

Points of Interest

Shardlow is a rare and well-preserved example of an inland canal port with warehouses, wharfs, pubs and merchants' houses scattered throughout. Shardlow Heritage Centre (www.shardlowheritage.eclipse.co.uk) on the B5010 provides historical context and explanation for the village. It is run by volunteers and therefore only open from Easter to the end of October on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays, 12.00 - 5.00. It is free, but donations from visitors are welcomed.



The deserted medieval village of Church Wilne has the small but picturesque St Chad's Church and the extremely attractive St Chad's Water Nature Reserve, which attracts a wide variety of migratory birds during the year. Great Wilne has some good examples of vernacular architecture.



Being a responsible visitor

- Please respect other users as you walk this route
- Take your litter home and dispose of it carefully
- Dogs can scare or harm farm animals so please keep your dog on a lead
- Please pick up your dog poo and put it in a bin.

The Trent Valley Way is a long distance, way-marked walking route extending to 170 miles from its source near Stoke-on-Trent, to the Humber estuary.

It connects towns and villages, wildlife and history, enhancing wellbeing, attracting visitors to the area and contributing to local economies.

A new section of 43 miles (69km) between Rugeley and Shardlow has been made accessible by Trent Rivers Trust working as part of the Transforming the Trent Valley landscape project. Maps can be found online

The Trent Rivers Trust website
www.trentriverstrust.org

Transforming the Trent Valley
www.thetrentvalley.org



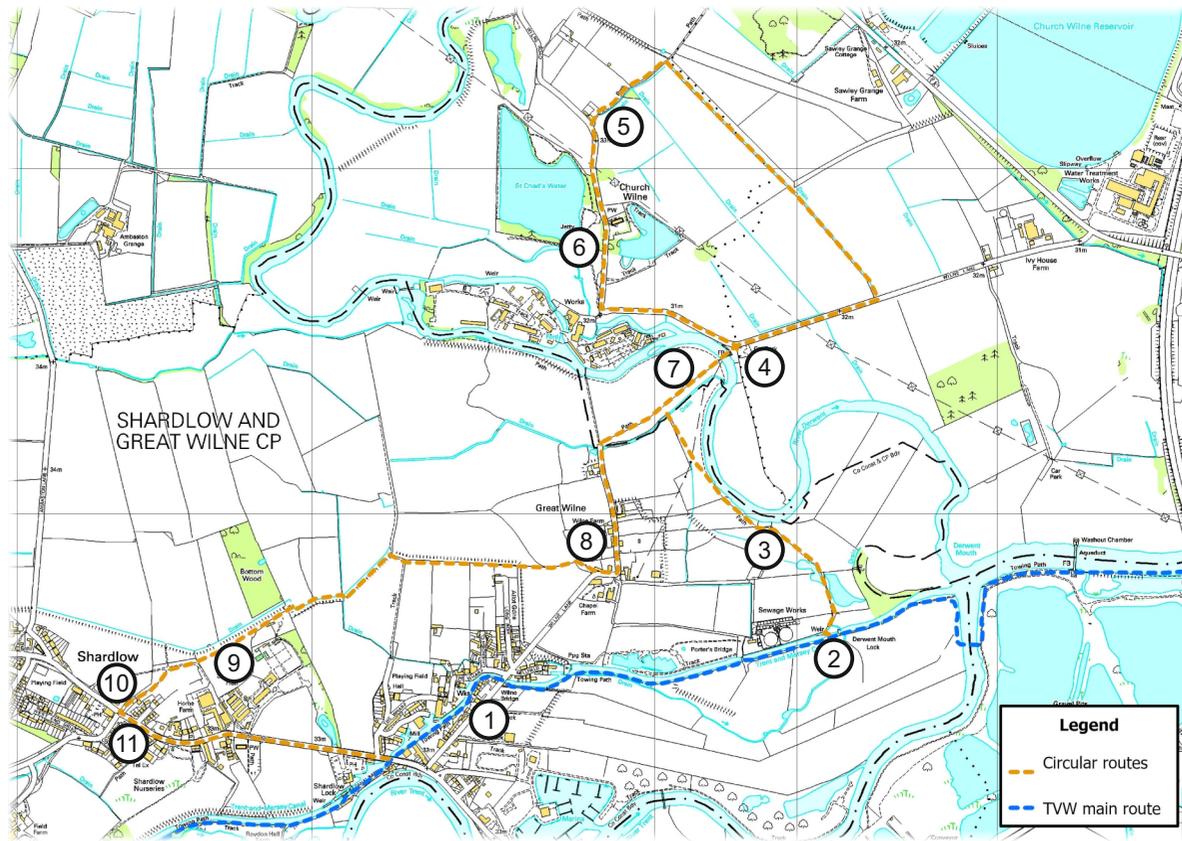
Shardlow Circular Walk

6miles (9.7km)



This walk in the meadows of the River Trent flood plain, begins at the inland port of Shardlow. It follows canal towpath, footpaths and bridleways via Church Wilne and Great Wilne, before returning to Shardlow.





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1. Leave Wilne Lane car park in Shardlow, at the opposite end from the vehicle entrance, along a path between hedges. After about 30 metres the path enters a grassy area bringing you to the tow path of the Trent and Mersey Canal. Turn right on to this. Pass Bridge 1 and continue to Derwent Mouth Lock.

2. The top lock gate has a solid and safe footway attached - use this to cross the canal. Enter the bushes on the far side, over the overflow channel of the lock. The path

winds briefly through bushes and enters a meadow by a stile. Keep the hedge on your right. Cross the meadow diagonally to your left. In the far corner you reach the bank of the river Derwent.

3. A stile leads into a wood after which another stile leads into a meadow through which the path follows the bank of the Derwent, crossing yet another stile in a wire fence before it reaches a footbridge over the river.

4. Cross the footbridge. On the far side a fence faces you, but do not cross this as it leads into private ground. Turn sharp left and after a few metres reach the lane. Turn right into the lane and follow it for 500

metres to where a sign indicates a bridleway on the left. Take this, which has hedges on either side. The bridleway continues for a kilometre, with Wilne Reservoir to the right and to the left St Chad's Church tower. Eventually you reach the junction with the bridleway from Church Wilne to Breaston where you turn left. After 200 metres you reach the lane into Church Wilne.

5. Turn left into the lane, which soon enters what remains of the deserted medieval village of Church Wilne.

6. Leave Church Wilne, turning left after fifty metres into a path which at first goes through bushes and then across a field. At a stile it joins the lane between Church Wilne and the footbridge. Fifty metres after the

stile take the very short path to the footbridge on the right.

7. After crossing the footbridge take the path straight ahead across the meadow, towards a brick house. When the path reaches this house, you turn sharp left towards a metal gate with a stile on its left hand side. This leads into the lane through Great Wilne. The lane continues, bending right after 200 metres. After less than 100 metres the lane then bears left.

8. Where the lane bears away left, facing you there is a small gate. Take this gate and follow the fence on your left until there is a gate through it, leading into two meadows. Enter the lefthand meadow and keep the hedge on your right. At the end of this

Route details

Approximate time: 2 hrs 30 mins for the full walk.

Parking: the walk starts and finishes at the car park in Wilne Lane, Shardlow, but other parking can be found in Shardlow.

Refreshments: although the route does not include any cafes, Shardlow has several pubs serving food and two or three restaurants.

Ordnance Survey Map: Landranger 129 (Nottingham and Loughborough).

Whilst the walk is on the flat and in general terms comfortable, it must be noted that there are frequent stiles to negotiate. There is a stretch of the bridleway between Church Wilne and Breaston which is muddy after rain, but surfaces are otherwise good. Care should be taken when walking along narrower sections of towpath and along lanes without pavements.

Location Map



meadow, the path enters a narrow way between walls, on your left, and a hedge on your right.

9. After the garden wall, the route continues with paddocks on the left and hedge on the right. Eventually a gate leads out on to a gritted farm track for a few metres and then a path to the left on top of a flood embankment. There is a stile just before the embankment bears right and soon after, there is another where the embankment has veered back.

10. After about 300 metres, a grassy track to the left takes the path to a small gate into a tiny copse. The route then follows a concrete farm track until the path bears left

towards a barn with a circular window. The barn is passed on its righthand side along an alley between a fence and an old brick wall. There is one last stile before the path reaches the B5010 opposite the Dog and Duck pub.

11. Turn left here and continue along the pavement. After about a kilometre of road walking you will pass the Clock Warehouse pub, on the right. At the Navigation pub turn left into Wilne Lane to return to the car park.

