

A Smile with every Mile

The Erewash Valley Trail is a circular walking and cycling route which takes in over 30 miles of waterway and countryside on the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire border. There are many shortcuts and links across the trail which connect communities and provide shorter local loops and split the trail into smaller sections.



The valley is a special place which has inspired great authors such as D. H. Lawrence and Alan Sillitoe and the Erewash Valley Trail project is supported by local celebrities including actors Robert Lindsay and William Roache, fashion designer Paul Smith and environmental champion David Attenborough.

Although the trail is a major feature of the valley there is much more. The valley is a haven for wildlife providing a valuable wetland corridor and at the same time a living landscape for local residents and visitors to enjoy.

However you choose to use the valley, please consider other users and take only memories and leave only foot (and tyre!) prints.

Wildlife of the valley

Strategically the Erewash Valley is important as a wildlife corridor connecting the Trent Valley with the countryside of Derbyshire. This migration route allows a variety of species, particularly birds to move into different habitats with the seasons. The valley has a chain of marvellous wildlife sites with Attenborough Nature Reserve at the mouth of the river Erewash and many nature reserves and designated sites on both sides of the valley.

Central to the quality of the wildlife habitats is the cleanliness of the water and the work of the Environment Agency over recent years has seen major improvement. Otters and Trout are returning to the valley and rare wetland birds such as Bittern, which are regularly seen at Attenborough, are starting to explore the valley.

As well as wetlands the valley is highly regarded for its grasslands. Many wet meadows are full of colourful wildflowers in the spring and these areas are essential for diverse insect populations. Several such areas have been designated by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust as Blue Butterfly sites recognising their value as grasslands managed with wildlife in mind.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trusts have been working closely through the Erewash Valley Trail project to undertake wildlife survey work to deepen knowledge of the area and the valuable habitats it provides. This work will help to establish priorities and guide future work to ensure the area continues to improve.

For more information on the wildlife of the valley see special leaflet on the Erewash Valley Trail website.

History of the Valley

The archaeological record gives mention of 4000 year old Neolithic finds in Cotmanhay, along with evidence of Saxon and Roman presence at a number of places in the valley. The Erewash Museum in Ilkeston has many interesting local exhibits and its building lies close to the 'Monks Way', a stone slabbed causeway that formed part of a network of routes linking monasteries such as Dale Abbey and Strelley Priory, perhaps as far back as the 14th Century.

The valley has long been recognised for its agricultural value particularly its grassland and water meadows. Evidence of ancient ridge and furrow (humps and hollows) meadows can be found throughout the valley but notably at Sandiacre next to the Erewash Canal just down stream of Moorbridge Lane.



The Saxon Cross in Stapleford.

Much of what we see in the valley today reflects the major activities of the late 18th Century. The river has always offered the prospect of travel and transport and prior to the steam age, water power for mills. The remains of this can be seen on the ground and in the many references to Mill in place and road names along the valley.

The industrial revolution increased the need for transport and this is demonstrated by the existence of two canals in the valley. These canals transported a variety of products but especially coal from the local coal fields which was often taken as far as London. The major ironworks at Stanton also generated a significant demand for transport and along with brick making, pottery, and lace supported the canals until the early 20th Century when railways took over. Again the valley boasted two major lines run by the Great Northern Railway which followed the line of the A610 and the Midland railway which still exists. The need for railway transport resulted in many spin off industries which supported the local economy especially in Long Eaton.



Stanton Iron Works.

The mining theme continued in the middle of the 20th century with coal opencast mining at Newthorpe and gravel extraction at Attenborough which continues nearby to this day and has resulted in the creation of a vast, nationally important, wetland nature reserve.

The Valley today

The valley has long been the playground for local communities linking settlements in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Much of the heavy industry has gone replaced by smaller hi-tech employment and as the value of healthy living is recognised many leisure activities thrive. Walking, cycling, angling, boating, jogging and bird watching are very popular. Dog walkers are major users often providing important feedback and informal policing of the area.

Attractions such as Shipley Country Park, Attenborough Nature Reserve, DH Lawrence Birthplace and Erewash Museum provide local tourism opportunities and are developing as national tourist destinations. The valley hosts a range of events throughout the year, see Erewash Valley Trail website for further information.

EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL



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The 30 miles of the Trail takes in beautiful countryside, wildlife and waterways . . .

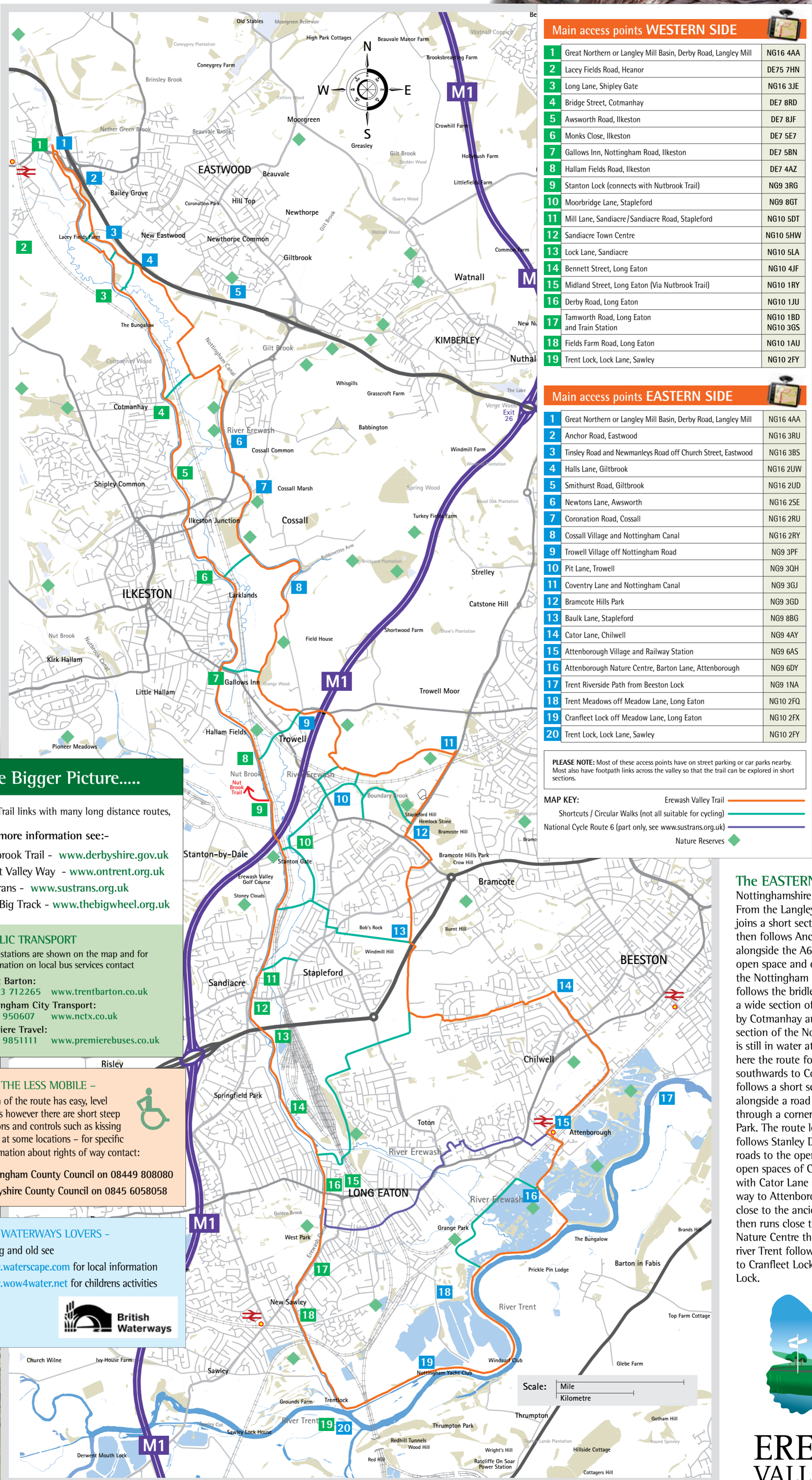
. . . but never far from the towns and villages on the borders of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

The trail is available for walkers and cyclists and well marked with orange Erewash Valley Trail signs. Please look for the interpretation panels which highlight the route and local points of interest.

For even more detail see Ordnance Survey Explorer 260 map.

Please proceed with particular care near other users, on narrow sections and where the route follows roads.

The WESTERN SIDE of the trail is in Derbyshire and follows the Erewash Canal towpath from Trent Lock northwards to the Langley Mill basin. There are minor detours away from the towpath at Tamworth Road and just north of Long Eaton where the route follows the Nutbrook Trail along the flood bank next to the canal.



Main access points WESTERN SIDE

1	Great Northern or Langley Mill Basin, Derby Road, Langley Mill	NG16 4AA
2	Lacey Fields Road, Heanor	DE75 7HN
3	Long Lane, Shipley Gate	NG16 3JE
4	Bridge Street, Cotmanhay	DE7 8RD
5	Awsorth Road, Ilkeston	DE7 8JF
6	Monks Close, Ilkeston	DE7 5E7
7	Gallows Inn, Nottingham Road, Ilkeston	DE7 5BN
8	Hallam Fields Road, Ilkeston	DE7 4AZ
9	Stanton Lock (connects with Nutbrook Trail)	NG9 3RG
10	Moorbridge Lane, Stapleford	NG9 8GT
11	Mill Lane, Sandiacre/Sandiacre Road, Stapleford	NG10 5DT
12	Sandiacre Town Centre	NG10 5HW
13	Lock Lane, Sandiacre	NG10 5LA
14	Bennett Street, Long Eaton	NG10 4JF
15	Midland Street, Long Eaton (Via Nutbrook Trail)	NG10 1RY
16	Derby Road, Long Eaton	NG10 1JU
17	Tamworth Road, Long Eaton and Train Station	NG10 1BD NG10 3GS
18	Fields Farm Road, Long Eaton	NG10 1AU
19	Trent Lock, Lock Lane, Sawley	NG10 2FY

Main access points EASTERN SIDE

1	Great Northern or Langley Mill Basin, Derby Road, Langley Mill	NG16 4AA
2	Anchor Road, Eastwood	NG16 3RU
3	Tinsley Road and Newmanleys Road off Church Street, Eastwood	NG16 3BS
4	Halls Lane, Giltbrook	NG16 2UW
5	Smithurst Road, Giltbrook	NG16 2UD
6	Newtons Lane, Awsworth	NG16 2SE
7	Coronation Road, Cossall	NG16 2RU
8	Cossall Village and Nottingham Canal	NG16 2RY
9	Trowell Village off Nottingham Road	NG9 3PF
10	Pit Lane, Trowell	NG9 3OH
11	Coventry Lane and Nottingham Canal	NG9 3GJ
12	Bramcote Hills Park	NG9 3GD
13	Baulk Lane, Stapleford	NG9 8BG
14	Cator Lane, Chilwell	NG9 4AY
15	Attenborough Village and Railway Station	NG9 6AS
16	Attenborough Nature Centre, Barton Lane, Attenborough	NG9 6DY
17	Trent Riverside Path from Beeston Lock	NG9 1NA
18	Trent Meadows off Meadow Lane, Long Eaton	NG10 2FQ
19	Cranfleet Lock off Meadow Lane, Long Eaton	NG10 2FX
20	Trent Lock, Lock Lane, Sawley	NG10 2FY

PLEASE NOTE: Most of these access points have on street parking or car parks nearby. Most also have footpath links across the valley so that the trail can be explored in short sections.

MAP KEY:
 Erewash Valley Trail (orange line)
 Shortcuts / Circular Walks (not all suitable for cycling) (green line)
 National Cycle Route 6 (part only, see www.sustrans.org.uk) (blue line)
 Nature Reserves (green diamond)

The Bigger Picture.....

The Trail links with many long distance routes,
 For more information see:-
 Nutbrook Trail - www.derbyshire.gov.uk
 Trent Valley Way - www.ontrent.org.uk
 Sustrans - www.sustrans.org.uk
 The Big Track - www.thebigwheel.org.uk

PUBLIC TRANSPORT
 Train stations are shown on the map and for information on local bus services contact
 Trent Barton: 01773 712265 www.trentbarton.co.uk
 Nottingham City Transport: 0115 950607 www.nctx.co.uk
 Premiere Travel: 0115 9851111 www.premierebuses.co.uk

FOR THE LESS MOBILE -
 Much of the route has easy, level access however there are short steep sections and controls such as kissing gates at some locations - for specific information about rights of way contact:
 Nottingham County Council on 08449 808080
 Derbyshire County Council on 0845 6058058

FOR WATERWAYS LOVERS -
 young and old see
www.waterscape.com for local information
www.wow4water.net for childrens activities



The EASTERN SIDE is mainly in Nottinghamshire and is well signed. From the Langley Mill Basin the trail joins a short section of Derby Road then follows Anchor Road southwards alongside the A610 to link to an open space and disused section of the Nottingham Canal. The trail then follows the bridleway network through a wide section of the valley passing by Cotmanhay and connecting with a section of the Nottingham Canal which is still in water at Awsworth. From here the route follows the towpath southwards to Coventry Lane and then follows a short section of cycleway alongside a road before passing through a corner of Bramcote Hills Park. The route leaves the park and follows Stanley Drive and quiet estate roads to the open countryside and open spaces of Chilwell, connecting with Cator Lane and Long Lane on its way to Attenborough Village. Passing close to the ancient church the route then runs close to the Attenborough Nature Centre then turns towards the river Trent following the river upstream to Cranfleet Lock and back to Trent Lock.



EREWASH VALLEY TRAIL

The concept of the Trail was developed in 2009 through a partnership consisting of the organisations shown below.

Local groups such as the Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association and local history groups have been a great help in developing the project and substantial funding from partners and the 6C's Green Initiative Fund has helped to deliver major improvements.

The partnership continues to work to improve and promote the valley for people and wildlife.

project partners include:



For more information see
www.erewashvalleytrail.co.uk
 or call Broxtowe Borough Council
 on 0115 9177777
 or Erewash Borough Council
 on 0845 9072244.



Points of interest along the trail

These points of interest give just a flavour of the attractions available near to the trail. The map overleaf gives an idea of the wealth of wildlife sites along the valley, most of which have public access.

● **D. H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum** – Museum of Eastwood's famous author.
Tel: 01773 717353

● **Great Northern Basin** – Local landmark and on the junction of the Erewash, Nottingham and Cromford Canals.

● **Hemlock Stone** – Impressive geological feature next to Bramcote Hills Park.

● **Bramcote Hills Park** – Award winning multi-facility park.

● **Wollaton Hall** – Museum with lake and beautiful parkland setting.
Tel: 0115 9153900

● **Beeston Lock** – Boating centre a mile from the town of Beeston and 4 miles from Nottingham.

● **Attenborough** – Pretty village with impressive wildlife site and visitors centre.
Tel: 0115 9721777

● **Thrumpton Hall** – 16th Century House in 200 acres of parkland.
Tel: 07590 818045 for open days.



● **Kimberley** – Interesting town with history of railways, lace and brewing.

● **Shibley Country Park** – 650 acres of attractive landscape and leisure facilities.
Tel: 01773 719961

● **Ilkeston** – Busy hill top market town with an industrial past which is told in the Erewash Museum, housed in a fine Georgian building in the High Street.

● **Bennerley Viaduct** – Grade 2, very rare type of railway structure which dominates the valley.

● **Dale Abbey** – Ancient local landmark with hermit's cave nearby.

● **Long Eaton** – Busy market town next to trail, there are fine examples of industrial architecture left in Long Eaton connected with the town's development as a lace making centre.

● **Trent Lock** – Interesting junction of waterways with good access and facilities.

