COUNTRY WALKS

EREWASH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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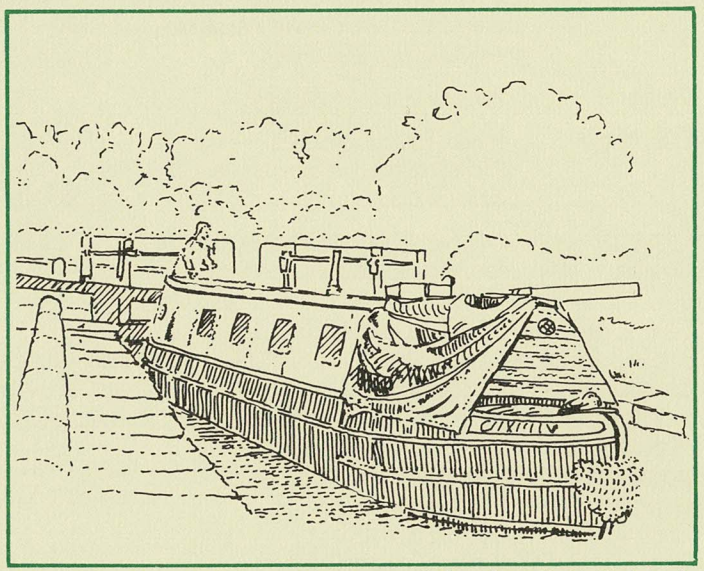
COUNTRY WALKS 16

IN AND AROUND EREWASH

The Cranfleet Trail

2½ miles



Discover the wildlife and history of the Cranfleet Cut and River Trent with this route designed for wheelchair access.

CREATE A BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT
ACCESS FOR ALL
EREWASH VALLEY ACCESS GROUP

The Ramblers

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COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION

GROUNDWORK
EREWASH VALLEY

Groundwork Environment Fund supported by the Department of Environment

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The Cranfleet Trail — 2½ miles 2-3 hours

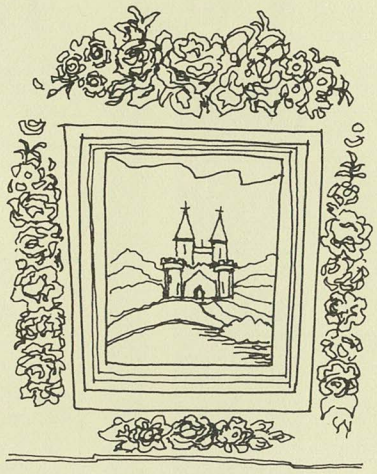
Start Car park at Trent Lock next to Navigation Inn. Toilets for the disabled are located in the car park.

Buses For up to date information call Barton/Trent busline on Derby 292200.

Time Allow 2 to 3 hours.

OS Map Pathfinder Series Nottingham (South West) SK43/53.

Type of Route Along level paths suitable for wheelchairs.



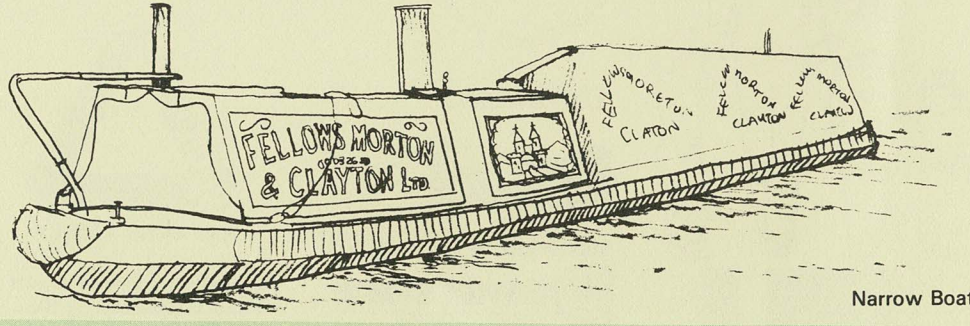
The Cranfleet Trail is designed to provide access into the countryside for disabled people, parents with pushchairs and the elderly. The trail has been made possible through generous support from Barclays Bank plc, Erewash Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and the Countryside Commission. It also crosses land generously made available by permission of Ready Mix Concrete and the Thrumpton Estate.

The route was chosen and designed with help from the Erewash Valley Access Group.

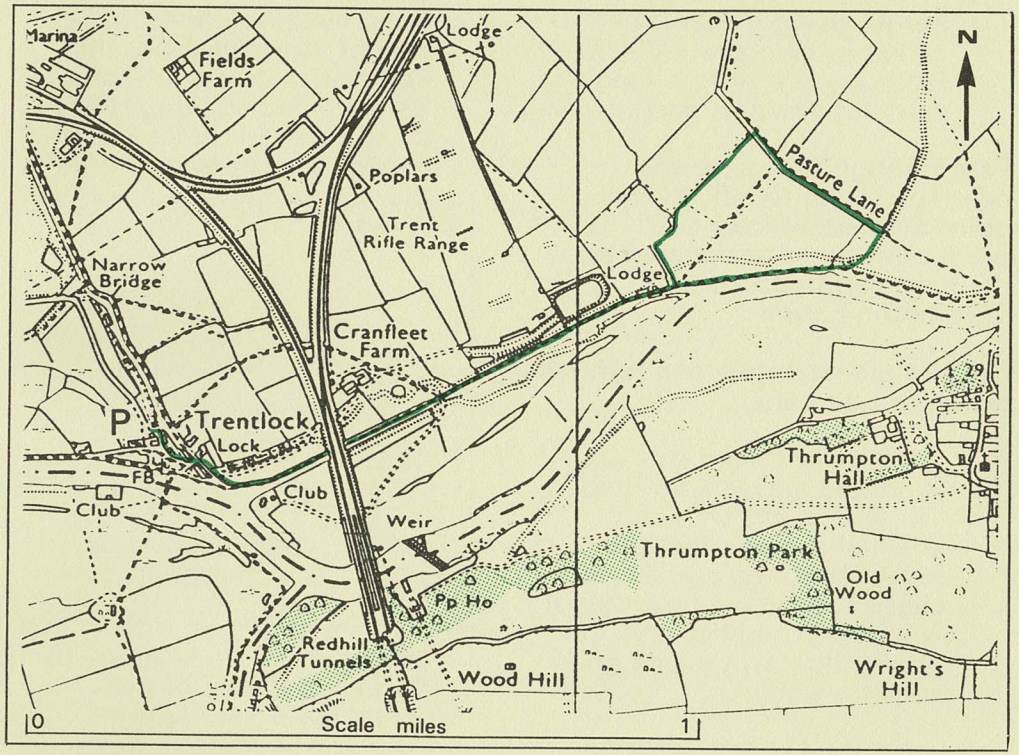
From car park follow road past Trent Navigation Inn through gates towards canal.

Cross first bridge on left over Erewash Canal and turn right.

The Erewash Canal was built in 1779 to take coal by boat from the Nottingham and Derby coalfields down to the River Trent. One of the most striking features of the narrow boat is its bright decoration, traditionally of castles and roses.



Narrow Boat



The artists who painted the boats became famous with some of their individual styles easily recognised. Inside, the cabin was full of hangings, grained wooden panelling, lace edged plates and more paintings.

Follow towpath round to left and continue under bridges past moorings, up to Cranfleet Lock and the Lock Keepers cottage.

Almost immediately after the Erewash Canal joins the Trent, the Cranfleet Cut shoots off from the river to allow barges to bypass Thrumpton Weir.

The Cranfleet Cut was built in 1797 as part of general improvements to the Trent Navigation.

Canals provide a habitat for a variety of species. Plants you might expect to see include Water-Lily, Amphibious Bistort, and Arrow-Head, named from the shape of its leaves. Many birds, such as Coot, Moorhen, Mallard, Heron and Dabchick also live in and around the canal. If you are lucky you may see the brightly coloured Kingfisher as it flashes past.

Continue straight on, through car park and gates onto path alongside river.

In 1779 there were about 140 barges using the river and canal, usually about 70-72 feet long, 11-14 feet wide and carrying about 40 tons.

Pass through next gate and continue round to left. At this point the path follows a permissive route designated by the kind permission of the Thrumpton Estate.

Go through next gate and turn left down Pasture Lane.

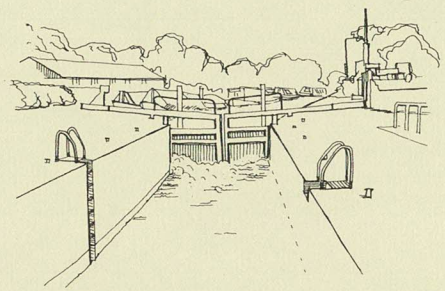
On the right hand side are sand and gravel workings. These deposits were laid down at a time when the River Trent was a wider and shallower watercourse than it is today. When flooded, the gravel pits can provide good sites for wildlife.

Take next road to left, keeping hedge on left hand side.

Turn right at Cranfleet Lock car park and retrace route along towpath back to Trent Lock.

The railway bridge over the canal carries the Stephenson Railway which disappears into Red Hill through a Victorian ornamental entrance in the side of the sandstone cliff. Red Hill, once the site of a Romano-British temple, gets its name from the colour of its rich sandstone.

Trent Lock



Rising above Red Hill are the imposing towers of the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station which draws water from the Trent by means of a large tunnel, driven through the hill to connect the cooling towers with the river.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

GUARD AGAINST FIRE Every year, carelessness costs thousands of pounds.
FASTEN GATES - even if you find them open. Animals will wander if they can.
KEEP DOGS UNDER CONTROL - on a lead wherever there is livestock.
KEEP TO PATHS - if they exist.
AVOID DAMAGING FENCES, HEDGES AND WALLS
LEAVE NO LITTER
SAFEGUARD WATER SUPPLIES Do not pollute streams or cattle troughs.
PROTECT WILDLIFE, PLANTS, TREES
GO CAREFULLY ON COUNTRY ROADS Keep in single file, facing on-coming traffic, on the right.
RESPECT THE LIFE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

For Further Details

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