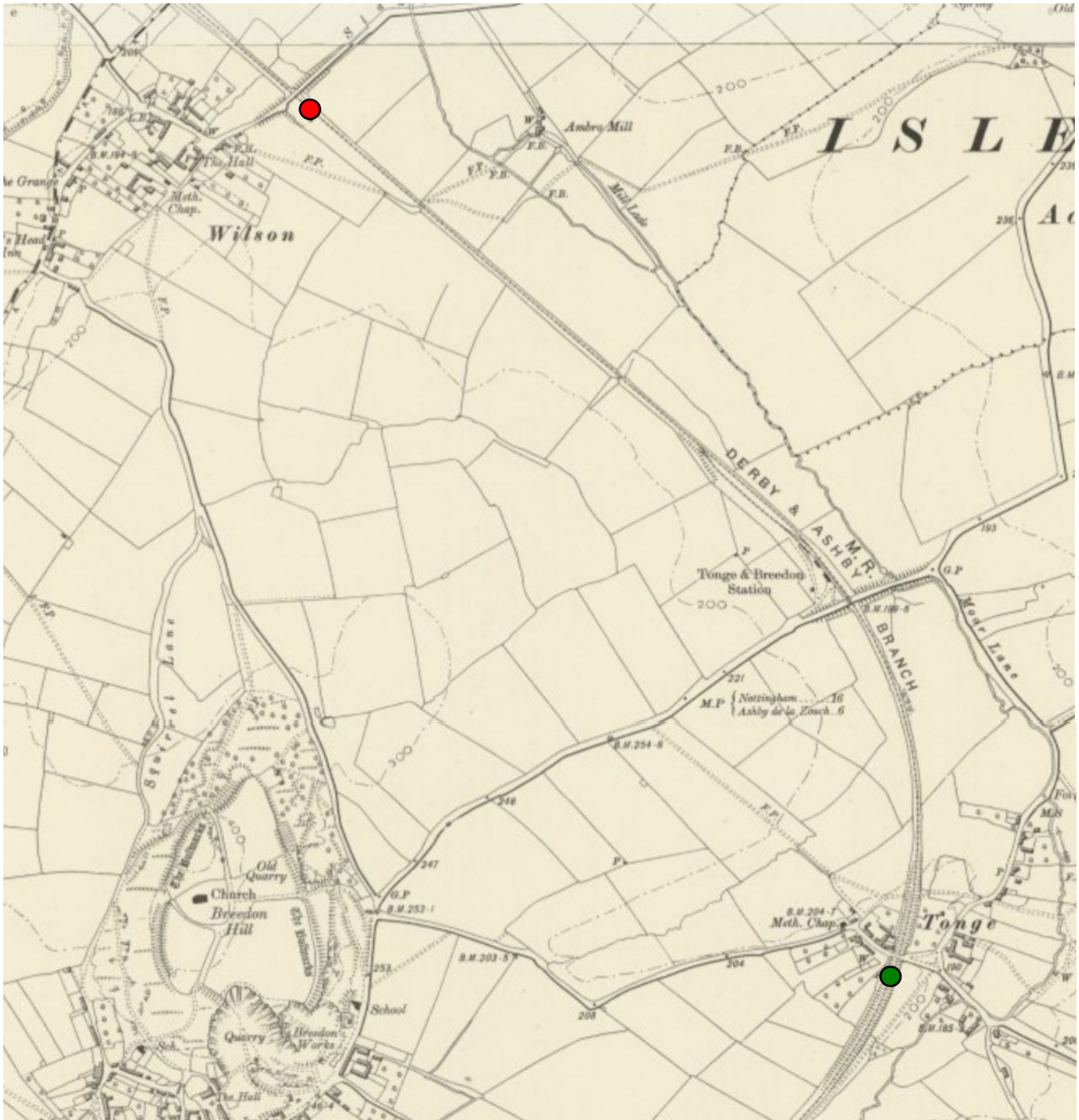


The Tonge to Wilson Section of the Cloud Trail



This section of the Cloud Trail runs on the Ashby to Derby railway's route. The tracks, of course, have long been raised and the trail has an excellent surface for walking or cycling. The following photographs start at the iron railway bridge at Tonge (green dot on map) and finish at Wilson (red dot on above map).



Just before the bridge, there used to be a platform on the left. I think that this was probably a point where trains halted to allow passengers to board and exit the train, but it was not Tonge station which is further down the trail towards Melbourne.





After passing under the first bridge at Tonge village a second stone bridge will appear. It is a gateway to the beautiful vista of trees which line the trail after the second bridge. It was a beautiful sunny evening when I took the photograph, and as can be seen, the sun throws a fountain of light through the trees.





After these two bridges at Tonge village, the trail is lined with trees for quite a way, before it opens out giving views of the local countryside as shown below. There is a seat and map so the traveller can rest and read for a while.





A little further along the trail, the bridge which carries the A453 appears. This is the bridge which was immediately prior to Tonge railway station. Unlike the stations at Worthington, Melbourne and Chellaston which have been demolished, Tonge railway station has but incorporated into a private house. It is still possible to see, however, some of the station and its platform.





Above is a closer view of the building that incorporates Tonge railway station. It has now become a private house but some of the old station's brickwork still remains. Below is a view looking back towards the bridge as can be seen the station platform can still be seen after all the years.





After the Tonge station, the trail continues much as before with trees flanking its path. But occasionally, there are breaks in the foliage and through a gap on the trail's right side, it is possible to see the trees on the banks of the small brook which accompanies the trail.





Above is the trail just before it reaches the first bridge at Wilson. This bridge carries the road called Slade Lane. This is another pretty stretch of the trail which makes a lovely gentle cycle ride.





It is possible to leave the Cloud Trail at the bridge via a flight of wooded steps. At the top, you will be on Slade Lane and if you walk towards Donington Park, you will come to a small bridge that crosses the brook shown below that flows along side the Cloud Trail.

