



Sawley to Shardlow and back (River Trent and Trent and Mersey Canal)

Start and end of route:

The walk starts and ends at Sawley Marina, NG10 3AE

Distance: In 4.45 miles and 7.16 kilometres

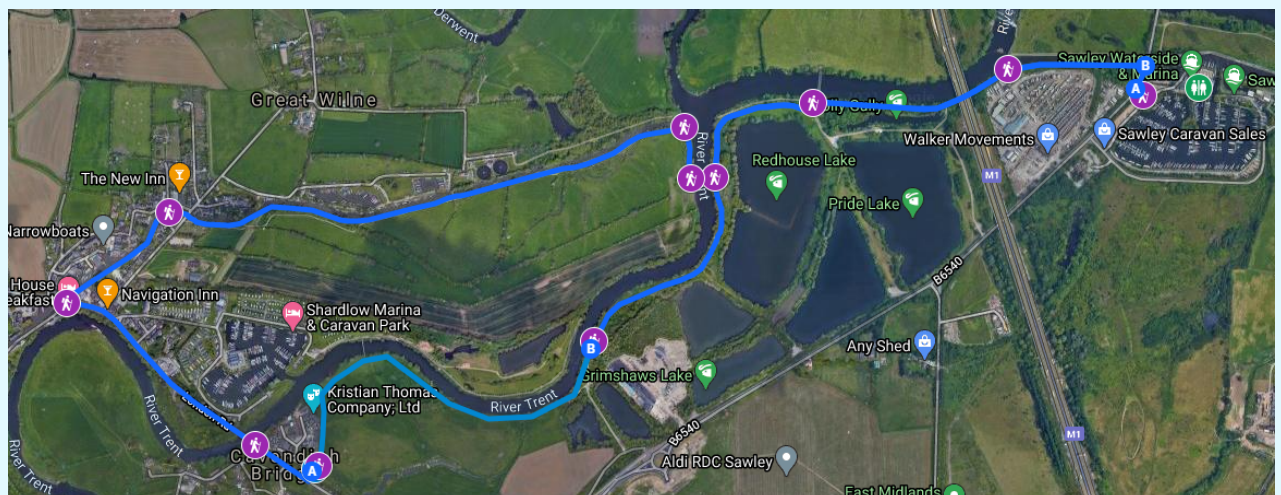
Time: 1hr 10 minutes

Suitability: Parts of the route down the River Trent and Canals are suitable for bikes so you could alter the route to accommodate cycling. The route is flat with good access, but parts would not suit wheelchair access.

Refreshments and toilets: Public Toilets at the start of the route at Sawley Marina. There are also opportunities for refreshment and to use toilets at various pubs on the way around please see map and description for details.

Brief description of route: 95% of this walk is by the water, be it the River Trent or the Trent and Mersey Canal. If you have time, why not take in the beautiful old inland port of Shardlow? It has various places you can grab some food or a drink or pack up a picnic and sit by the water.

Route map:





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Directions:

Starting point:

Sawley Marina Car Park, NG10 3AE. You can park for free if there is space on the road you turn into the marina from and walk down to starting point.

There are public toilets you can use at the rear of the cafe at Sawley Marina.

Starting and finishing point



1. From the pay and display car park inside the marina walk through the gate and onto Tamworth Rd turning right and walk towards the canal.



2. As you approach the canal, cross the road and take the path to the left of the Canal and walk down towards the River Trent.



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3. As you walk the canal meets the River Trent and you follow the path under the M1 Motorway and then gas pipe bridges. As you keep following the river you will see the Pride of Derby fishing lakes which are massive expanses of beautiful water. To explore fishing there see their website: <http://www.prideofderby.co.uk/waters-to-fish-in-derby-derbyshire/pride-lake>



4. As you pass the lakes you can walk on the lane or stay on the path next to the river and you will see a footbridge over the Trent (**Don't Cross it**). This is where you will cross on your way back so take the path to the left of the bridge and carry on walking with the river on your right hand side.



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5. As you walk on, keep close to the river and you will pass various fishing lakes on your left. You will reach a gate, cross this and carry on up the river and you will start to see some old factory buildings head towards them.



6. As you reach the buildings you can no longer walk by the river, so walk with them on your right and you will see a stile. Cross the stile and then cross over the lane and the main road turning right towards Shardlow. The area you are in is Cavendish Bridge. The Crown pub is a nice place to stop and is signposted from the main road, but there are other options in the next mile or so.



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7. Walk up on the left hand side of the road and cross Cavendish Bridge which was built on the site of an old toll bridge in 1957.



8. There is a memorial to the old toll bridge with details of the charges from days gone by. It's on your left as you walk into Shardlow.



Shardlow halfway (ish)

If you have time why not spend it in this old inland port. There are plenty of places to eat and have a drink. There are no public toilets, so it might be worth considering stopping for a drink and using the toilets as customers.

"An important late 18th-century river port for the trans-shipment of goods to and from the River Trent to the Trent and Mersey Canal,[1] during its heyday from the 1770s to the 1840s it became referred to as "Rural Rotterdam" and "Little Liverpool".[2] Today Shardlow is considered Britain's most complete surviving example of a canal



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village,[2] with over 50 Grade II listed buildings and many surviving public houses within the designated Shardlow Wharf Conservation Area.

Due to its location on the River Trent, which up to this point is easily navigable, there is much early evidence of human activity in the area, dating back to 1500 BC. In 1999 the 12-foot-long (3.7 m) 1300 BC Hanson Log Boat, a Bronze Age log boat was discovered at the nearby Hanson plc gravel pit. Sawn into sections so that it could be transported and conserved, the boat is now in Derby Museum and Art Gallery. Five years later, a JCB in the quarry unearthed a bronze sword embedded in a vertical position in the gravel. There is also a Stone Age tumulus at Lockington, an Iron Age settlement between Shardlow/Wilne and the river, and later Roman finds at Great Wilne.”

Excerpts taken from Shardlows Wikipedia page:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shardlow>

9. As you walk into the town, the River Trent will be on the left hand side. As you pass the Holden House Bed and Breakfast, at the back there is a hatch where you can grab a coffee and cake. From here you cross the road just prior to the canal bridge. Follow the sign post for Derwent mouth and take the steps down to follow the towpath with the canal on your left.





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10. You will walk past some of the lovely listed buildings, many have been converted into what look like beautiful dwellings. You then meet the wharf and there are two canalside pubs, the Malt Shovel and the New Inn.



11. From here, carry on underneath the bridge and stick to the canal path. This will take you all the way down to the River Trent.



12. You will take in a couple of locks and see a Marina on the other side of the canal.



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Activity

As you get to the end of the canal there is a most amazing spot to use one of our Bluetonic mindfulness activities [here](#). Why not do this where the canal and the river Trent and Derwent all meet?

Just to the left there is a concrete structure that you can walk up onto that is left over from an older foot bridge. It makes a beautiful place to sit and spend some time taking things in.



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13. After this you walk to the right up with the River Trent on your left you will be able to see the new footbridge which you will cross.



14. As you come down the footbridge take the path you walked up on and follow this back to the start.



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15. Another good spot to check out if you have time is the weir as you walk back towards the canal that runs back to Sawley marina you can see it on the other side. If you have time it might be worth crossing the canal and walking back up the other side. It's popular with kayakers and you can sit and watch them playing in the standing waves and currents created by the weir.



At the end of your walk, you can have refreshments at various pubs and cafes at the end of your walk.

Here are some places within 200 meters of the end of the walk from Google maps at the time of creating this map. Please note places are indicating closed as this was part of the restrictions at the time related to Covid-19



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