

The Erewash Canal tracks along the border of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire with some parts urban, some parts rural, the canal plots a course through the area's natural and cultural heritage. This trail covers the top section of the canal, heading from the village of Langley Mill through to Ilkeston as it passes through the Erewash Valley.

## Key Info

**Start:** Gallows Inn Field,  
Nottingham Road, Ilkeston  
DE7 5BP  
**Finish:** Trent Lock, Lock Lane,  
Long Eaton NG10 2FY



Scan or visit  
[bit.ly/erewash-2-trail](http://bit.ly/erewash-2-trail)  
to find the map in  
Mapometer and download  
the GPX file

**Distance:** 6.5 miles  
**Time:** 1-2 hours (approx)  
**Locks/Portages:** 6 locks  
**OS Map:** OL 260 Nottingham  
or LR 129 Nottingham &  
Loughborough



- 1 Setting off from Gallows Inn paddle with the tow path to your left. The canal skirts playing fields, with the River Erewash meandering out of sight just past the sports pitches.
- 2 Easy portage at Hallam Fields Lock (No 66) – beware of rough edges on the banking.
- 3 A small widening of the canal represents its junction with the Nutbrook Canal. Built to service the collieries at Shipley, the Nutbrook Canal was beset with issues, closing in 1895 due to competition from the railway.
- 4 Easy portage at Stanton Lock (No 65), the canal passes under the M1 motorway. After passing the motorway there are views over the open countryside of the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire border and the church at Sandiacre.
- 5 Pastures Lock (No 64). The easiest get in after the lock is a little way downstream on a grass bank. The route passes Springfield Mill, an attractive lace mill, built in 1888.
- 6 The get out at Sandiacre Lock (No 63) is just before the cycle barriers, with the put-in after the lock by the bridge. The canal widens out into a small basin – this is a pretty location, and a good place for a picnic.
- 7 Easy portages at Dockholme Lock (No 62) and Long Eaton Lock (No 61) as the trail passes through Long Eaton, West Park is another option for a picnic stop. After passing the park, the route crosses under a variety of bridges.
- 8 Pass Sheetstores Basin, there are no more portages, but you pass through the flood gate, which prevents flooding on the River Trent travelling up the canal into Long Eaton.
- 9 Arriving at Trent Lock, egress can be done along much of the bank. Trent Lock itself is a major hub on the waterways network and an attractive place to paddle, with two pubs/restaurants and a tea rooms.



Find more  
paddling trails at:  
[gopaddling.info](http://gopaddling.info)

Popular with walkers, horse riders and cyclists, the Erewash Canal also makes for an excellent paddle, combining countryside views with urban heritage.

The industrial estate opposite Hallam Fields lock represents the beginning of a huge area that was Stanton Ironworks. Established in the 1700s, the works were once Ilkeston's main employer. The site's final closure came in 2007 and the area is currently under redevelopment.

At Pastures Lock, the village of Sandiacre begins to replace open countryside. The village was once a small, rural settlement, but grew with the development of the textiles industry (partly facilitated by the canal). Springfield Mill is the first of several mills lining the canal through Long Eaton and has now been converted into apartments, securing its future.

Although the canal now runs through an urban setting again, it still holds charm, passing by pocket parks and washlands on the River Erewash's flood plain. The basin is actually the previous convergence point of the Derby & Sandiacre Canal, which was fully closed in 1964, with much of its route now surviving as a Public Footpath. The canal has an active restoration campaign, led by the Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust. The attractive cottages at the lock were restored and rejuvenated by another canal society, the Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association (ECP&DA), who also restored the basin at Langley Mill. They are often opened as tea rooms or for events, and are the base for the association. Long Eaton, in contrast to Springfield Mill, still feels in the process of decline, rather than rejuvenation – a reminder that much of our industrial heritage still needs to be saved for future generations.

Trent Lock marks the convergence of the Erewash Canal, the Soar Navigation and the Trent Navigation, carrying goods to and from the Humber and beyond.

#### Facilities at Gallows Inn:

- There is a pub, recently reopened, next to Gallows Inn Lock.

#### Facilities at Trent Lock:

- There are a variety of places to eat and drink at Trent Lock, all of which can be found online, including:
  - Lock House Tea Rooms
  - Steam Boat Inn
  - The Trent Lock Inn

**things to see**

- Springfield mill
- a heron or bird of prey
- cyclist on the towpath
- dog walkers



Things to see: Springfield Mill

Both the Derby & Sandiacre Canal Trust and ECP&DA put a great deal of work into maintaining, restoring and improving the canal system we paddle today – and in helping create more canals to paddle on in the future. As membership organisations, paddlers can join them (or the Canal & River Trust's 'Friends' scheme) and get involved. The Erewash Canal Rangers also help to look after the waterway, running regular volunteer days and reporting issues.

For more information visit <http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer>

## Safety and Licenses

*We want you to enjoy a safe trip, so here are a few tips for staying safe and paddling responsibly.*

#### Paddle Safe:

Be prepared and take the right kit:

- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid
- Mobile phone – in a waterproof case
- Whistle – to attract attention in case of emergency
- Map and / or route description
- Appropriate clothing for the weather conditions + spares in a dry bag
- Food, drink & suncream!

#### Paddle Responsibly:

Respect the natural environment and other users:

- Respect other waterway users #sharethespace
- Be environmentally aware, minimise your impact
- Ensure you have the correct licence if required
- Observe navigational rules – keep right and give other users space
- Check, Clean, Dry after every trip!

Licences: The waterways in this trail are managed by Canal and Rivers Trust, and require paddlers to hold a licence. British Canoeing membership includes a full annual license for this waterway – please take your membership card with you as this acts as your license. Non-members can either purchase a British Canoeing membership from [www.britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk) or buy licenses direct from [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

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