

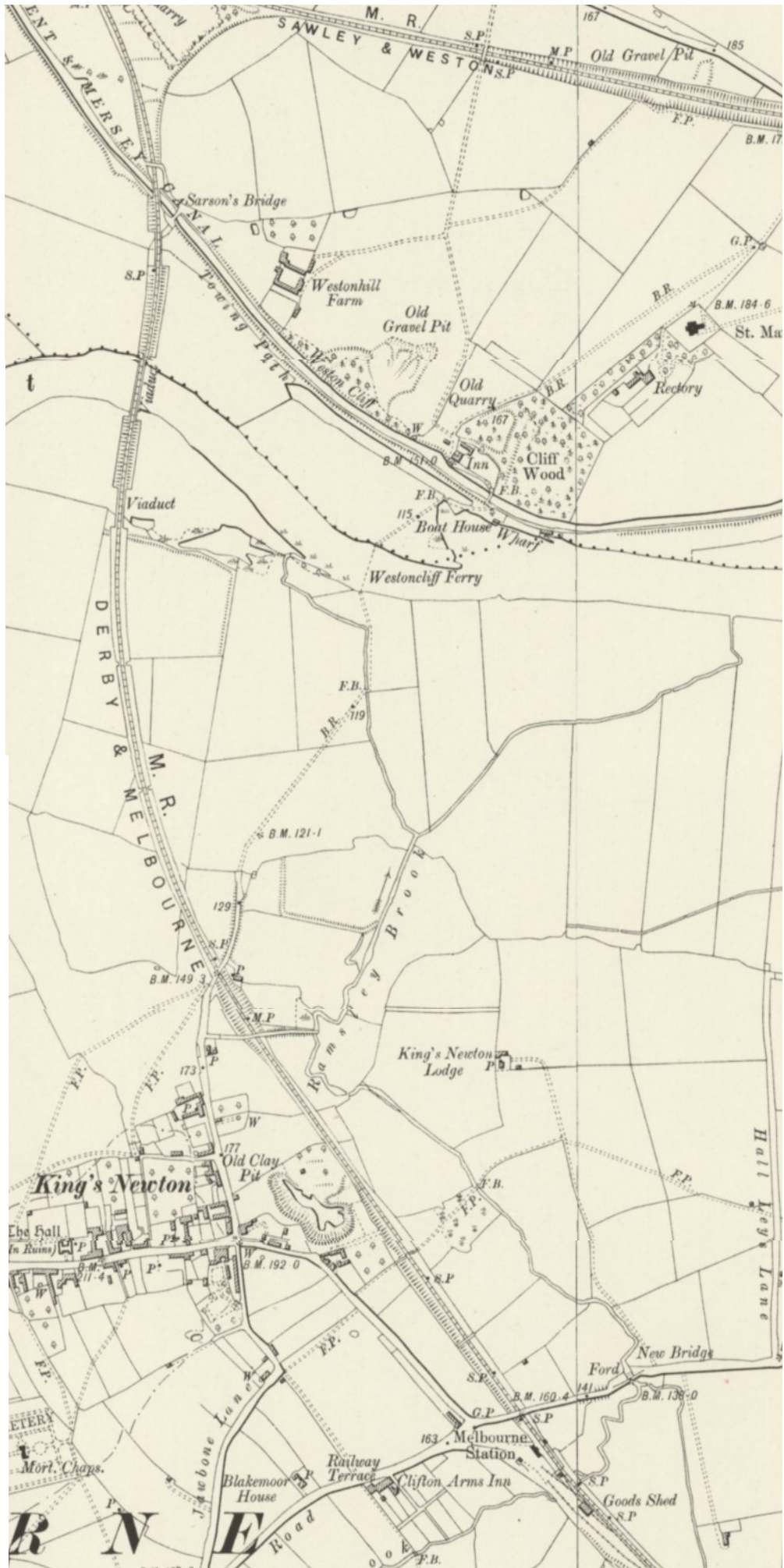
## Melbourne Station to the Trent and Mersey Canal



Travelling towards Derby, the above picture shows the bridge which carries the road from Melbourne to Isley Walton. The passengers would have seen this bridge as they waited on Melbourne railway station's platform. The entrance to the Cloud Trail can be seen to the left of this bridge.



The OS map, published in 1904) shows Melbourne railway station. The photograph has been taken from a position approximately near to the blue dot and the remainder of the photographs are taken sequentially from this point to the Trent and Mersey Canal. This route which is currently the path taken by the Cloud Trail can be seen on the following OS map.



Acknowledgements to the National Library of Scotland for allowing the use of the maps.



Once under the bridge a second bridge carrying a path to the market garden fields appears. This is a pretty stretch of the Cloud Trail.



A little further along the trail and a third bridge can be seen in the distance.



Here is the a closer view looking under the third bridge. From this point, the fourth bridge after Melbourne Railway Station travelling towards Derby can be seen.

It's rather difficult to believe that before WW2, there were numerous day trips by train to the seaside from Melbourne railway station. One old lady told me that with three of her friends she had gone on an excursion to Matlock. The old lady remembered that a lovely sunny day had gradually become cloudy and on the return journey, it had started to pour with rain. Once arriving at Melbourne, the four teenage girls had the rather long and wet walk from the station back into Melbourne but it did not matter because they all felt that it had been such an exciting day.

I find it rather humbling to think that their train would have passed under these on the way to Matlock in the morning sun shine and returned in the evening rain.



The fourth bridge after Melbourne Station carries Trent Lane which was the road that led into the Royal Engineers and their American counter-parts headquarters. Today, it is a caravan storage depot.



After this bridge, there is a feel of going out into open countryside and the trail turns to the right slightly. At this point, the trail is only two fields' distance from Ward's Lane (Holly Well Lane). I remember being on the this lane and seeing a steam train travelling along the line when I was a young boy.



The line continues to turn to the right running towards the Weston area and as can be seen below parts of this area can be seen and would have been seen by the passengers sitting on the right-hand side of the train.





A short distance before reaching the River Trent, the trail is flanked by two sand stone walls. There is plenty of room for the trail but I do remember how cramped it seemed when the two railway lines ran through this point.



Looking to the left the area around Stanton by Bridge can be seen.



The trail is carried over the River Trent by the iron railway bridge which was built, I am told, by the Americans in WW2.



From the bridge, the swirling River Trent can be seen. This is the view looking up-stream and as can be seen a large volume of water is flowing in the river.





Under the iron bridge are the remains of an old boiler. I'm not sure what function this performed. I think that it's an artefact of the time when the Royal Engineers and their American counterparts used the line for training purposes. During this time, I believe, six engines were 'kept in steam' each day and water from the River Trent was used for the boilers of these engines, so it may be that the boiler shown on the above photograph was used to provide the power to pump the water out of the Trent, but this is just a guess.



After short distance after the iron bridge, the trail is again bounded by the sandstone walls of another bridge (above), and immediately after this bridge, the route of the old Ashby to Derby railway line is no longer followed as the trail runs off to the left (see below) to follow the Tent and Mersey Canal.

