

The Worthington to Tonge Section of the Cloud

Worthington is the starting point of the Cloud Trail, or at least, the starting point where the Cloud Trail runs on the Ashby to Derby railway's route. It is, in my opinion, one of the most interesting and exciting parts of the trail, But I would say that because my grandparents lived in Worthington, and as a small boy, I remember visiting the railway when it was a working line carrying limestone and coal. I would recommend this part of the trail to any walker or cyclist. It really is, in my opinion, an experience to walk or cycle so near to the Cloud Hill quarry. The following photographs start at (green dot on map) and finish at Tonge (red dot on the map below).





The above photograph shows the Cloud Trail's starting point at Worthington. There is a free car park. Below is the first stretch of the trail. It's difficult to believe that this was once the entrance to the busy Worthington railway station.





As I remember at the point where the trail turns slightly to the left on the above photograph, another line went into the Cloud Hill quarry near to the old lime kilns. On Sunday evening, I would see the kilns glowing as I travelled home on the Melbourne bus with my parents. Below is a particularly attractive part of the trail where a small brook zigzags under the trail.





Two more striking views of the trail. The small brook is to the left on the above photograph but manages to pass under the trail and appear on the right on the photograph below. It will remain on the trail's right for the remainder of the journey.





All too soon, however, this lovely Worthington section of the trail comes to an end at the bridge carrying the road called Stocking Lane. Here, the traveller has to leave the old railway route for a short stretch.





A quick look backwards towards the beautiful Worthington section of the trail, then up the wooden stairs and down Stocking Lane towards Breedon. There is a well sign posted path that leads back to the Cloud Trail on the old railway line's route.





Once back on the old railway line's route, this section after the bridge carrying Stocking Lane passes close to Breedon on the Hill. Although, the traveller would not probably realise as the line was cut deeply into the earth with high embankments.





The high embankments on either side of the trail have been taken over by nature, and there is a feeling of being in a wilderness but quite soon the iron bridge at Tonge village will appear.

