COUNTRY WALKS

EREWASH BOROUGH COUNCIL

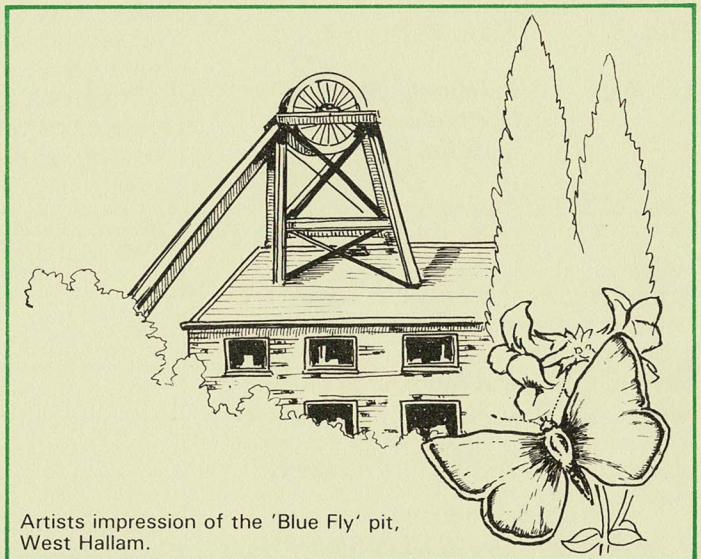
DALES · VALLEYS · MOORS

COUNTRY WALKS 6

IN AND AROUND EREWASH

The Whittlestone Walk

5 miles



Artists impression of the 'Blue Fly' pit, West Hallam.

Explore the tapestry of our local and natural history on this walk from Ilkeston to Mapperley.

Supported by the COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION

GROUNDWORK EREWASH VALLEY

Groundwork Environment Fund supported by the Department of Environment

The Ramblers

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The Whittlestone Walk — 5 miles 2½ - 3 hours

Start: Victoria Park car park, Ilkeston.

Buses: All services Ilkeston Market Place.

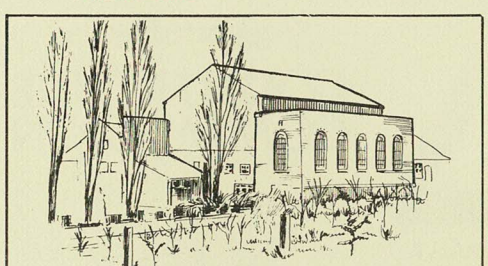
Time: Allow 2½ to 3 hours.

OS Map: Pathfinder Series — Nottingham (North & Ilkeston) SK 44/54.

Type of Walk: Through gentle undulating countryside.

From Victoria Park walk to corner at children's playground, cross over and proceed down track. After a few yards turn right between gardens to reach sandy path. Turn left and bear right at fork taking path which skirts industrial estate towards Old Electricity Depot.

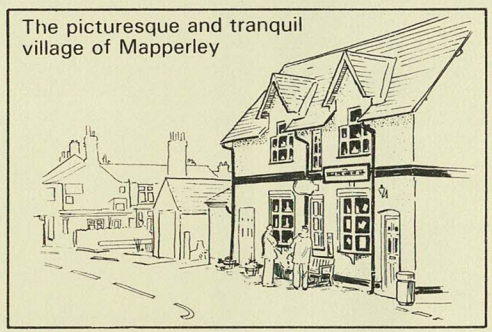
The disused building was once Ilkeston's power station and later became the East Midlands Electricity Boards warehouse. Listed as having historical interest its future is uncertain after repeated damage by fire and vandalism.



The old EMEB warehouse at Manners

The path here follows the course of the great Northern Railway — Heanor Branch line which ran from Ilkeston North to Heanor.

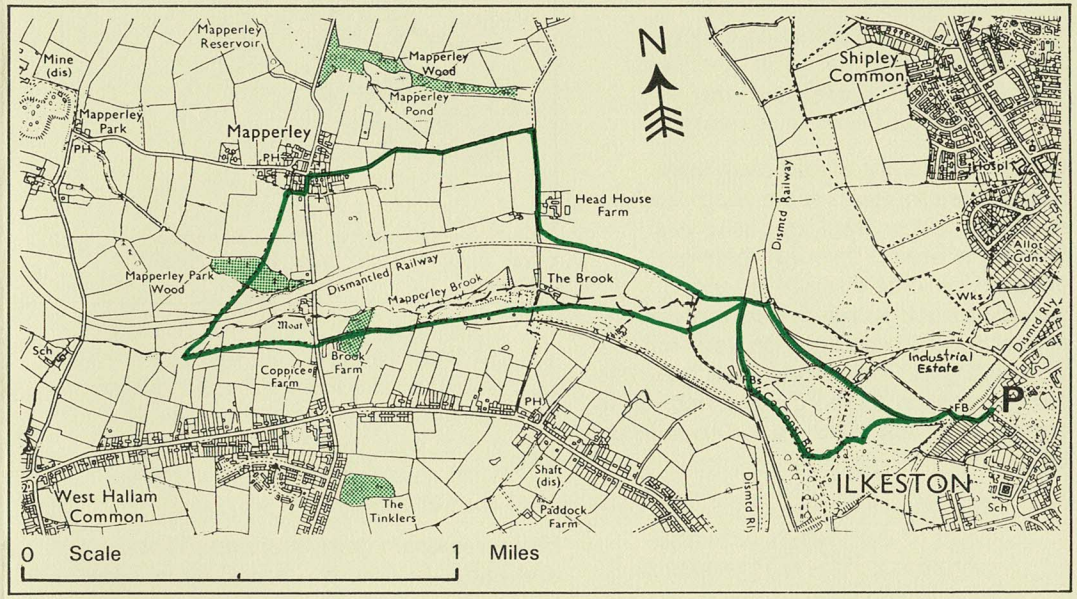
Turn left off old railway bed and cross field to stile. Cross stile, then cross over second stile and keeping hedge on left walk across field to bridge over the Nutbrook (NB. the field boundaries here are not yet shown on the OS map following reinstatement after opencast mining).



The picturesque and tranquil village of Mapperley

From bridge walk straight ahead across field to a stile in the fence. Cross the footbridge and over another stile, then keeping hedge on left walk to next stile. At next stile, keeping Head House Farm on your right, head towards a tree and stile about half way along hedge in front of you. Climb stile into bridleway and turn right up past farm. Continue along bridleway, turning left at junction (Shipley Park) to enter Mapperley Village.

Shipley Country Park to the north offers a fascinating mixture of old and new. A Medieval Estate, Shipley was developed during the 18th century by the influential Miller Mundy family. For further information call the Visitor Centre on 01773 719961.

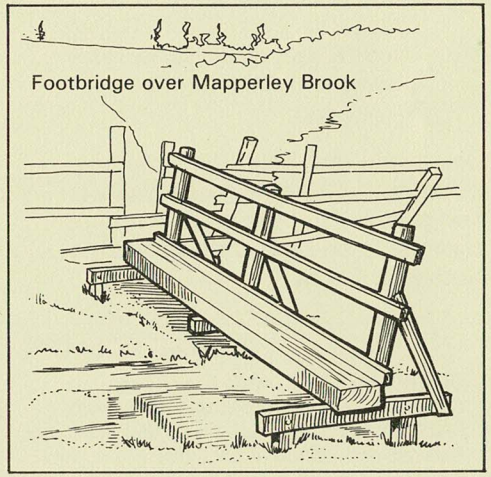


On entering village walk on to cross roads and turn left into Church Lane (walk straight over at cross roads to visit Old Black Horse and/or Village Shop).

The historic village of Mapperley was granted Royal Charter to hold a fair and market in 1267. Several unique stained glass windows adorn the modern church, built to replace the old building demolished through mining subsidence.

Opposite church gate, take path on right between buildings to reach stile beside field. Climb stile and proceed towards Mapperley Park Wood, passing by gate in middle of field fence. Follow winding path through wood over two wooden footbridges to stile at edge of wood. Cross stile and then cross field to old railway embankment.

A former branch line of the Midland Railway serving Mapperley Colliery, the track bed was concreted for use by opencast lorries in the seventies.



Footbridge over Mapperley Brook

Climb the stile and steps on to the embankment, walk a few yards right, then turn left passing over stile into field. Keeping hedge on left walk ahead to reach brook. Cross bridge and keeping hedge on left walk till you come to an opening on left which leads

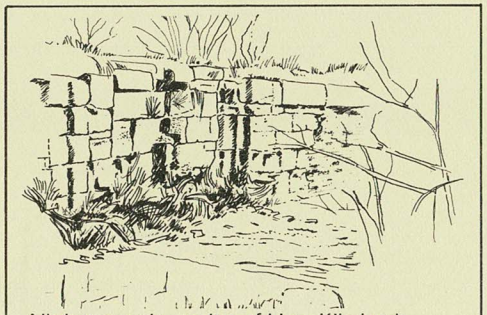
across gulley. Look for waymarker on fence along other side of gulley. Pass through to reach path along raised track.

The raised track is all that remains of a tramway which ran from the Blue Fly Shaft of West Hallam Pit close by to the Nutbrook Canal in the east.

Continue straight ahead over three more stiles to reach main road. Cross road and follow track opposite past Brook Farm and through the wood ahead. Continue straight on along surfaced track to reach gateway and access road to cottages on your left. Through gate, cross road then bear left along track on raised ground parallel to cottages. Follow track round to stile on left.

This large expanse of derelict land is site of the former industrial complex of H.B. Whitehouse & Sons West Hallam Coal & Ironworks. Part of the site was used to screen opencast coal during and after the Second World War.

Cross stile into field, then keeping wood on right, walk back towards bridge over Nutbrook. Over bridge, climb stile on right onto towpath of old Nutbrook Canal.



All that remains today of Lime Kiln Lock No. 9, by the old West Hallam Coal Screens

The Nutbrook Canal was opened in 1796 to carry Shipley Coals south to the Ironworks at Stanton and beyond. The 4½ miles of canal with its 13 locks fell into disuse in 1949 with the coming of the railways.

Follow towpath past abandoned lock and under bridge to reach Manner Floods lake. Follow path round lake back towards Victoria Park.

Footnote:
The Whittlestone Walk was named in memory of the late Ron Whittlestone. Former Parks Manager with Erewash Borough Council and Footpath Officer of the Erewash Ramblers, Ron campaigned tirelessly for rights of way and greater access to the countryside.

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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