conflicts to this day.



You may see Pipistrelle Bats flying along the edge of the woodland at dusk and this area also provides good habitat for birds such as Woodpeckers, Thrushes, Finches, Nuthatch, Treecreepers and in summer, Blackcaps and Swallows.

We are now about a mile from Beeston a mile and a half to Attenborough and around two and a half miles to Stapleford.

The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges help provided by David Hallam - The History of Beeston Website.



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Local points of interest

1 Beeston

With its thriving and busy town centre, Beeston is one of the main shopping centres in the Borough of Broxtowe. The pedestrianised High Road has an attractive precinct and square which is the focus for outdoor entertainment throughout the year.

Situated 3 miles south west of the city of Nottingham, the town is perhaps most famous for its links with Boots The Chemist which still has its headquarters nearby. Ericsons famous for telephones also had its base close to the railway station on land now used as a business park.

Remnants of the towns lace and textile heritage can be seen in the converted mills just north of the town centre.



2 Stapleford

Stapleford lies just east of the trail here and is a busy town with all the usual attractions and amenities. It has a rich history with an ancient church, Saxon cross and connections with the early lace making industry.

Photo shows Carnegie Civic and Community Centre home to the Stapleford Town Council.



3 Attenborough Village and Nature Centre

Heading south you will pass through the pretty village of Attenborough with village green, railway station and ancient church. Over recent years the village has become famous for its nature reserve which is recognised for its wetland fauna and flora particularly birds. The reserve habitat has developed over recent years with newly created reed beds regularly holding rare Bittern and Otters. The award winning visitor centre is very close to the trail and provides more wildlife information along with welcome refreshment.



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Cossall – Millennium Park

You are close to the Erewash Valley Trail at this point. Follow the footbridge over the stream behind the bus stop and this will lead up to the disused Nottingham Canal which is a Local Nature Reserve. The canal forms part of the eastern side of the Erewash Valley Trail and provides a haven for wetland wildlife – and a peaceful escape for humans!

As you walk towards the canal you will cross Millennium Park, a valuable grassland managed for wildlife as a Blue Butterfly site through a partnership with the site owners Nottinghamshire County Council, Cossall Parish Council and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.



Grasslands for Wildlife – Creating and restoring Nottinghamshire's wildflower meadows



Image courtesy of Mr Peter Stevenson and www.picturethepast.org.uk

The Nottingham Canal, which was built in 1796, once crossed Coronation Road but was replaced by a piped crossing in the 1960s. The area towards Ilkeston, now forming Cossall Industrial estate has been extensively mined and the large hill next to the site is artificial formed from colliery waste. The area, last used as an artificial ski slope has been planted with trees and with luck you will hear or see a Green Woodpecker as you walk south along the canal. This bird is also called the Yaffle a name which imitates its laughing call.



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Local points of interest

1 Cossall and the Monks Way

Heading South on the trail you will cross a brideway known as Mill Lane which was once an important route linking Nottingham and Ilkeston. The obvious reference to "mill" occurs at many locations along the valley, but less obvious are the large sandstone slabs almost buried at the left side of the path as you walk down towards the railway with its impressive green bridge linking to Ilkeston. These ancient stones are said to have been placed by monks forming a causeway between Strelley Priory and Dale Abbey. Heading upwards on the Monk's Way lies Cossall Village with its church dating back to the 13th Century and its connections with D H Lawrence who used Cossall as his inspiration for the village of Cossethay mentioned in his novel 'The Rainbow'.



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Cranfleet Lock

At this point the trail follows the path alongside the river Trent and the Cranfleet canal towpath.

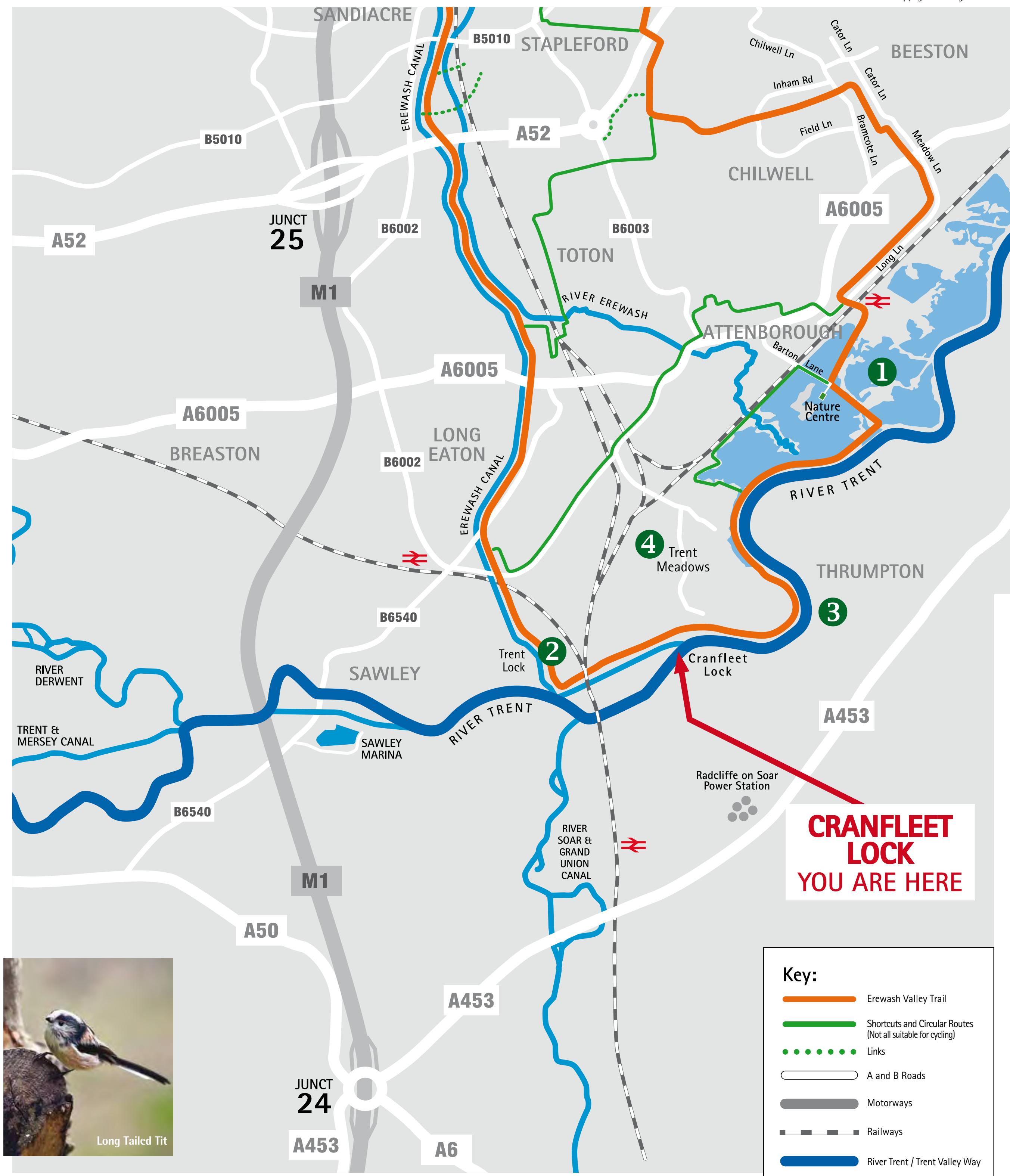
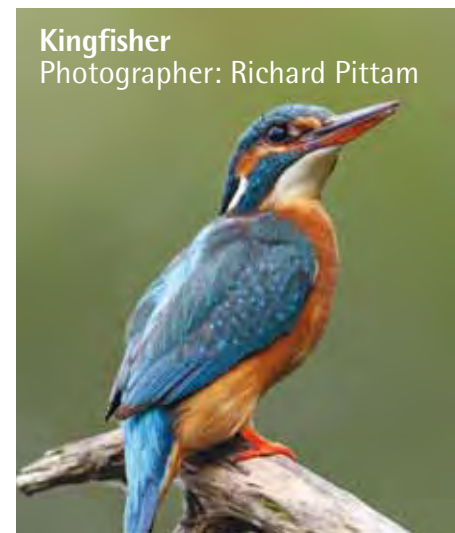
Heading downstream after about two miles you will cross a large newly constructed concrete structure, the new outfall for the river Erewash which is the county boundary. Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are linked by the Trent Valley Greenway, which forms part of the Trent Valley Way a long distance footpath running from Trent Lock for 75 miles to West Stockwith in Yorkshire. A little further and you will find Attenborough Nature Reserve with its impressive nature centre. Upstream is Trent Lock the hub of the local canal network.

Cranfleet Lock is one of many locks on the river Trent which enable boats to navigate around weirs, constructed in the river many years ago to raise water levels, to allow boats passage.

This lock provides a lovely setting with the parkland of Thrumpton Hall across the river and the chance of seeing a Kingfisher flying straight just above the water surface.

Cranfleet Lock has long been the home of the Nottingham Yacht Club, which runs a range of events and activities from their headquarters by the lock. Just behind the club you will see a copse of pines – keep an eye on this in winter months as this area provides cover for mixed flocks of small birds such as Long Tailed Tits. You may even spot the tiny Gold Crest which favours coniferous woodland.

At this point we are less than a mile from Trent Lock about 1½ miles from Long Eaton 3 miles from Attenborough and 10 miles from Nottingham.



sustrans JOIN THE MOVEMENT

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Local points of interest

1 Attenborough Nature Reserve

This complex of flooded gravel pits and islands covers 145 hectares and provides an ideal habitat for a wide range of plants, birds and other wildlife. The nature reserve is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is managed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in partnership with the owners, CEMEX with support from Broxtowe Borough Council. The main access is from Barton Lane Attenborough NG9 6DY which has a large car park and an award winning nature centre with toilets and catering.



2 Trent Lock

Trent Lock forms a busy junction for leisure activities with three rivers and four canals meeting close by. With two pubs, a café, public toilets and good car parking Trent Lock offers a great opportunity to enjoy the local waterways whether it be a leisurely stroll or a more adventurous excursion taking in the Trent Valley or the Erewash Valley Trail. Good quality cycling and footpath routes are available to connect with Long Eaton, Langley Mill, Shardlow, Nottingham and beyond.



3 Thrumpton Hall

Walking along the river you may get a glimpse of Thrumpton Hall which can only be accessed from the A453 via Thrumpton Village. The hall dates back to the 16th century and stands in 200 acres of gardens and parkland. It has a fine staircase and priests hiding hole. For details of open days call 07590 818045.

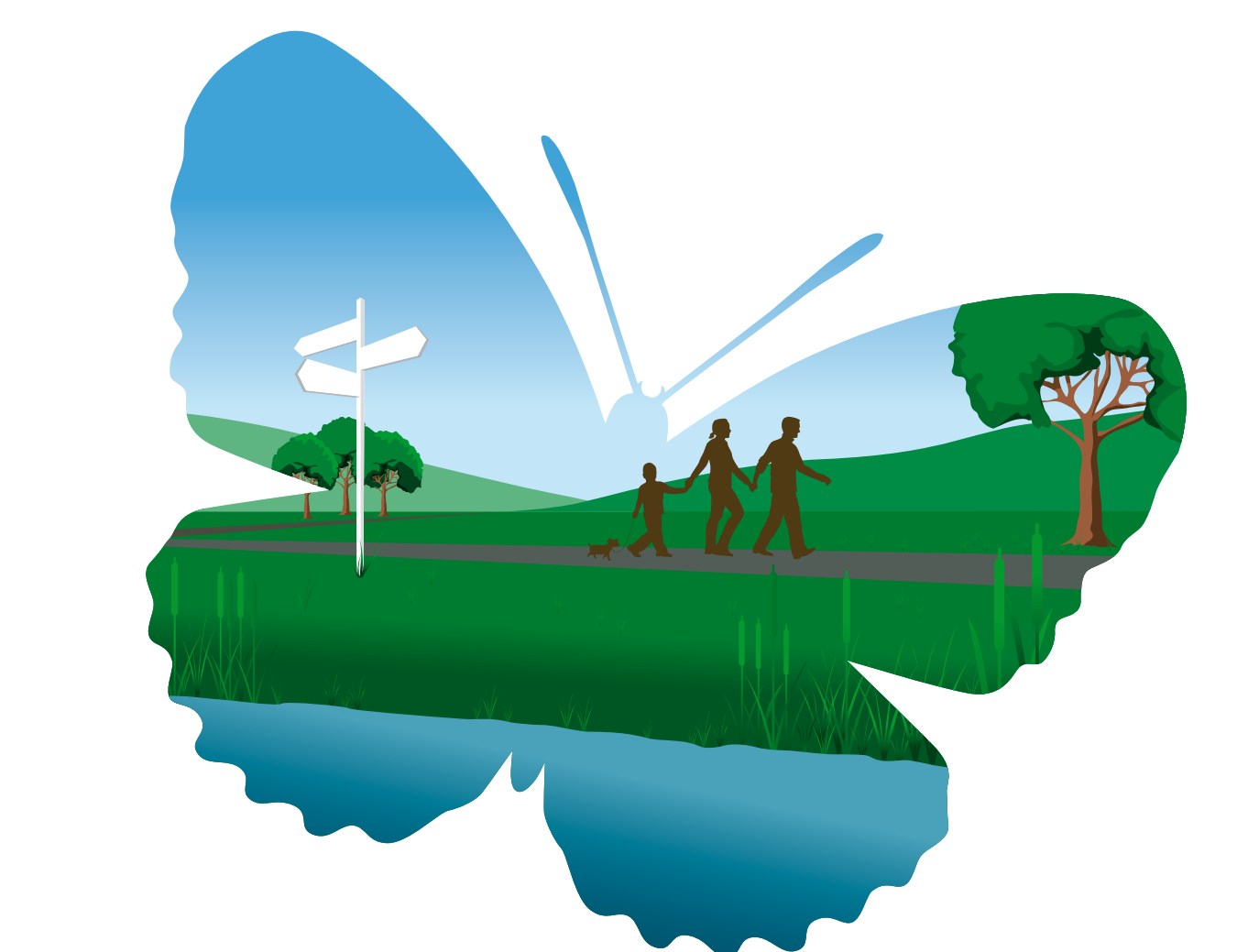


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Dockholme Lock

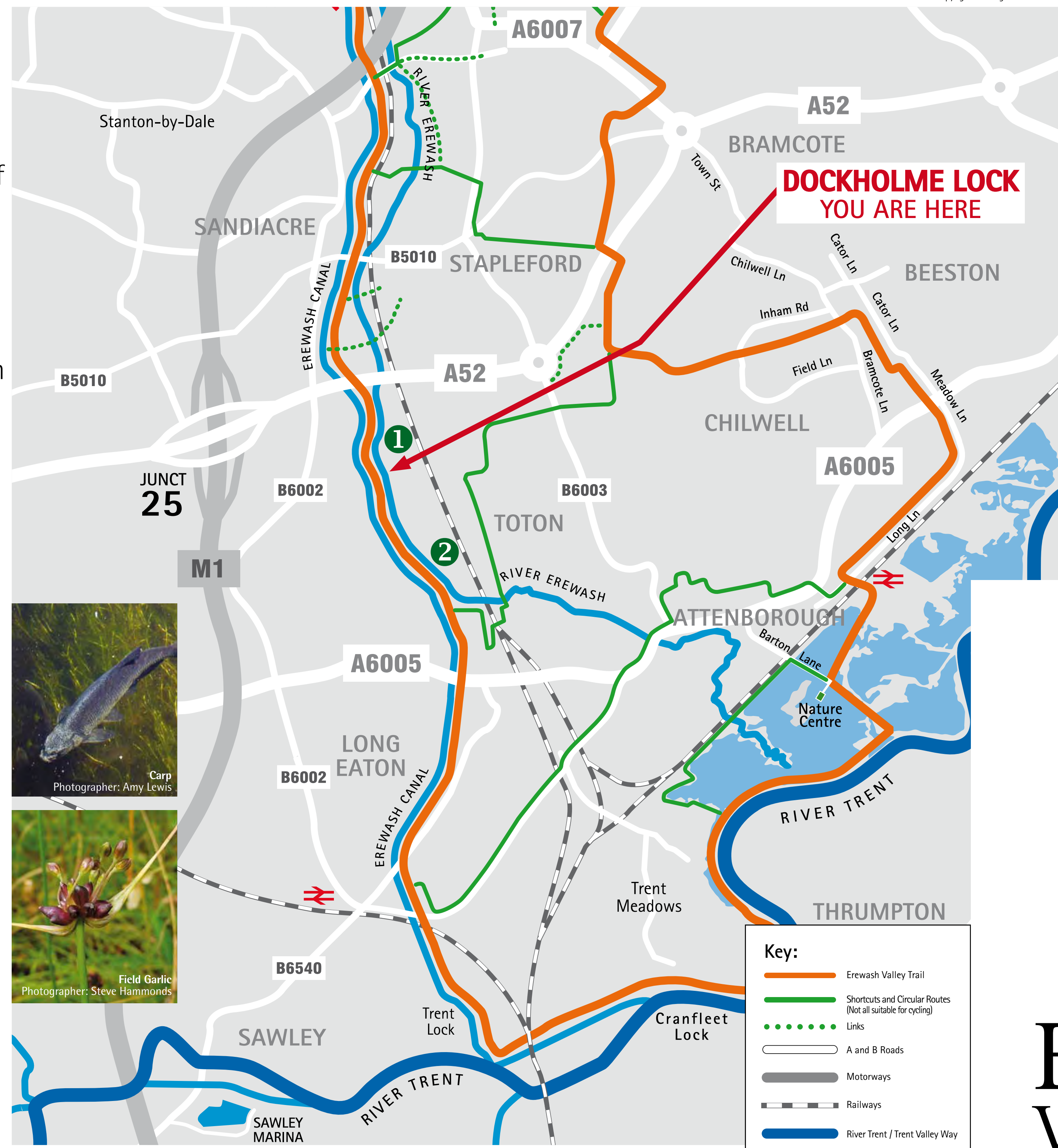
Dockholme Lock marks a good access point to the Erewash Valley Trail which at this point follows the canal towpath and the flood bank taking in part of the Sustrans National Cycling route - Route 67. This provides the potential to connect with local cities and long distance destinations such as London, York and the Lake District.

More locally we are only about two and a half miles from Trent Lock, 8 miles from Langley Mill and only 2 miles from the Nutbrook Trail which gives access to the scenic countryside around Stanton and Shipley. Long Eaton is only a mile from Dockholme making the local trails popular as attractive commuter routes.

Between the canal and railway lies the floodplain of the River Erewash. This area has traces of ox bow lakes formed as the river changed its course over time. Following restoration by the Environment Agency the area now offers a rich mosaic of habitats for a variety of birds and aquatic species. The canal has been popular for angling for many years and has produced some fine specimen Carp.

Alongside the towpath you may see and smell areas of Field Garlic which has been recorded in this area for over a hundred years.

The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges help provided by Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association preparing this information panel.



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Local points of interest

1 Derby Canal Sandiacre Lock Cottages

Half a mile upstream and north of Dockholme is the Sandiacre Lock Cottages which date from 1779. The buildings were saved from demolition in the late 60's and restored by the Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association. It is now used by this very active group for events and meetings.



Just upstream of the cottages the canal opens out forming a large basin which once formed the entrance to the Derby Canal.

The canal opened in 1796 and closed in 1964 but plans are afoot to restore the canal which once connected to the Trent and Mersey canal at Swarkstone. Much of the route is already available as a cycling and walking route.

2 Railway Sidings

All along the trail you are never far from the railway showing the historic connections with the waterways but at this point the railway broadens out as it once formed one of the country's largest marshalling yards. This connected and disconnected wagons of all types to replace those which were defective and assemble trains for various uses. This very noisy operation was still operational in the 1960s and was part of Long Eaton's very strong connection with the railways and its associated industries.



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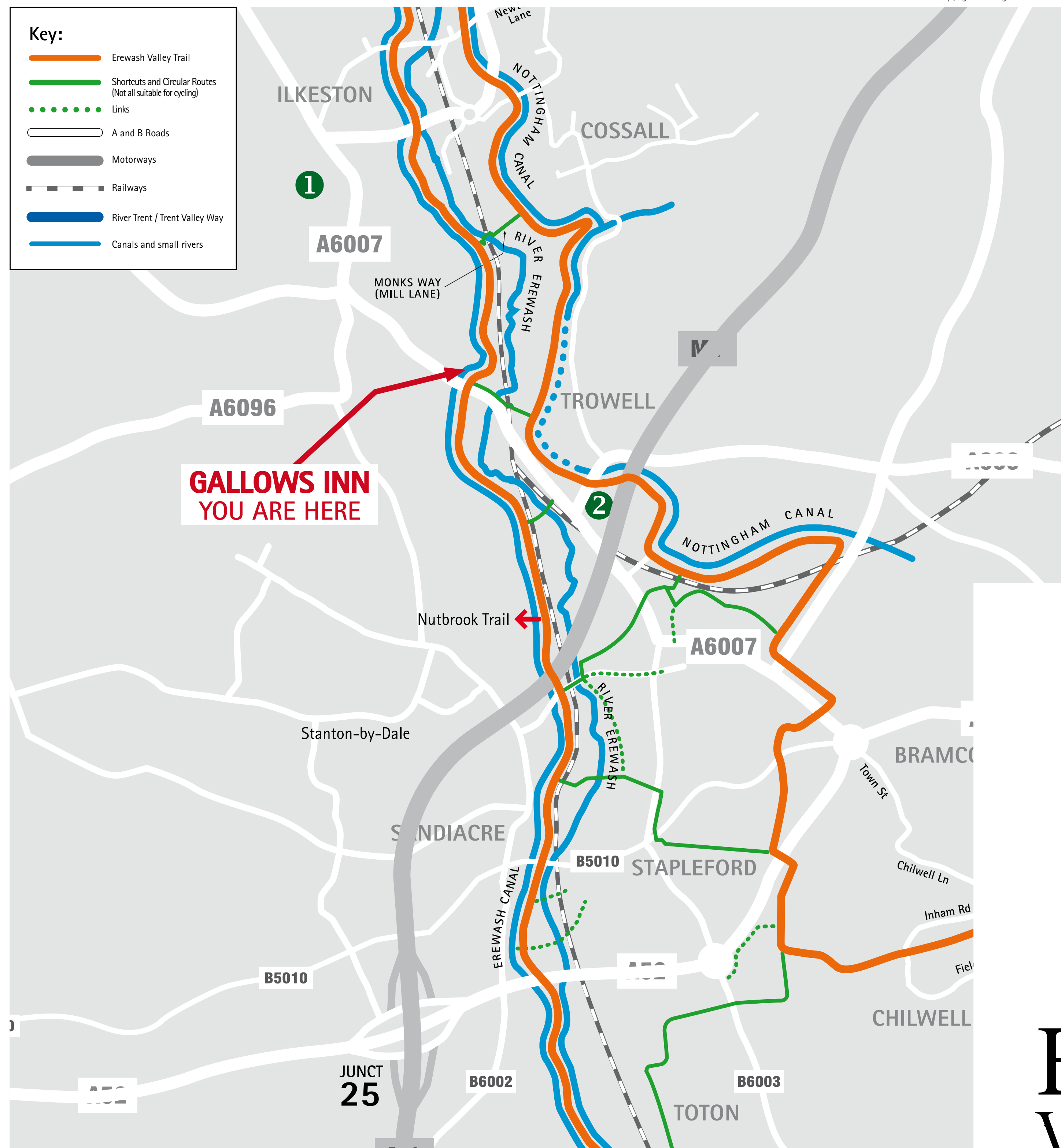
Gallows Inn

This area is named after the pub on Nottingham Road which stands close to the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire border and near to where a gallows first stood in the 14th century. The gallows remained until 1870 providing an unusual welcome to the market town of Ilkeston which was famous for its hosiery and lace industries.

The trail passes between the lock and the pub with the western and eastern sides of the trail less than half a mile apart at this point. A shortcut can be made by following the road which crosses the canal, towards Trowell and then after crossing Furnace Road, turn left on to the narrow path crossing the railway bridge and upwards to the Nottingham Canal Nature Reserve which is filled at this point.

The Gallows Inn playing fields lie next to the towpath just down stream of the lock and are the venue for a range of sports and a waterside festival each August.

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Local points of interest

1 Ilkeston and the Erewash Museum

Ilkeston town is just over a mile from the trail here and is the third largest town in Derbyshire. Standing on a hill, this former mining community was mentioned in the Domesday Book when it was known as Tilchestune. The pits have closed in Ilkeston but it is still a busy industrial town, whose many industries include engineering, hosiery, lace and fabrics, electronics, plastic and food distribution. A history of the town's industrial past is told in the Erewash Museum, housed in a fine Georgian building in High Street. The market place is brought to life every Thursday and Saturday offering an excellent range of goods and the Ilkeston fair, held in October is one of the largest street fairs in Britain.

St Mary's Church dates back to around the year 1200, but little is left from this period apart from the 3 East piers between the nave and the South aisle. Opposite the church is the Town Hall, a modest baroque brick building of 1868. Another interesting building in the market place is large red brick Carnegie Library, built in 1904.



2 Trowell Village

Back in 1951 Trowell was chosen as The Festival of Britain Village, being considered to be the best example of a village demonstrating British rural community life at the time. This significant achievement gave rise to the Festival Inn which sits proudly in the middle of the village.

Opposite the Festival Inn stands St Helens Church a Grade 2 Star listed building parts of which date back to 1180. There has been a church on this site for around 1200 years since the birth of Trowell as a Saxon settlement and the building was worthy of a mention in the Domesday Book.



EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Welcome to the Erewash Valley Trail which takes in over 30 miles of beautiful waterway and countryside landscape on the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire borders. The route is available for walking and cycling and offers good access to the fantastic wildlife and heritage features which make this area so interesting.

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project partners include:



EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Great Northern or Langley Mill Basin

The basin marks the northern end of the Erewash Canal and the Erewash Valley Trail.

We are about 11 miles from Trent Lock and less than a mile from Eastwood.

The basin once formed the junction of three waterways the Cromford Canal, the Nottingham Canal and the Erewash Canal, sometimes referred to as part of the Grand Union Canal. These canals were constructed between 1779-1796 and all converged at the wharves and facilities at the Great Northern Basin providing a hub for local transport until 1952 when the last commercial vessel used the canal.

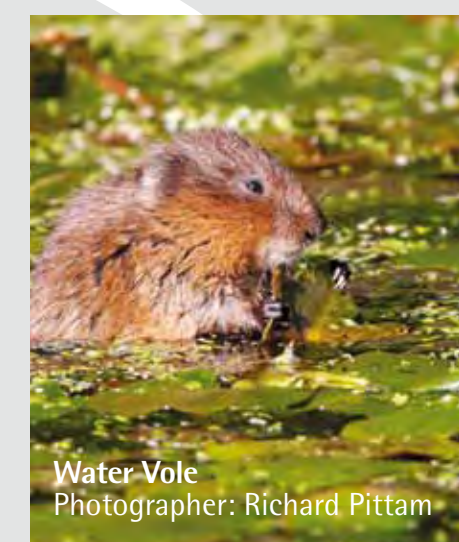
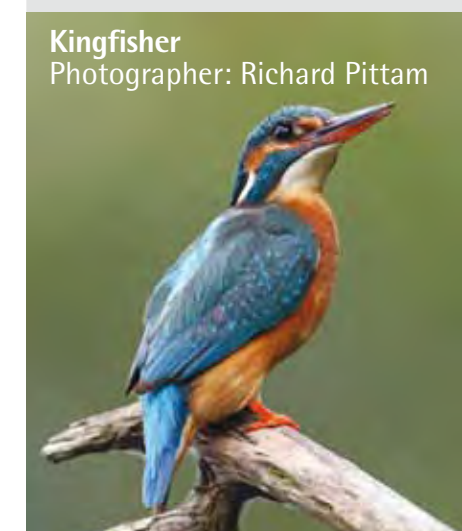
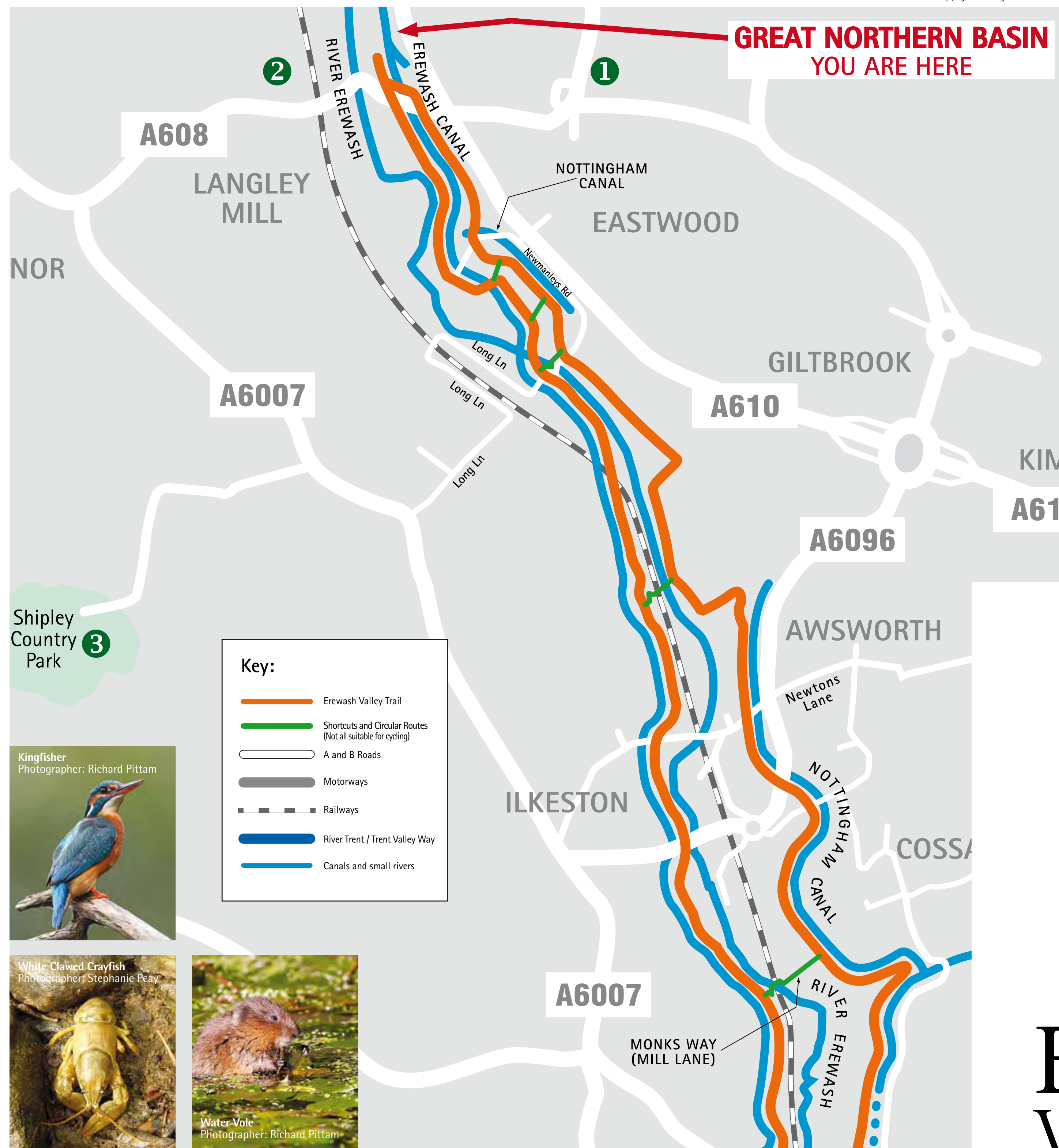
The trail follows the Erewash Canal on the western side and Anchor Road (opposite the Great Northern Pub) on the eastern side. Note pedestrian crossing on Derby Road, near garage.



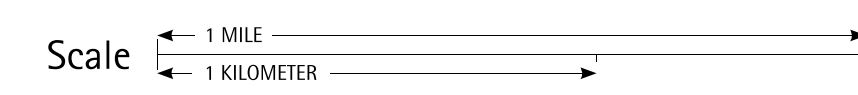
An important water supply feeds this basin from the Beauvale and Nether Green Brooks which connect to the Moorgreen Reservoir. These connecting water courses are known for their high water quality supporting Crayfish, Kingfishers, Water Voles and the odd Trout! The canal at this point supports a population of Grass - wrack Pondweed a rare aquatic plant in Derbyshire.

It is thanks to the Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association that the canal and basin remain today. This group set up in 1968 fought hard to keep the canal open at a time when it was fashionable to fill them in as became the fate of the Nottingham Canal nearby. The group restored many structures including the basin which led to British Waterways taking over management of the Erewash Canal. The group are still active in supporting events and improvements in the area as well as managing the basin.

The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges help provided by the Heanor and District Local History Society and the Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association in the preparation of this information panel.



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Local points of interest

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Eastwood is a busy hill top town with its recent history based on mining. The writer D.H. Lawrence, famous for his novels Lady Chatterley's Lover and The Rainbow, was born in Eastwood and an interesting Heritage Centre and Birthplace Museum are located close to the centre of the town. Call (01773) 717 353 or visit www.dhlawrenceheritage.org for current information.



2 Langley Mill

Once simply a crossing point on the river Erewash, Langley Mill long known for its water mill grew in the late 18th century along with the development of mining and canal transport.

Langley Mill was later flanked by the Midland Railway on the western side which still exists and the Great Northern Railway on the eastern side which followed the valley where the A610 now runs. The town has held a variety of industries over the years including hosiery and prefabricated buildings and now retains a thriving mixture of small businesses.



3 Shipley Country Park

With its 650 acres of attractive landscape Shipley Country Park is certainly worth a visit.

The Shipley estate was developed during the 18th century as a country estate and coal mining area by the influential Miller Mundy family. Following the restoration of the old coal mines and opencast quarries, the country park was opened in 1976.

Whatever the season, there is always lots to see and do in the park - walking, cycling, horse-riding, bird-watching, angling, picnicking, kite flying, jogging, wayfaring, photography, exploring the park and much more. Entry to Shipley Country Park is free of charge.

See Derbyshire County Council website for details of Shipley Country Park.



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EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

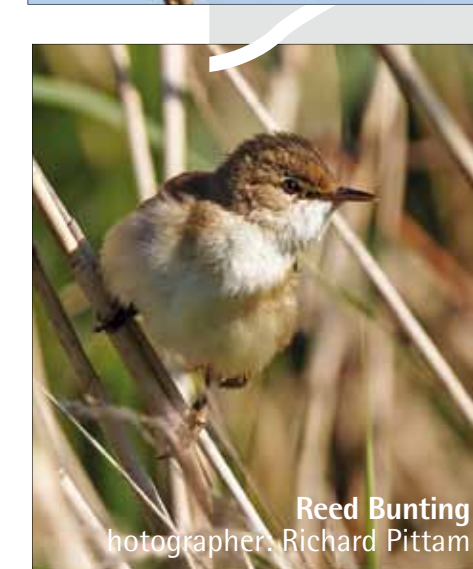
Hallam Fields Lock

At this point the western and eastern side of the trail are only separated by the village of Trowell and a footpath crosses the valley linking the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire communities.

The trail follows the towpath and the land fronting the canal down stream of this lock on the opposite side to the towpath was once occupied by the massive Stanton Ironworks. About a quarter of a mile down stream the canal widens and exposes a wall with two pipes this is where the Nutbrook Canal once joined the Erewash Canal. This canal was used for transporting coal from Stanton and West Hallam and while also serving the needs of Stanton Iron works. The canal was designed by William Jessop and constructed in 1796 with 13 locks over a total length of four and a half miles. Traces of the canal can still be seen in the fishing ponds at the bottom of Quarry Hill.

Further downstream the Nutbrook Trail joins the Erewash Valley Trail at Stanton Lock and offers a chance to explore the countryside towards Shipley and Stanton by Dale. We are about 6 miles from Trent Lock and 5½ miles from Langley Mill.

The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges help provided by the Ilkeston and District History Society, the Erewash Museum and Mr Andy Lord Rector of St Helens Church Trowell in the preparation of this information panel.



Whitethroat
Photographer: Paul Shaw

Reed Bunting
Photographer: Richard Pittam

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Scale 1 MILE 1 KILOMETER

project partners include:



Local points of interest

1 Nutbrook Junction and Trowell Marsh Nature Reserve.

Between the canal and the railway lies Nutbrook Junction and Trowell Marsh Nature Reserve. This long site is open to the public and contains a flower rich tall herb meadow with an abundance of the wine red flowered Great Burnet indicating the damp nature of the meadow. Also present are small areas of swamp with wetland plants like Skullcap. Nearby, areas of scrub and tall rough grassland provide important habitat for summer visiting warblers like Whitethroat and resident wetland birds like Reed Bunting.



Great Burnet
Photo: Nottingham Wildlife Trust

2 Stanton Ironworks

Iron making in the valley is thought to date back to Roman times with the local area providing the iron ore and coal needed. Iron and related products provided a major employment in the Ilkeston for most of the 19th and 20th centuries with the site becoming a small town with all associated facilities for the many workers. The spectacular blast furnaces still operated in the 1960s but the last cast was made in 2007 and the area has now taken on a new character with new industries and technologies giving rise to a rebirth of activity in the area. As the former heavy industry gives way to cleaner operations the area is being developed sensitively to enhance the local environment and quality of life for those who live and work in the area.



3 Trowell Village

Back in 1951 Trowell was chosen as The Festival of Britain Village, being considered to be the best example of a village demonstrating British rural community life at the time. This significant achievement gave rise to the Festival Inn which sits proudly in the middle of the village. Opposite the Festival Inn stands St Helens Church a Grade 2 Star listed building parts of which date back to 1180. There has been a church on this site for around 1200 years since the birth of Trowell as a Saxon settlement and the building was worthy of a mention in the Domesday Book.



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EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Inham Nook, Chilwell

At this point the trail passes through a linear open space which connects northward to open countryside near Stapleford and southwards to the urban areas of Chilwell and Beeston.

Along the edge of the woodlands at dusk you may see Pipistrelle Bats flying and this area also provides good habitat for birds such as Woodpeckers, Thrushes, Finches, Nuthatch, Treecreepers and in summer, Blackcaps and Swallows.

Chilwell is mentioned in the Domesday book as credited with 'half church' meaning that it was part of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Attenborough where its register entries are to be found.

Land ownership in the area crossed both sides of the river Trent River and this led to strong ties with Barton in Fabis making the ferry at Barton Lane an essential facility until the early 1900's.

During the 1800's the village was noted as one of the most significant fruit growing areas in the country. This was part of a tradition for horticulture including roses and other flower growing which became established locally.

Chilwell Shell Filling Factory occupied land which lies between Chilwell and Toton. It was created by Lord Chetwynd at the beginning of the 1st World War to help address the demands for shells for British forces in Europe. On July 1st 1918 it was the scene of a major explosion resulting in the deaths of 134 workers many of whom are buried in Attenborough Churchyard. The site developed as Chilwell Ordnance Depot supplying tanks and other equipment to the front during the Second World War and in subsequent conflicts to this day.

We are now about a mile and a half from Beeston and a similar distance to the river Erewash at Toton. We are about two miles to Attenborough and around two miles to Stapleford.

The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges help provided by courtesy of David Hallam - The History of Beeston Website.



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Local points of interest

1 Beeston

With its thriving and busy town centre, Beeston is one of the main shopping centres in the area. The pedestrianised High Road has an attractive precinct and square which is the focus for outdoor entertainment in both the summer and winter. The town is perhaps most famous for its links with Boots The Chemist which still has its headquarters nearby. Errisons famous for telephones also had its base close to the railway station on land now used as a business park. Remnants of the towns lace and textile heritage can be seen in the converted mills just north of the town centre.



2 Bramcote 3 Stapleford

Heading north you will pass through Bramcote Hills Park a delightful area of parkland with a range of attractions including a popular play area, fitness trail, cricket club, woodland nature reserve, memorial garden, ice house and leisure centre. The park has a program of seasonal events including the Hemlock Happening a celebration of local arts activities held in June.



Across the road from the park is the Hemlockstone an impressive natural geological feature created by millennia of weathering. The stone stands in a local nature reserve and has many local myths associated with its various uses and powers. One of the more likely suggestions is that the stone was a focal point for Celtic festivals with records of Druids lighting fires on the stone during the night before May day up until the early 19th Century.

The trail also passes close to Stapleford Town Centre which lies about a mile from the trail and is a busy town with all the usual attractions and amenities. It has a rich history with an ancient church, Saxon cross and connections with the early lace making industry.

4 Attenborough Village and Nature Centre

Heading south you will pass through the pretty village of Attenborough with village green, railway station and ancient church. The village has become famous for its nature reserve which is recognised for its wetland fauna and flora particularly birds. The reserve habitat has developed over recent years with newly created reed beds regularly holding rare Bittern and Otters. The award winning nature centre is very close to the trail and provides more wildlife information along with welcome refreshment.



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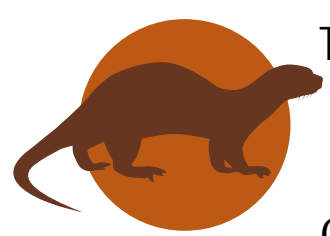
EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Newmanleys Road, Eastwood

At this point the Nottingham Canal has been lost to opencast mining but the path heading south follows the line of the towpath. Here the two canals and river converge to within a few hundred yards giving the area a watery theme.

The two canals contrast in that the Erewash has a lock roughly every mile but the remains of the Nottingham Canal show very few with the structure being designed to follow contour of the land. This means the canal hangs on the side of the valley giving good vantage points along the way.

This is one of the most attractive sections of the trail with views across the valley and a pretty landscape with small fields and hedgerows. The meadows in this area are full of wildflowers in the spring and the river provides a quality habitat for fish and kingfishers.



To the north and south is Erewash Canal and Meadow Grasslands, a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation for the wildflowers and grasses they support. To the west is Shipleigh Country Park and with over 650 acres of attractive green space it is certainly worth a visit. Grassland which contains lots of different types of flower and grass are vitally important in supporting insects such as butterflies and bees whose numbers are rapidly declining.

We are now less than 2 miles from Langley Mill and about a mile from Eastwood

The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges help provided by the Heanor and District Local History Society and the Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association in the preparation of this information panel.



Key:

- Erewash Valley Trail
- Shortcuts and Circular Routes (Not all suitable for cycling)
- A and B Roads
- Motorways
- Railways
- River Trent / Trent Valley Way
- Canals and small rivers

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Local points of interest

1 Eastwood, D. H. Lawrence Heritage Centre and Sun Inn

Eastwood is a busy hill top town with its recent history based on mining. The writer D.H. Lawrence, famous for his novels Lady Chatterley's Lover and The Rainbow, was born in Eastwood and an interesting Heritage Centre and Birthplace Museum are located close to the centre of the town. Call (01773) 717 353 or visit www.dhlawrenceheritage.org for current information.



Eastwood's is also known for the historic Sun Inn also close to the town centre and birthplace to the Midland Counties Railway in 1832.



2 Langley Mill and the Great Northern Basin

Once simply a crossing point on the river Erewash, Langley Mill long known for its water mill grew in the late 18th century along with the development of mining and canal transport.



The Erewash Canal, the Cromford Canal and the Nottingham Canal were constructed from 1779-1796 and all converged at Langley Mill. The wharves and facilities at the Great Northern basin provided a hub for local transport until 1952 when the last commercial vessel used the canal. Langley Mill was later flanked by the Midland Railway on the western side which still exists and the Great Northern Railway on the eastern side which followed the valley where the A610 now runs. The town has held a variety of industries over the years including hosiery and prefabricated buildings and now retains a thriving mixture of small businesses. It is thanks to the Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association that the canal and basin remain today. This group set up in 1968 fought hard to keep the canal open at a time when it was fashionable to fill them in as became the fate of the Nottingham Canal nearby. The group restored many structures including the basin which led to British Waterways taking over management of the Erewash Canal. The group are still active in supporting events and improvements in the area as well as managing the basin.



EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

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project partners include:



EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Newtons Lane, Awsworth

At this point we have commanding views of the valley with the Bennerley Viaduct to the north, Ilkeston across the valley and to the south the flood plain broadening out towards Stapleford and Attenborough.

Much of this area has been opencast mined for coal and the line of the Nottingham Canal has been lost heading north but the remaining sections of canal at Awsworth and Eastwood are connected with brideways. Follow branded signage carefully to make the connection.

Venturing away from the trail, the rights of way network provides several interesting shortcuts connecting Eastwood, Newthorpe and Giltbrook with Cotmanhay, Shipley and Ilkeston.

Settlement of the mine workings in the valley floor, now form the shallow ponds or flashes near the viaduct particularly in the winter months. This makes the area a great attraction for wetland birds - see point of interest.

The canal on the northern side has been removed and successfully reinstated through mining and now used as a coarse fishery by the Awsworth Angling Club. Between the canal and the trail are meadows which are particularly good for wildflowers. These meadows are managed as a Blue Butterfly site through a partnership with the site owners Nottinghamshire County Council and the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.



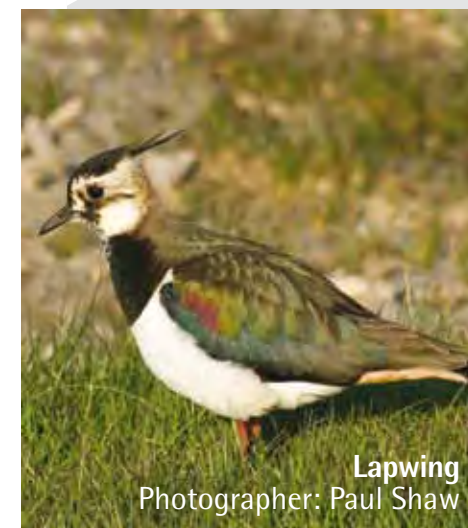
Grasslands for Wildlife - Creating and restoring Nottinghamshire's wildflower meadows



Kestrel
Photographer: Richard Pittam



Redshank
Photographer: Paul Shaw



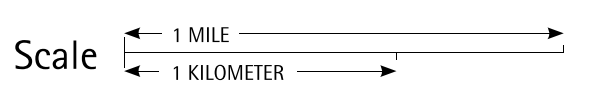
Lapwing
Photographer: Paul Shaw

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sustrans JOIN THE MOVEMENT

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project partners include:



Local points of interest

1 Bennerley Viaduct and Marsh

The valley at this point is dominated by the Bennerley Viaduct which is over 1400 feet long and 60 feet high. Built in 1877 by the Great Northern Railway this is an unusual wrought iron lattice bridge of which there are only two in the country. It is a grade 2 listed structure and although it was closed in 1973 it remains as testament to the rich railway heritage associated with this area. It also provides a great nesting and roosting spot for a range of birds including Kestrels.



Below the viaduct is an area which was opencast in the 1980s. It floods seasonally from the River Erewash and provides an important site for wetland birds including Common and Jack Snipe, Golden Plover, Redshank, Wigeon and Lapwing. The summer brings a range of dragonflies and damselflies such as Black Tailed Skimmers, Broad-bodied Chaser and Red-eyed Damselflies.

2 Awsworth Village

Awsworth lies within a mile of the trail at this point a small village with a varied past based on mining, glass making, horticulture and production of Naphthalene or moth balls!



A small triangular area in the village is referred to as "The Donkey Piece" a reference to the days when pit ponies and mules were put out to graze following a hard shift pulling mine trucks.

3 Cossall and the Monks Way

Heading South on the trail you will cross a brideway close to Cossall known as Mill Lane which was once an important route linking Nottingham and Ilkeston. The obvious reference to "mill" occurs at many locations along the valley, but less obvious are the large sandstone slabs almost buried at the left side of the path as you walk down towards the railway with its impressive green bridge linking to Ilkeston. These ancient stones are said to have been placed by monks forming a causeway between Strelley Priory and Dale Abbey. Heading upwards on the Monk's Way lies Cossall Village with its church dating back to the 13th Century and its connections with D H Lawrence who used Cossall as his inspiration for the village of Cossethay mentioned in his novel "The Rainbow".



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EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Nottingham Canal and restored valley

We are close to Giltbrook at this point and this location offers great views of the valley looking towards the pretty countryside of Shipley.

Much of the valley in this area has been opencast mined for coal and the line of the Nottingham Canal has been lost but the remaining sections of canal at Awsworth and Eastwood are connected with bridleways. Follow branded signage carefully to make the connection.

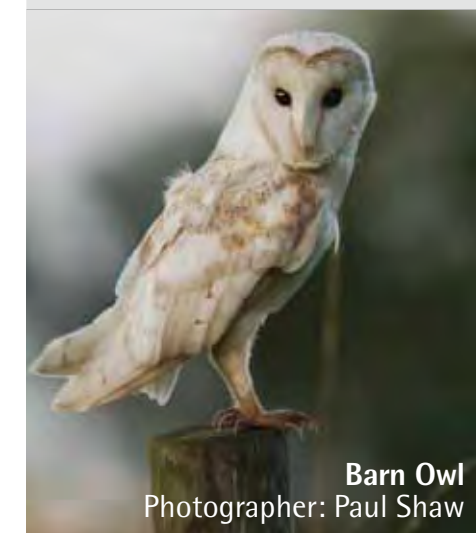
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This area of the valley is great for wildlife. The grasslands in particular contain lots of different types of flower and grass vitally important in supporting insects such as butterflies and bees whose numbers are rapidly declining. These areas provide habitat for small mammals and good hunting grounds for Kestrel, Buzzard and several types of Owl. Great Crested Newts are prolific in this area and Grass Snakes are sometimes seen basking on the stone surfaces. The plantations provide cover for all types of bird and a pantry of insects to sustain wildlife during the harsh winter months.

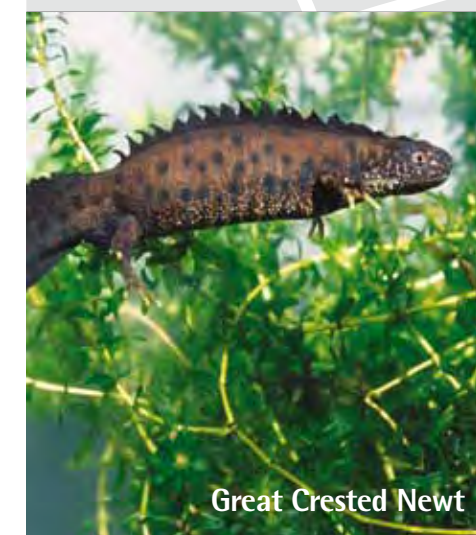
The A610 behind follows the line of the Great Northern Railway and its not hard to imagine huge steam engines forging their way along the valley. The road and its verges form a wildlife corridor helping to connect the open countryside with urban gardens and green space. This is reinforced by the creation of Local Nature Reserves like the Smithurst Meadows LNR declared in 2010 and situated next to the A610 at Giltbrook.



Buzzard
Photographer: Paul Shaw



Barn Owl
Photographer: Paul Shaw



Great Crested Newt

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Scale 1 MILE / 1 KILOMETER

Local points of interest

1 Ilkeston

Ilkeston town centre is about two and a half miles away providing a link across the trail. It is a busy town, the third largest in Derbyshire. Standing on a hill, this former mining community was also mentioned in the Domesday Book when it was known as Tilchestune. The pits have closed in Ilkeston but it is still a busy industrial town, whose many industries include engineering, hosiery, lace and fabrics, electronics, plastic and food distribution.



A history of the town's industrial past is told in the Erewash Museum, housed in a fine Georgian building in High Street. The large market place is brought to life every Thursday and Saturday offering an excellent range of goods. The Ilkeston fair, in October, has become an event not to be missed, which is now one of the largest street fairs in Britain.

2 Eastwood, D. H. Lawrence Heritage Centre and Sun Inn

Eastwood is a busy hill top town with its recent history based on mining. The writer D.H. Lawrence, famous for his novels *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and *The Rainbow*, was born in Eastwood and an interesting Heritage Centre and Birthplace Museum are located close to the centre of the town.



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project partners include:



EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Nottingham Canal – Trowell and Cossall

We are now situated next to the disused Nottingham Canal built in 1796 originally to carry coal from the Erewash Valley into Nottingham and beyond.

The trail follows the towpath or the line of the canal and looking to the north we have the pretty village of Cossall. If you have time a short diversion to take in the old Church is worthwhile the safest way to access the village is via the brideway shown as the Monks Way on the plan. This is also the best route to follow to get to Ilkeston via the large green railway bridge. If you are heading south you will pass close to Trowell. For more information on Trowell and Cossall please see Local Points of Interest.

The Nottingham canal is no longer navigable but has become a Local Nature Reserve, recognised for its varied wetland wildlife. You may catch sight of a Little Grebe or Water Vole as you venture on to the towpath and during the summer months perhaps even a Grass Snake basking on the path. A dazzling collection of damsel flies and dragonflies can be seen skimming over the water with colourful names like Emperor Dragonfly and Ruddy Darter. The marginal plants like arrowhead and flowering rush, which provide food and shelter for wildlife including Sedge and Reed Warblers, and aquatic plants support another world packed with mini beasts which in turn support amphibians like the Great Crested Newt.

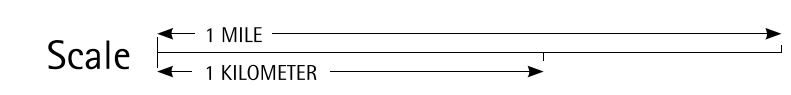
The canal was designed as a contour canal and it "clings" to the side of the valley following the same level so reducing the need for locks. This arrangement means the canal offers an easy level route with spectacular views along and across the valley. At this point you can see a range of agricultural land managed for different purposes and across the valley the settlement of Ilkeston with its history of mining and lace making.

The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges help provided by the Ilkeston and District History Society and Mr Andy Lord Rector of St Helens Church Trowell in the preparation of this information panel.



Key:

- Erewash Valley Trail
- Shortcuts and Circular Routes (Not all suitable for cycling)
- ... Links
- A and B Roads
- Motorways
- Railways
- River Trent / Trent Valley Way
- Canals and small rivers



sustrans JOIN THE MOVEMENT

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project partners include:



Local points of interest

1 Ilkeston and the Erewash Museum

Ilkeston town is about 2 miles from the trail here and is the third largest town in Derbyshire. Standing on a hill, this former mining community was mentioned in the Domesday Book when it was known as Tilchestune. The pits have closed in Ilkeston but it is still a busy industrial town, whose many industries include engineering, hosiery, lace and fabrics, electronics, plastic and food distribution. A history of the town's industrial past is told in the Erewash Museum, housed in a fine Georgian building in High Street. The market place is brought to life every Thursday and Saturday offering an excellent range of goods and the Ilkeston fair, held in October is one of the largest street fairs in Britain.



2 Cossall and the Monks Way

Heading north on the trail you will cross a brideway known as Mill Lane which was once an important route linking Nottingham and Ilkeston. The obvious reference to "mill" occurs at many locations along the valley, but less obvious are the large sandstone slabs almost buried at the left side of the path as you walk down towards the railway with its impressive green bridge linking to Ilkeston. These ancient stones are said to have been placed by monks forming a causeway between Strelley Priory and Dale Abbey. Heading upwards on the Monk's Way lies Cossall Village with its church dating back to the 13th Century and its connections with D H Lawrence who used Cossall as his inspiration for the village of Cossethay mentioned in his novel "The Rainbow".



3 Trowell Village

Back in 1951 Trowell was chosen as The Festival of Britain Village, being considered to be the best example of a village demonstrating British rural community life at the time. This significant achievement gave rise to the Festival Inn which sits proudly in the middle of the village. Opposite the Festival Inn stands St Helens Church a Grade 2 Star listed building parts of which date back to 1180. There has been a church on this site for around 1200 years since the birth of Trowell as a Saxon settlement and the building was worthy of a mention in the Domesday Book.



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EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Nottingham Canal, Trowell

At this point the trail takes a slight detour away from the Nottingham Canal Local Nature Reserve skirting around the Trowell Garden Centre which sits on the line of the canal and the site of an old quarry said to have supplied stone for Trowell Church and the canal structures in this area.

The canal in this area is seasonally wet but has suffered from leakage problems since its construction in 1796. The existence of geological fault lines and the sandy soils mean that water retention has never been easy particularly as the thin clay lining becomes damaged or cracks in dry conditions. Severing of the canal by opencast mining other activities has disrupted water supply and the increase in the rabbit population has not helped. This was a factor causing the collapse of part of the embankment south of the garden centre after heavy rain in the late nineties.

Despite this the area remains a haven for wildlife with the damp sections providing good habitat for amphibians such as frogs and newts and the scrub areas providing good cover and a larder of food for birds.

From this point there are several links across the valley connecting to the southern part of Ilkeston with its connections to Stanton by Dale and Dale Abbey beyond.

We are now about 2 miles from Stanton by Dale and a similar distance to Ilkeston and Stapleford Town Centres.

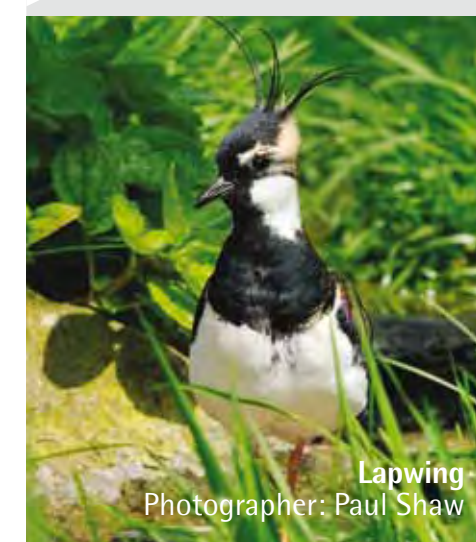
The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges help provided by the Ilkeston and District History Society and Mr Andy Lord Rector of St Helens Church Trowell in the preparation of this information panel.



Common Frogs
Photographer: Sean Browne



Newt
Photographer: Philip Precey



Lapwing
Photographer: Paul Shaw

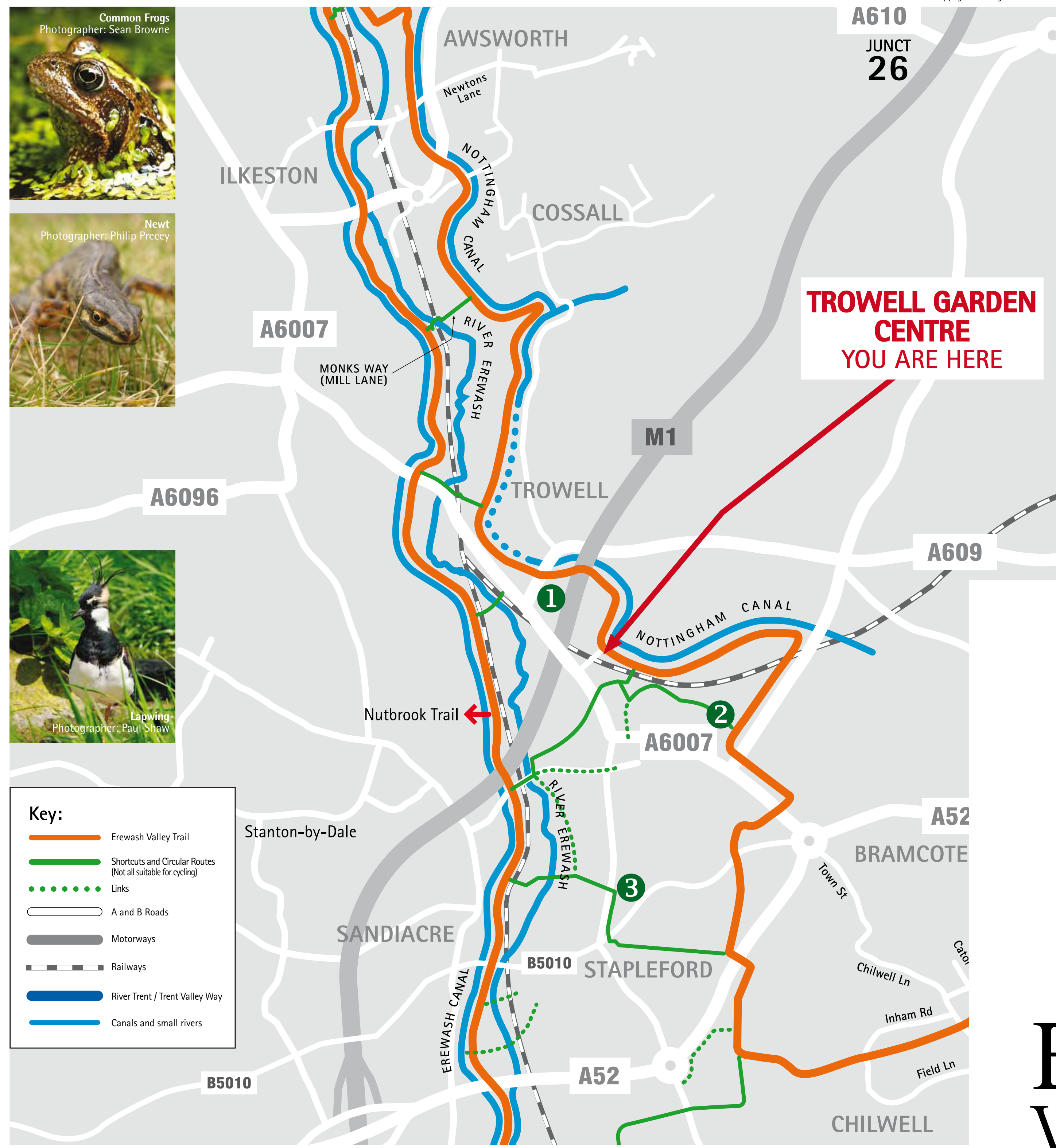
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Scale 1 MILE / 1 KILOMETER



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EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Welcome to the Erewash Valley Trail which takes in over 30 miles of beautiful waterway and countryside landscape on the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire borders. The route is available for walking and cycling and offers good access to the fantastic wildlife and heritage features which make this area so interesting.

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Local points of interest

1 Trowell Village

Back in 1951 Trowell was chosen as The Festival of Britain Village, being considered to be the best example of a village demonstrating British rural community life at the time. This significant achievement gave rise to the Festival Inn which sits proudly in the middle of the village.

Opposite the Festival Inn stands St Helens Church a Grade 2 Star listed building parts of which date back to 1180. There has been a church on this site for around 1200 years since the birth of Trowell as a Saxon settlement and the building was worthy of a mention in the Domesday Book.



2 Bramcote Hills and the Hemlockstone

Bramcote Hills Park is a delightful area of parkland with a range of attractions including a popular play area, fitness trail, cricket club, woodland nature reserve, memorial garden, ice house and leisure centre. The park has a program of seasonal events including the Hemlock Happening a celebration of local arts activities held in June.

Across the road from the park is the Hemlockstone an impressive natural geological feature created by millennia of weathering. The stone stands in a nature reserve and has many local myths associated with its various uses and powers.

One of the more likely suggestions is that the stone was a focal point for Celtic festivals with records of Druids lighting fires on the stone during the night before May day up until the early 19th Century.



3 Stapleford

Stapleford lies just east of the trail here and is a busy town with all the usual attractions and amenities. It has a rich history with an ancient church, Saxon cross and connections with the early lace making industry.

Photo shows Carnegie Civic and Community Centre home to the Stapleford Town Council.



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project partners include:



EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Potters Lock

We are now less than a mile from Ilkeston Town Centre and less than half a mile from the eastern side of the trail on the disused Nottingham Canal which is a Local Nature Reserve. A further half a mile or so reveals the pretty village of Cossall.

The trail skirts the urban fringe of Ilkeston, following the Erewash Canal towpath never far from the River Erewash and some scenic views along the valley. The canal at this point contains many interesting wetland plants such as Meadowsweet, Sweet-flag and Scullcap with the floating leaves of Yellow Water-lily covering large areas of the water.

A walk across to the large green railway bridge provides a link across the trail and offers a particularly good vantage point to view the valley. A quick look downstream at the river bridge on the way often reveals large shoals of Chub.

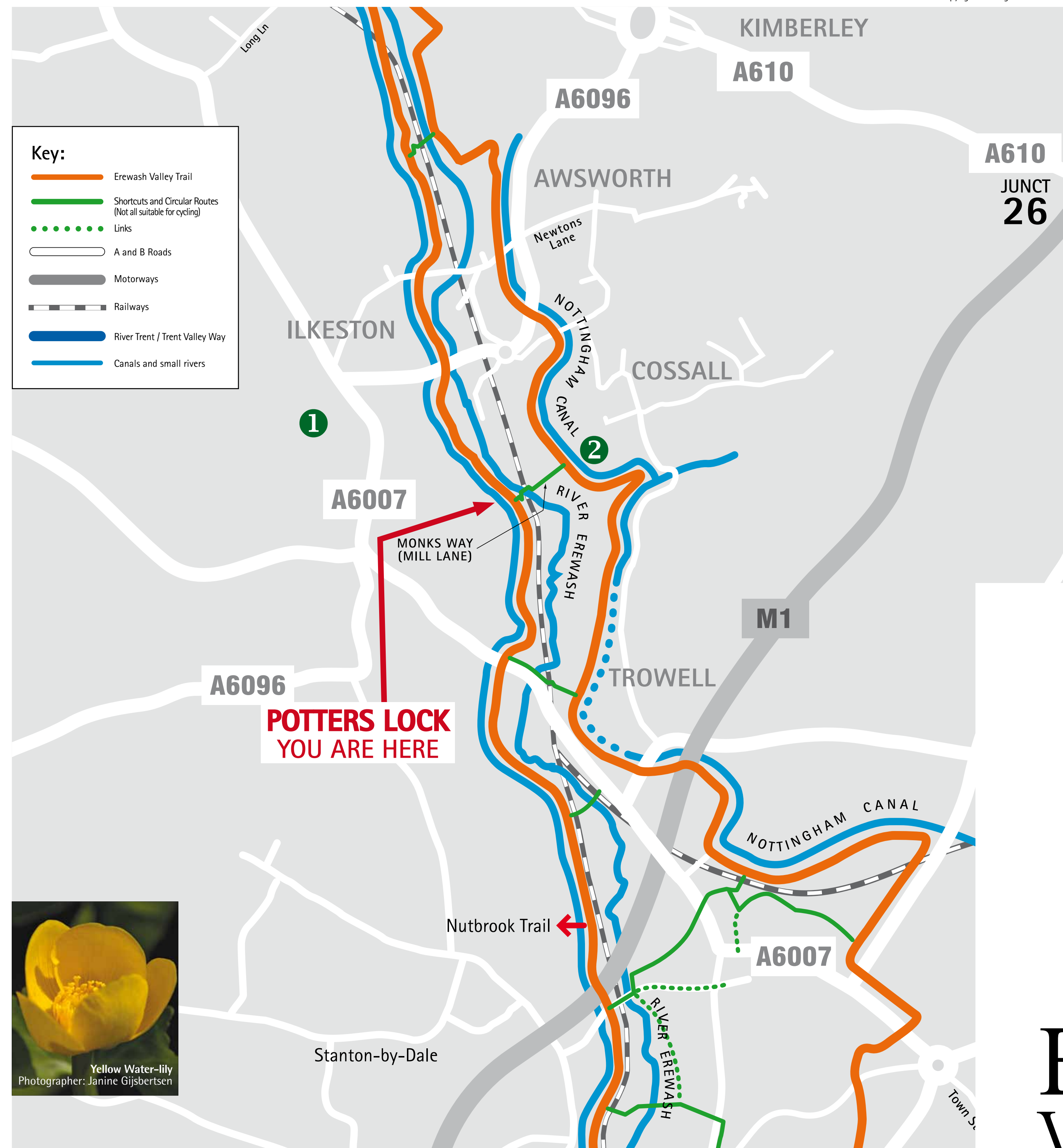
We are about four and a half miles from Langley Mill and seven miles from Trent Lock.



Chub



Yellow Water-lily
Photographer: Janine Gijbertsen



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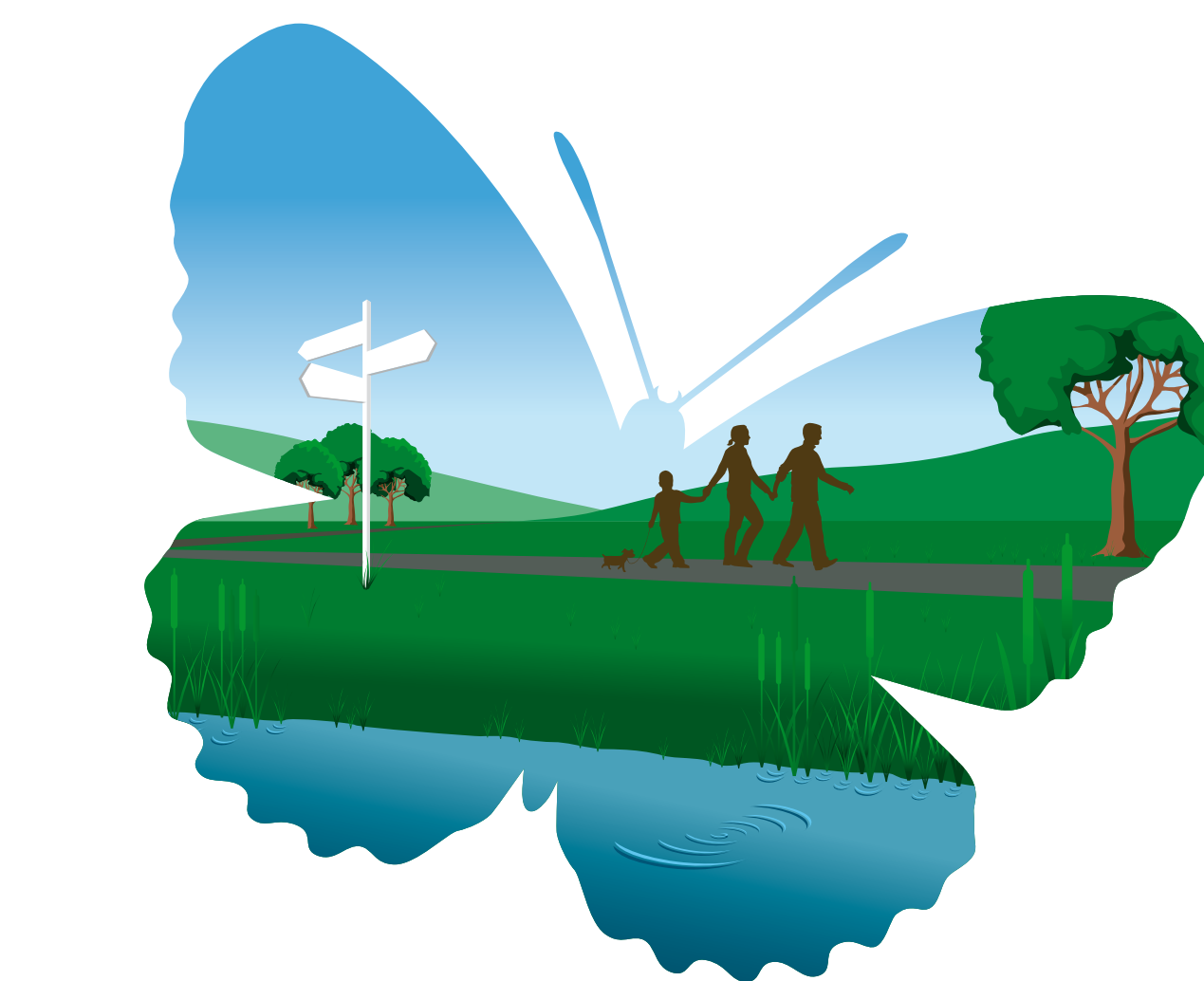
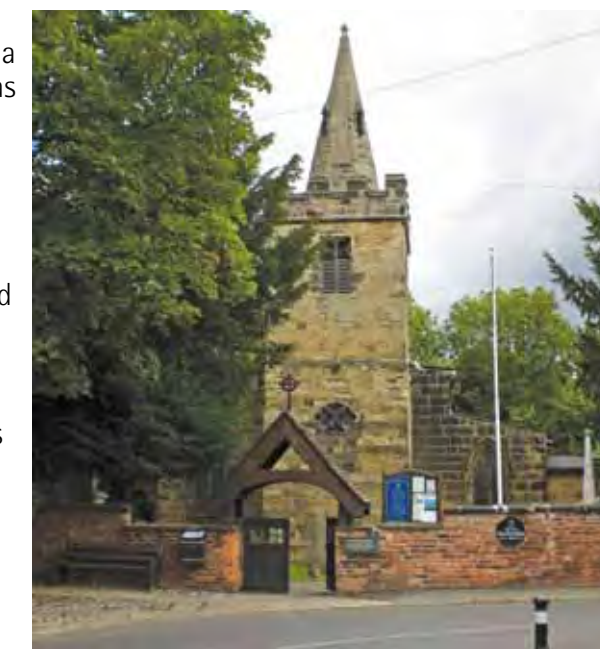
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St Mary's Church dates back to around the year 1200, but little is left from this period apart from the 3 East piers between the nave and the South aisle. Opposite the church is the Town Hall, a modest baroque brick building of 1868. Another interesting building in the market place is large red brick Carnegie Library, built in 1904.



2 Cossall and the Monks Way

Walking east over the large green railway bridge you will soon reach a track known as Mill Lane which was once an important route linking Nottingham and Ilkeston. The obvious reference to "mill" occurs at many locations along the valley, but less obvious are the large sandstone slabs almost buried at the left side of the path as you climb towards the Nottingham Canal. These ancient stones are said to have been placed by monks forming a causeway between Strelley Priory and Dale Abbey. Further on lies Cossall Village with its church dating back to the 13th Century and its connections with D H Lawrence who used Cossall as his inspiration for the village of Cossethay mentioned in his novel "The Rainbow".



EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

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EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

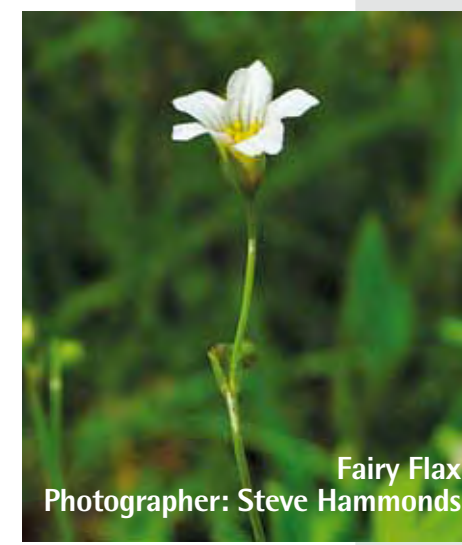
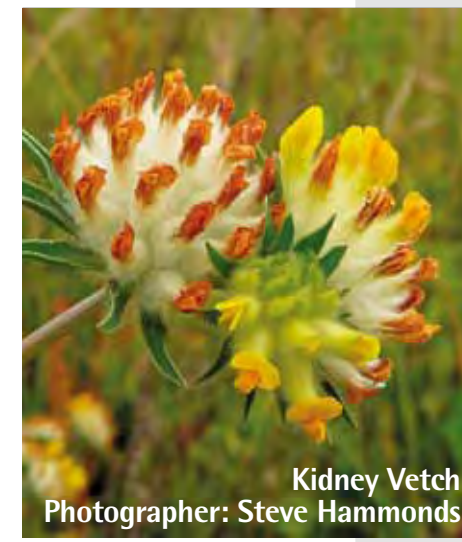
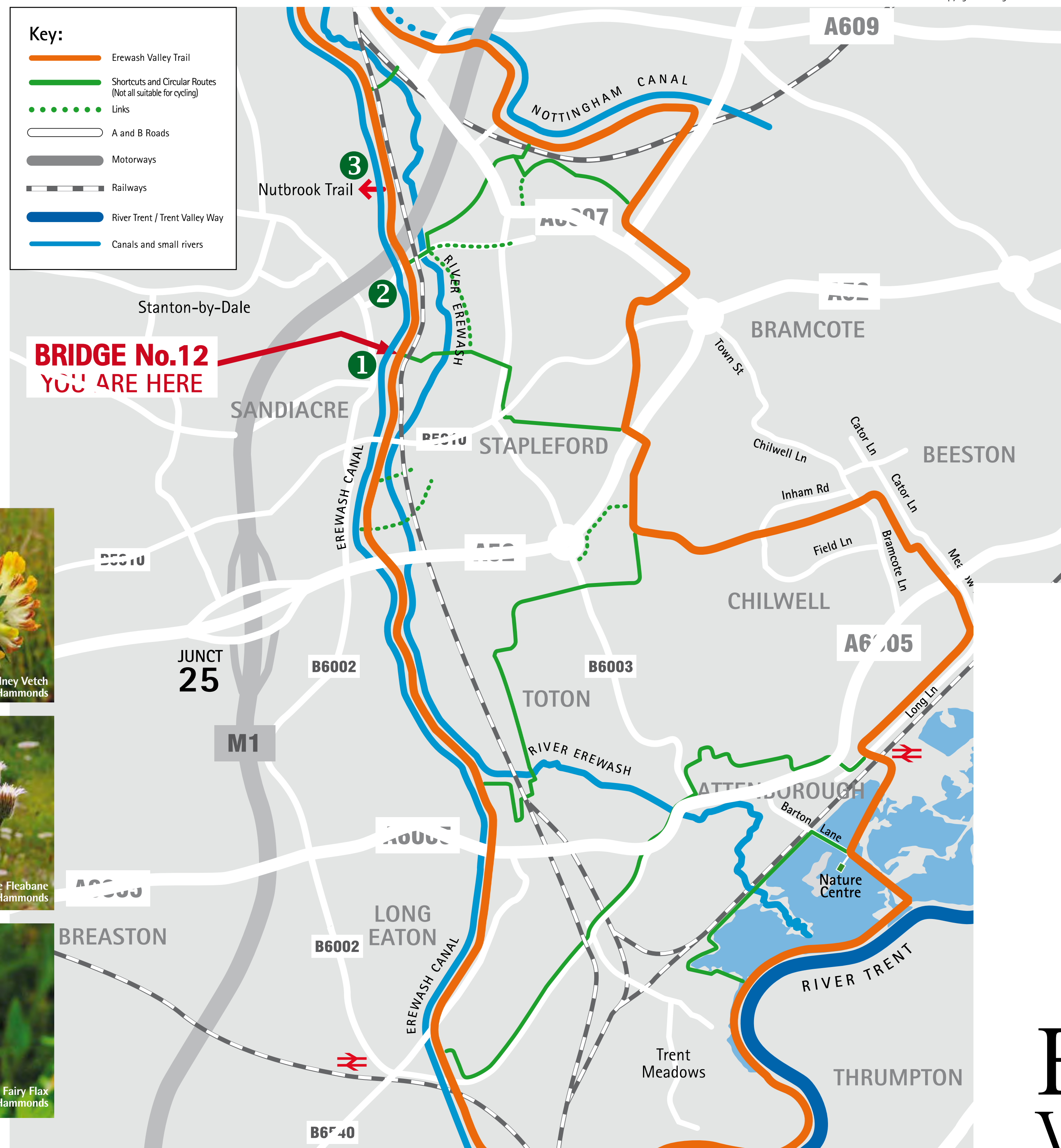
Sandiacre - Bridge No 12

Bridge No.12 is a classic canal hump back bridge installed as an 'accommodation' bridge to link areas of land cut off by construction of the canal. This bridge is situated in a particularly beautiful spot overlooking Stoney Clouds within a pastoral landscape but only a stones throw from Sandiacre, Stapleford and Bramcote.

The bridge has long been a cross roads with the canal towpath and path links across the valley connecting communities in Nottingham and Derbyshire. This unspoilt area has signs of ancient agricultural methods with clear signs of ridge and furrow grassland on the fields opposite the canal towpath

The towpath at this point is not only on the Erewash Valley Trail but is also part of the Sustrans Route 67 so linking with the National Cycleway Network and more locally the Nutbrook Trail which provides access to the delightful countryside around Shipley.

At this point we are about 4 1/2 miles from Trent Lock and 7 miles from Langley Mill.



Local points of interest

1 Stoney Clouds

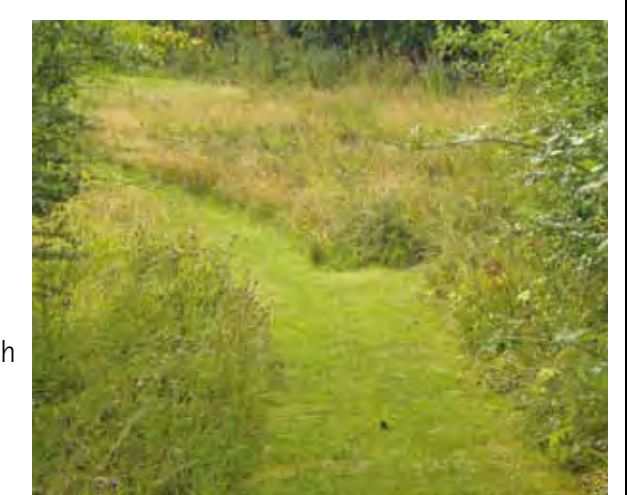
Looking across the valley towards the M1 you will spot a large hill which is an outcrop of bunter sandstone called Stoney Clouds. The name dates back to the Saxons with "cloud" developed from "clud" the Saxon word for hill. This escarpment can be seen clearly when heading south on the M1 towards junction 25 and forms part of a geological feature which includes the stone features at Bramcote and Dunshill near Locko Park. In the past the site is said to have been on the "Monks Way" or "Porteway" linking Abbeys at Dale and Lenton. Springs at the foot of the escarpment were believed to have had healing qualities and may have been used by the Romans.



Today the site offers great views of the valley providing a refuge for wildlife and an amenity for people. The site becomes very busy after snowfalls with an area of the site known as "Cardboard Hill" used for sledging.

2 Stanton Gate Local Nature Reserve

A very short distance from the trail northward lies the Stanton Gate Local Nature Reserve. The site has a mosaic of habitats with small areas of willow woodland, tall herb vegetation and an interesting area of short seasonal vegetation which supports plants like Kidney Vetch, Blue Fleabane and Fairy Flax which are normally found in limestone rich areas.



3 Nutbrook Trail and Shipley Country Park

The Nutbrook Trail is a 10 mile traffic free path for walkers and cyclists between Long Eaton and Heanor. This scenic trail connects with the Sustrans cycling network, the Trent Valley Way and of course the Erewash Valley Trail providing another high quality link into the local countryside.



The Nutbrook Trail also connects with Shipley Country Park and with its 650 acres of attractive landscape to Green Flag standard it is certainly worth a visit. See Derbyshire County Council website for details of the Nutbrook Trail and Shipley Country Park.

EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

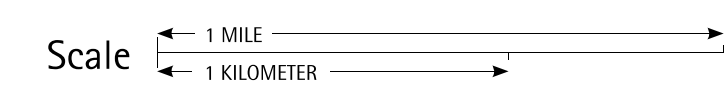
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EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Sandiacre Waterfront

At this point the trail follows the canal towpath. Sandiacre is an ancient settlement having been a market town as far back as the 1200s, holding a fair for the festival of St Giles and later having its own gallows! This Derbyshire town retains its special character with restored mill buildings and delightful waterside setting but now merges to the east with the Nottinghamshire town of Stapleford. To the west lie Risley and Stanton by Dale both interesting villages close to pretty countryside.

Railways, lace and brick making all figure as important industries in Sandiacre's past and today the town remains vibrant with its busy industrial estate near to the Erewash canal. The canal not only provides a quiet retreat for workers and residents but also a pleasant commuter route linking to Long Eaton.

Look out for Water Voles in this stretch of the canal and for spectacular dragonflies and damselflies on warm still days. Aquatic plants common along the canal are Arrowhead, Water Lily and smaller leaved Yellow Water Lily. Water birds regularly seen include the Mute Swan (which is especially common at Padmore Moorings in the winter months) and the Moorhen. If you are lucky you may catch a glimpse of the colourful Kingfisher.

Padmore Moorings

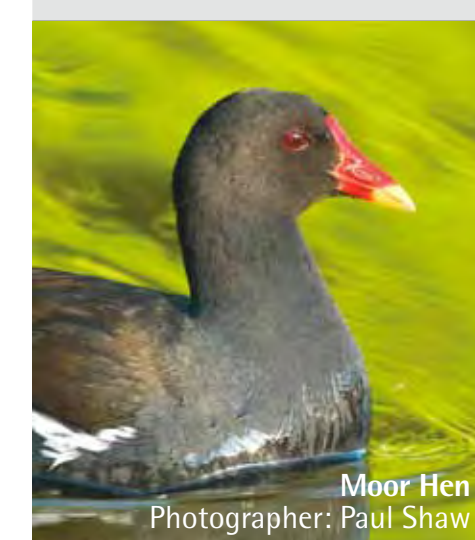
The present moorings were named after the clerk of the parish of Sandiacre, Mr G R Padmore, and hold conveniently central position to the main shopping areas of Sandiacre and Stapleford.

Back in the 1700's the moorings formed a busy trading wharf. Boats were laden with coal, timber, limestone and other products to sustain local mining and agriculture.

We are now about 2 miles from Long Eaton and 4 miles from Ilkeston.



Mute Swan
Photographer: Richard Pittam



Moor Hen
Photographer: Paul Shaw



Common Blue Damselfly
Photographer: Paul Shaw



Water Vole
Photographer: Richard Pittam



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project partners include:



Local points of interest

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2 Stapleford

Stapleford lies just east of the trail here and is a busy town with all the usual attractions and amenities. It has a rich history with an ancient church, Saxon cross and connections with the early lace making industry.

Photo shows Carnegie Civic and Community Centre home to the Stapleford Town Council.



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EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Sheet Stores

The trail at this point follows the Erewash Canal towpath and touches on an historic part of Long Eaton which reflects the towns railway connections.

The basin next to the canal is now Wyvern Marina (also accessed from Fields Farm Road) but the surrounding warehouses, some of the oldest buildings in Long Eaton, hint at an earlier industrial use as a coal wharf. The Midland Counties Railway built the basin in 1840 and used the site to transfer coal collected by barges from the Erewash Valley Coal fields to rail trucks often bound for London.

As more coal was transported by rail usage of the basin decreased and from 1854 the site was used as Midland Railways Sheet Stores where tarpaulins for railway wagons were made and repaired. Sacks and ropes were also made with the site employing over 200 people using land on both sides of the canal. By 1963 tarpaulins were no longer used on rail wagons and the site closed.

The site now holds a number of businesses including a fully equipped working boatyard.

Long Eaton is about half a mile northwards and Trent Lock a similar distance southwards.

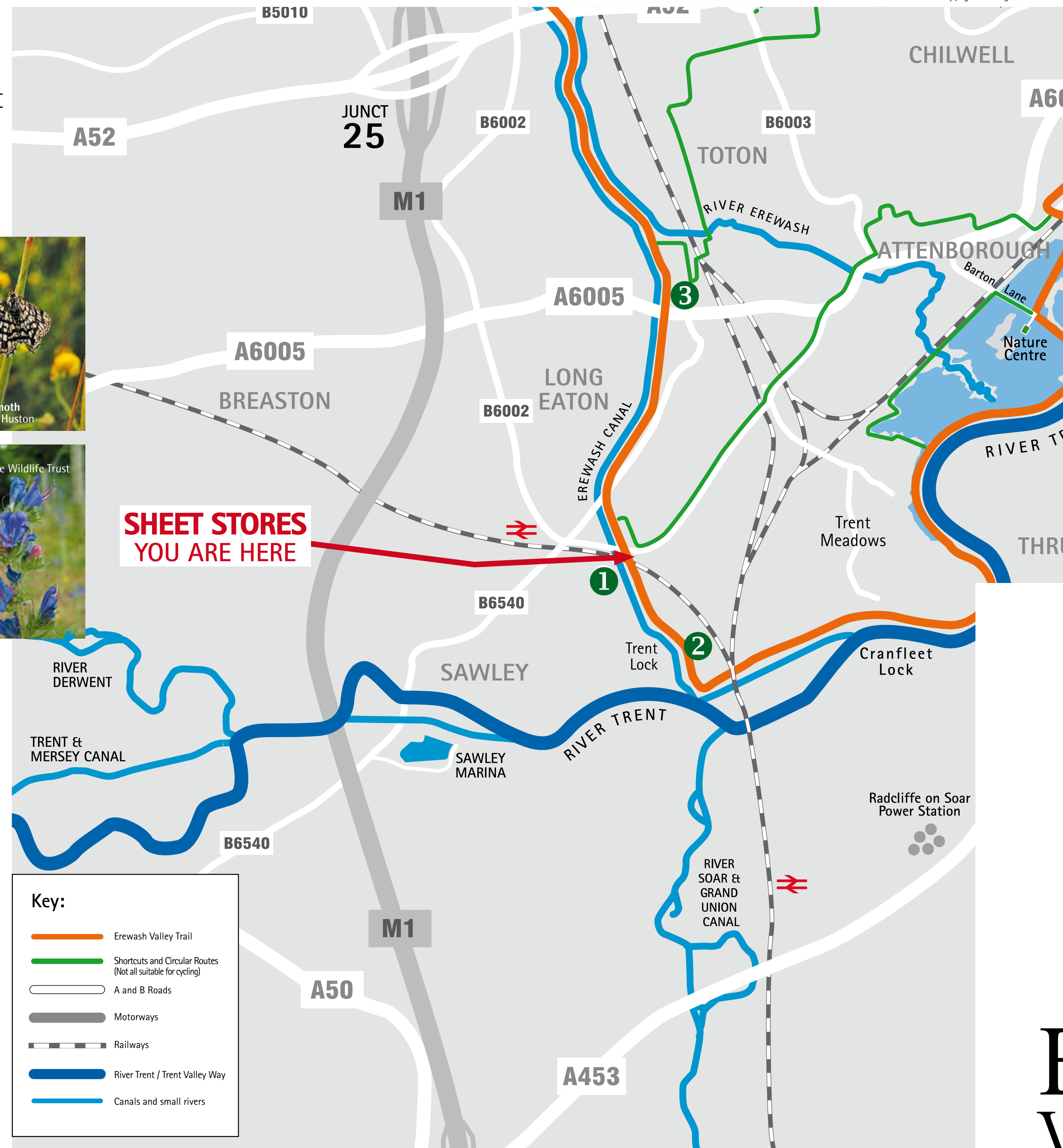
The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges help provided by Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association and the Long Eaton and Sawley Archive in preparing this information panel.



Latticed Heath moth
Photographer: K. Huston

Viper's-bugloss
Photo: Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

**SHEET STORES
YOU ARE HERE**



Scale 1 MILE / 1 KILOMETER

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project partners include:



Local points of interest

1 Environment Agency Flood Gates and Lock Lane Ash Tip Nature Reserve

Just down stream of Sheet Stores towards Trent Lock this impressive structure constructed in 2010 is an important link in the flood defences which protect Long Eaton and surrounding areas from flooding up to a 1 in 100 year flood event.

To the west of the floodgates is Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts Lock Lane Ash Tip Reserve. Here a grassland/scrub mosaic provides important habitat for many insects, like the Latticed Heath moth which is a priority for conservation in the UK, and plants which are uncommon in the local area like Viper's-bugloss. Access is not possible from the canal towpath but via Lock Lane with a permit from the Trust.



2 Trent Lock

Three rivers and four canals meeting close by Trent Lock forms a busy junction for leisure activities.

With two pubs, a café, public toilets and good car parking Trent Lock offers a great opportunity to enjoy the local waterways whether it be a leisurely stroll or a more adventurous excursion taking in the Trent Valley or the Erewash Valley Trail. Good quality cycling and footpath routes are available to connect with Long Eaton, Langley Mill, Shardlow, Nottingham and beyond.



3 Long Eaton

With a proud history of lace making Long Eaton lies close to the Erewash Valley Trail. This busy Derbyshire town offers all modern facilities with numerous places to eat and drink.



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EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

ShIPLEY Lock

This is another location in the valley where a water mill once stood and the two canals and river converge to within a few hundred yards. The trail follows the towpath and if heading north watch out for the aqueduct where the canal crosses the river Erewash.

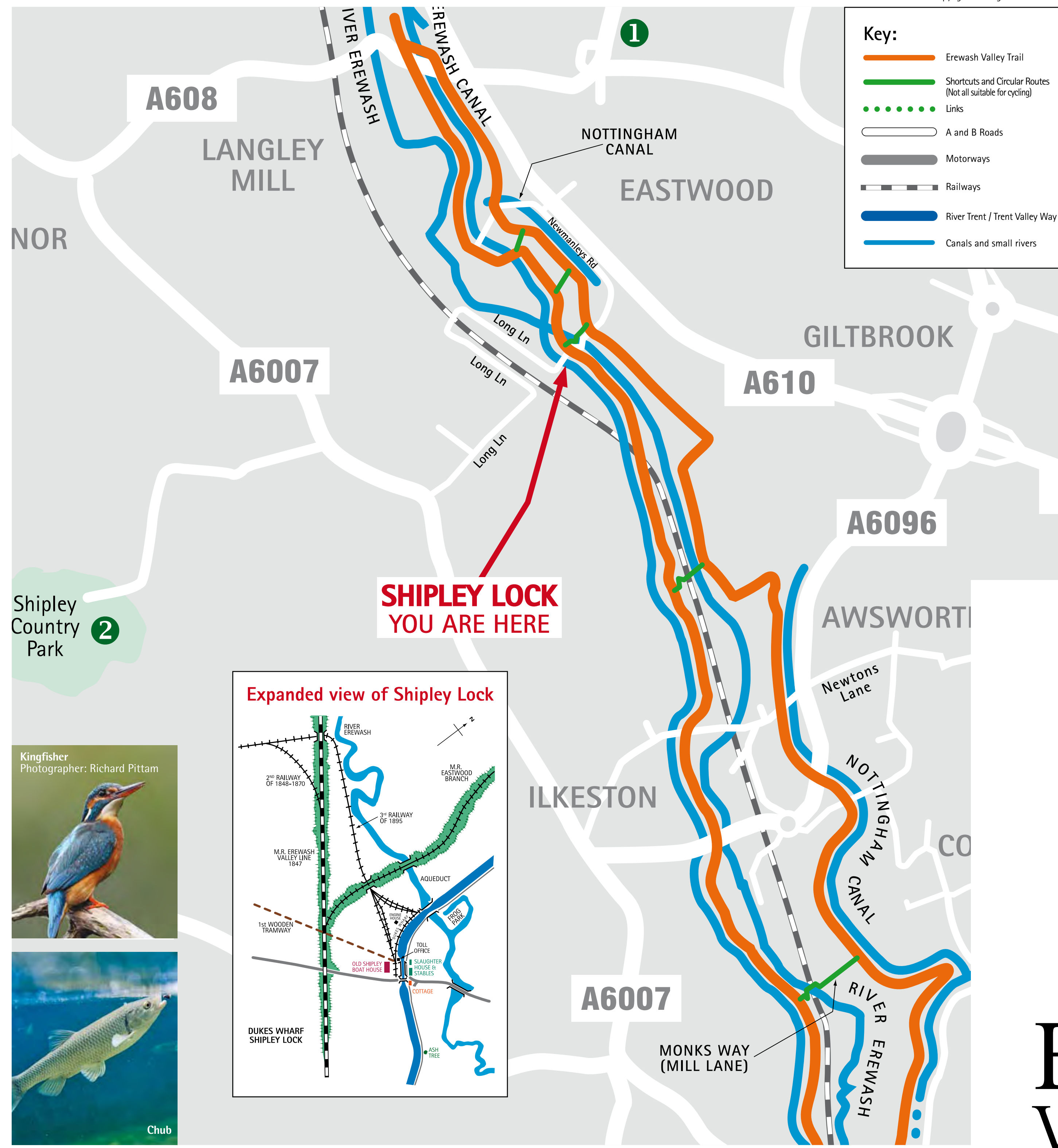
Coal transport was the main reason for constructing the Erewash Canal in the late 1700's and Shipley and Eastwood were hubs of activity with coal being loaded on to barges for transportation, often as far as London.

The inset map gives a flavour of the level of activity in the area and gives a clue to the unusual topography found between the canals. This activity attracted a range of services and the property next to the lock was once a slaughterhouse.

 This is one of the most attractive sections of the trail with views across the valley and a pretty landscape with small fields and hedgerows. The meadows in this area are full of wildflowers in the spring and the river provides a quality habitat for fish and Kingfishers.

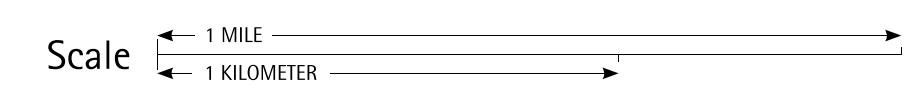
We are now less than 2 miles from Langley Mill and about a mile from Eastwood.

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sustrans JOIN THE MOVEMENT

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project partners include:



Local points of interest

1 Eastwood, D. H. Lawrence Heritage Centre and Sun Inn

Eastwood is a busy hill top town with its recent history based on mining. The writer D.H. Lawrence, famous for his novels *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and *The Rainbow*, was born in Eastwood and an interesting Heritage Centre and Birthplace Museum are located close to the centre of the town. Call (01773) 717 353 or visit www.dhlawrenceheritage.org for current information.



Eastwood is also known for the historic Sun Inn also close to the town centre and birthplace to the Midland Counties Railway in 1832.



2 Shipley Country Park

With its 650 acres of attractive landscape Shipley Country Park is certainly worth a visit. The Shipley estate was developed during the 18th century as a country estate and coal mining area by the influential Miller Mundy family. Following the restoration of the old coal mines and opencast quarries, the country park was opened in 1976.



Whatever the season, there is always lots to see and do in the park - walking, cycling, horse-riding, bird-watching, angling, picnicking, kite flying, jogging, wayfaring, photography, exploring the park and much more. Entry to Shipley Country Park is free of charge.

See Derbyshire County Council website for details of Shipley Country Park.



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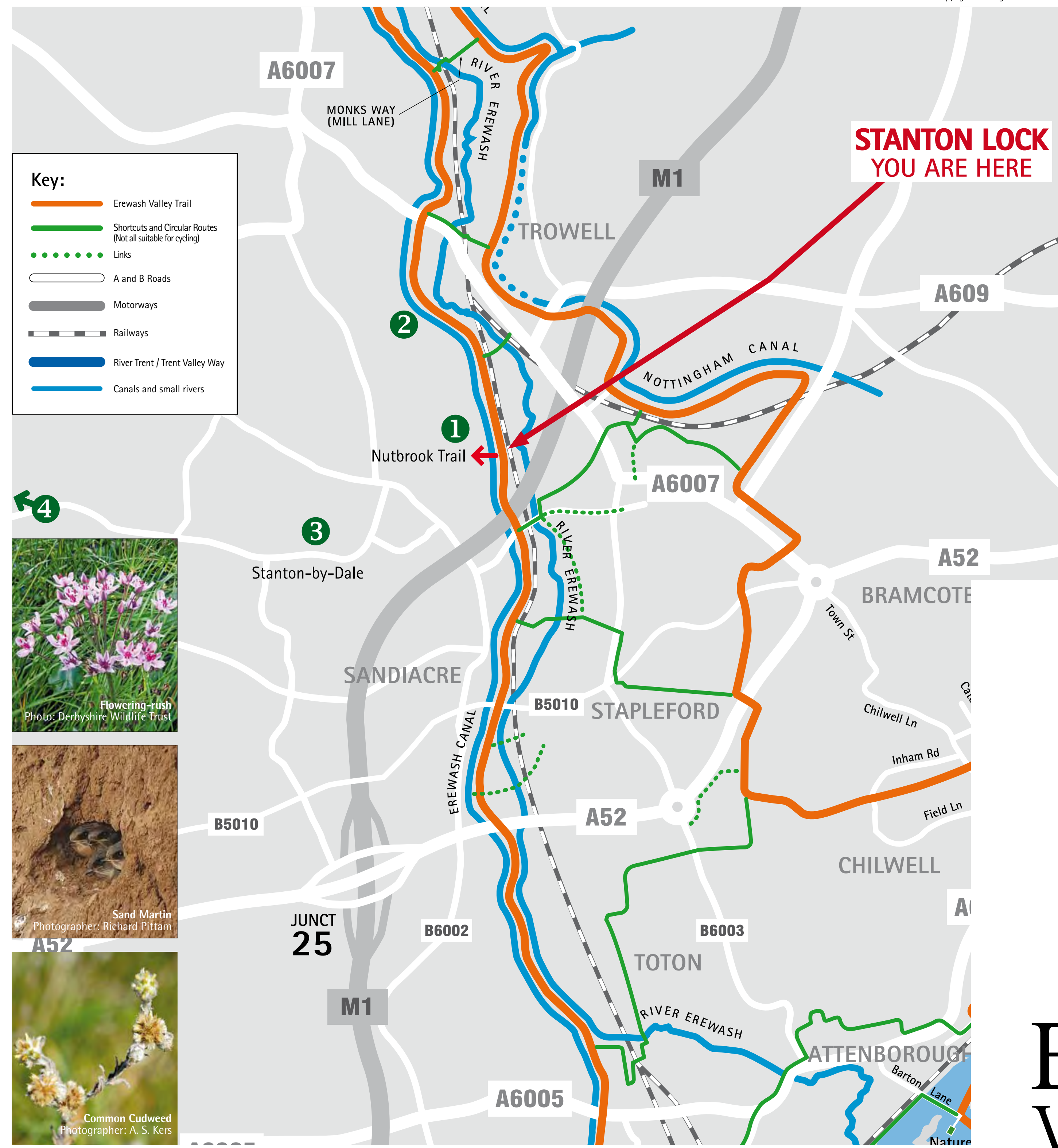
Stanton Lock also known as White House Lock and Junction Lock

The trail at this point continues on the towpath touching on the Erewash Valley's industrial past with Stanton Lock getting its name from the massive ironworks which once occupied the land fronting the canal upstream to the next lock at Hallam Fields. At this point the Nutbrook Trail crosses the canal connecting to Shipleigh Country Park.

Just upstream of Stanton Lock the canal widens and exposes a wall with two pipes this is where the Nutbrook Canal once joined the Erewash Canal transporting coal from Stanton and West Hallam while also serving the needs of Stanton Iron works. The canal was designed by William Jessop and constructed in 1796 with 13 locks over a total length of four and a half miles. Traces of the canal can still be seen in the fishing ponds at the bottom of Quarry Hill.

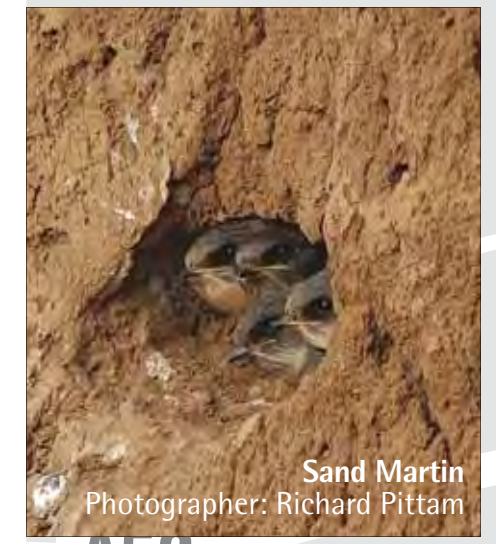
Along the Erewash canal aquatic plants of interest include Flowering-rush and Arrowhead. The side opposite the towpath was once the site of Stanton Ironworks and parts of the site have assumed a great importance for wildlife, supporting populations of rare and interesting plants like Yellow-wort and Common Cudweed and the short vegetation where plants like this grow is also considered to be very important for many different species of insect. Birds have also found the site to provide important habitat with a colony of Sand Martin using old foundry sand spoil heaps.

The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges the Photo of Stanton Ironworks kindly supplied by the Erewash Museum.

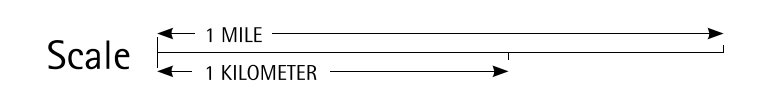


Key:

- Erewash Valley Trail
- Shortcuts and Circular Routes (Not all suitable for cycling)
- ⋯ Links
- A and B Roads
- Motorways
- Railways
- River Trent / Trent Valley Way
- Canals and small rivers



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Local points of interest

1 Nutbrook Trail and Shipleigh Country Park

The Nutbrook Trail is a 10 mile traffic free path for walkers and cyclists between Long Eaton and Heanor. This scenic trail connects with the Sustrans cycling network, the Trent Valley Way and of course the Erewash Valley Trail providing another high quality link into the local countryside. The Nutbrook Trail also connects with Shipleigh Country Park and with its 650 acres of attractive landscape to Green Flag standard it is certainly worth a visit. See Derbyshire County Council website for details of the Nutbrook Trail and Shipleigh Country Park.

2 Stanton Ironworks

Iron making in the valley is thought to date back to Roman times with the local area providing the iron ore and coal needed. Iron and related products provided a major employment in the Ilkeston area for most of the 19th and 20th centuries with the site becoming a small town with all associated facilities for the many workers. The spectacular blast furnaces still operated in the 1960s but the last cast was made in 2007 and the area has now taken on a new character with new industries and technologies giving rise to a rebirth of activity in the area. As the former heavy industry gives way to cleaner operations the area is being developed sensitively to enhance the local environment and quality of life for those who live and work in the area.

3 Stanton by Dale 4 Dale Abbey

Only a mile or so from the trail Stanton by Dale is a pretty village with cottages dating back to at least 1790 and a church dating back to the 14th century. The village once served workers at the ironworks nearby and having a single owner for many years now remains unspoilt by significant alteration. Two miles from Stanton by Dale lies the small settlement of Dale Abbey which is dominated by the remains of a 13th century Abbey destroyed by Henry the Eighth in 1538. Dale is also famous for its Hermits cave once occupied by a local monk giving rise to creation of the Abbey.

EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Welcome to the Erewash Valley Trail which takes in over 30 miles of beautiful waterway and countryside landscape on the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire borders. The route is available for walking and cycling and offers good access to the fantastic wildlife and heritage features which make this area so interesting.

The partners shown below work together to enhance the biodiversity, amenity and healthy living opportunities in the valley and recognising the unique character of the area, this partnership created the Trail in 2010. Substantial financial support from the 6C's Green Infrastructure Fund as well as partner contributions, have enabled work to improve habitats and access in the valley and promote the opportunities it offers.

The map above gives an overview of the Trail and the map to the right shows the trail as it passes through this area along with local items of interest. A more detailed guide is available at www.erewashvalleytrail.co.uk or through any of the partners.



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project partners include:



EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Tamworth Road

At Tamworth Road the trail follows the Erewash Canal towpath. We are about half a mile from the centre of Long Eaton and about one and a half miles from Trent Lock.

We are close to Sustrans cycle route 6 which crosses the canal over the low green lattice bridge towards Long Eaton Lock just north of Tamworth Road. This route provides access to a cycling network connecting as far as London to the south and north to Keswick in the Lake District. Unfortunately access is not available directly from the canal towpath but via a short detour towards Long Eaton and on to Broad Street.

The same bridge leads to Fox Covert Local Nature Reserve which is an undisturbed corner of West Park. Fox Covert reserve contains wet willow woodland and swamp habitats which are important for many insects and wetland plants. Several plants rare in Derbyshire are to be found here, including Tubular Water-dropwort and uncommon sedges.

West Park is further on and is a large impressive open space with a mix of sports facilities including a leisure centre with swimming pool.

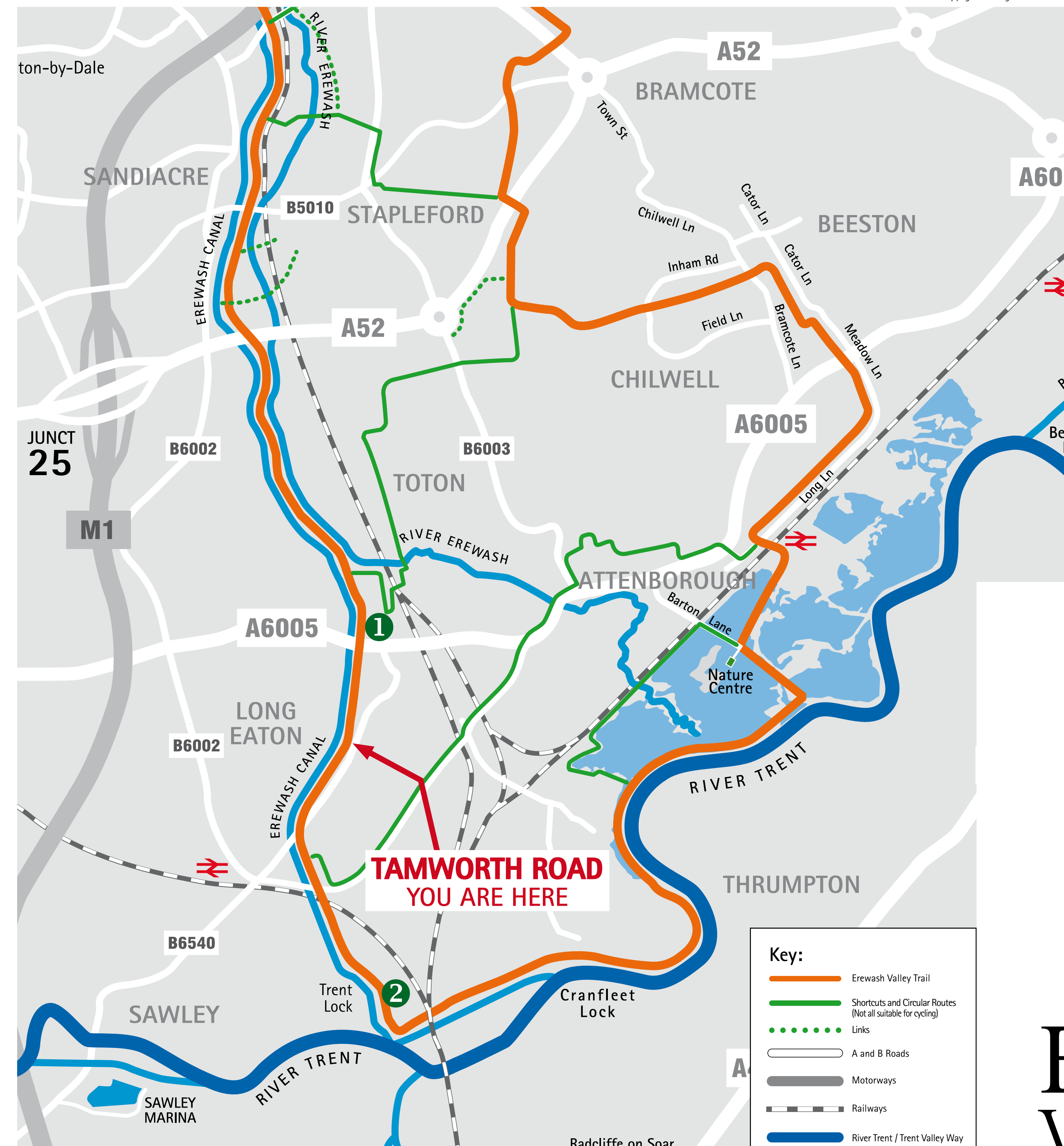
The modern white bridge No 4 is for school use only.



Blue Tailed Damselfly
Photographer: Paul Shaw



Sedges
Photo: Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



sustrans
JOIN THE MOVEMENT

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project partners include:



Local points of interest

1 Long Eaton

Mentioned in the Domesday book and with a proud history of lace making Long Eaton is a busy town very close to the Erewash Valley Trail offering all modern facilities with numerous places to eat and drink.

A few yards upstream from Tamworth Road the canal passes alongside mills which once produced world renowned quality lace. This section gives a taste of the industrial past which along with railways enabled Long Eaton to prosper.



2 Trent Lock

Three rivers and four canals meeting close by Trent Lock forms a busy junction for leisure activities.

With two pubs, a café, public toilets and good car parking Trent Lock offers a great opportunity to enjoy the local waterways whether it be a leisurely stroll or a more adventurous excursion taking in the Trent Valley or the Erewash Valley Trail. Good quality cycling and footpath routes are available to connect with Long Eaton, Langley Mill, Shardlow, Nottingham and beyond.



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EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

Trent Lock

With three rivers and four canals meeting close by, Trent Lock forms a busy junction for water activities.

Good quality cycling and footpath routes are available to connect with Long Eaton, Langley Mill, Shardlow, Nottingham and beyond. To join the Erewash Valley Trail either follow the Erewash Canal towpath northward in front of the Steam Boat Pub or follow the path alongside the Trent downstream towards Cranfleet Lock.

With two pubs, a café, public toilets and good car parking Trent Lock offers a great opportunity to enjoy the local waterways whether it be a leisurely stroll or a more adventurous excursion taking in the Trent Valley Way or the circular Erewash Valley Trail.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are linked by the Trent Valley Greenway, which forms part of the Trent Valley Way a long distance footpath running from Trent Lock for 75 miles to West Stockwith in Yorkshire.

Since the late 1700's Trent Lock has been the hub of the local waterways network providing facilities for narrow boats and barges who transported all manner of goods along the local rivers and canals. Two dry docks remain in use today and the area is steeped in history.

The Erewash Canal Manager's house stands proudly next to the lock and is now used as a tea room. Recent renovation of the warehouse next door revealed a former use as a toll office with rooms below used for livestock, perhaps cows for milk and stabling for the horses which pulled the boats before steam and diesel. With the local pubs Trent Lock provided a range of services to barges who could be delayed for days or weeks in flood conditions.

The Erewash and Trent valleys are havens for wildlife providing corridors for migrating birds and fish. As water quality improves and habitats are enhanced rare species like Otter, Salmon, Trout and Bittern are returning. A walk along the Erewash Canal will often offer sightings of the endangered Water Vole or perhaps even a Kingfisher.

The Erewash Valley Trail Partnership gratefully acknowledges help provided by Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association and the Long Eaton and Sawley Archive in preparing this information panel.



Otter
Photographer: Darin Smith



Salmon
Photographer: Richard Pittam

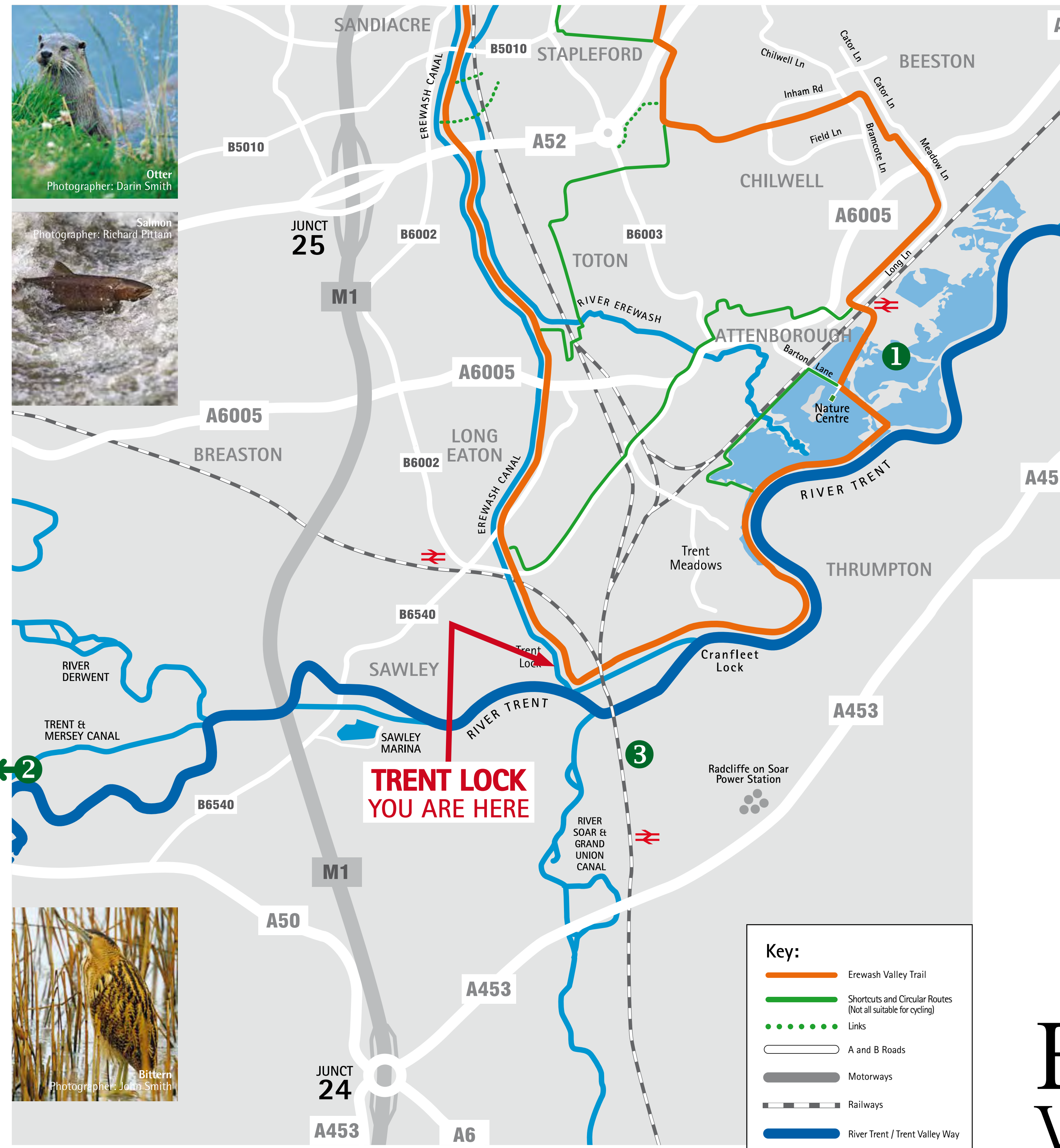


Bittern
Photographer: Julia Smith

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Local points of interest

1 Attenborough Nature Reserve

This complex of flooded gravel pits and islands covers 145 hectares and provides an ideal habitat for a wide range of plants, birds and other wildlife. The nature reserve is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is managed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in partnership with the owners, CEMEX with support from Broxtowe Borough Council. The main access is from Barton Lane Attenborough NG9 6DY which has a large car park and an award winning nature centre with toilets and catering.



2 Shardlow Heritage Centre and Boat Yard

Shardlow is a delight to visit with its strong canal heritage and range of visitor facilities. The area is surrounded by interesting historic buildings in a waterways setting giving a real sense of how the busy inland port would have been back in the late 1700s. Lying on the Trent and Mersey canal Shardlow offered connections across the country and provided all the facilities needed to maintain the water borne carriers operations. The warehouses and wharves remain making this a charming location to visit.



3 Redhill Train Tunnel

This castle like structure is a local landmark contrasting with the steel rail bridge and the Radcliffe on Soar Power Station. Constructed in local red sandstone this structure shows the Victorian's passion for design and detail. Built in 1840 as part of the Midlands County Railway the tunnel continues to provide an important rail connection with the south as part of Midlands Mainline.



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