

The Trail

Answers

This trail is a self-guided tour of Trent Lock at the junction of the Erewash Canal with the River Trent. The Erewash Canal is particularly suitable for spotting wildlife such as mallards, swans and if lucky the endangered water vole.

The walk can be extended by walking along the Cranfleet Cut to Cranfleet Lock.

Sheet 2 Answers

Stop 1: The River Trent meets here with the Erewash Canal. The River Trent also meets with the River Soar a bit further downstream. The Cranfleet Cut is part of the Trent Navigation and bypasses a dangerous stretch of the River Trent.

A 'No swimming' sign sits next to the life ring explaining that the river has a very strong current. Other hidden dangers include weeds or rubbish which can trap arms and legs and can lead to drowning.

The indicator stick stands in the water at the bottom left-hand side of the footbridge. This is used to indicate the river level to boats wishing to pass through the lock here and enter the River Trent from the Erewash Canal.

The sign to explain the colours can be found at the top of the lock which you are asked about at Stop 4.

Stop 2: The Trent Valley Sailing Club is situated on an island between the Cranfleet Cut and the River Trent. It was built on stilts in case the river floods.

The Erewash Canal was built before the railway arrived.

The cooling towers of the power station take water from the nearby river to cool down the turbines that make electricity.

The short length of the Cranfleet Cut was built in 1797. It was built so that boats did not have to navigate a short dangerous stretch of the River Trent.

The orange booms warn boaters about a weir that can be found along that length of the River Trent. Boats avoid this length by going along the Cranfleet Cut.

Sheet 3 Answers

Stop 3: The lock house is now used as the Lock House Tea Rooms. The last lock-keeper lived here until the 1980s. Today lock-keepers still work along the Trent operating locks such as Keadby and West Stockwith Locks.

The outbuildings can be seen to the side of this building. When the Erewash Canal was first built and before the invention of the motor engine, the canal boats were pulled by horses. Stables were therefore important as they used by the boat people and their horses.

A blacksmith shapes heated metal into items such as tools, horsehoes, etc. They were important to the boat people as they could shoe their horses, provide boat making tools and help to mend the locks when damaged.

The Steamboat Inn has been changed considerably over the years.

The inns may have provided simple accommodation for some of the boat people who worked on the canal transporting goods.

Sheet 4 Answers

Stop 4: If the indicator stick shows that the river level is at green then boats are safe to proceed.

If the indicator stick shows that the river level is at orange, the boats need to proceed with caution.

If the indicator stick shows that the river level is at red, then the river is unsafe for boats to enter.

Stop 5: The dockyard offers services such as a hull repairs, hull blacking (this gives the bottom of the boat protection) painting, signing and a dry dock where boats can be lifted out of the water for repairs and maintenance.

The mooring bollards are painted white so that they are clearly visible at night and to avoid people from tripping over them.

Continued...

The Trail
(continued)

Sheet 5 Answers

Stop 6: There are many different types of houseboat along this length of canal.

The reeds provide a habitat for many different types of animal including reed bunting and, water voles.

A canal is manmade and many were built as straight as possible. They only have a strong current near to locks. A river is a natural waterway and often meander through the landscape. Rivers have very strong currents.

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