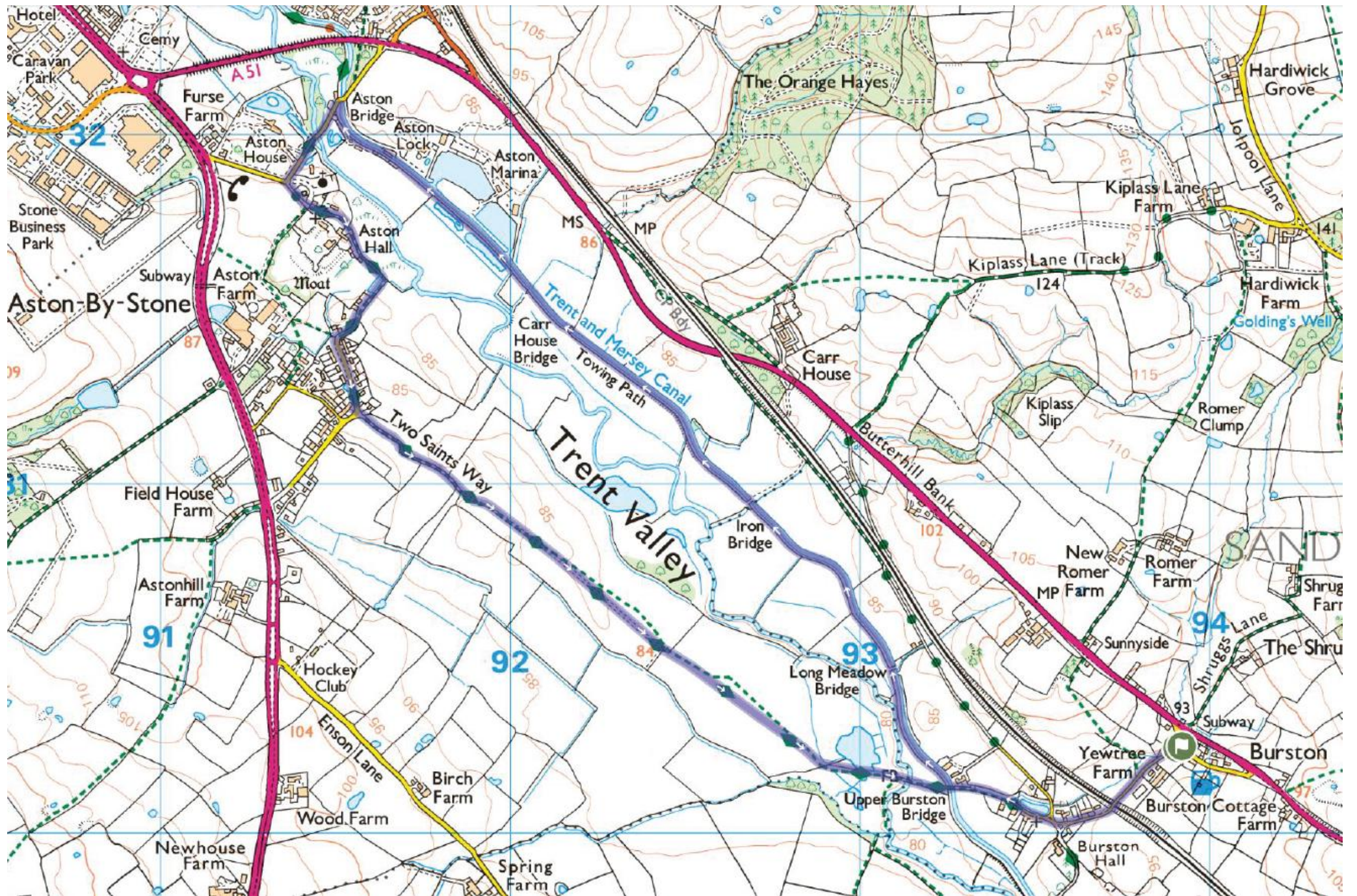




Aston to Burston Trail



Protecting Wildlife
for the Future

Trent and Mersey Canal

The Trent and Mersey canal was one of the first canals to be built in Staffordshire. Work on the canal started in 1766, it was paid for by local landowners, merchants and manufacturers. Josiah Wedgwood was a notable contributor, he recognised the advantages that canals offered by way of transporting bulk goods and he ensured that the canal ran past the new factory he was building in Stoke-on-Trent.



Mallard



Marsh Valerian

A man-made wildlife haven

Canals, though man made, provide a unique sanctuary for a wide variety of plants and animals. Much of the wildlife value of canals is due to the unusual combination of habitats within a very narrow strip of land. Hedgerows, tall grass, short grass, a 'marshy margin' and, of course, open water are often present in the canal corridor. There may also be occasional reed beds and tall trees.



Wren

Watch out for bird species including blue tit, great tit, wren, mallards, coots and swallows in the summer. The canal and its banks are a haven for insects and other invertebrates including the common blue damselfly and orange tip butterfly.

The trail takes you through attractive and wildlife rich countryside alongside the Trent and Mersey Canal, across the River Trent, through mixed farmland and the small villages of Aston-by-Stone and Burston. Please keep to the marked footpath as much of the wildlife is sensitive to disturbance. Dogs should be kept on leads at all times.

Please support the Trust
by becoming a member.

Details of membership and
leaflets for Trust nature
reserves can be obtained from:

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Tel: 01889 880100
staffswt@cw.co.uk

www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 259558

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British Waterways cares for and maintains the nation's 2,000-mile network of canals and inland waterways. For more information about leisure activities contact West Midlands Waterways Customer Service Centre on 0121 200 3400 enquiries www.britishwaterways.co.uk

