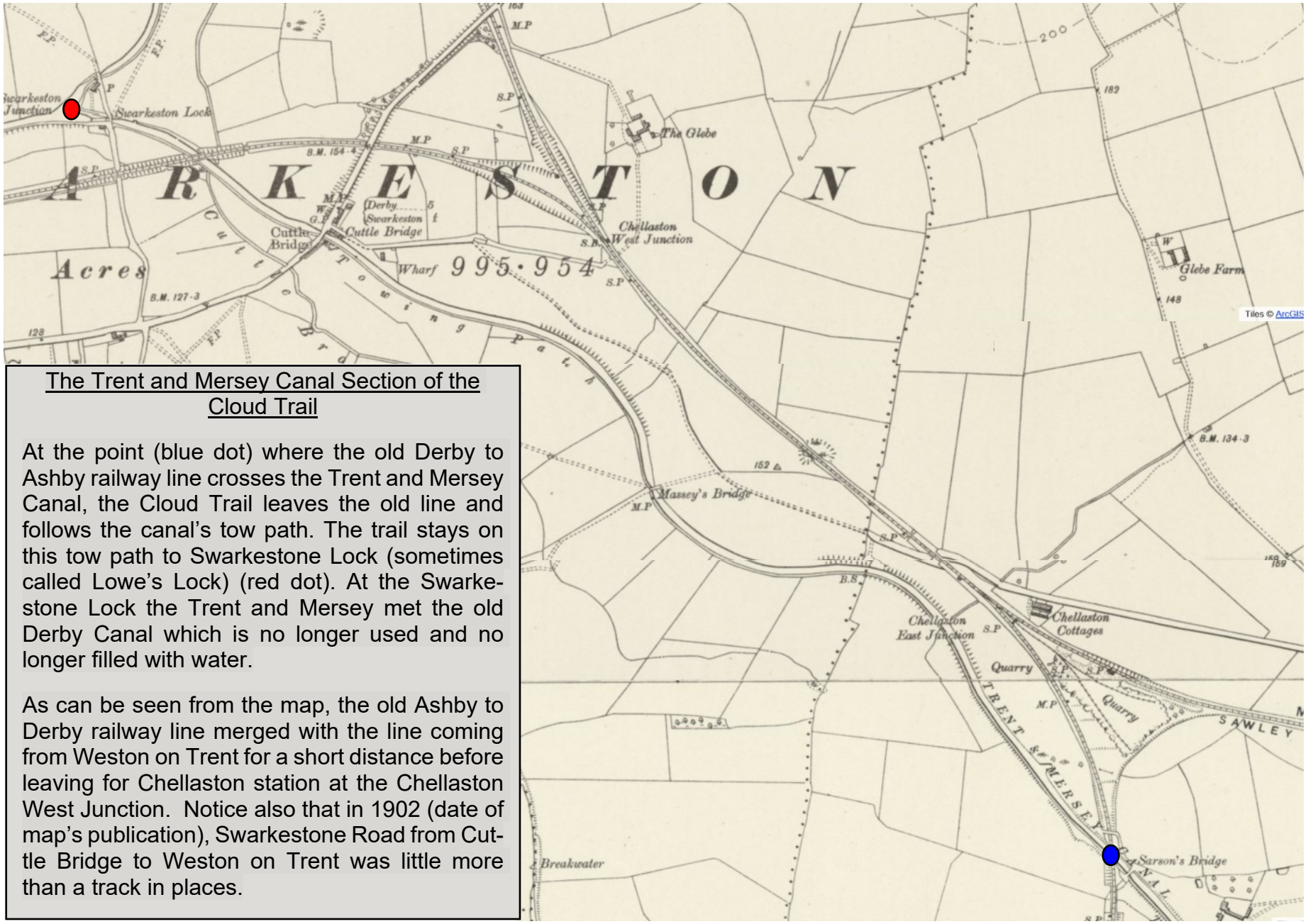


The Trent and Mersey Canal Section of the Cloud Trail

At the point (blue dot) where the old Derby to Ashby railway line crosses the Trent and Mersey Canal, the Cloud Trail leaves the old line and follows the canal's tow path. The trail stays on this tow path to Swarkestone Lock (sometimes called Lowe's Lock) (red dot). At the Swarkestone Lock the Trent and Mersey met the old Derby Canal which is no longer used and no longer filled with water.

As can be seen from the map, the old Ashby to Derby railway line merged with the line coming from Weston on Trent for a short distance before leaving for Chellaston station at the Chellaston West Junction. Notice also that in 1902 (date of map's publication), Swarkestone Road from Cuttle Bridge to Weston on Trent was little more than a track in places.

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The Trent and Mersey Section of the Cloud Trail



After leaving the section of the Cloud Trail which follows the old railway line which ran from Ashby to Derby, you will find yourself on the Trent and Mersey Canal's tow path.



The canal is very peaceful and the walk or cycle ride a real pleasure. It's rather difficult to believe that years ago, horses pulled the boats



As can be seen, the canal starts to turn towards the right and there is a feeling of going out into open countryside.



In the distance, to the left, there are views of Robin Wood and the high ground in the Ingleby area which is approximately 2 miles away.



Slightly further along the tow path, a small bridge crosses the canal.



After going under this bridge, it is not long before the Swarkestone Road can be seen on the right.



To the left, the Swarkestone Hall Pavilion which is also known as Swarkestone Stand can be seen. This is a grade 1 listed building. Built, I believe over 300 years ago.



Soon after passing this building, Cuttle Bridge will appear and weary walkers could leave the trail and catch a bus at the nearby bus stop.



Once under Cuttle Bridge, the trail continues on and the next bridge carries the railway line for goods trains running from the Nottingham area to Burton on Trent.



Finally, Lowe's Lock is in sight and here the Cloud Trail leaves the Trent and Mersey's tow path and continues its journey along the tow path of the derelict Derby Canal



The photograph above shows Swareston Lock (sometimes called Lowe's Lock). The old bridge is the point where Derby Canal used to connect with the Trent and Mersey Canal. It is along the tow path of the disused Derby Canal that the Cloud Trail continues its journey. But before you start, it's a good idea to 'take a break' for a while at Swarkestone Lock which is very peaceful and relaxing place.