

Take the steps up on to Derwent Street. Wheelchair users should bear right just before the steps and loop round on to Derwent Street. **Cross over to the Riverside Gardens opposite, using the pedestrian crossing.** Pedestrians should take the steps down into the Riverside Gardens. Wheelchair users should turn right, after crossing the road, passing in front of the Council House and Crown Court. Then take the path between the Crown Court and Bus Station to rejoin the trail in the Riverside Gardens.

Cycling is not allowed through the Riverside Gardens. Cyclists not wishing to dismount should follow the cycle path over Exeter Bridge and along the path to the north of the river. At the Derby Evening Telegraph offices on Meadow Road turn right over the footbridge, crossing the river, to rejoin the extended trail in Bass's Recreation Ground.

7 The Council House on your right was the last element of the Central Improvement Scheme. Designed in an 18th Century style, it was built between 1938-41. The Riverside Gardens were created before the Council House. They were laid out in the infilled wharves which edged the site of Cox's Lead Works. The works was notable for its distinctive shot-tower, which was built in 1809, and demolished in 1931.

The Riverside Gardens offer a peaceful spot, for people and birds. Many people eat their lunch here on warm days. The peaceful scene can break out into a mad scramble when birds, such as Canada Geese, Mallards, Black-Headed Gulls, Feral Pigeons and Mute Swans, see bread thrown into the river.

Rather confusingly, the Black-Headed Gull has a dark brown head in spring and summer. In winter, it has a white head with a small dark patch on the side. Bearing this in mind, you will see this seabird almost everywhere along this trail.

8 The Crown Court on your right was opened in 1989. It was built on the site of Charles Aslin's pioneering 'open market' of 1931. He also designed the bus station next door with its 'in and out' design, curved to make full use of a constricted site.

The former Derby Canal passed along the eastern side of the bus station before linking with 'Long Bridge'. This bridge carried the canal tow-path across the Derwent to the Nottingham Road arm of the canal. Long Bridge was demolished in 1959.

9 By the weir you may spot the bright blue flash of a Kingfisher in flight, but you will have to be quick! A shy creature, it soon flies off if disturbed.

The Grey Wagtail may also be seen here, flitting around in its hunt for food. This long-tailed bird has grey upper parts, but is yellow underneath.

At Holmes Bridge, you have completed the Riverside Quarter Trail. We hope you have enjoyed your walk. If you do not wish to do the longer walk to Alvaston Park, you should retrace your steps to the City Centre. Otherwise, continue under the bridge into Bass's Recreation Ground.

10 Bass's Recreation Ground is the former site of the Holmes Copper Rolling and Slitting Mills, which was built in 1734, and demolished in 1860. In 1867 the freehold for the site was given to Derby by Michael Thomas Bass MP. It once included an open-air swimming pool, but this was filled in after World War II. Trees you can see along the riverbank include Corsican Pine, Alder, London Plane, and European and Silver Lime.

Along the riverbank, the vegetation is home to the tiny Short Tailed Field Vole. Hunted by Foxes, Stoats, Mink, Owls and even local cats, this tiny mammal has to be on constant guard for danger.

- Riverside Quarter
- Riverside Quarter Trail
- Alternative route for cyclists
- Extended trail to Alvaston Park
- Point of interest
- Pay and display car parking
- Free car parking
- Toilets

Follow the path by the river through Bass's Recreation Ground. Cross over the second footbridge you come to. This brings you out next to Station Approach.

11 The Freshwater Crayfish, related to crabs and lobsters, has made its home in the Mill Fleam below the footbridge. Protected by law, its numbers are threatened nationwide by pollution, habitat loss and disease carried by introduced species.

12 On your right, the bridge over the railway line forms part of the road network through Pride Park. It links the City Centre with the A52 and was opened to traffic in 1997. Robert Stephenson and his father George Stephenson were joint engineers of the railway line. It was built in 1840-41, to carry the North Midland Line across the Derwent. The bridge you walk under is called 'Five Arches Bridge'.

13 Beyond this bridge, the land on the other side of the river was once known as The Meadows. Originally farmland, from 1839 The Meadows was built on by the railway industry. It became known as Chaddesden Sidings. Since the 1980s, sand and gravel has been extracted for use in the building industry. Eventually it will be fully reclaimed for business and leisure uses. The former sidings is still home to many plants and animals.

Follow the riverside path past Pride Park.

14 Pride Park is the original site of Derby's railway manufacturing industry. The area once employed nearly 6,000 people, but by the early 1990s it was derelict. In 1993, Derby City Partnership secured £37.5 million from the Government, as part of 'City Challenge', to regenerate the area. Schemes completed include Derby County's impressive football stadium, amongst many others.

At the paved seating area is the first of two information panels. They show you more of the wildlife you may see along the river corridor. Just beyond here, you will see the first of three artworks. Entitled 'Bloodlines', the cast-iron columns are made from recycled rails, which were taken from near The Roundhouse, a former railway workshop on Pride Park.



First pair of cast-iron columns

As you walk along the riverside path, look out across the river. At the end of the Ice Age, less than 20,000 years ago, the river would have been much bigger and wider. Look at the gently rising slope of Chaddesden and Spondon to the north. This slope is one side of the broad valley created when the Derwent was much wider than it is now. As the river slowed down, the heavier gravels it was carrying were dropped on to the river bed, with lighter sands being dropped on top later. Beneath the sand and gravel are much older rocks called Mercia Mudstones.

Wyvern Retail Park After the second paved seating area, look downstream. You will see the 14th Century Church of St Werburgh in Spondon on the skyline.

During the summer the Banded Agrion Damselfly is a frequent sight along the riverside. It has a blue body and broad dark patches in its otherwise transparent wings.

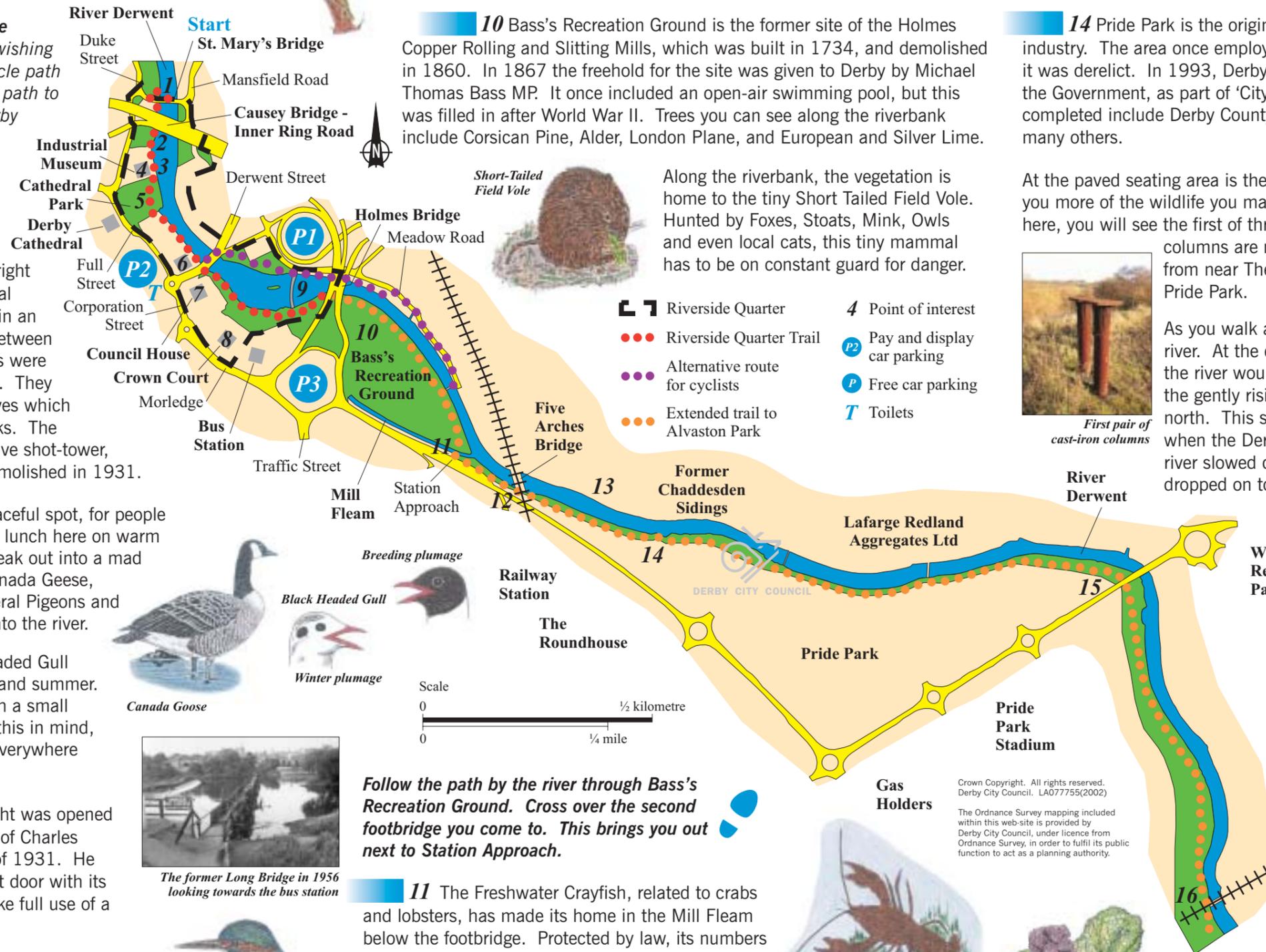


Large Red Damselfly

Watch out too for its relative, the Large Red Damselfly. It is easily identified by its bright red body. It is a common sight beside slow-flowing water.

In places, you may see piles of soil brought up by moles tunnelling through the soil in their search for earthworms. The mole is quite rare in the City.

Butterbur can be found all along the river corridor. It has leaves which can grow up to half a metre across. In spring, the large pinkish flower stems appear before the leaves. They die back before the leaves are fully grown.



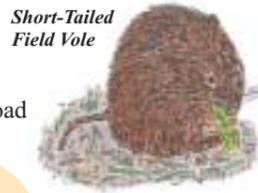
Canada Goose



The former Long Bridge in 1956 looking towards the bus station



Kingfisher



Short-Tailed Field Vole



Freshwater Crayfish



Butterbur

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Derby's Riverside Quarter Trail

with an extension to Alvaston Park via Pride Park

Introduction

The Riverside Quarter is easily the greenest of the City Centre's Quarters. This leaflet tells you about the natural and local history of the Quarter, and a section of the riverside beyond.

There are three guided trails covering the River Derwent in Derby that give information about this part of the National Heritage Corridor. The Riverside Quarter Trail starts from St. Mary's Bridge, and goes as far as Holmes Bridge. Suitable for all age groups, it can be walked during a lunch hour. If you want to go on a longer walk, this leaflet also guides you further along the riverside as far as Alvaston Park.

It is about 1 kilometre, 0.6 miles to Bass's Recreation Ground. To Alvaston Park, it is about 3.5 kilometres, 2.2 miles, and should take you up to two hours. The numbered sections in this leaflet relate to wildlife, historic buildings and features of interest along the trail. Please remember that some of the banks of the river are very steep, so stay on the path. **This trail is accessible to wheelchair users.**



St Mary's Bridge, looking along the former Bridge Gate, about 1910

Start

From St Mary's Bridge, join the riverside path by taking the track that loops round under the bridge on to a timber boardwalk.

1 Completed in 1794, the present stone bridge was built by Richard Trubshaw to a design by Thomas Harrison. This bridge replaced one that had stood here from about 1275. The Chapel of St. Mary on the Bridge is one of only five surviving bridge-chapels in England. It stands on the one remaining original arch of the medieval bridge. Dating from about 1450, it includes 13th Century stonework.

On summer evenings towards dusk, watch out for Daubenton's Bats by the bridge. They fly low over the river hunting for insects.

Continue along the boardwalk and under Causey Bridge, part of Derby's inner ring-road.

2 Beyond Causey Bridge, on the muddy ground by the river, two types of willow grow - Osier and Crack Willow. Though similar, the Osier has much narrower leaves. Away from the river's edge, near to the bridge, is a large Weeping Willow. This is a hybrid, famed for its bright green leaves and drooping, slender branches.



Lesser Celandine

On this muddy ground in springtime you may see woodland plants such as Wild Garlic and Lesser Celandine.

But the ground soon gets overgrown in summer with the deep-pink flowered Himalayan Balsam and Hemlock - a common, but **very poisonous** waterside plant. Hemlock can be easily identified by the purple spots all over its tall stem.

Continue along the riverside path, beside the Industrial Museum.

3 Keep your eyes open for rats, which are probably the most common mammal in towns and cities. They carry disease though, so please don't encourage them by leaving food. Their long tails and pointed snouts distinguish them from the nationally threatened Water Vole. Although once common, Water Voles are less frequently seen on the Derwent in Derby. We are working with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to encourage them and other wildlife to return by improving bankside habitats.



Rat

Water Vole



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Urdu
Punjabi
Hindi
भारत आग बर घुमिना नदी पर राकने नै हउके नगरी हउत
आपनी राखवना करेवे !
ਜੇ ਦਰ ਸਮੇਂ ਇਹ ਸਿਤਾਰਾ ਨਦੀ ਪੁਰੇ ਮਾਣੇ ਤਦ ਸਾਡੇ ਦੇਸ਼
ਸਮੇਂ ਵੱਲੀ ਮਦਦ ਕਰੇਗੇ !
ہمیں ہر وقت اس ستارے کی مدد سے اپنے وطن کی
سہولتوں کو برقرار رکھیں !

you along this section.

Beyond the railway line, the trail finishes in Alvaston Park. If you are feeling energetic you can continue along the riverside to Elvaston Castle. Our Lower Derwent Trail leaflet guides

16 The railway line that crosses the river here is the main line from Derby to Nottingham and London. Opened in 1867, this section is known as the 'Derby Curve'.

Overhead, keep your eyes open for birds such as Herons, Cormorants and Canada Geese. They all navigate using the river as a guide.



Cormorant

In summer, on slow stretches of the river, the water may look like it is covered by a fine green scum. These are tiny floating plants called Duckweed. Elsewhere you may see the long, dark green strands of Water Crowfoot in the river. It is related to the Buttercup, but has white flowers. It gives food and shelter to many insects, invertebrates and fish.

Tansy



Beside the path, look out for the round yellow heads of the Tansy. If you bruise a leaf between your fingers you will notice it has a pleasant smell.

Continue along the riverside at the bridge linking the Wyvern Retail Park with Pride Park.

15 The riverside environment is constantly changing. The development of Pride Park has provided many new areas for wildlife to flourish. Autumn offers you a chance to see how the plants spread their seeds. Thistles, Dandelions and the pink-flowered Rosebay Willowherb produce small seeds with fine hairs attached to them. Carried aloft by puffs of wind, they can float long distances and easily colonise new areas.

4 The Industrial Museum occupies the site of England's first power-driven textile mill. The first of Derby's many silk mills, it was built by George Sorocold for John and Sir Thomas Lombe between 1717-18. Destroyed by fire in 1910, all that remains of the original building are the octagonal tower and foundation arches. In 1974, it was converted to a Museum reflecting Derby's industrial past. Admission is free.

Continue along the riverside path.

5 This open space, now called Cathedral Park, was the site of the Derby Power Station. Built in 1908 by John Ward, it was demolished in 1972.



Former Derby Power Station

You will see a Statue of Bonnie Prince Charlie here. Oxfordshire sculptor Anthony Stones designed the statue, which was unveiled in 1995.

Beyond is Derby Cathedral. Formerly the Collegiate Church, it was granted Cathedral status in 1927 when the diocese of Derby was created. Originally built between 1511-32, the stone, pre-Reformation, west tower, one of the tallest in England, is all that remains of this building. James Gibbs rebuilt the rest in 1723-25. The nave was extended in 1968-72.

Continue along the riverside path towards Derwent Street.

6 The Magistrates' Court and original Police Station building was completed in 1934. It was built as part of the County Borough's 1929 'Central Improvement Scheme' for the centre of Derby. Borough Architect, Charles Aslin, designed the scheme.



View along the river corridor, looking downstream, from Derby Power Station in 1950