

Points of Interest

The medieval causeway, always known as Swarkestone Bridge, wriggles north for about threequarters of a mile, raised above the flood plain of the Trent, from Stanton by Bridge to Swarkestone, where it crosses the Trent. Medieval documents often refer to England north of the Trent and England south of the Trent, and this is precisely where the two met. On the route south from Derby (now the A514) packhorses brought lead, woollen cloth and agricultural products from the north of the county onto a route that passed through Coventry and eventually reached the south coast. The structure reflects centuries of building and rebuilding, largely in stone quarried at Stanton by Bridge. Ponds on the eastern side are a haven for wildlife.

Swarkestone was the furthest point south reached by advanced units of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army in 1745. Other points of interest include the mysterious Pavilion at Swarkestone, the Holywell at Kings Newton, and medieval churches at Stanton by Bridge and Swarkestone.

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



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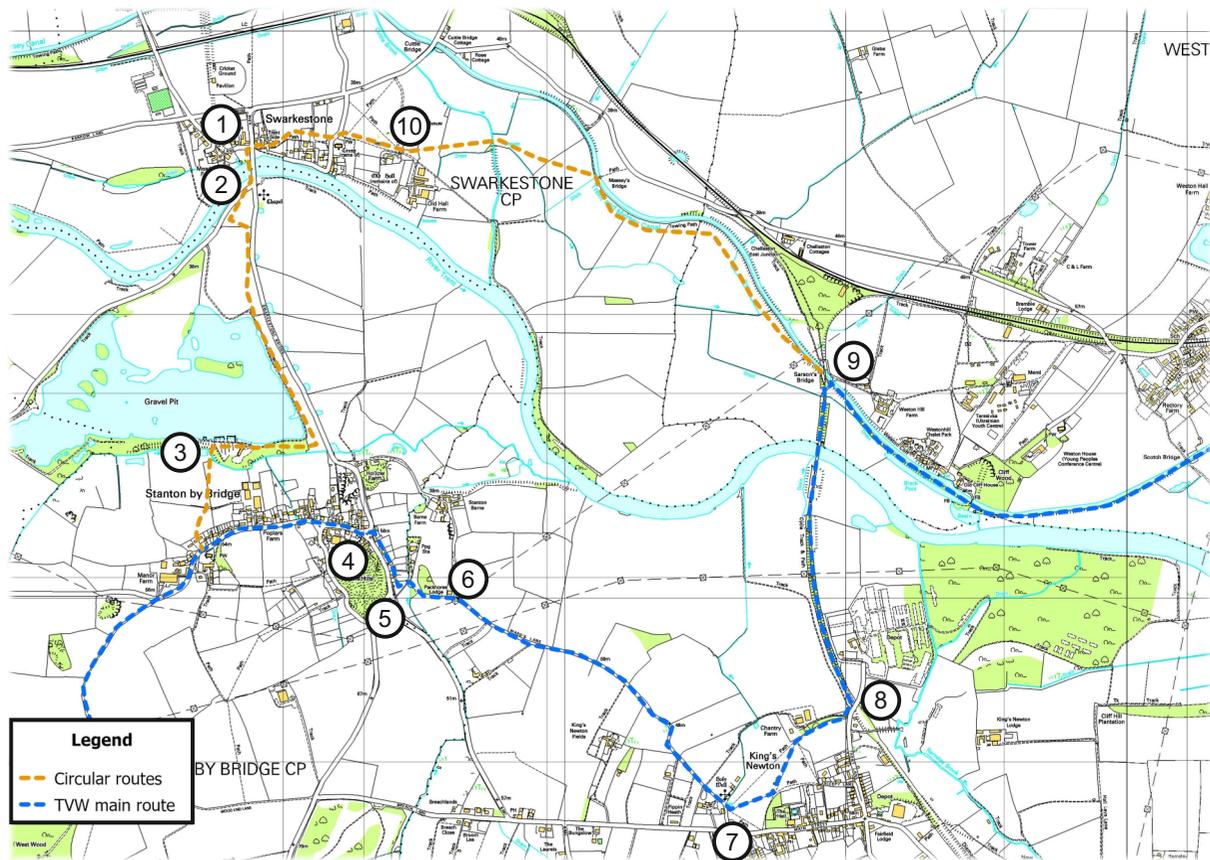
Swarkestone Circular Walk

5.3miles (8.5km)



This leisurely walk includes some extremely significant sites close to, or actually on, the Trent Valley Way. The route is mostly flat and uses a variety of paths, tracks and canal towpath.





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1. Leaving Swarkestone southwards, cross river bridge over the Trent and turn immediately right into Ingleby Road. After about 100 metres, the footpath is signposted on the left at a new kissing gate. It crosses the meadow in a south-easterly direction, after which it follows the line of the causeway southwards. At the end of the third meadow turn right through a metal farm gate. Avoid the arches under the causeway to your left which are NOT a public footpath.

2. After the gate the path heads west alongside a small stream. After a short distance with a tree-covered bank on the right and meadows on the left, the path crosses a small bridge over the stream.

3. Continue uphill through horse pastures divided by rope barriers, using gates provided, until a stile takes you into Stanton by Bridge next to the Village Hall and opposite St Michael's church. Turn left into the main street of Stanton by Bridge and proceed until you reach the A514.

4. Here there is just sufficient visibility both left and right to cross safely if care is exercised. Turn right towards Melbourne for about 200 metres to just after the last houses on your left.

5. Turn left towards Waterworks House, a Victorian pumping station. Almost immediately there is a small gate on the right for the footpath leading up to Wards Lane coming up from the causeway.

6. Turn right onto Wards Lane towards Melbourne. Just before the lane arrives at Kings Newton there is the site of 'Holywell' on the left, down a short set of steps installed by Melbourne Civic Society. A few metres past this the Trent Valley Way turns off left.

7. At this point, follow the path eastwards through a meadow dotted with fine mature trees to Trent Lane.



Route details

Approximate time: 2hrs 45 mins.

Parking: in Swarkestone

Refreshments: Crewe and Harpur pub and Swarkestone Nursery, Hardinge Arms in Kings Newton, and cafes, pubs and restaurants in nearby Melbourne.

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 245 (Burton upon Trent, Swadlincote, Ashby-de-la-Zouch & Coalville)

Waymarking (including custom-made fingerposts) plus surface and infrastructure repairs by Melbourne Footpaths Group.

Brief road walking along Ingleby Road in Swarkestone; on pavement through Stanton by Bridge and then briefly along the A514. Otherwise, good surfaces for walkers.

Note: Crossing the A514 at both Swarkestone and Stanton by Bridge requires great care and children and dogs should be closely supervised.

Location Map



8. From Trent Lane veer left just before the old railway bridge and follow the Sustrans Path (Cycle Route no. 6) in the direction of Derby. This was once a branch line between Derby and Ashby. About 100 metres after this the route turns left down to the towpath of the Trent and Mersey canal.

9. Follow the tow path westwards for three quarters of a mile to Massey's Bridge (bridge no. 12), just after a cast iron milestone dated 1819. Climb the track over the bridge and exit on the far side on to a path which crosses three fields. It then reaches the southern wall of the enclosure at Swarkestone Pavilion, now a holiday let. This enigmatic building was the site of a colourful photo shoot for the Rolling Stones in 1968. Continue along a very large meadow, keeping the boundary fence on your left.

10. The churchyard of St James' Church is at the end of the meadow on the left. You can either cross the stile ahead of you in the corner of the meadow, or take a pleasant detour into the churchyard itself through a wooden gate. In either case you join the small road which heads south for a few metres towards the river. At the river bank turn right, heading for the Crewe and Harpur pub and Swarkestone itself. Leave the path at the A514 where the walk terminates, and if you need to, cross with great care as visibility to the left is limited by the hump of the bridge.

