

# LONG EATON TO BURTON ON TRENT

## GRAND UNION CANAL

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TRIP TYPE: SOLO CYCLE

OBJECTIVE: CYCLE FROM TRENT LOCK, LONG EATON, TO BURTON.  
RETURN BY TRAIN FROM BURTON TO LONG EATON.

DISTANCE: 21 MILES

TIME: 2.25 HOURS, 8 mph

NICHOLSON: GUIDE 3, PP 175-181

COSTS: FREE PARKING AT TRENT LOCK. TRAIN FROM BURTON  
TO LONG EATON £4.50 UPWARDS (PRICES VARY)

DIFFICULTY: FAIR

OVERVIEW: A straightforward ride along the River Trent then the Trent & Mersey Canal. Towpaths are generally decent, some metalled, some muddy sections but nothing too strenuous. A choice of pubs in either Burton or Trent Lock to finish, and an easy train journey back.

### 1. TRENT LOCK TO BURTON (20 MILES)

Park in the Trent lock car park, NG10 2FY, for free. From the car park cycle past the Trent lock pub and turn right on the riverside path along the Trent. The towpath is initially good, then turns to grass or earth in places. After 1.5 miles cross the river on a railway bridge and turn right on the canal section. Head up Sawley Locks, with the canal on your left.

Unfortunately the lockkeepers Rest micropub is now closed.

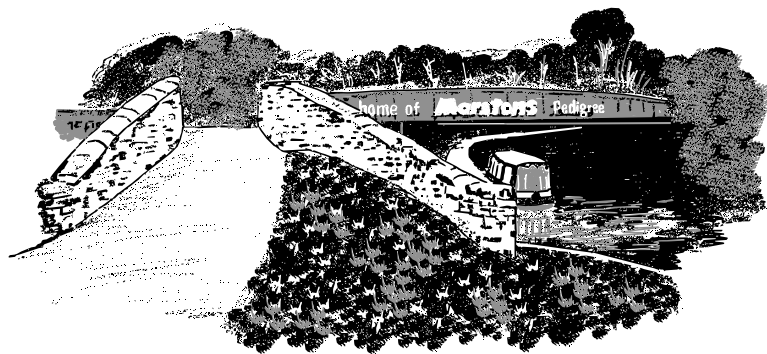


The Clock Warehouse, Shardlow

At the top of the locks is Tamworth Road, B6540. Cross the road bridge to continue on the left side of the canal. Pass under the M1 motorway.

Carry on around the lakes on your left. As the river bends to the left briefly join a private track, cross the river on a footbridge, double back on yourself briefly and turn left onto the canal. This is where the River Derwent joins the Trent.

Pass through Shardlow, after which the towpath is earth and narrow but rideable. Pass under Derby Southern Bypass, A50. Once past Weston conditions improve for a while with a wide, flat path.



Marston's Pedigree, Bridge 33b, Burton on Trent

Continue past Swarkestone, Barrow upon Trent and Willington, after which the canal runs close to the A38.

As you approach Burton you cross the River Dove on an aqueduct. As I rode into Burton (summer 2024) the towpath was being widened and metalled.

After Dallow lock (7) but before Shobnall Road Bridge (33),

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take the alleyway to Ravens Way. Take Waverley Lane, Shobnall Street, St. Pauls Street West, go round St. Pauls Church, King Edward Place, straight onto Borough Road and the railway station is on your right. If you have time for a pint before you catch your train then visit the spectacularly unspoiled Coopers Tavern on Cross Street, DE11 1EG, just 5 minutes away, which unfortunately doesn't open until 5pm.

Trains are 2-3 per hour, some direct, some via Derby. Cross Country trains always have a non-reserved cycle space.

## 2. LONG EATON STATION TO TRENT LOCK (1 MILE)

Emerging from Long Eaton station turn sharp right on Tamworth Road, B6540. After 300m, by The Bell Inn, turn left on Netherfield Road. At the end turn left on Lock Lane and go over the level crossing. After half a mile the road bends right down towards Trent lock.

The Trent lock pub is rather dull, but the Steamboat Inn across the other side of the Erewash Canal is a strangely interesting pub with lots of memorabilia and a decent choice of beers.

