

Shardlow Circular Walk

This walk commences in the village of SHARDLOW on the B5010 (London Road, previously the A6). Please park in the right hand car park of the Clock Warehouse Public House.

The walk is 4 miles long (6.4km) and takes a leisurely 2.5 hours.

For a more detailed map you are recommended to refer to Ordnance Survey Explorer 260 (Nottingham). You will be walking through countryside which involves several stiles and fields with horses or cattle. In addition the walk involves climbing over a lock gate at Derwentmouth Lock.



Shardlow and Great Wilne nestle between two rivers. These are the River Trent and River Derwent and this has had a great effect on the history of this area. There is a natural crossing point of the River Trent at Shardlow and evidence dating back to Roman times and beyond that there has been a settlement in this area. "Serdeleau", now Shardlow, is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. The settlement of Shardlow is centred around river crossing points and the transporting of goods and materials along the rivers. Later, in 1777, the opening of the Trent and Mersey Canal caused the development of Shardlow into an inland port. Today there is much evidence of enthusiasm for pleasure boating. You will notice several new marinas along the walk.



1 Start your walk by coming out of the Clock Warehouse Public House car park. Take care crossing the main road, and turn right to walk along the pavement and over the Trent and Mersey Canal.

The Clock Warehouse straddles the canal basin. It was built in 1780 for the storage of goods and their transfer between river barges and narrowboats, and from boats to road transport on the A6, the main London to Manchester road, now the B5010.

Shardlow Heritage Centre is situated adjacent to the Clock Warehouse within the oldest canal warehouse in the village. This used to be a salt warehouse. The heritage centre is run entirely by volunteers. Do take time to look inside at the many displays and local historic artefacts.



2 Turn left to walk down along the canal towpath. Take time to look at the variety of narrow boats here in the working marina. Continue along the towpath, past the Malt Shovel and New Inn (opposite) and under the bridge. (To get to the public houses go up the steps to get across the canal).



3 The towpath heads out of Shardlow into a rural landscape. Here there are more recently created meadows responding to the increasing popularity of boating as a relaxing past time. Continue on under the old original canal brick bridge and to Derwentmouth Lock.



The Trent and Mersey Canal designed by James Brindley, a self-taught engineer from Derby, was fully opened in May 1777. It is over 90 miles long and links via two rivers the east and west coasts of England. This canal provided the means to transport raw materials and finished goods across the country. Later, in the mid 19th century, with the newer, faster railways competing for trade, canals across the country started to decline.

Many ponds have been drained and filled, so now canals provide a much needed home for our wildlife. The brightly coloured Kingfisher can be occasionally seen flying fast along the canal. Common water fowl such as Coot, Moorhen, and Mallards are easy to see. In the summer months there are a good variety of colourful dragonflies to see hunting for small flies along the edge of the canal.



4 At Derwentmouth Lock go over the first lock gate (taking care) and then over the footbridge. This is also the start point of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way, a 55 mile walk northwards. This is a footpath route along the Derwent Valley via Chatsworth to Lady Bower Reservoir in the Peak District. Follow the path through the willow woodland and over a stile. There is a pond to your right. Continue straight on and over another foot bridge with pond on the left and to the stile.

5 Climb the stile and head diagonally left to a large tree at the right-hand end of the hedgerow. You will then be next to the River Derwent. Go over the stile and follow the path by the river over two more stiles.

6 Continue straight on just skirting the river. Do not continue following the river as it bends to the right, instead continue straight on across the field heading for the end of the hedge ahead. You will be in line with several wooden buildings in the distance.

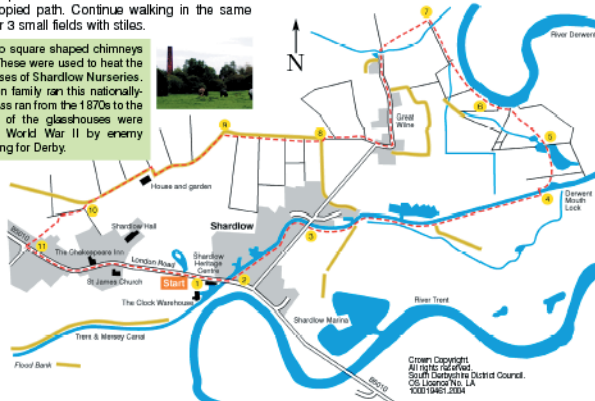
7 Cross the wooden bridge over the dyke and turn left to follow the dyke to a metal gate and metal stile. Go over the stile and continue on a surfaced track through the enchanting village of Great Wilne. Take care as there are no pavements on part of the way. Follow the road as it bends to the right and then, when it bends sharp left, leave the road to continue straight on picking up a footpath between two hedges. After 40 metres the path cuts through the left hedge. Follow this path and then turn right to continue in the same direction now with the hedge on your right.

Great Wilne, like Shardlow, was an important river crossing point. The road used to continue straight ahead to a crossing of the River Derwent at Wilne Mills. Take time as you walk through Great Wilne to look at the various styles of houses, farm buildings and the different building materials used.



8 Follow the path over the flood bank and a stile to walk along a canopied path. Continue walking in the same direction over 3 small fields with stiles.

Notice the two square shaped chimneys on your left. These were used to heat the vast glasshouses of Shardlow Nurseries. The Dickenson family ran this nationally-known business ran from the 1870s to the 1950s. Many of the glasshouses were destroyed in World War II by enemy bombers aiming for Derby.



9 After the third field climb the stile and cross the track to join the footpath on the top of the flood bank. Turn left to follow this flood bank as it winds past house and garden. Look for the next two stiles (which are very close together) ahead just to the left of the flood bank and a water trough.

There are good views of Shardlow Hall and garden with topiary trees. This is not open to the public. Shardlow Hall was originally built in 1684 and at the time faced the road from Aston Lane to Great Wilne (now only a footpath) which forms part of this walk. Later additions and a new frontage to the Hall were carried out in the 18th century when the new turnpike (London Road A6) was built.



10 Once over the stile follow the concrete farm track for a short distance and then bear left down a track to leave for the tall brick buildings. Follow the path as it goes past the old brick buildings, crossing a final stile and onto the road opposite the Dog and Duck Public House. This is thought to be one of the oldest buildings in the area, though now extensively renovated.



11 Turn left to walk along the pavement all the way through the village passing The Shakespeare Public House (originally an old coaching inn) and St James Church and all the way along to the start of the walk.

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St James Church was built in 1839. Prior to this worshippers went via boat to Aston-on-Trent. The Trent and Mersey Canal and all the prosperity it created at Shardlow meant that the population increased from 200 in 1780 to over 1300 in 1841, thus creating a greater need for a new church in Shardlow.

Visit [Shardlow Heritage Centre website at \(no www\) : homepage.which.net/~shardlow/heritage](http://Shardlow Heritage Centre website at (no www) : homepage.which.net/~shardlow/heritage) South Derbyshire District Council gratefully acknowledges the assistance during the production of this walk, of Groundwork Derby & Derbyshire and the Shardlow Heritage Trust.