



The next section of the Cloud Trail follows the disused Derby Canal from its old confluence with the Trent and Mersey at Swarkeston Lock to the bridge at Shelton Lock. Notice that the canal's tow path runs approximately parallel to the old Derby to Ashby railway line, but it was not possible to use this line for the Cloud Trail's route because the section adjacent to Swarkeston road is still operational and the section passing through Chellaston has disappeared under the A50 and numerous other building projects. The following photographs are taken in a sequential order starting at the green dot and finishing at the red dot on the above map.

Lowe's Lock to Shelton Lock on the Derby Canal's Tow Path



This is the trail immediately after leaving Swarkestone (Lowes) Lock. On the left hand side of the trail, the remains of the old Derby Canal can be seen, so the trail is really the canal's old tow path.



Looking backwards over this initial stretch, it is possible to see a rather sad canal bridge that straddled the Derby Canal at Swarkestone Lock. Notice the white gate on this and above photograph



The trail continues with the dry bed of the Derby Canal on the left and as can be seen quite large trees have grown into the canal's cutting.



It is very quiet and peaceful and although there is a feel of being out in the country, the housing estate near the Bonnie Prince is close to the trail.



Quite suddenly, the trail seems to leave the past and return to the present and there is traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing over the road that connects Chellaston and Sinfin.



Once crossed, however, the tranquility returns and it's hard to believe that there is a housing estate on the right hand side of the trail. At this point, nature has really regained its hold on the Derby Canal.



After the above final open stretch, a gate appears (see below) and it is possible to gain access to Chelaston or go on to Shelton Lock





As the trail leads to Shelton Lock, the old Ashby to Derby railway line appears again and its embankment can be seen in front of the pylon.



Looking to the right, it is possible to see the railway embankment as it left Chellaston running on its route to Peartree Station.



My grandparents lived at Worthington and used the train to travel to Derby in the early 1930s. As a small boy, I remember my grandmother telling me how remote and misty Sinfin Moor appeared from the carriage window. Remembering that Rolls-Royce and the pylons would not be there, I can understand how it would give her this feeling.



Just a little further and Shelton Lock starts to appear,



Approximately, 200 metres further and the bridge at Shelton Lock appears. It is here that the canal lock which gave Shelton Lock its full name was situated.



There is a sign near to the bridge. We are going to travel on to Alvaston and Derby.