COUNTRY WALKS

EREWASH BOROUGH COUNCIL

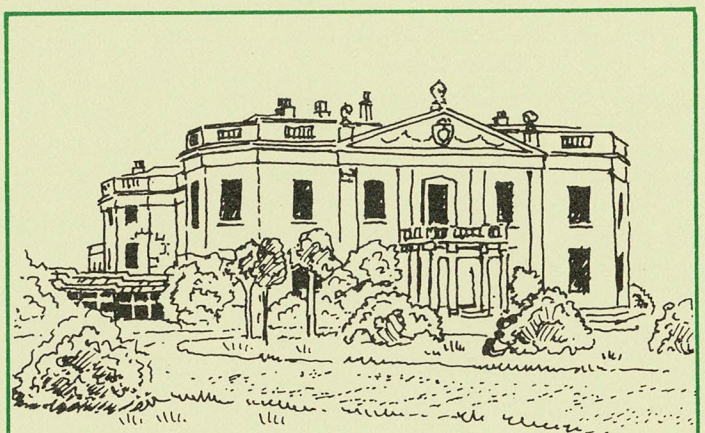
DALES · VALLEYS · MOORS

COUNTRY WALKS 11

IN AND AROUND EREWASH

The Ranger's Walk

5 or 7 miles



Shipley Hall

Follow the Erewash Canal out into the historic landscapes around Cotmanhay and Shipley.

GROUNDWORK EREWASH VALLEY

Groundwork Environment Fund supported by the Department of Environment

Supported by the COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION

DERBYSHIRE County Council
Caring for your Countryside

The Ramblers

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The Ranger's Walk 5-7 miles 2½-3 hours

Start Cotmanhay Community Centre car park, off Skeavington's Lane, Cotmanhay, Ilkeston. Alternatively, from Shipley Country Park Visitor Centre, Slack Lane, Heanor.

Buses Trent Service 232 and 233, also Barton 52, 53, 54 and 55.

Time Allow 2½ to 3 hours.

OS Map Pathfinder Series Nottingham (North & Ilkeston) SK44/54.

Type of Walk Through undulating countryside.

From Community Centre car park, cross over Skeavington's Lane and turn left down Bridge Street to canal by the Bridge Inn.

Bennerley Viaduct to the south is a listed wrought iron structure almost 500 yards long. Built c.1879, it carried the Derbyshire extension of the Great Northern Railway across the Nottingham Canal, River Erewash, Midland Railway Line and the Erewash Canal. It was closed to all traffic in 1973.

Turn left over bridge onto canal towpath and proceed to first lock.

The Erewash canal runs from Langley Mill down to the river Trent at Trent Lock. Built in 1777-79, primarily for carrying coals from local collieries, it meets the Cromford and Nottingham canals at its head.

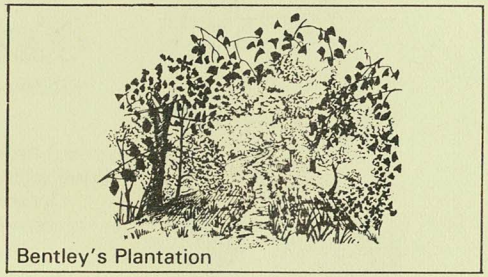
At lock near Shipley Boat Inn, turn left over road bridge then immediately right to cross stile at end of small car park beside lock. Cross field to reach stile near remains of old railway bridge.

Long since abandoned, this branch of the Erewash Valley Main Line once served collieries in the Eastwood area.

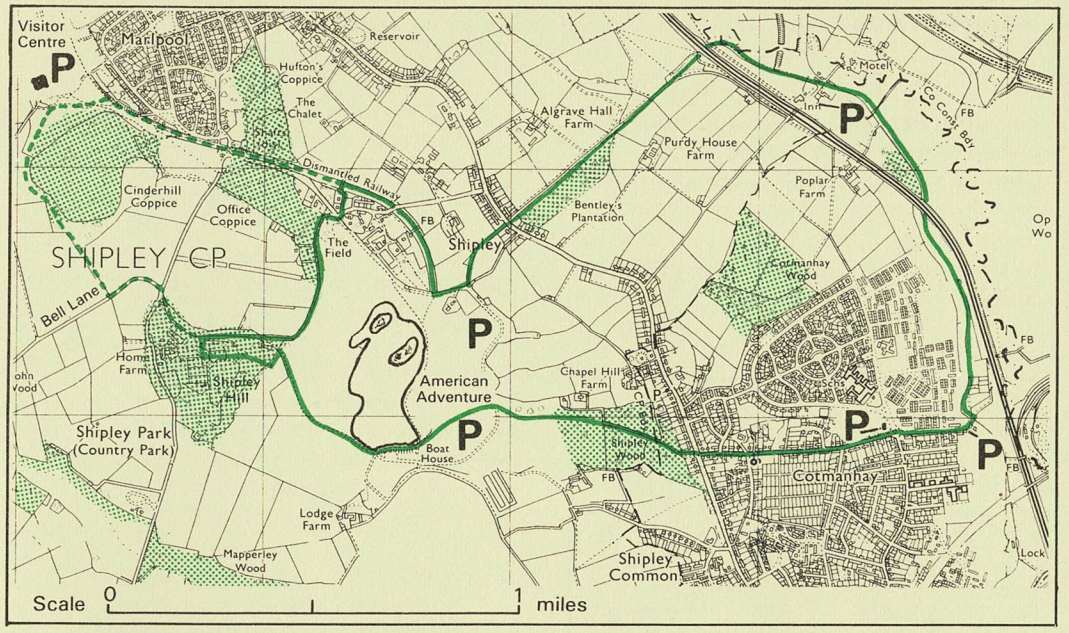
Over stile, keep hedge on left to reach second stile giving access onto road.

Along this stretch of the walk the river Erewash meanders through its meadows on the right. Rising near the foot of Cocksmoor the river is soon swelled by tributaries from Kirkby and the Grives. In times passed, it fed collieries, ironworks and turned mills. Still feeding canals today, it flows into the Trent at Attenborough with the air of a workman having completed his shift.

Climb stile, turning right under bridge to meet stile on right just as road swings left. Cross stile and bear left up field to meet green track (do not go through gap in hedge on right) leading into Bentley's Plantation.



Bentley's Plantation



The path follows the bed of an early tramway worked successively by horses, cable and steam engines to carry coal.

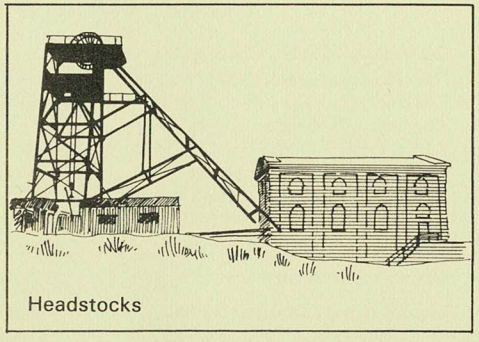
Eventually, you reach stile on right. Climb stile, turning left up to main road (look out for fast traffic!)

Cross straight over and descend steps into Waterloo Cutting and Shipley Country Park. Proceed along path to reach road by American Adventure Theme Park.

The site of the former Shipley Woodside Colliery and the 'Piper' headstocks. The mine closed in the 1960's.

Continue down the road and bear right down the service road and after 100 yards turn right taking the path into Raike's Cutting.

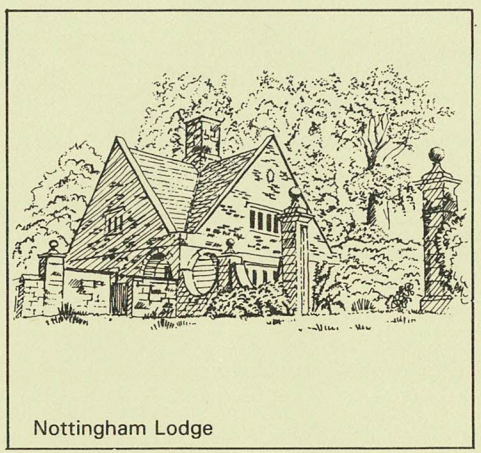
Part of the Great Northern Railway from Heanor Gate to Ilkeston North. The remains of Marlpool Station, closed to passengers during the 1920's, are still discernible beyond the road bridge.



Headstocks

At crossroads in path, turn left to reach road. (Alternatively, proceed straight ahead to visit Shipley Country Park Visitor Centre, returning to route via Bell Lane).

At road turn right. On reaching junction, bear left down Dog Kennel Lane through woodland towards Shipley Hill. Climb lane, ignoring stile on left, to reach Nottingham Lodge. Keep Lodge on left, follow road ahead to meet left turn up onto site of former Shipley Hall.



Nottingham Lodge

A settlement stood on this site before the Norman Conquest. The Shipley Hall visited and admired by King Edward VII and described by D.H. Lawrence in 'Lady Chatterley's Lover' was built c.1770 and demolished during the last war after damage through mining subsidence.

Cross hall site to follow path through woodland towards Shipley Lake. Bear left. Emerge from woodland to magnificent views over Nutbrook Valley and beyond.

Join old coachroad downhill alongside American Adventure. Follow track by perimeter fence, passed car park to road at top. Cross over and follow track into Shipley Wood.

Originally part of Shipley Common, this ancient oak woodland has many mysterious hollows, believed to be the remains of former coal bell pits.

The track becomes metalled lane onto main road. Cross over road and proceed down Church Street back to car park.

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

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