

Nottinghamshire Routes and Rides

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Teversal • Blyth • Sherwood Forest • Attenborough Nature Reserve
Newark and Aslockton • Vicar Water Country Park

Six fabulous routes to
explore on foot, bike or horse

Travelchoice
Different ways to travel in Notts

Get inspired, get on-line

To help you explore beautiful Nottinghamshire, visit
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rightsofway



- A variety of **FREE** walks suitable for all ages and abilities
- Great routes on and off road for cyclists
- Stunning bridleways for scenic horserides across the county
- Detailed maps and descriptions of popular routes
- References to the county's historic gems
- Links to other organisations for further **FREE** walks
- Public transport information to help you get to the routes.




Whether you fancy a gentle stroll or to be energetic and keep active, get on-line and see where Nottinghamshire's public paths will lead you today.



Nottinghamshire is a historic county with a diverse landscape. From the open, undulating Wolds in the south to Sherwood Forest in the north, there are over 2,000 miles of footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways for you to enjoy on foot, bike or horse.

Discover delightful villages and beautiful countryside, mighty rivers and hidden lakes, fabulous flowers and enchanting wildlife. This booklet contains routes suitable for all ages and abilities, so there's something to tempt everyone to get out and explore beautiful Nottinghamshire. More FREE routes can be found online at: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rightsofway

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Nottinghamshire's Public Paths

What are rights of way?

Rights of way are public paths. They criss-cross the UK, from town centres to remote countryside, providing great opportunities for everyone to get out and enjoy a walk, cycle or horse ride.



There are four types of path and you can use different paths for different activities. They are signposted from the roadside, with markers along the route. You should always keep to the marked route.

The different types of path and how to spot them:

Activity



Look out for

Footpaths - marked with **yellow**



Bridleways - marked with **blue**



Restricted byways - marked with **burgundy**



Byways - marked with **red**



When you're out you might also see waymarks for a particular circular walk or long distance route eg Trent Valley Way



On a right of way you can:

- Take a pram, pushchair or wheelchair, although this can be difficult if the surface is uneven or muddy.
- Walk dogs on a lead or under close control (see over).
- Take a short route around an illegal obstruction (e.g. fences, rubble and crops) or move it to get past.



Surfaces

Paths come in all shapes and sizes and may be uneven or muddy. Always wear the right footwear and clothing for the conditions.

Fences, gates and stiles

Fences, gates and stiles must be in good condition, easy to open and unlocked. If you come across a stile or gate on a path that is broken, locked or blocked, please let us know.

Ploughing and cropping

Many paths go across or around fields that contain crops or have been ploughed. If you find a path that's ploughed over or covered in crops, please let us know.

Please report any problems with a right of way in the county to us, (see back page for contact details).

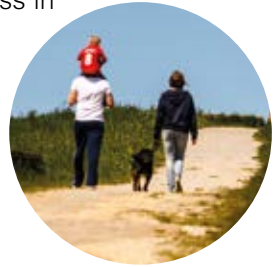


Open Access

Open access land



Areas of Open Access are special places where you can wander away from the path, explore, have picnics or play games. This special land is for walkers only – but you can cycle or ride across it if you're following a bridleway. For more information on open access in Nottinghamshire, including where to find it, visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/openaccessland



Walking the dog

You may take your dog on any right of way but they must be under close control or on a lead. This is particularly important on paths which cross fields containing livestock. It is an offence to allow a dog to be at large in a field or enclosure where there are sheep. A farmer has the right to shoot a dog that is attacking or chasing livestock.

- Always put your dog on its lead when crossing fields containing livestock.
- Please remember to clean up after your dog, or you may be liable for a fine.



When out walking, always follow the country code

- Be safe – plan ahead.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

Public Transport

Each of these walks can be reached by using public transport, an environmentally friendly way to start and finish your walk. If you are planning a walk using public transport always bear in mind the time of buses and trains.

For timetables and route information for buses and trains, ring Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit **www.traveline.info**

The countryside and rights of way network are constantly changing – woodland may be planted, grass fields ploughed up or footpaths diverted. Nottinghamshire County Council is also replacing stiles with gates for easier access wherever possible. Therefore you may find some changes to the paths as described. While every attempt is made to ensure that the routes are clearly described, easily followed and signed on the ground, Nottinghamshire County Council cannot accept responsibility for any omissions or errors arising from this publication.

Thanks to Mary Mills and Dennis Reeson for their help during the making of this booklet.



Route 1



Ghosts, Lovers and a Four Poster Bed



Take a wander back through time on this short, hilly route around Teversal. This walk offers great views including the settings for some famous literary works and tales of ghostly sightings.

Distance: 3¼ miles (6 km)

Parking: Teversal Trails Visitor Centre

Refreshments: Teversal Trails Visitor Centre, Carnarvon Arms pub and Teversal Grange in Fackley

Toilets: Teversal Trails Visitor Centre and pubs

1 From the car park of the Teversal Trails Visitor Centre, Carnarvon Street, Fackley, walk through the Coal Garden to reach a gateway. Through the gate, take the path immediately on your right, and in a few yards turn right again along a wider path running between trees. Follow this old railway line for about half a mile, passing under a bridge and walking in a cutting then on to an embankment. Eventually the path takes you over two bridges, at the second one turn left down the embankment via a flight of steps, then over a stile to follow a path downhill. At the bottom, cross the wooden footbridge over the stream.

The network of Teversal Trails result from the railway boom in the Victorian era. With industry thriving in this area, various railway companies built their own lines and competed to carry goods and passengers. Even small towns could have three or four different railway stations on different lines! These became unprofitable and were closed, the last operating line, finally closed in 1978.




For more great walks visit
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rightsofway

2 Over the bridge, walk straight on towards the top left hand corner of the field, skirting the edge of Coppoly Wood. At the corner of the wood, the path leads diagonally across the field to the left, heading uphill on a well-trodden path. At the top of the field, cross the stile to reach a road and walk straight on, passing the stone built house to your left. After a short distance you reach Teversal Church entrance. Walk into the churchyard and follow the path along the edge of the churchyard to a gate at the far side.

The church of St Katherine has close links to the various Lords of Teversal Manor. The Molyneux family have had the greatest impact on the inside of the church, with a family pew that looks more like a four-poster bed, and a family tomb under the floor of the church.





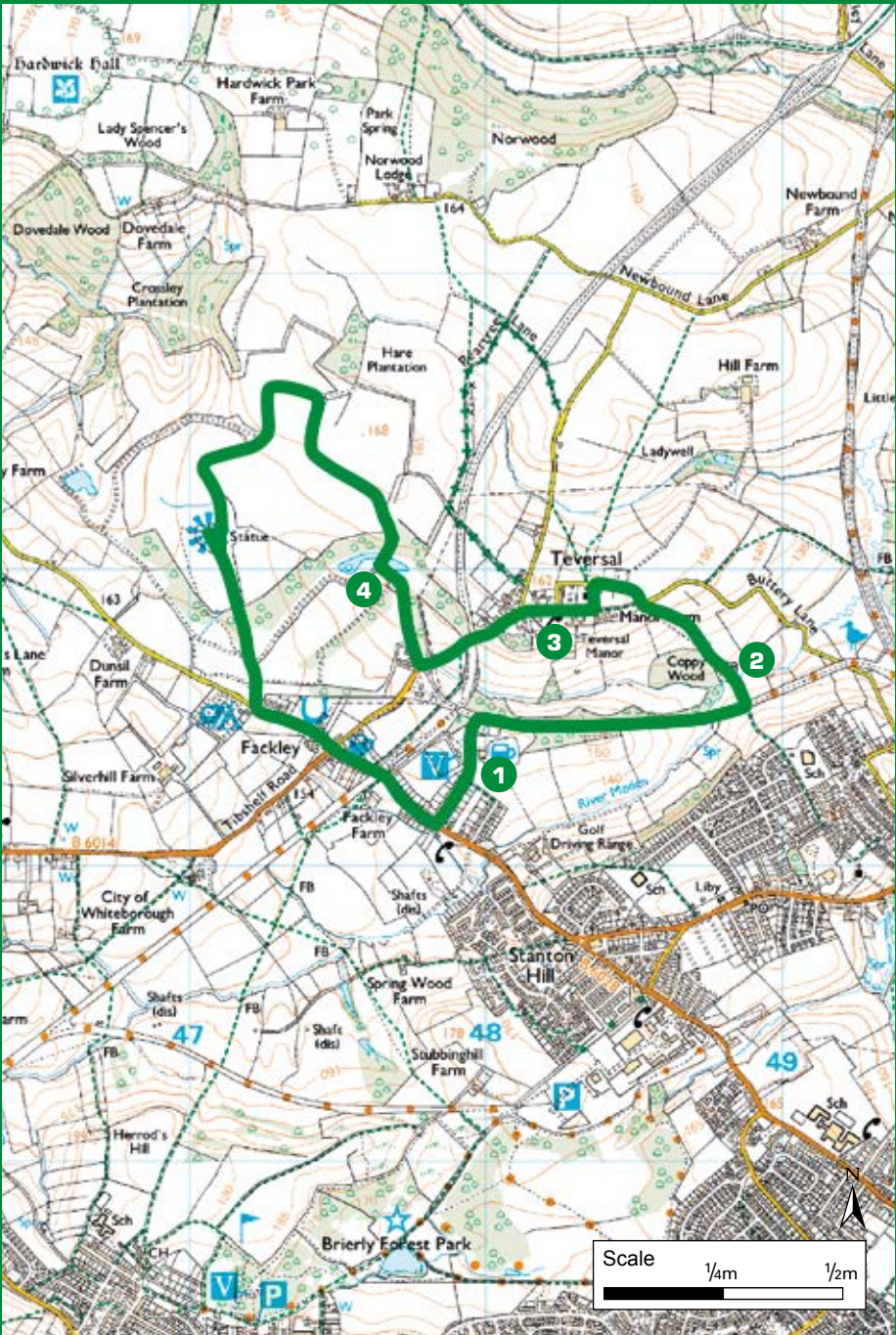
3 Passing through the gate, head right, through a gate and ahead you will see a tarmac path that leads to a gap in the stone wall. Walk through this gap and continue ahead on the pavement alongside a tree-lined road to a junction ahead. Veer left and follow the pavement, which soon narrows as the road heads downhill, passing beneath a railway bridge. Soon you will reach a white house where the road bends sharply to the left. Cross the road and pass through a gateway to the right of a house and up a wide tarmac track. At the top follow the track as it bends left, keeping the pond to your right until you reach a tall sculpture with information panels.

Teversal is immortalised as the setting for DH Lawrence's 'Lady Chatterley's Lover'. Lawrence drew great inspiration from the Nottinghamshire landscape, many places are recognisable in his work, though sometimes place names are changed. Wragby Hall, home of Sir Clifford and Lady Chatterley in the novel, is recognisable as Teversal Manor and the woodlands on the edge of Hardwick Hall estate, visible from Silverhill are where Lady Chatterley and Mellors, her gamekeeper lover, met.

4 Turn right and follow this track as it winds across the site until eventually the view opens up ahead, with Hardwick Hall on a wooded hill and the M1 motorway in the valley below. The track then bends sharply left and shortly passes another track on your right. Our route ignores the right hand track but you may wish to leave the route here to visit the miners' statue before rejoining the main path.

Follow the track that runs ahead over the top of the hill and straight down the other side to emerge on the road at a gateway. Turn left along the pavement to reach a junction of roads at Fackley, by the Carnarvon Arms pub. Cross the road to pass in front of the pub and under the railway bridge. You will soon find Carnarvon Street on your left, which leads you back to the Visitor Centre.

This area is renowned for ghosts. There are many tales of strange happenings at the Carnarvon Arms, which stands at an ancient crossroads. Best known though, is 'Flat Cap', an old miner who wandered the workings of Silverhill Colliery, even talking to the miners.



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Route 2

Priories and Snowdrops



A shorter walk along tracks and paths on the northern fringes of Sherwood, from the pretty village of Blyth to the lovely parkland of Hodsock Priory. Floral beauty, chivalrous knights and a gambling reprobate are all waiting to be discovered.

Distance: 3¾ miles (6 km)

Parking: Near the White Swan PH, High Street, Blyth

Refreshments

and toilets: Pubs in Blyth

1 Start at the village green on the High Street in Blyth (facing the White Swan pub), turn right heading south. Soon the two strands of the High Street merge. Continue ahead along the pavement, crossing with care when it runs out at the end of the houses and continuing south.

When you reach Spital Farm on your right, turn right onto the farm access road. Follow this through the farmyard and along the avenue of trees ahead until you reach the road. Turn left along the pavement for a short distance before crossing to walk along a quiet, tree-lined lane towards Hodsock Priory.

Hodsock Priory with its impressive Tudor gatehouse was never in fact a Priory at all. In 1765 the estate was bought by the Mellish family and soon inherited by Charles Mellish, who planted 400 acres of woodland and made good over 30 miles of public roads at his own expense. His heir, Colonel Henry Francis Mellish was a friend of the Prince Regent and a notorious gambler, within 10 years he had lost most of the estate his father had done so much to improve.

Hodsock is now famous for the spectacular snowdrop displays and winter gardens during February and March each year.



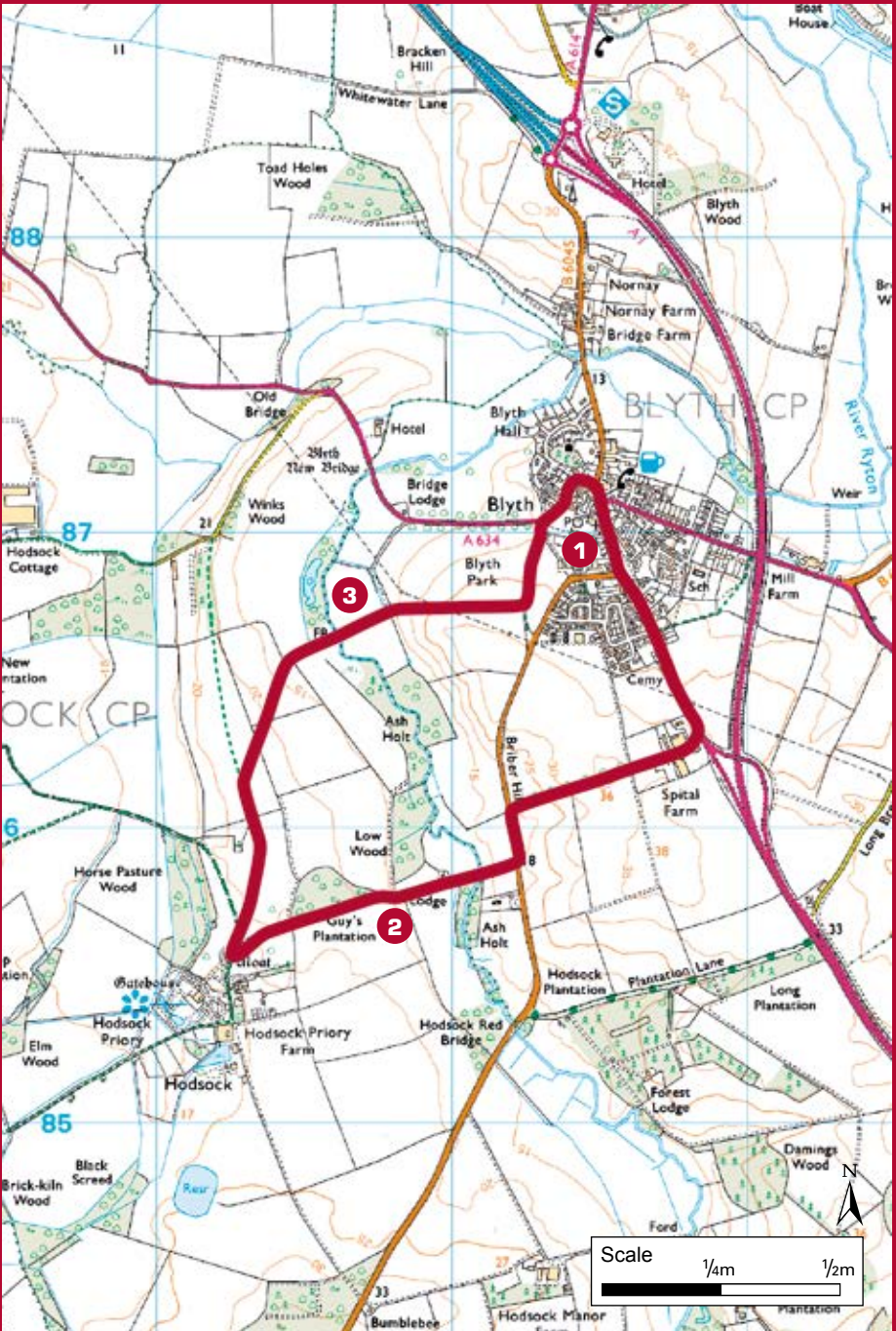
2 Follow this lane for a kilometre, emerging into a parkland setting. As you approach the Priory gatehouse, turn right through a field gate. Walk through this field with the woodland to your left and head slightly to the right and uphill, to reach a stile in the hedge line. Cross the stile and head diagonally to the right aiming for the first big gap in the hedge. On passing through this continue in the same direction diagonally across the next two fields. On reaching the end of the second field, pass through the hedge by an old boundary stone, turn right along the field edge path and follow the path into an area of wet woodland.

The land just to the north of here was the focus for contests of medieval chivalry; in the fields between Blyth and Oldcotes lies a licensed tournament field for jousting! The field was one of only five in England granted royal license by Richard I in the 13th Century. The field was used for over 300 years.



3 At the far side of the woodland, cross the footbridge over the River Ryton and follow the field edge path ahead. At the end of this field, pass through the gate and dogleg to the left, following a wide grassy track uphill with a hedge to your left. At the end of this track you emerge onto a tree-lined avenue, where you need to turn left and follow this to reach the road opposite the cricket pitch. Turn right along the pavement, following it around a sharp right hand bend to reach the road junction by the Fourways Hotel. Turn right and follow the pavement until you reach the village shop, where you can cross the road more safely using the central refuge, to return to the start point by the White Swan.

The great tower of the Church of St Mary and St Martin is one of the most important Norman buildings in the country. A Benedictine priory was founded in 1088 and work would have started on the church soon afterwards. There are also many other distinctive buildings in Blyth, including the former rectory and St John's Hospital at the far end of the village, was founded as a leper hospital in the 12th century and later converted into a school.



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Route 3

Outlaws and Oaks



Visit the home of Robin Hood on this walk along woodland tracks into the heart of historic Sherwood Forest, with an option for a shorter walk. There are no hills or stiles, but some paths may be muddy.

Please note: Naturists may be seen on this route. For more information visit www.visitsherwood.co.uk/naturism-on-rspb-reserves

Distance: 8 miles (13 km) or 6 miles (10 km)

Parking: Car park opposite Edwinstowe youth hostel. There is now a charge at weekends, on bank holidays and everyday throughout the summer (July to early September)

Refreshments

and toilets: Art and Crafts Centre and Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre

1 From the car park at Sherwood Forest Art and Craft Centre in Edwinstowe, take the centre path (with the cricket pitch on your right) straight ahead towards the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre, until you reach a junction of paths. Take the signed bridleway to the left, ignoring the signed path to the Visitor Centre, and go through the gate.

Follow this bridleway to pass through a gate, across a track, and through a second gate. Cross two more tracks, continue ahead to meet a metal gate by Dukeries Training Ground.

Pass through the gate and continue ahead. Follow the fenced bridleway ahead for 1km before reaching a metal gate.

2 Turn left here along a wide track and follow it for approximately 1km.

(Optional shorter route: at the next junction of tracks turn left following NCN route 6 and follow this for 2km until reaching Centre Tree. Continue for a further 0.5km before turning left onto the bridleway at point 5).

Follow this across a junction of tracks, past a metal barrier and into woodland (signed to Warsop).

Sherwood Forest once covered a third of Nottinghamshire and was a royal hunting preserve. By Queen Victoria's reign much of north Nottinghamshire was owned by aristocratic landlords; their estates are known collectively as the Dukeries.

3 Turn left at the next junction of tracks onto the signed public footpath. Follow this woodland path for 1km and at the next major junction turn right, following the waymarked footpath and follow this for a further 1km. At the next junction of tracks continue straight ahead, ignoring the wide track as it sweeps to the right.



4 After ½ km turn left, signed Robin Hood Way, to cross a wide track and follow a path with fields to your right.

Not long after you turn onto the Robin Hood Way you will see St Edwin's Cross. St Edwin was king of Northumbria in the 7th century. Killed in battle, his men gave him a secret burial in this forest clearing and a chapel was built on the spot. During the reign of King John, a hermit was paid to live here and pray but the chapel was banned under Henry VIII. The iron cross and tablet, erected by the Duke of Portland, mark the spot where it stood. Edwinstowe means 'Edwin's Burial Place'.

At a junction of tracks follow the path to your right, again following the route of the Robin Hood Way. Follow this path around to the left as it meets the road and then follow the bridleway as it bears left away from the road.

Note: this is also the National Cycle Network Route 6.

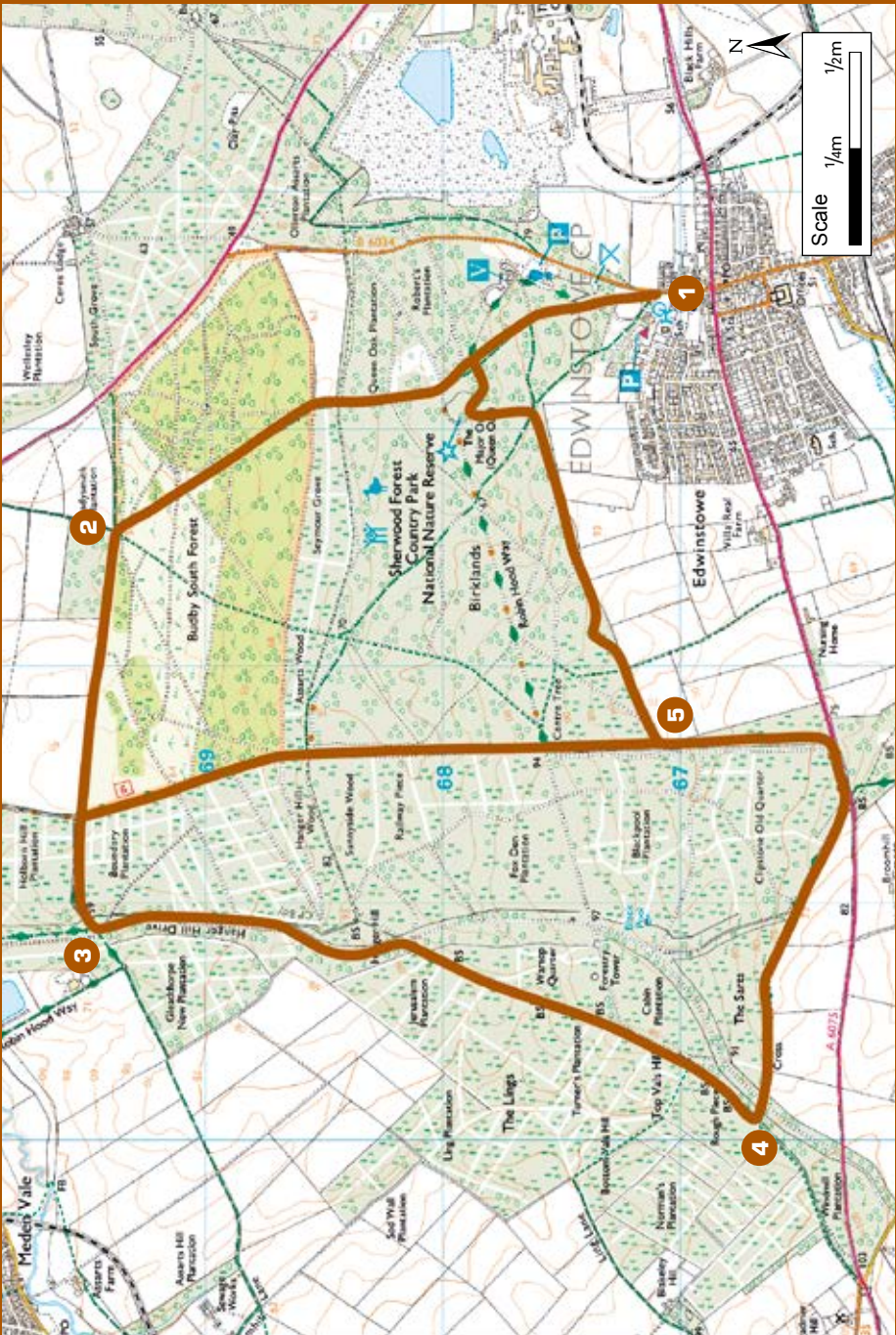
5 Walk along this wide tree-lined avenue for approximately ¾km before turning right onto the signed bridleway. (There is a handy bench here!)

Follow this bridleway for 1½ km with fields to your right, until reaching a junction of signs within the Country Park. Take the second left and follow the signs to reach the Major Oak. From there follow the signs back to the Visitor Centre.

Experts estimate that the Major Oak is 800 years old, its girth is 10 metres and the spread of branches is 28 metres. The Major Oak is not the only ancient tree in the forest; over 900 trees in the park are over 600 years old.

Head towards the car park and follow the signed path back to the Craft Centre.





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Route 4

On The Water's Edge



A lovely walk around the lakes of Attenborough Nature Reserve with no steps or stiles. The paths are well surfaced but some can get muddy. There are a few ramped bridges. Dogs must be under particularly close control due to birds nesting in Attenborough Nature Reserve.

Distance: 6 miles (10 km)/3 hours with a shorter option of 3½ miles (5 km)/ 2 hours

Parking: Pay and display car park at Attenborough Nature Reserve

Refreshments: Attenborough Nature Reserve Visitor Centre and Beeston Marina

Toilets: Attenborough Nature Reserve Visitor Centre, Beeston Marina and Beeston Lock

1 From the nature reserve car park on Barton Lane, walk to the roundabout and follow the signposted bridleway to Attenborough village, heading for the spire of Attenborough church. At a fork in the path, veer left. This takes you over the flood defences, to emerge on a quiet track near some houses and the church, on your right. Follow this out to the road and immediately turn right, passing the church gates. At the end of this short road, turn right to follow another road (The Strand) which bends to the left, passing Attenborough Cricket Club sports pitches on the right.

2 At the end of The Strand continue ahead as the road narrows to become a well-surfaced track and follow it between the lakes, walking over a metal hump-backed bridge. Ignore any side turnings. The land either side of the path becomes more wooded.

On reaching the railway line, the path veers right to follow alongside it. Then, when a level crossing over the line is reached, turn right to remain in the reserve, follow this path to emerge on the riverside path along the Trent.

3 If you wish to walk the shorter route, refer now to Point 6 for details on the remainder of your route.

If you are walking the full route, turn left now with the river on your right and soon reach Beeston Marina. Continue ahead alongside the river past the Marina buildings to reach the lock entrance to Beeston Canal. Walk alongside the lock and out onto the quiet residential road (Canalside) that follows the left bank of the canal. After about half a mile, the road swings away from the canal. At this point you need to go right to walk over the concrete bridge that spans the canal.



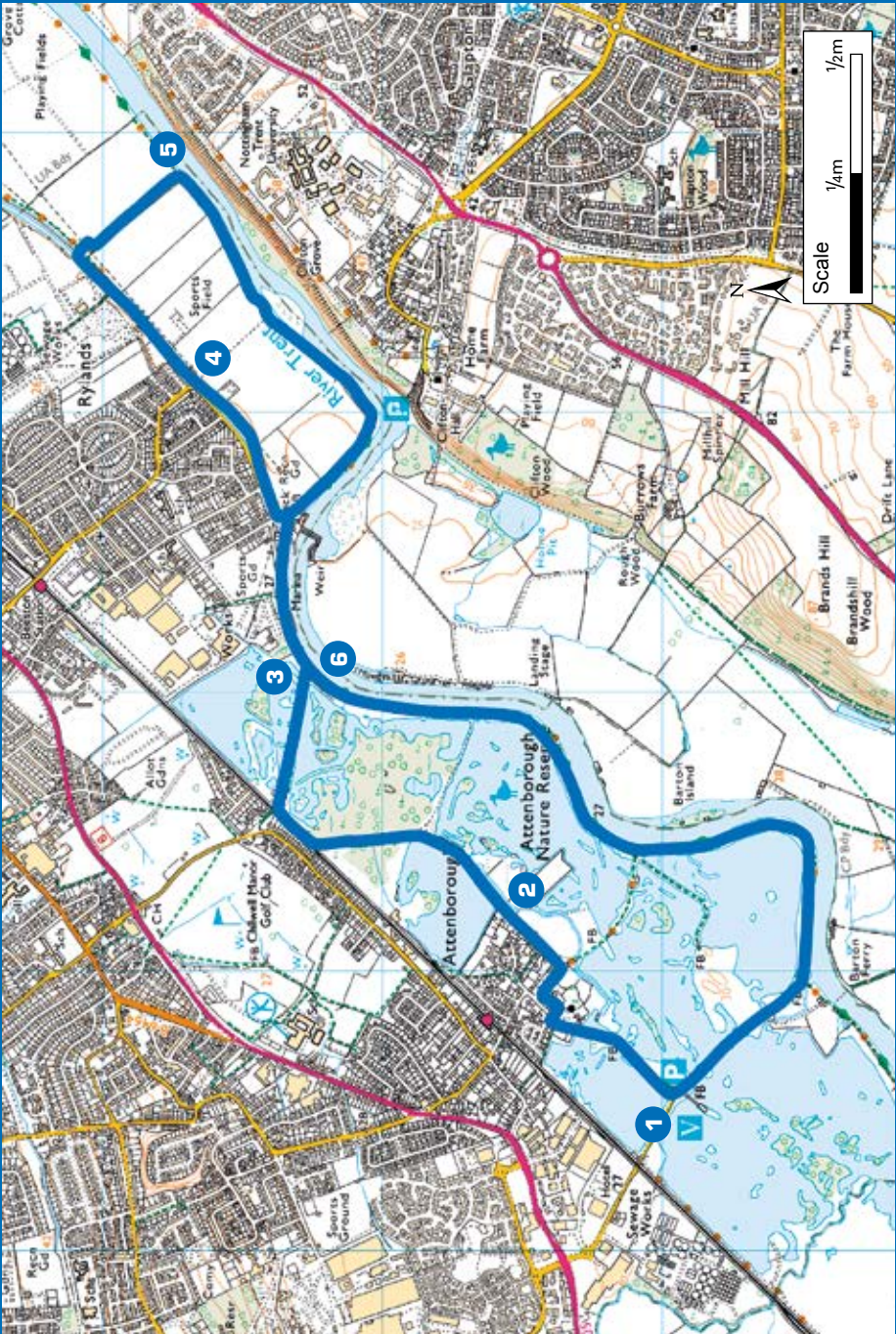
4 Having crossed the canal, immediately turn left and walk along the towpath for half a mile to a metal footbridge. Walk up the ramp alongside the flood barrier and down the other side, crossing over the flood defence. Follow the path with the flood defence now on your left until you reach a gate. Turn right and follow the well-surfaced path along the field edge. The path has a wooden-edge rail along the left hand side and hedgerow on the right. Continue along this path until it reaches the bank of the River Trent.

5 Turn right and follow the path alongside the river, approaching the weir close to the entrance to the Beeston Canal. As you approach the weir, the path follows the edge of some playing fields. You reach the canal after passing to the left of some changing rooms. Turn left to cross a bridge towards the canal cottages, then immediately turn right to cross another wooden bridge over the canal. You now need to turn left and retrace your steps through the Marina along the riverside path.

6 Continue, keeping the river to your left for almost two miles, crossing two bridges and ignoring paths that lead off to the right (including one to Meadow Lane).

Eventually, the path veers to the right just before you reach a concrete bridge and sluice gate (the mouth of the River Erewash). Do not cross this bridge. Instead, fork right to leave the Trent and follow the signpost marked for Nature Reserve and Barton Lane car park. You then soon cross another bridge over the lakes to reach the roundabout at the start point.





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Cycling

Almost No Hills – circular cycle rides



A relatively flat, circular cycle route through picturesque villages between Newark and Aslockton, with options for shorter routes.

Distance: 25 miles (40 km) with shorter options of 15 miles (24 km) and 10 miles (16 km)

Parking: Aslockton Railway Station or Sconce Hills Recreation Ground car park, Boundary Road, just off B6166, Newark (Grid ref. SK793533)

Trains: Railway stations at Aslockton (Nottingham to Grantham line). Newark Castle (Nottingham to Lincoln line) and Newark Northgate (East Coast mainline). Telephone Traveline on 0870 608 2608 for rail enquiries

Refreshments

and toilets: Pubs at Aslockton, Flintham and Car Colston

Hawton: local legend has it that Henry VII watched the progress of the Battle of East Stoke in 1486, from the top of the church tower. There are remains of Civil War earthworks just outside the village (the rough ground by the river on the Farndon Road just before the bridge).

Sibthorpe: in the 14th century there was a college for priests in this quiet village. All that remains is the Dovecote, which is the finest in Nottinghamshire. The tower is 18m high and 9m in diameter. It had over 1,200 nesting places and would have been an important source of pigeon meat.

Flintham: at the far end of the village is Flintham Hall, built in the 18th century. On its east end is a marvellous conservatory, modelled on Crystal Palace. It is considered to be one of the most spectacular in England. The Hall is not normally open to the public. Flintham Museum (don't turn left to Screveton but follow the road for a short way) provides a fascinating insight into the world of a village shop. When the local shop closed after 70 years' trading by the same family, there was a wealth of stock from bygone times, which has formed the bulk of the collection.

(Open most Sundays April to October, check opening times on 01636 525111).

Screveton: the manor at Screveton was once the home of the Whalley family. Richard Whalley was favoured by Henry VIII and was particularly vigorous in his part in the destruction of the monasteries during the reformation. Locally he is more noted for his memorial in Screveton Church where he is surrounded by his three wives and twenty-five children. Edward Whalley was a Roundhead in the service of Oliver Cromwell and guarded King Charles at Hampton Court.



Car Colston: is quite unique in that it has not one but two village greens. The bigger one, at around 16 acres, is the largest in the county. They date from Elizabethan times and villagers still have rights to graze stock on the greens today. Car Colston was the home of Robert Thoroton, the historian.

Scarrington: no tour of this area would be complete without stopping and looking at the 'spire' of used horseshoes built by the village blacksmith, Mr Flinders, between 1945 and 1965. It is estimated that the 17 foot tower contains some 50,000 horseshoes. Close to it is a pinfold where straying stock would be impounded until a fine was paid.



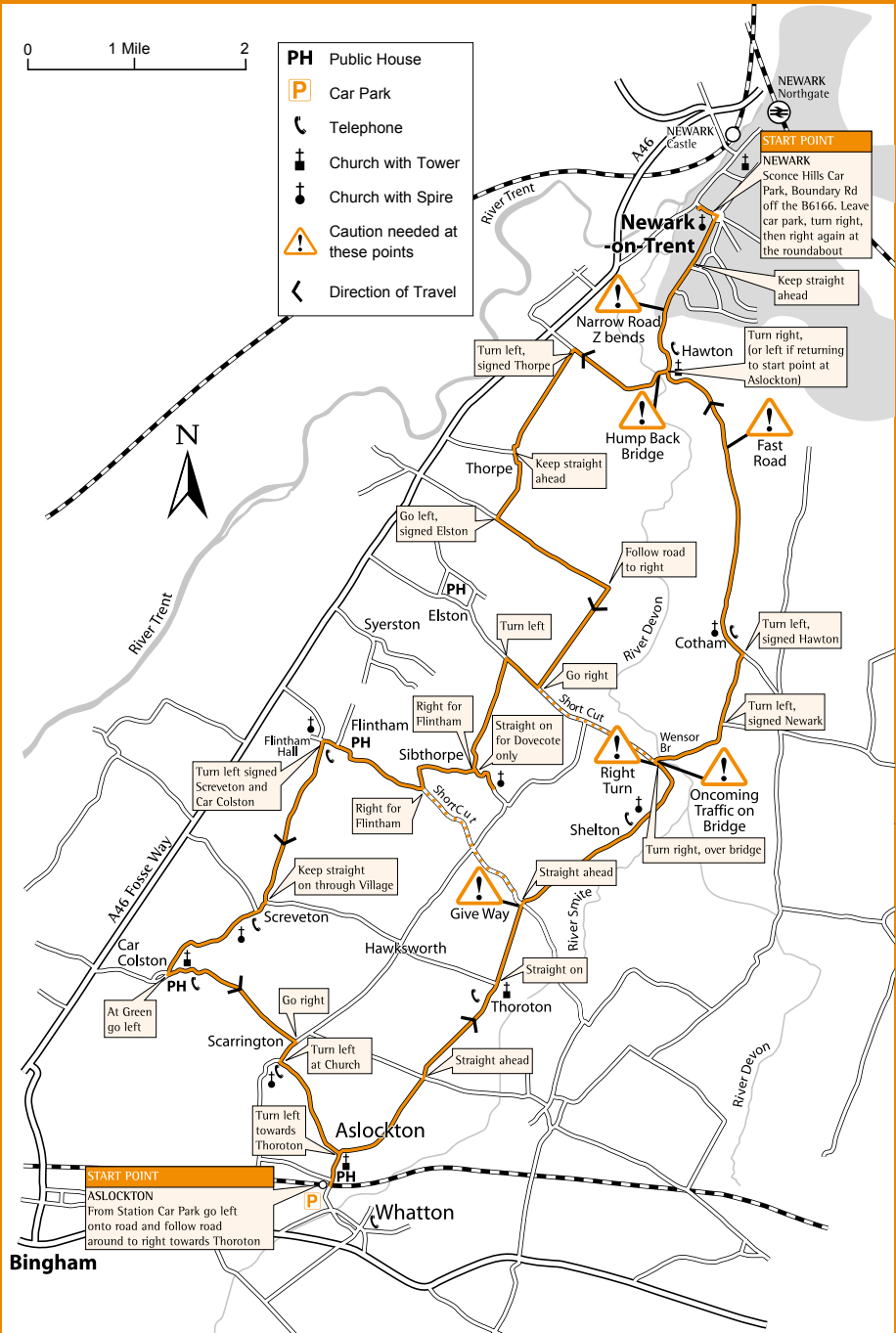
Aslockton: Thomas Cranmer, who became the first protestant Archbishop of Canterbury after helping Henry VIII resolve the first of his divorce problems, was born here. There are the remains of an earlier Norman motte & bailey castle, known as Cranmer's mound, just outside the village. Loyal to Henry VIII throughout his reign, Cranmer was accused of treason by Mary I and was burnt at the stake in 1556.

Thoroton: the village that gave the family name to Robert Thoroton, a local historian, who in the middle 1600s produced the first history of Nottinghamshire. Keep an eye out for the round 14th century dovecote.

Cotham: has a lonely church, remote from the village. It was once adjacent to what must have been a fine house, belonging to the Markham family. They were supporters of King Henry VII and were involved in the Battle of East Stoke, just three miles away.

For more great walks visit
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/
rightsofway](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rightsofway)





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Horseriding

- where you can go



There are just over 500 miles of paths across Nottinghamshire, which can be used for an enjoyable hack through the countryside. Large scale maps e.g. Ordnance Surveys show bridleways, byways and other tracks. Fingerposts indicate the types of path.

As a rider you can use:

Activity



Look out for

Bridleways - marked with **blue**



Restricted Byways - marked with **burgundy**



Byways - marked with **red**



Quiet Lanes – quiet roads where drivers are advised that riders and walkers may be present

Permissive paths – where you have the landowners consent to ride.

Riders cannot use:

Footpaths



Open land access



Vicars and Spas



A scenic circular horse ride around Vicar Water Country Park, mainly using public bridleways and a former railway line. There is a busy main road to cross and some small sections of minor road through a housing estate. There are some steep hills and some of the tracks can get muddy.

Distance: 6 miles (10 km)

Parking: Vicar Water Country Park Visitor Centre, Clipstone, off B6030. Grid ref. SK 587 626

Refreshments

and toilets: Cafe at Vicar Water Country Park. Pubs in Clipstone

Drinking water for horses is limited en route. A collapsible bucket is recommended.

Vicar Water Country Park: opened in 1982, the park is largely made up of reclaimed spoil tips from Clipstone Colliery. The Visitor Centre was opened in spring 2000 and is a good place to reflect with tea and a piece of cake.

Vicar Pond: was created around 1870 by the damming of Vicar Water. Now a great place for bird watching, it was designed as a fishery for the Duke of Portland to stock his lakes at Welbeck Abbey. It also became a favourite spot for swimming and boating.

Spa Ponds Nature Reserve: established in 1984. Three of these spring-fed ponds are medieval, dug in the 14th century when the area was part of the royal hunting grounds of Clipstone Park, a favourite of King John.



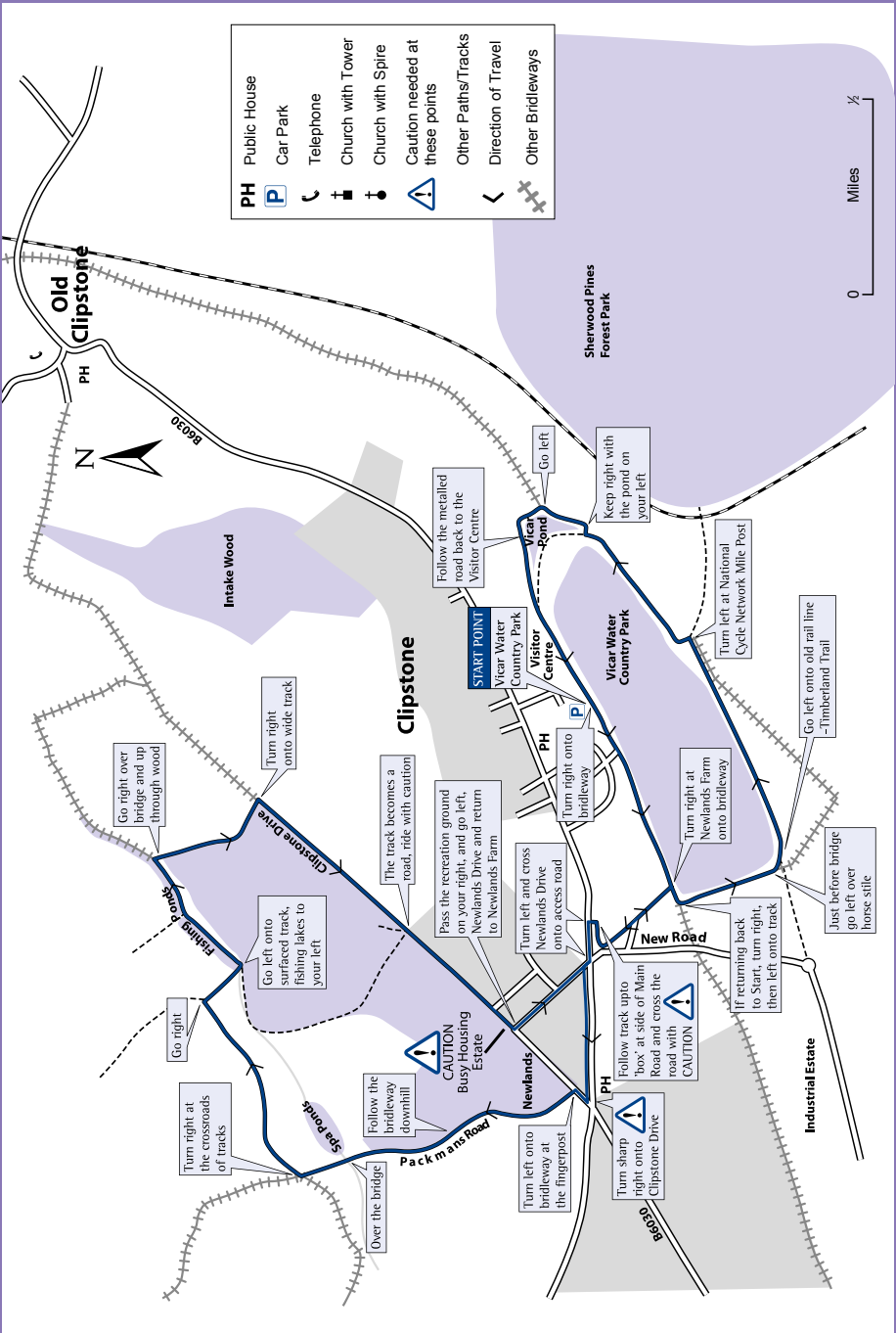
Clipstone Drive: one of the Duke of Portland's estate roads, this was the site of the first ever motor race. The long straight and good surface made it ideal for trials of speed, with motorcycles pushing past 100mph!

Needless to say, this was a dangerous pursuit and during one race there is an account of onlookers hearing a crash and seeing a body fly over the hedge.

Clipstone Colliery: sunk by the Bolsover Mining Company, this went into production in 1922. The company also built the new village for mineworkers and their families. This included houses, a school, chapel, pub and stores. Miners were attracted to the pit from across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Northumberland and Scotland. By 1930, the population had topped 2,000.

For more great walks visit
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Get inspired, get on-line

To help you get out and explore beautiful Nottinghamshire, visit
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rightsofway



If you would like to get involved and have your say on countryside access issues NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM is recruiting new members with knowledge or interest in Countryside Access. For more information contact: notts.laf@nottsc.gov.uk



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

 facebook.com/nottinghamshire

 [@NottsCC](https://twitter.com/NottsCC)

W nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rightsofway
E countryside.access@nottsc.gov.uk
T 0300 500 80 80

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Nottingham NG2 7QP