The Bluebank Loop gives everyone the opportunity to enjoy the delights of the countryside and the Chesterfield Canal.

- This easy access route starts and finishes at Station Road, Brimington, Chesterfield, by The Mill public house where you can enjoy a drink and a snack.
- Alternatively, start from Newbridge Lane, access is via Whitting Valley Road at the bottom of Whittington Hill.
- Parking is available at Station Road and Newbridge Lane with spaces for disabled people to park.
- The whole route is around 4 kilometres long, with several shortcuts along the way to give a choice of distances.
- The route is easily accessible for all, including wheelchairs, scooters and single pushchairs.
- All gradients are safe and manageable.You will find plenty of seats to rest and enjoy the scenery and wildlife.
- Through the summer months try following the path through the meadow, which has been specially surfaced to make it more accessible.

Wildlife Notes

Many different waterbirds can now be found on the canal and the oxbows. The following are a few of the species that you might see along the Bluebank Loop.

Little Grebes - also known locally as Dabchicks. Small birds with dark brown feathering above and a pale yellowish green bill. They swim well and dive with gusto, particularly to escape.

Kingfishers - are often seen in the Bluebank woods area. They are unmistakably dart shaped in flight with iridescent blue and emerald green flashing plumage.

Mute Swans - are now well established along the canal. Easily distinguished by their white plumage and orange bill with it's black base.

Chesterfield Canal Partnership

Chesterfield Canal Partnership is fully committed to the protection and restoration of the Chesterfield Canal for its historical, ecological and recreational value. The partnership is made up of local authorities, statutory and non-statutory bodies, the voluntary sector and private enterprise.

The Chesterfield Canal Trust is a charitable company run entirely by volunteers. Its 800 members work in partnership with others to restore navigation to the whole of the canal.

For further details contact: Chesterfield Canal Trust, c/o Tapton Lock Visitor Centre

CHESTERFIELD ACTION FOR ACCESS

Chesterfield Action for Access is a voluntary organisation working to improve facilities and access to the countryside for disabled people.

For further details tel: 01246 471306

This leaflet is also available in other formats.

For more information about the route and other walks in this series contact:
The Three Valleys Project at Tapton Lock Visitor Centre
Tel: 01246 551035 - part of Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Service.

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For public transport information contact
Busline Tel: 01246 250450

GROUNDWORK CRESWELL

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THE 3 VALLEYS PROJECT
moss-drone-rother
COUNTRYSIDE AND TOURISM

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Around the Bluebank Loop

Access for All



THE 3 VALLEYS PROJECT
moss-drone-rother
COUNTRYSIDE AND TOURISM

Chesterfield Canal Partnership

walks along the

cuckoo way

a series of walks based along the Chesterfield Canal towpath

Around the Bluebank Loop

Access for All



Along the Towpath

The route starts out along a short stretch of canal from Station Road to Wheeldon Mill Lock. Access from Newbridge Lane, via Whitting Valley Road, joins the towpath after the Lock.

From here the route follows the towpath which winds gently along an embankment through Bluebank Wood, which is said to have got its name from the bluebells that carpet the woodland floor in the spring.

The grasslands on your left are a relic of the River Rother flood meadows and are a haven for wildflowers and butterflies.

Once past these meadows you can see long pools on the left of the towpath. These are called oxbows and were left after the Rother was straightened during the building of the railway in 1890. These oxbows are an important habitat for amphibians and water birds.



Mallard

Heading towards Bluebank Lock you can see the remains of a boat; it was pulled out of the lock when the canal was dredged by Derbyshire County Council in 1997. This boat could have been one of those used to carry locally made cannonballs to the River Trent and then on to Europe for the Battle of Waterloo.

Bluebank Lock is the turnaround point for this route, but if you want to go further the towpath carries on all the way to West Stockwith on the River Trent. This is another fortyfour miles away, and not all easy access! Bilby Lane, with links to Brimington and Whittington, is only 400 metres further on.

About the Canal

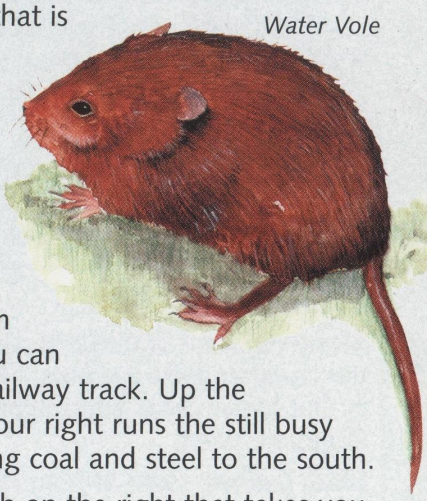
The building of the Chesterfield Canal took around six years and was completed in 1777. It was one of the country's earliest canals and was used to transport Derbyshire coal and other goods to new markets. When the canal reached Chesterfield the celebrations in the town lasted for four days.



Peacock

Wheeldon Mill and Bluebank Locks look original, but were actually rebuilt in the 1990's by the Chesterfield Canal Society volunteers, now the Chesterfield Canal Trust, and Derbyshire County Council contractors.

Since its restoration, the canal is becoming a haven for an abundance of wildlife. It is an important stronghold for water voles, a mammal that is becoming increasingly rare throughout Britain.



Water Vole

Back along the Track

Heading back from Bluebank Lock you can follow a disused railway track. Up the embankment to your right runs the still busy railway line carrying coal and steel to the south.

Look out for a path on the right that takes you through the meadow, along the side of the River Rother. This is a beautiful place to stop and enjoy a picnic. Alternatively carry on along the track.

When you come out of the meadow you can rejoin the track and return to Newbridge Lane car park or continue on past Wheeldon Mill Lock to Station Road.