

The Packet

Issue 71
Spring 2013



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DERBY AND SANDIACRE TRUST:

Please contact Chris Madge or Doug Flack at the above addresses.

Front Cover: Spondon Winding Hole on the 8th of February – complete with shopping trolley!

EDITOR'S CORNER.

N.B.

This is issue number 71 as I inadvertently numbered the last issue wrongly.

That will confuse historians in the future!

Please do remember to send all material for the next issue to Doug Flack no later than the middle of April, 2013.

Advertising.

If you wish to advertise or, most importantly, know anyone that does, contact the Editor. Don't forget, there are 3 issues per year.

We are indebted to Interhire Power Tool service Ltd, (0115 9306382) of Park Road, Ilkeston, Derbys. DE7 5DA for the free use of tools and plant on our Working Parties.

Acknowledgements.

Views expressed by individuals in The Packet are not necessarily those of the Society or Trust.

This edition was printed by Eight Days a Week Print Solutions.

Book – The Derby Canal by Mike Smith.

In 1978 Mike Smith wrote a book entitled "The Derby Canal" which detailed the history, decline and closure of our canal and which is a valuable source of information. He gave us permission to re-issue the book and I have spent some time updating it and having it printed.

It is available from Paul Birtles at our meetings, along with a 2013 Calendar showing the canal or by post for £5.50 black & white, £7.50 colour and £7.20 for the calendar – all including post & packaging from Paul Birtle's address.

They were produced with a grant very kindly given to us by The Foyle Foundation.



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From the Chair (Feb 2013)

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Packet for 2013. We've been busy as usual since our last edition. While Society public meetings ceased for the Christmas break the Trust and Society Committees activities have continued unabated.

Restoration Progress

You may recall that we have selected four main areas for promotion on the grounds they are the most likely first candidates:

- Pride Park and the Derby Arm. Mike Woods has continued to promote our interests around the Arm with the developers, and we remain optimistic of a positive outcome particularly if the economic climate improves.
- Swarkestone to Shelton Lock. The planned Technology Park being developed on Rolls Royce land in Sinfen continues forward slowly and discussions with the interested parties have continued albeit more slowly than we would have liked.
- The Spondon area awaits economic improvement, but we have used the time to discuss the possibility of securing water abstraction rights from Celanese following their closure. We continue to be strongly supported in the area and have made good progress at the winding hole.
- The Sandiacre stretch has made better progress. Under Jeff Howe's influence we have set up a group at the County Council including local Councillor and DSCT Trustee Wayne Major to progress matters particularly regarding land ownership and encroachment and drainage. We have also received a small grant of £500 which has allowed us to buy access to LIDAR information providing spot heights for land along the whole canal. This will be very useful for planning restoration levels prior to construction.

Inevitably the availability of funding is crucial to progress and whilst we wait for the economy to improve we are focusing on submitting a bid to the Heritage Lottery for funding of professional fees in the Sandiacre and Breaston area. Success in this would bring forward the restoration of the Sandiacre section.

Working Parties.

Following the AGM I'm delighted that Scott Birkhead has taken over as Working Parties Organiser. One of Scott's concerns is to make sure we make a difference, but also maintain what has been improved. With this

in mind we are setting out an annual plan to include maintenance. With current numbers in working parties we have set out reasonable objectives focussing on Spondon, Borrowash and Draycott including the mowing from Draycott to Breaston. The hope is that as we make an impact and keep it looking good so the working parties will grow in size and we can extend our areas under improvement.

Scott is also looking at updating the equipment we have so that we can be more effective in current projects and we will also look to raise grants and spend modest funds in hiring equipment as we need it. Anyone who might know of a motorized grass sickle (as used by Councils) for sale, please let us know.

As you will know if you attended the AGM we have made good progress at the Spondon Winding Hole. To date we have cleared all the cracked willow trees bar one. This one towers over the pub's garage so needs a special approach. So the area now shows the large expanse that used to be the winding hole. Progress was rapid until the end of November when the rains came and presented us with our first section in water. The water rose and rose and finally reached the tow path level. So work has had to be abandoned until the water recedes, presumably in April. Then we'll be getting the Council back in to take down the final willow, recover the walls, pull out the roots in the hole and improve the banks.

The final training sessions with chain saws will be completed in February and this will help us to make more progress on the hedges at Draycott. We have already been called into action to replace a fence along the footpath under the Derby Road bridge at Draycott. Unfortunately this was necessary as someone had stolen the previous (metal) fence. Hopefully the replacement will last until we get water in the canal. We have also been approached by Network Rail to dredge the Draycott Ditch for them so we hope we can make the most of this to enhance the canal section to mutual benefit.

As always we will be looking for new and younger enthusiasts to help out with our projects. Any help will make a big difference and any or no skills are welcomed. Please let me know if you are available on any of the following dates to help. Working party details and dates (and postponements due to bad weather) are posted on the website under "Your Canal" (or "Working Parties" on the new site).

PROPOSED WORKING PARTY DATES FOR EARLY 2013 ARE:

March Sun 10th and Sun 24th

Meet at the canal crossing with Hopwell Road Draycott. 9:30am, work until 2:30pm or whatever you can spare.

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Events.

We have an extensive list of events to attend during the spring and summer. As usual we will be talking to people and selling them merchandise. Help would be gratefully received or just come for a chat and catch up at:

3 rd March	Eco Fair at Hilton.
6 th April	Swarkestone Lock Wheel.
4 th May	Spondon Spring Fair.
6 th May	Breaston Fair.
19 th May	Canal Open Day at The Navigation Inn at Breaston.
23 rd June	County Show, Elvaston.
6 th July	Little Eaton Carnival.
6 th July	Spirit of Chellaston.
7 th Sept	Spondon Festival.

Membership.

We welcome new Committee Member Chris Grimoldby who has taken over responsibility for membership development. Membership has been holding up well, but we are now looking to add to our impressive membership numbers. Chris has links into Universities and so is looking to attract youngsters to our restoration activities. He has also already set up the Open Day at Breaston together with sponsorship by local businesses. As always we are keen to attract more members as this helps to leverage assistance from politicians needing votes.

Chris is also looking to update members' details. One of our ongoing challenges is keeping your contact details up to date. This is especially important when members change their email address. We send monthly updates and reminders to members where we have email addresses so if you have recently acquired or changed an email address please let us know – email me on chris@gowercroft.com

Monthly Draw.

Congratulations to the recent winners of our monthly draw:

October Margaret Hicklin, Paul Birtles, Stephen Johnson.

November P Muir, W Collings, G Woolhouse.

December J Cudworth, M Hicklin, J Fisher.

January J Freemantle, P Brookes, P Broadhurst.

Meetings.

Thanks to those of you who joined us for the AGM. It was a well attended meeting with a lot of input and questions. Thanks to Doug for presenting the old pictures of Derby canal. November gave us a history of the local plaster pits and January tested us to identify a number of strange looking old items with purposes that were far from clear – to me certainly.

Eileen and Anne have planned the following entertainment for future meetings. Please join us at the Wilmot Arms at 8pm.

February 26 th	The Lichfield and Hatherton Canal by Bob Williams.
March 26 th	Birds of Prey by Ken McLoughlin.
April 23 rd	Days of Steam by Philip Lee.
May 28 th	Seaside, Skegness and Hand Knitted Bathing Costumes by Bill Allen.
June 25 th	Canal Walk – Spondon.
July 23 rd	Derek Palmer – More on old Derby - back by popular demand.

Website Update.

After much planning and thought we are putting the finishing touches to our new website. We are meeting more and more people to promote the cause and they will inevitably check our website before we meet. So we need it to be up to date, easy to use and persuasive.

It will be easier to find up to date information and we (Chris, Doug and I) have had training to update it ourselves – so no excuses. This will obviously help a great deal. We expect it to be live by the end of February so check us out on the same address [www. derbycanal.org](http://www.derbycanal.org)
Thanks again for your continuing support.

Chris Madge.

At the time of printing we have uploaded 80% of content to the new site after our first training session. Another session is booked later this month and we should then be able to include such things as Accounts, Minutes, and 'The Packet' back numbers. Ed.



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HLF Bid.

The First Step to a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant – a Pre-Application Form.

In the autumn of 2011 a Joint Development Committee (JDC) was formed consisting of members of the Trust and Society together with specialists from the Inland Waterways Association, British Waterways Board Consulting and elsewhere. The objective of the committee was to move the canal restoration project on, following the granting of outline planning permission.

Last year the JDC linked up with a company called Funding People body that specialises in assisting organisations like ours to obtain grants to fund their development projects. Funding People have looked at our project and have recommended that we seek a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant; this recommendation has been accepted by the JDC.

The first step in the process of obtaining a grant is to fill in a Pre-Application Form. This requires us to explain the heritage that our project will focus on and why it is important. We have to describe the aims of the project, what physical works will be undertaken and what activities we plan to do, particularly ones involving people learning from and participating in the project. The benefits to local heritage and to people have to be described. Finally we need to say when the project will start, how long it will take and how much it will cost.

When the HLF receives the Form it will assess whether or not our project is of sufficiently high heritage value to warrant HLF inviting us to meet them to discuss our project. If we are invited to meet HLF we may subsequently be told our project has sufficient merit to justify us submitting a full grant application.

The JDC has filled in a Pre-Application Form which is now in the final stage of editing. By the time you come to read this article, the form should have been submitted and the JDC awaiting an invitation to a meeting with the HLF in Nottingham.

David Hayes,
Secretary.

The Winding Hole, Spondon – an Update.

The autumn edition of the Packet reported that the Working Party had started work on clearing the winding hole of vegetation and rubbish last September. This update provides a progress report together with a few historical details about the hole.

The photographs show before and after views. As you can see a lot of willows have been cut down, with just one remaining to be done this spring. The timber was put to good use as fuel for various members' wood burning stoves. You can just see in one photograph the exposed stonework of two edges of the hole. It's good to see water back in the hole; the traffic cone and ASDA trolley are not so welcome.

A plan has been found which was drawn in 1918 when Offiler's Brewery bought the Station Inn from the Drury –Lowe family of Locko Park. The Station Inn, previously the Canal Tavern, was demolished in 1928 when the Moon Hotel was built; it was probably contemporary with the canal. The painting illustrates the original building and shows how close it was to the winding hole.

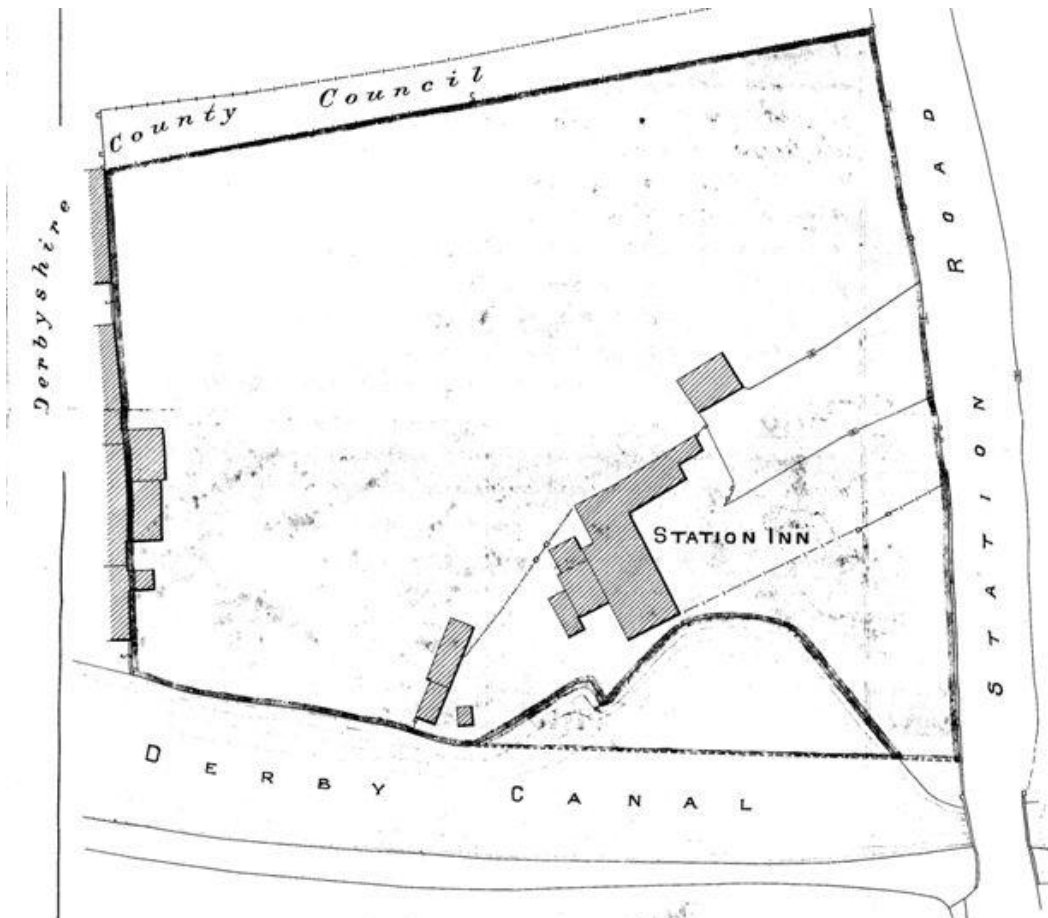
As expected some artefacts have been found during the clear-up; a few discarded beer bottles and a salt glazed flagon from the time when Offiler's Brewery owned the Moon Hotel, were uncovered on the surface after the trees were removed. We wait with interest to see what will be found when we start to dig out the sediment once the water level has fallen again.

The plan shows that there was a small wharf on one edge of the hole. Local people have told us that this was used to unload coal and other materials for use in Spondon. The small map shows how direct the road from Spondon Church to the canal was in 1825 before the advent of the railway and the A52.

David Hayes,
Secretary and occasional working party member.



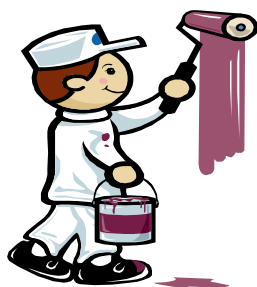
This map comes by kind permission from a map of Spondon parish in the Derbyshire Records Office at Matlock.





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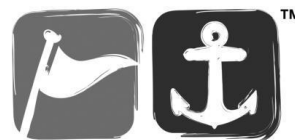
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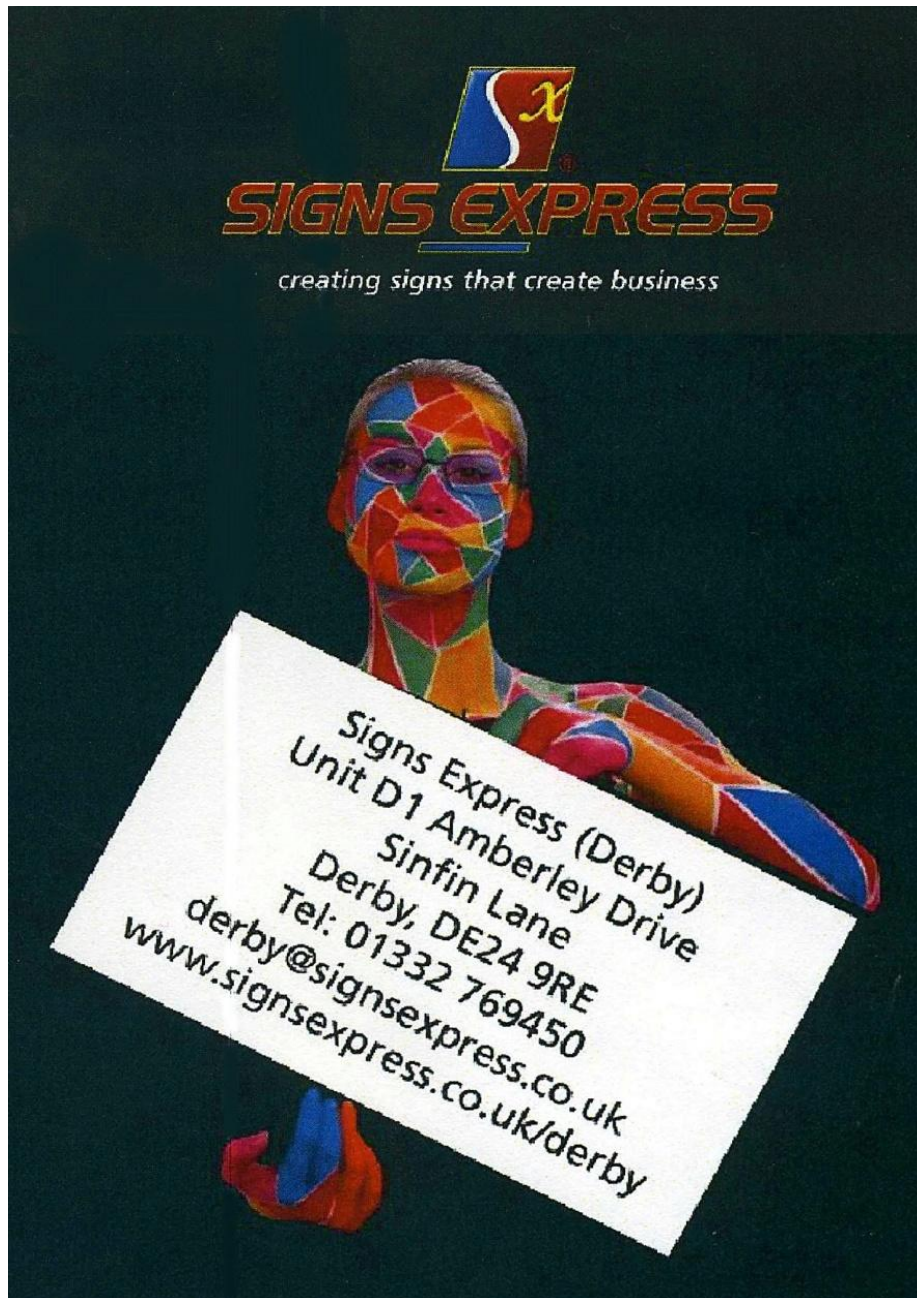
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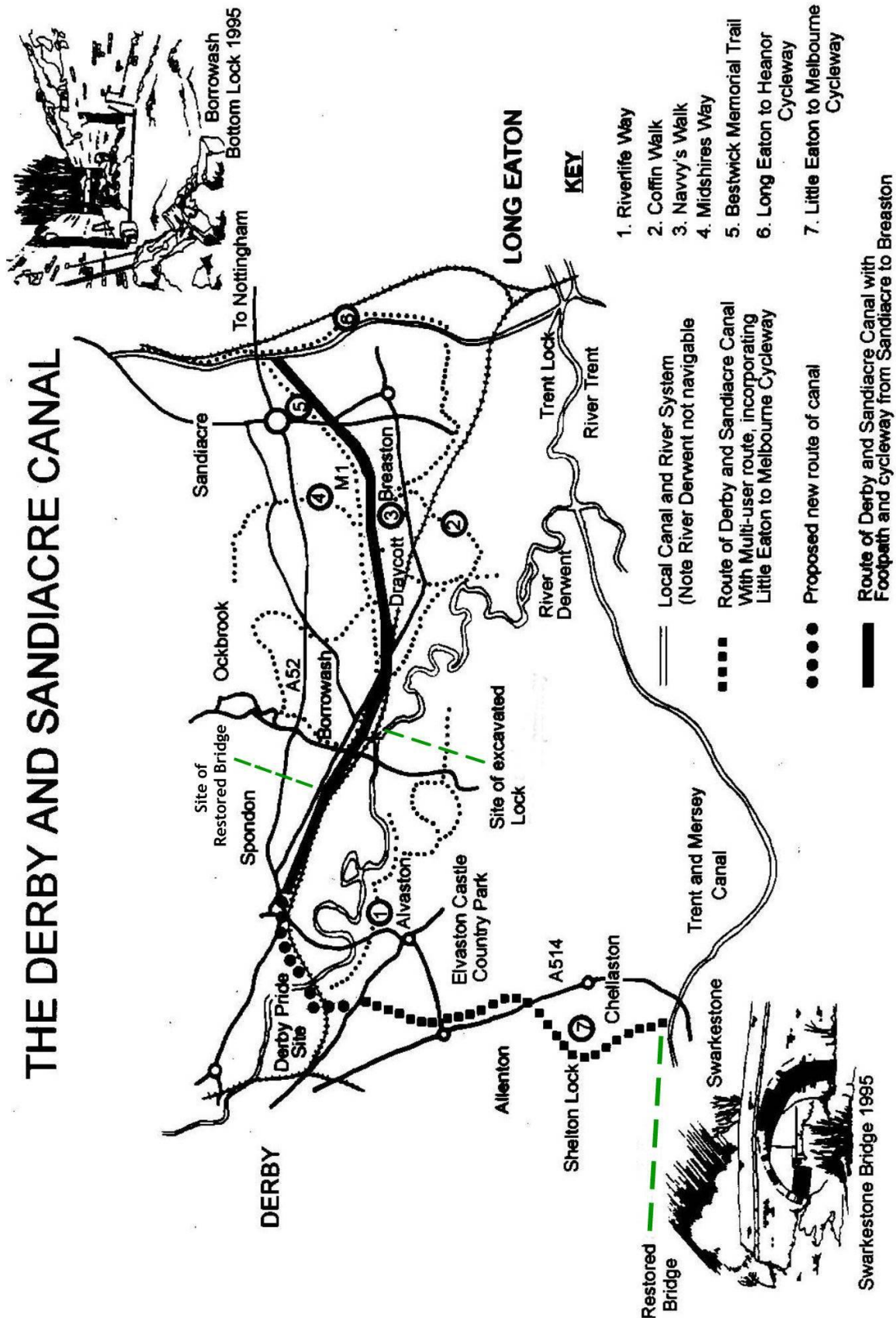
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