

# WELCOME TO THE TRENTHAM TRAILS

These interlinked trails take you on a journey through the rich heritage of Trentham, concentrating on its Victorian and Edwardian roots. Originally a village dominated by the workings of the grand Trentham Hall and surrounding estate, it has transformed into a dense residential area, but remains in close proximity to Trentham Gardens, a popular leisure destination.

Trentham's history began in the dark ages with the foundation of a nunnery. It is mentioned in the Domesday book and was the site of a priory in the Middle Ages, which, after the dissolution, became the first version of Trentham Hall. It went through many manifestations, but the last one, designed by Charles Barry from 1833, for the 2nd Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, provides the most familiar images. Although the Hall was demolished in 1911/12.



Trentham Hall, its gardens and the wealth of the Dukes of Sutherland are crucial to the history of Trentham, but you can discover that story within the perimeter of the Gardens. These trails aim to draw your attention to traces of old Trentham that can be found on foot or online, outside the Gardens.

As you walk the trails, you will encounter interesting buildings, the location of lost buildings, fascinating facts, and odd hidden gems, that gradually reveal the history of the place. Whether you are a history enthusiast, or simply looking for a peaceful stroll, the Trentham Heritage Trails offer something for everyone. So lace up your walking shoes and step back in time.

## INFORMATION FOR WALKERS




Trentham's Blue Diamond Garden Centre is a good starting or ending point for the trails. There is ample free parking and a choice of refreshment opportunities nearby. Further refreshment stops can be found on the routes.

- 1 **Blue Diamond Garden Centre, ST4 8JG**
- 2 **Trentham Shopping Village, ST4 8JG**
- 3 **The Harvester, Stone Rd, ST4 8AA**
- 4 **The Man in Space, New Inn Lane, ST4 8PZ**
- 5 **Toby Carvery, 206 Longton Rd, ST4 8BU**
- 6 **Bod Café Bar, 160 Longton Rd, ST4 8GG**

Produced by the Trentham Heritage Project

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 **YouTube** [youtube.com/c/TrenthamHeritage](https://youtube.com/c/TrenthamHeritage)  
 **facebook** Trentham 100 years ago

For additional information and images, or a virtual experience of the walks, scan the QR code or go to the website.



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## TRACES of TRENTHAM

Trails around the estate buildings, old village and branch line



Once a small estate village dominated by the nearby Trentham Hall and its wealthy owners. Discover what remains and what has changed.



## Green Route Distance 1.5 Km

This trail mainly identifies buildings connected with Trentham Hall, many of which formed part of the working buildings for the estate. Most were designed by renowned architect Charles Barry in the mid 1800s.

**Terrain - Mostly on flat paved paths, some uneven surfaces and a short distance on grass.**

## Black Route Distance 1.9 Km

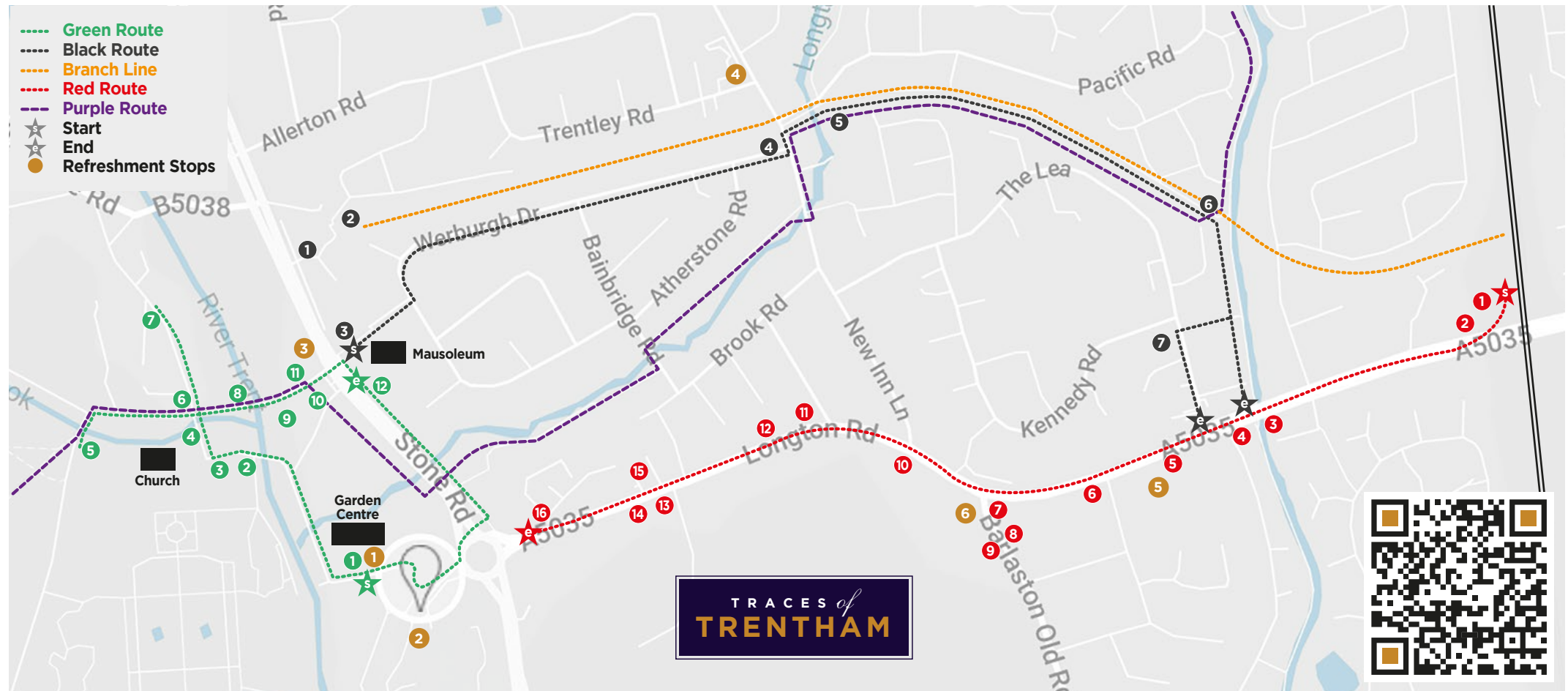
The black trail, where possible, follows the route of the former Trentham Park branch line. The first train ran in 1910 to serve the newly opened Gardens to the paying public. The line closed in 1957.

**Terrain - Pavements and walkway, occasional bumps due to tree roots, canal towpath. One short steep paved incline.**

## Red Route Distance 1.7 Km

The red trail spans the length of the Longton Road, from the site of the old Trentham mainline railway station past villa residences and old cottages that provided an attractive approach to Trentham for visitors to the Hall or the gardens.

**Terrain - Pavements alongside a very busy road, utmost care needed when crossing. Flat.**



## Purple Route Distance 1.9 Km

This marks the pilgrimage route of the Two Saints Way through Trentham. It extends from the canal towpath to Trentham Park. It includes the penitential cross in the grounds of Trentham Church, which is linked to the legend of St Werburgh. There is no further description in this leaflet, but information can be found on the website - [www.twosaintsaway.co.uk](http://www.twosaintsaway.co.uk)

## Additional Information

The trails can be walked separately or as a circular route, as they intersect at places. Each Trentham Trail has additional information and images online. They can be accessed as you walk the routes, identified by the numbered stopping points, or you can do a virtual walk on your device when you stop for refreshments, or from the comfort of your home.

The trails' webpage can be accessed by scanning the QR code, or going to the Trentham Heritage Project website - [www.trenthamheritage.org.uk](http://www.trenthamheritage.org.uk)



The Green Route -

Remains of the Trentham Estate buildings

This route begins outside Trentham Garden Centre which is on the site of the former Ballroom, a popular hotspot of entertainment and dancing from 1931 to 2002. [1] Although, during WW2, the Central Clearing House was relocated there to protect the country’s financial systems. Turn towards the river and the disused art deco bridge that was the public entrance to the gardens from 1931 until the early 2000s.

Turn right onto the service road, alongside the café, crossing the bridge over the river, towards the service yard buildings. [2] These buildings are part of the designs for Trentham by architect, Charles Barry, in the 1830s-40s. To the left, on the upper floor, was a Sculpture Gallery, and below was a dairy complex. A statue of Vice Admiral Sir Richard Leveson, who died in 1605, can be seen in a niche of the clock tower. A carriage porch completes the line of buildings. To the right, just visible over the fencing was the stable yard and the buildings housed estate offices, carriages and stables.



Exit through the gateway, where once the porters lodge, on the left, was used to distribute alms when the family was in residence. It was also the original public entrance for visitors. [3] Follow the path round to the left and Trentham Parish Church can be seen. This location has been a place of Christian worship since the 7th Century. [4]

Walk over the bridge, turn left between the cream pillars that used to act as the gateway to Trentham Park. Continue along the road and turn left over the bridge, follow the fencing on your left until you can see the remains of buildings through the trees. This was once the grand main entrance to Trentham Hall. [5] Carriages would sweep through the gilded gateway and up to the porte-cochere with the Sutherland arms displayed above.



Retrace your steps towards the church. On your left the line of buildings are part of Barry’s designs, in the form of an Italianate farmstead, for working areas of the estate. [6] The buildings included a brewery, malthouse, abattoir, laundry and cowsheds. Pigsties occupied the centre of the yard. The buildings are now private residences. Please respect residents’ privacy. Turn left at the front of the buildings and spot the sign indicating the location of the laundry. Walk a little further to see the building which housed the estate smithy, identified by the horseshoe shaped doorway. [7]

Return towards the church, but turn left towards the bridge crossing the Trent, the right side of which dates to the 1600s. Note the refuges to allow pedestrians to move out of the way of carriages and carts. From the left side of the bridge there is a good view of the estate’s former Poultry House. [8]

Continue past the ruined cottages, also part of Barry’s designs, [9] and come to the Harvester restaurant on the left. This was the location of the popular Café Monica from the 1920s-60s. The original cottage building is identified by the decorative roof gables. [10]



On the right is a disused gateway. The two lodges were once part of the main west entrance to Trentham Hall and were moved here to mark the new public entrance to Trentham Gardens in 1931. [11]



Across the road is the imposing Sutherland Mausoleum, completed in 1808 as the final resting place for the Leveson-Gower family, and the only Grade 1 listed building in Stoke-on-Trent. A mausoleum information board gives more details of its history and occupants. [12] In front of the mausoleum can be seen the Trentham War Memorial commemorating those who lost their lives in WW1 and WW2.

Return to the Gardens along the main road, or retrace your steps through the service yard, or join one of the other trails.

The Black Route -

Trentham Village and the former Trentham Park Branch Line

This route starts on the pavement facing the Mausoleum, but take a minute to look up the road to the left, where a distinctive line of black and white buildings once marked the heart of Trentham village. [1] No trace now remains of the primary school, Trentham Institute, the impressive Hunt Stables or the ‘bridge to nowhere’, which once spanned the road near to Trentham Park station. The branch line was opened in 1910 to transport visitors to the newly opened Gardens. It closed in 1957. The line disappeared in the 1960s, where possible you will be following its former route. [2]



Still facing the Mausoleum take the footpath to the left that once served as the drive to a former parsonage known as The Priory, demolished in 1959 for new housing. [3] Turn left into Werburgh Drive. The land around here up to the old railway line, which ran behind the bungalows on the left, used to belong to The Priory. The map traces the line’s route.



When you reach New Inn Lane, turn left, where a bridge once carried the line across the road, then turn right into Pacific Road. [4]

On your right, hidden by trees, is New Inn Mill. [5] For centuries it was a corn mill, flint mill and a working farm fed by the Longton Brook that you will cross on the bridge.



Take the sloping path on your right up to the embankment that marks the elevated route of the old line. The surrounding land was open farm fields, with grazing livestock, before the housing developments.



During WW2 the line was extremely important to the national interest. It carried thousands of mail bags, containing cheques, bound for the Central Clearing House, located in the ballroom at Trentham Gardens. Winston Churchill and the late Queen slept overnight on special trains, near to Trentham Park station, when on local visits.



Continue on this path until you reach the canal. Here a bridge once carried the line over the canal and on to Trentham Junction, which marked the end of the branch line. [6].

Southbound passengers had to alight there and take a pedestrian footpath to access the main line railway station.

Turn right along the canal path and exit at the next bridge. Or, alternatively, turn right at the gate into Earls Rd and then left into Brough Lane. [7]

A long-term resident and smallholder was William Brough, hence the road name. Most of these modest houses were built around 1900. Number 21 Brough Lane was built as Bickerton’s Grocer’s shop. Telegraph Cottage, at number 9, housed the original telephone exchange. Hem Heath Post Office and Bargain Booze are located in a building that has been in constant commercial use for over 120 years.



You have now reached Longton Road between stops 4-5 on the Red Route.

The Red Route -

The walk from Trentham Station to Trentham Gardens

The starting point [1] is the site of the former main line railway station, accessed from the grassy drive to the left of the Longton Road where it rises to go over the railway line. Partly hidden are platform remains. It was a fine Italianate building designed by Charles Barry, under instructions from the Duke of Sutherland. It was built in 1851 and closed and demolished in 1964.



Walk back down access drive and pass a nursing home, where previously a substantial residence stood. Named Selwyn House, [2] it was originally the home of the Corn family, pottery owners of Richards Tiles. It later became the King George V Memorial Home for blind people.

Before the canal on the left-hand side of the road, currently occupied by a petrol station, was the Hem Heath smithy. Later it became the Smithy Garage. [3]



Go over the Trent and Mersey canal, completed in 1777. [4] Once a busy working wharf, only the wharf cottage remains.

On the left, the Toby Carvery, previously the Trentham Hotel, has occupied this site since 1867, when it was the only local licensed premises in Trentham. [5]



Further along, on the corner of Oaktree Road, stands 182 Longton Road built in 1894 by pottery owner Abraham Fielding of Crown Devon Pottery. [6] The house next door, 190, was occupied by his sister and brother-in-law. On the opposite side of the road, 167 Longton Road is named Moorcroft House, as it was previously occupied by the famous pottery designer Walter Moorcroft.



On the corner of Barlaston Old Road is the bod café bar. [7] Built in 1843, as a police station to a Charles Barry design. It was converted into a bank in 1930 before being sold to Titanic Brewery in 2019.

From this corner, to the left, can be seen the Methodist Church built in 1883. [8] Opposite the church is the Golf Club opened in 1894. It was built to look like a house, in case the golf club was not a success. [9]

Opposite New Inn Lane is an old mile post. [10] A little further, on the opposite side, is a house with black timbering dated 1875. [11] Built for estate workers, it was later converted into a newsagents and village stores. Further on, the row of older white estate cottages date back to the early 1800s. [12]

On the left, opposite Brinsley Avenue is the redbrick former police station opened in 1937 with cells still intact inside. [13]

Fast Lane Motors stands on the site of a row of old thatched cottages. [14] Across the road are three joined brick properties built in 1875 for estate workers. [15]



Other older estate cottages, some of them thatched, on the left side of the road, date from the 1600s. Opposite, near the junction stands a white detached cottage. It was

once thatched and semi-detached and contained a post office and grocers for over 50 years. [16]

You have reached the Trentham Gardens roundabout with the option to join one of the other trails.