

# THE STONES OF THE MONKS WAY

## IN STRELLEY, COSSALL AND ILKESTON

### 6 Nottingham Canal Local Nature Reserve

The canal was constructed in 1796 to supply Nottingham with coal in competition with the Erewash Canal which was opened in 1779. The Nottingham Canal was a profitable enterprise for many years but was eventually abandoned in 1937. Broxtowe Borough Council acquired most of the canal in 1977 and the site was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 1993. An information pack containing details of circular walks and the Nottingham Canal Trail can be obtained from the Council Offices.

### 7 Mill Lane and Ilkeston Corn Mill,

The stones are clearly visible on the upper end of Mill Lane by the canal. Local legend has it that a special stone exists by the Nottingham Canal crossing which was once a swing bridge. It is said that this stone became very hot in certain conditions to such an extent that an egg could be fried upon it! Short sections of paving at the lower end of Mill Lane near the railway have been exposed by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

After crossing the railway, the bridleway crosses the River Erewash over an old bridge, which may have been constructed for packhorses. The river at this point was once used to drive Ilkeston's Corn Mill which would no doubt have been well served by the adjacent Monks Way.

### 8 Monks Close and Park Road Ilkeston and beyond

After leaving the River Erewash and Erewash Canal the route passes along Monks Close and Park Road. Ilkeston Library holds a photograph of Park Road before modern construction, clearly showing the stone pathway. A section of this path was salvaged and can be seen in the garden of the Erewash Museum Ilkeston. From Park Road it is thought that the Monks Way continued to Dale Abbey, probably via routes which still exist today.

### 9 Erewash Museum, High Street, Ilkeston (Tel 0115 9072244)

The Museum is situated near to Ilkeston Market Place off East Street, and offers a fascinating insight into the history of Ilkeston, and the surrounding district. From the Museum Gardens there are fine views across the Erewash Valley into Nottinghamshire. On a clear day the routes of both Mill Lane and the Nottingham Canal and the villages of Cossall and Strelley can all be seen. Admission to the Museum is free.

**1** The Broad Oak Public House makes a good starting, and finishing point for your walk. The pub offers parking and a wide variety of food and drink in pleasant surroundings.

### 2 Strelley Village Conservation Area

The stones are easily seen here as they are incorporated into the footpath between the Broad Oak public house and All Saints Church. The churchyard provides a good view of Strelley Hall which was originally constructed on the site of a mansion house by Sir Sampson de Strelley in 1356. The illustration overleaf shows an artist's impression of the site in about 1780.

The Edge family and particularly Thomas Webb Edge carried out major improvements to both the Hall and village in the late 1700's. Extensive farm buildings were constructed at the corner where the Monks Way leaves Main Street. Although these buildings were demolished in 1969, a stone stile remains close to the path and on the reverse of this the following words appear:

"T.W. Edge Armiger MDCCCIII completed this cow-hovel farm yard and pump with sough from the quarry to supply the same and sough to carry all the overplus and moisture of farm yard into Smiths wheat-mill and Minnow New River Pond and in the same year 1803 planted this and the two plantations round those buildings,"

A sough is a drain and an Armiger is a person entitled to Heraldic Arms.

Strelley Hall is now the headquarters of Pafec Ltd, Computer Software Specialists.

### 3 Holly Copse

The bridleway at this point passes alongside Holly Copse - a delightful mixed broadleaved woodland owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. Access is permitted and a path runs parallel to the bridleway providing walkers with an interesting detour.

### 4 Manor Farm

Manor Farm lies on the junction of Robinettes Lane and Dead Lane and is the site of a medieval manor house. Originally the manor house and associated buildings were set in a walled rectangular enclosure with an external moat.

### 5 Cossall Village

A short excursion away from the Monks Way to explore Cossall is worthwhile as most of the village lies in a conservation area. Cossall has ancient origins, with parts of the church dating back to the 13th century. The village also has many links with the works of author D H Lawrence. His book "The Rainbow" features "Cossethay", which is easily identifiable as Cossall. The Willoughby Almshouses located near the church are said to have once been a chapel, the loft of which was supposedly used to accommodate weary travellers.



KEY	
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	Denotes point of interest
<span style="color: red;">---</span>	"Monks Way" Track
<span style="color: red;">---</span>	"Monks Way" Footpath
<span style="color: red;">     </span>	Locations where traces of stones can be seen
<span style="color: red;">●●●●●</span>	Suggested return route
<span style="color: green;">●</span>	Car Parking Areas
C	C = Albion Leisure Centre
B	B = Cossall Road, Trowell
A	A = Broad Oak Pub, Strelley

