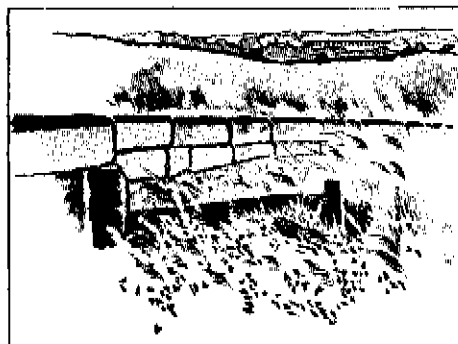


Turn right and at bend in road take path on left. Cross field to far corner and over two stiles. Bear right on track over stile on left and walk down to join Nottingham Canal at footbridge (note old lock gate on right). Turn left and follow towpath round Robinettes Loop. *(For short cut — step over stile opposite footbridge. Bear left round Hawthorn tree and follow path across two fields to rejoin canal via steps.)*

The Nottingham Canal was abandoned in 1937. Without proper maintenance and the churning action of passing boats, nature's process of 'succession' soon took its course. Tall marginal plants quickly began to grow up through the shallow water, leading to the build up of silt and dead plant material. This in turn provided the medium for other plants to take a hold, replacing much of the water and filling up the clay lined canal bed. Plans to reopen the waterway have been prevented by open cast mining in recent years and much of its length is now managed as a haven for



Nottingham Canal Lock

Continue for approx 1 mile passing Trowell car park, through meadows, ponds and old woodland of Oak and Ash on left. At next public footpath sign turn right down wooden steps. Cross track at bottom of path. Bear right up and over railway footbridge. Continue to rejoin main road. Cross and turn right to return to Gallows Inn playing fields.

wildlife, with an abundance of birds, insects and wild flowers to be seen. The still water and tall vegetation are particularly attractive to numerous species of Dragonflies. These harmless insects are spectacular in colour and movement and are abundant along the canal in summer.

**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**

Groundwork Erewash Valley  
 43 Town Street Sandiacre  
 Nottingham NG10 5DU  
 Telephone: 0115 949 0235  
 Registered Charity No. 701484

Erewash Borough Council  
 Leisure Services  
 Town Hall Long Eaton  
 Nottingham NG10 1HU  
 Telephone: 0115 907 2244



**COUNTRY WALKS 17**  
 IN AND AROUND EREWASH  
**The Dragonfly Trail**

4½ miles



Discover and enjoy nature in town and countryside on this gentle stroll along the canals around Ilkeston.



Groundwork Environment  
 Fund supported by the  
 Department of  
 Environment

Supported by the  
**COUNTRYSIDE  
 COMMISSION**

*The Ramblers*



# COUNTRY WALKS

## IN AND AROUND EREWASH

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- Start** Gallows Inn Recreation Ground.
- Buses** For up to date information call Barton/Trent busline on Derby 292200.
- Time** Allow 2½ to 3 hours.
- OS Map** Pathfinder Series SK44/54 Nottingham (North) and Ilkeston.

**Type of Walk** Mainly along level towing paths through townscapes and undulating countryside.

### OTHER INFORMATION

**Follow Waymarkers** (yellow arrow on green).

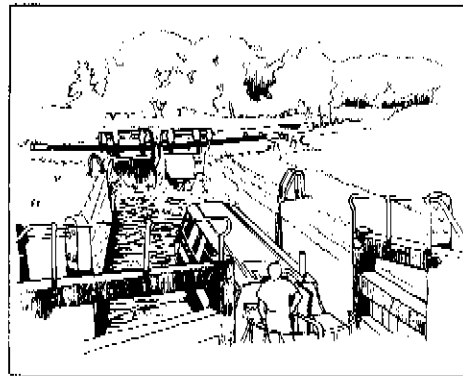


**Take care on road sections and near water. Both can be dangerous.**

From car park return along access road to Nottingham Road. Cross road and join canal by lock to left of Gallows Inn Public House. Turn right and follow towpath for approx 1½ miles along edge of Ilkeston town passing Greens and Potters Locks.

The Erewash Canal had served the valley's coal industries well, but was no exception when the advent of the railways saw the decline of canals as cheap transport routes country wide.

By 1962 the entire section on this walk was classified as unnavigable and abandoned. Fortunately, a Canal Preservation Society was formed in 1968 to restore the waterway, which is now used for pleasure cruising and informal recreation. Work continues to improve access, towpaths and seating areas.



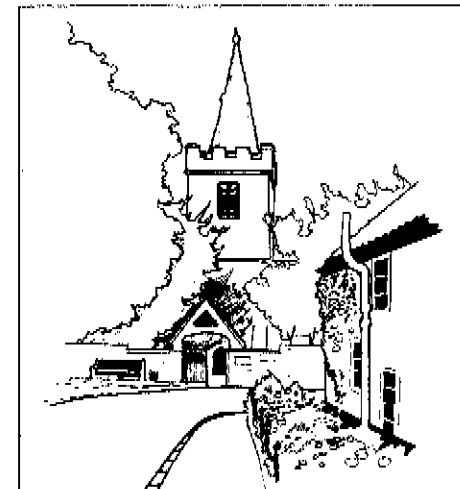
Gallows Inn Lock

At Station Road bridge take stone steps on right up to road. Cross and turn right. Pass over River Erewash and follow road round to left. Use footbridge on left over railway.

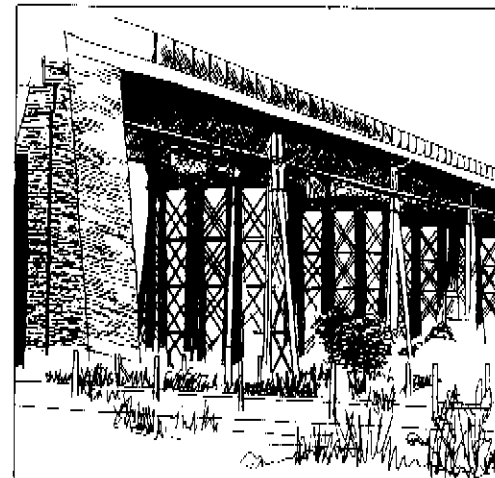
The impressive 1400 ft long Bennerley Viaduct is one of only two of its kind in Britain. Built in 1877 to carry a twin track across the Erewash valley for the Great Northern Railway, this expansive iron structure carried traffic until 1968 and is now a Grade II listed building.

Continue under double bridge. Turn right on to Church Lane. After 200 yards cross stile on left. Walk diagonally across field over second stile to hedge. Turn right to top of field over stile and follow track into Cossall village.

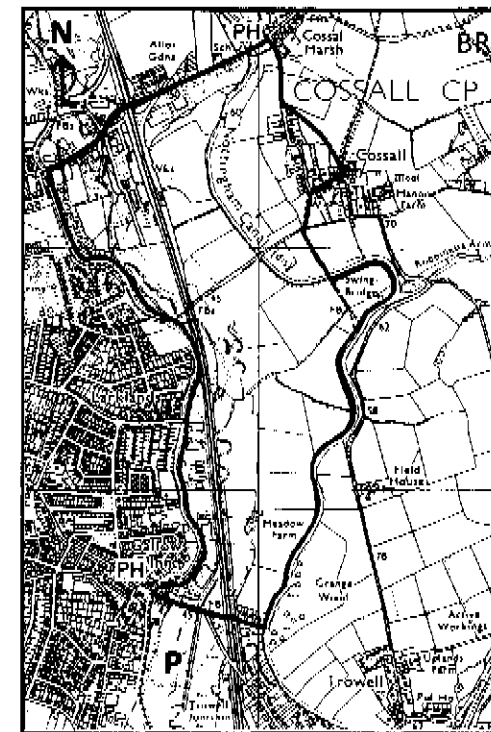
The picturesque and quiet village of Cossall contrasts starkly with the industry and bustle of Ilkeston across the valley. Designated a conservation area in 1975, it is well known for its D H Lawrence connections. His novel "The Rainbow" was set around the village and a plaque identifies the church cottage as the former home of his fiancée, Louise Burrows.



Cossall Church



Bennerley Viaduct



0 Scale miles 1