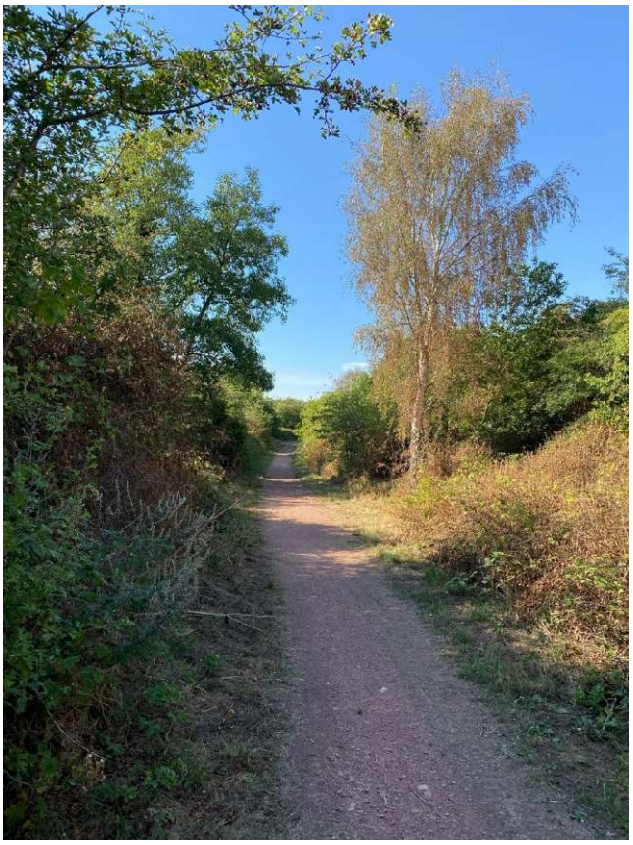
The Southwell Trail

The railway line closed in 1965 and the rails were removed. Over the next few years, the line was reclaimed by nature with trees, shrubbery and flowers, a perfect corridor for wildlife.

Photograph taken after the removal of the railway line.

In the 1970s Nottinghamshire County Council purchased part of the old railway line from Southwell station through Farnsfield station and up to the A614, plus the section from Farnsfield station to Bilsthorpe. It was opened up as a public pathway.
In 2005-6 it was extensively resurfaced so that it could be more accessible to users for walking, cycling or on horseback. It is now a Local Nature Reserve, managed by Nottinghamshire County Council with the help of volunteers from The Friends of Southwell Trail (FOST) who also arrange regular bird and wildflower identification walks.

Further information: Southwell-trails-booklet