

ABOUT THE WALK

DISTANCE: 2.5 miles. **TIME:** 1.5 hours.

START/PARKING: CP at start of Southwell Trail off Station Rd next to the 'Newcastle Arms'.

TERRAIN: flat, riverbank prone to be muddy in bad weather.

FOOTWEAR: stout footwear or walking boots.

OS MAP: Explorer 270 and 271 1:25,000 scale and Landranger 120 1:50,000 scale

REFRESHMENTS: 'Newcastle Arms' PH, Reg. Taylor's Garden Centre, Normanton.

THE CHARLES CAUDWELL HERITAGE TRAIL.

Charles Caudwell purchased the mill, that stands by the River Greet, in 1851 and for four generations the Caudwell family milled flour. Over many years the Caudwell family have made a substantial contribution to many aspects of town life and this has been recognised by the choice of the family name for certain locations - Caudwell House and Caudwell Close. Ruth and Elizabeth, daughters of John Caudwell, live locally to this day.



CAUDWELL MILL

Leave the car in the Car Park at the start of the Southwell Trail off Station Rd. Start the walk by turning left at Station Rd and walking to Caudwell's Mill. Have a look at the old mill and read the information below.

POINT OF INTEREST 1

CAUDWELL'S MILL stands on the River Greet on the site of Southwell's mediaeval Burgage mill. When Charles Caudwell, whose family originated from Derbyshire, bought the mill in 1851 he made changes, thus greatly increasing the mill's capacity. Wheat was transported to the mill by road, rail and water. Local corn arrived by horse and cart, supplies from further afield came from the R.Trent by barge to a wharf at Fiskerton which still stands. The mill suffered serious fires on three occasions in 1867, 1893 and 1917. On each occasion the opportunity was taken to modernise the plant. The fire of 1893 was well recorded by local photographer, Alfred Loughton. Local bakers took their supply of flour from the mill, best known was 'Mosedale's' Bakery and Caudwell's 'Greet Lily Flour' won the Nottinghamshire's Bakers Cup in 1907, 1908, 1909, 1912 and 1914. The mill was taken over by Associated British Foods, who closed it in 1977 and in 1989 the mill was converted into residential apartments.



TRACTION ENGINE AT CAUDWELL MILL

Now walk on over the bridge by the River Greet and take the FP on your left. Follow the path that runs alongside the river. Note the industrial workshops on the other side of the river and the Swan Sanctuary, eventually, on your right. Over the years the area round the River Greet has always been a source of employment for local people. Look at the information below.

POINT OF INTEREST 2

INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY by the RIVER GREET. In the 19th century osiers were grown on the south side of the river for the making of all kinds of basket-work. Hops were grown in fields close to the R.Greet, especially in the Maythorne area, to support the malting industry of Southwell and Newark. As late as 1832 there were 14

hop-growers and 7 malsters in the Southwell area. The road name Hopkiln Lane, near Norwood Park, clearly indicates the importance of this local industry at that time. Ron Gadsby's Bakery was appropriately sited in the old yard of Caudwell's Mill.

On your right as you walk down the river-side path you will be aware of the Swan Sanctuary and Nature Conservation Area, part of Reg Taylor's Garden Centre. For many years it has been one of the best garden centres in the district and it is well worth visiting.



SWAN SANCTUARY AT REG.TAYLORS

The footpath continues to follow the river as it meanders towards Maythorne Mill.

POINT OF INTEREST 3

WILDLIFE by the RIVER GREET (A)

The river banks are covered in unmanaged grasses and tall herbs that provide an ideal habitat for the endangered water vole and Southwell is one of the most important strongholds in the county. The water vole lives in burrows in the riverbank with entrances above and below the water. It is very shy but if you hear a 'plop' look for the wake and you may catch a glimpse of one swimming at or below the surface. The water vole is a vegetarian and poses no health threat to humans. Mallard and moorhen may also be seen in the water and kingfisher and grey heron still visit the R.Greet. A harsh 'kaark kaark' call indicates a grey heron nearby, probably in flight. Dragonflies may be seen over the water including the spectacular 'azure damsel' and just upstream of Caudwell's Mill some exotic bird sounds may be heard from Reg Taylor's Garden Centre.



SPECKLED WOOD

Proceed towards Maythorne Mill. The river bends even more as it approaches the little hamlet of Maythorne. Keep to the FP along the river.

WILDLIFE BY THE RIVER GREET. (B) The presence of such mammals as rabbit, field vole, wood mouse and shrew in turn attracts predators such as tawny owl, kestrel, sparrow hawk and fox. The many species of wild flower attract an even greater variety of species of insect including large white and meadow brown butterflies. Some of the flowers that can be seen are creeping thistle, lesser burdock and scented mayweed. The poisonous hemlock grows all along this stretch of the R.Greet. The other main ecological feature is that it is lined by scattered trees that in places become continuous or form a small wood. The trees are mainly crack willow, common alder and hawthorn with the addition of ash near Maythorne.



As you approach Maythorne Mill you pass gardens on the other side of the Greet. Cross the first stile and walk over the bridge towards the mill. Cross over the second bridge and turn right into Maythorne hamlet. Take a look at the mill and read the information below.

POINT OF INTEREST 4

MAYTHORNE MILL is an outstanding example of a cotton mill built in 1785 on the model of those of Richard Arkwright of Cromford. Its purpose was to supply the framework knitting industry with yarns. The speculator that built Maythorne was a Southwell hop merchant. In the early 19th century the mill was converted to producing silk and lace thread by Messrs. Bean and Johnson and in 1838 there were 70 employees, some of whom lived in Southwell, others lived in cottages built on the site. There was also a Mission Hall, PH and general store. The workforce was mainly composed of women who were required to wind silk on bobbins, form it into shanks, then it was finally washed and pressed and despatched to Nottingham. Silk thread production was not the only industry at Maythorne as osier beds provided willow used for basketmaking and hops were also grown. From



MAYTHORNE MILL

1939-45 Maythorne Mill was used to billet soldiers and in 1948 HJ Butler bought Maythorne and put the land and buildings to agricultural use. Don Butler now farms at Maythorne and the mill building has been converted into residential flats with additional industrial workshops, housed in various outbuildings.

Continue along the minor road from Maythorne to the Southwell Trail. It is a pleasant walk as the road is lined with mature trees including rowan and a row of magnificent horse chestnuts. Notice, too, the Mulberry tree in the paddock. Turn left at the Southwell Nature Trail and walk down the old railway line towards Southwell.

POINT OF INTEREST 5

The 'SOUTHWELL PADDY' Southwell was connected to the Midland Railway network by a short branch line from Rolleston Junction on the Nottingham to Lincoln line on the 1st July 1847 but there was not a regular passenger service by steam locomotives until 1860. The line was extended to Mansfield on the 3rd April 1871 with stations placed at Kirklington, Farnsfield and Rainworth. Apart from its value to passengers the line carried grain to the Caudwell Mill and assisted the movement of livestock and livestock products such as milk. Coal was carried from the collieries to the east of Mansfield. Southwell Racecourse was also well served by special 'Excursion' trains. The 'Paddy' was a little 'pull and push' train consisting usually of the tank engine and one coach. It was held in some affection and to this day brings back strong memories. One particular memory for many was the special treatment afforded by the railway to Mr. Tweedale Meaby, Clerk to the County Council, in the 1940's. He would travel

each day on the 'Paddy' to Rolleston and thence to Nottingham. Should he be late at Southwell Station the train was delayed for him. On one occasion the train actually turned back when they realised Mr. Tweedale Meaby wasn't on board. Another well known story was, as the line was somewhat slow and rural, the drivers



THE 'PADDY' AT SOUTHWELL STATION

and firemen of goods trains were said to amuse and feed themselves by catching rabbits. Equally famous was the story that as the journey to Rolleston was so short there was no need for constant stoking of the boiler and it was not unknown for the driver to let his fireman off the train so he could pick mushrooms



SOUTHWELL STATION

from the nearby field. The Southwell-Rolleston line was closed to passengers on the 16th June 1959 though the National Coal Board still used the line until 1968. In 1969 the track was lifted

and the following year Notts.CC, who had bought the disused line, designated the section from Southwell to Farnsfield a public footpath. Currently there is a proposal for the trail to be classified as a Local Nature Reserve.

Continue walking down the Southwell Trail. Note in the early stages it has an open feel and there are pleasant views of the pastures on either side and of the low rolling hills beyond the R.Greet. As you walk further towards Southwell the hedges widen into scrub and close in on the path.

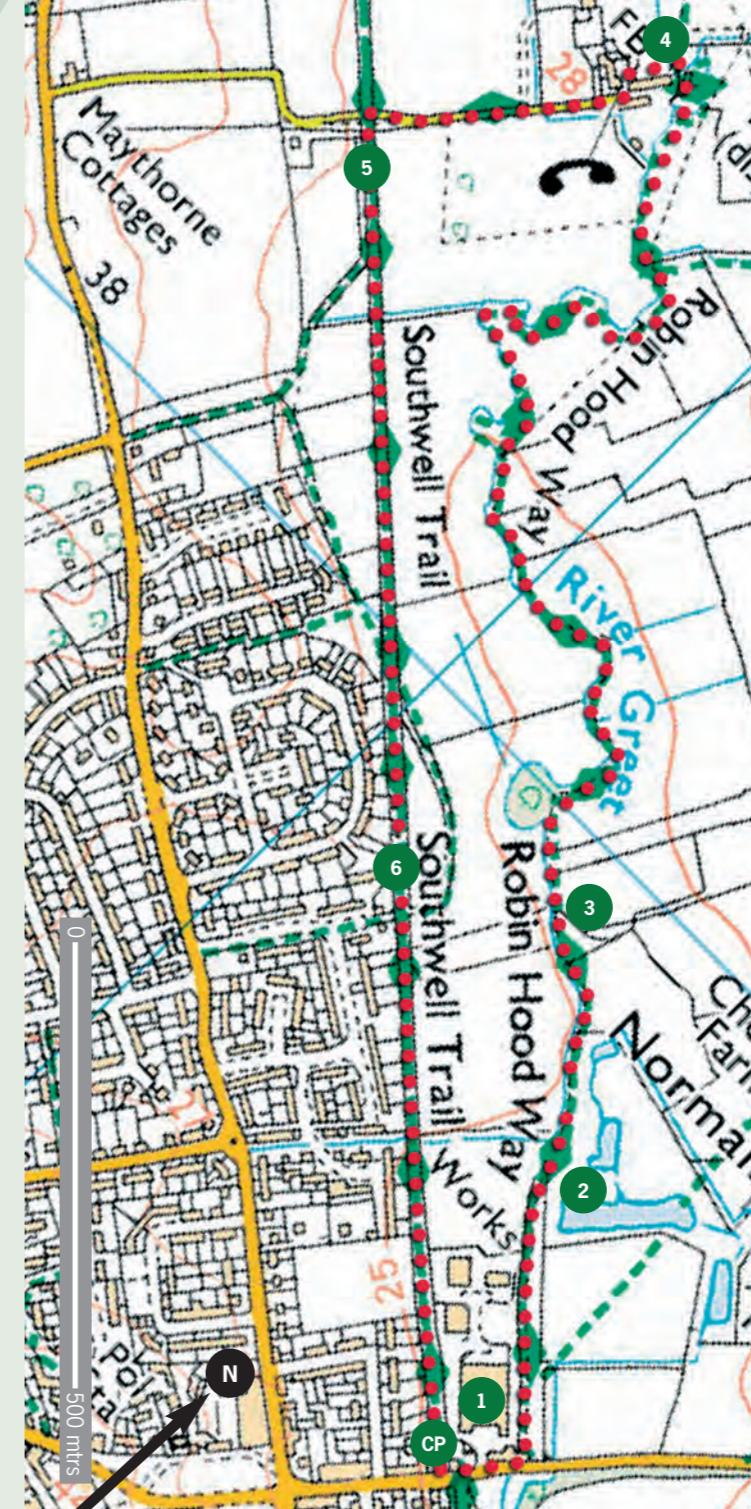
POINT OF INTEREST 6

WILDLIFE on the SOUTHWELL TRAIL. The hedgerows and scrub provide an excellent habitat for birds and small mammals. Blackbird, song thrush, robin, starling and swift can all be seen and heard. Flocks of blue tits and great tits can be seen, flitting from bush to bush outside the breeding season, with the great tit's 'teacher teacher' call being the easiest to identify. There are occasional trees along the hedgerows. Along the last stretch to the CP are many semi-mature horse chestnuts. The most showy flowers along the verges are the pink rosebay willowherb and the blue meadow crane's-bill. Great burnet is uncommon in the area but it occurs at the Maythorne end of the trail. Many species of insect can be seen on the flowers including bees, wasps, flies such as greenbottle, beetles such as ladybird and butterflies such as the large white, small tortoiseshell and meadow brown.



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There are six Heritage Trails for Southwell



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The Charles Caudwell HERITAGE TRAIL

