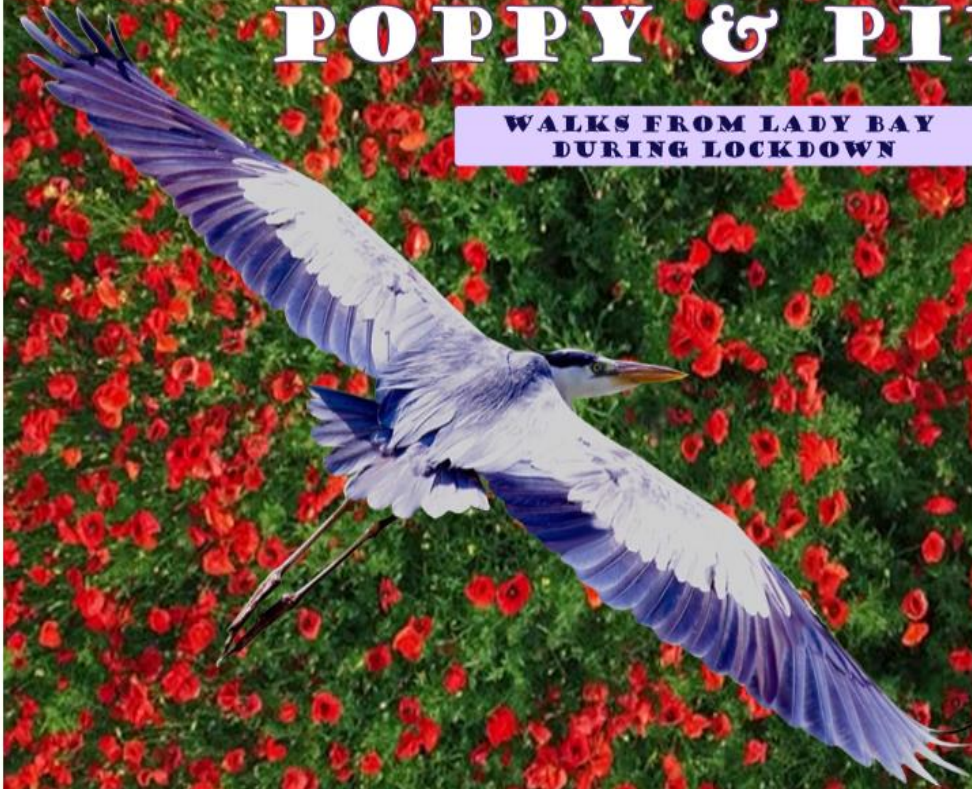


100 WALKS FROM THE POPPY & PINT

**WALKS FROM LADY BAY
DURING LOCKDOWN**



EDITION 2

Introduction

Welcome to our second edition of '*100 Walks from the Poppy and Pint*'. I hope that you find it useful. You will find a range of walks suitable for exercise during the 'lockdown'. They range in distance from 4 kms to 24 kms and most are on good, waymarked paths. Each starts and finishes at The Poppy and Pint – a well-known landmark and conveniently close to where I live!

From the Poppy and Pint, you will need to either make your way to The Hook by the River Trent via Mona Road, or to the Grantham Canal, via Rutland Road, where most of the walks ensue.

Of course, you don't really have to start or finish at the Poppy and Pint. However, when it's open again, James, the manager, will be very pleased to accommodate you and is happy for you to park in the car park if you call in after your walk!

You will see that we have not quite reached the one hundred mark for the number of walks from Lady Bay! However, I hope you'll agree that there are a surprisingly high number of quality walks that start from right on our doorstep.

Thanks so much for your support and interest.

I hope to see you in The Poppy when this is all over to compare notes and share ideas for mountain walking, which is what I am more used to.

Happy Rambling from Lady Bay and be sure to stay in touch!

Best wishes,

Trevor Riddiough

Route-finding

You should be able to follow the **clues** to get you around each route without a map.

Useful maps are: Ordnance Survey: OS Landranger 129 Nottingham and Loughborough 1:50,000 or Explorer 260 Nottingham Vale of Belvoir 1:25,000

You can download these maps onto your mobile once you have bought them.



ViewRanger is a free App and navigational aid. Once downloaded you may never get lost again as it shows your exact location on a clear base map! It uses GPS signals and so does not use your data allowance and is economical with your phone battery.

If you would like a five-minute quick start guide, e mail me and we can arrange a phone call to get you going!

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the following people who have helped me enormously during this task:

Front Cover: Louie McGavin – Year 5, Hambrook Primary School, Bristol – our Grandson.

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Andy Allan, CEO of Thunderforest Maps, for allowing me to use the map images free of charge. This was so important, as this publication would not be useful without the maps. Maps © www.thunderforest.com, Data © www.osm.org/copyright.

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I am currently a volunteer walk and trek leader for Ramblers Walking Holidays at home and abroad. If you would like to join us on any of our tours, why not check out the brochure and dream of better times to come: <https://www.ramblersholidays.co.uk/>

Ramblers Walking Holidays is a social enterprise with a not-for-profit ethos: part of its income is channelled back into charities and initiatives that support access to the great outdoors and benefit people living in the less-advantaged destinations that we visit.

100 Walks from the Poppy and Pint

🚲 Bike friendly route

🐦 Especially good for birds

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Walk 1: The Classic Hook Round 🚲

Description

This is the classic Hook circular walk. If you don't know this one, you must be new to the scene or never venture beyond The Poppy! This is a great evening walk by the river watching the sunset!

Clues

Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, walk straight ahead to the river path. Turn right and take the river path downstream to the Sailing Club footpath gate. Do not go through the gate but turn right on a short narrow foot / cycle path. When you reach the road (Adbolton Lane), turn right and walk along the lane. At the first junction, turn right and continue on Adbolton Lane on the pavements into Trent Boulevard and finish at the Poppy and Pint!

Distance: 3.75 kms

Walking Time: 50 minutes



Walk 2: A short walk along the Grantham Canal 🚲

Description

This walk takes you towards Morrisons along the Grantham Canal. Water birds can be seen nesting this time of year. There are four canal bridges along this section of the canal. It is possible to turn round at any one of the bridges to adjust the distance according to need.

Clues

Start the canal section on Radcliffe Road just past Rutland stores. Walk on the canal towpath until you reach the A6011. The path then turns right for 50m to a place where you can cross the main road. Once over the road walk back to the canal tunnel. Be careful at the tunnel as the path is very narrow and other people may be walking – self distance! Walk along the towpath to any one of the four bridges on this section.

You can return by crossing on any one of the four canal bridges up to Morrisons and walking back along the canal on the other side. Remember to cross back on the fourth bridge before you return the same way on the final section of the canal path back into Lady Bay and to The Poppy and Pint!

Distance: 4 kms

Walking Time: 1.25 hours



Walk 3: A Short Walk to The Water Sports via Trent Fields

Description

A short walk, avoiding the main paths and crowds to The Water Sports on the way out. Look out for Reed Bunting on the reeds by the 'flood pool' in Trent Fields.

Clues

Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the path immediately right alongside the allotments. Once in open space on Trent Fields, keep the 'flood pool' on your left and head for the Sailing Club. Continue on the river path past the Sailing Club. At the next fence turn right and walk around the cricket ground heading towards 'Desperate Measures' canoe shop which is to the left of the cricket pavilion. Walk anticlockwise around the Regatta Lake until you pass the main building. Take the main driveway right which goes through the main entrance of the Water Sports area to the road. Turn right and walk back along the road to Adbolton. Walk past the campsite and along Adbolton Lane and Trent Boulevard to Lady Bay and the Poppy and Pint!

Distance: 5 kms

Walking Time: 1.5 hours



Walk 4: Bassingfield Circuit via the Grantham Canal 🚶

Description

This is the classic circuit around the Grantham Canal. An extended walk along the canal is complimented by the return through Bassingfield Village.

Clues

Start the canal section on Radcliffe Road just past Rutland stores. Walk on the canal towpath until you reach the A6011. The path then turns right for 50m to a place where you can cross the main road. Once over the road walk back to the canal tunnel. Be careful at the tunnel as the path is very narrow and other people may be walking – self distance! Continue on the canal towpath. Count four canal bridges between the A52 and Morrisons. At the last bridge, (the fourth bridge) cross the canal and take the jitty ahead of you. At the Ambleside Road, turn right – following the blue signs to Bassingfield. Take the second left onto Windermere Close and then right onto a lane that takes you to the A52 crossing. Cross the A52 and then turn right and head up the road until you get to the Grantham Canal. Turn left and head along the canal tow path to the first canal bridge. Turn left and cross the canal bridge. Continue on the path to a road at the edge of Bassingfield Village. At this road, turn left. This road takes you through Bassingfield Village and directly back to the A52 Crossing. From here retrace your steps to the canal at Morrisons and then back to Lady Bay and the Poppy and Pint!

Distance: 7 kms

Walking Time: 2.5 hours



Walk 5: Skylarks Nature Reserve Car Park Direct – avoiding roads

Description

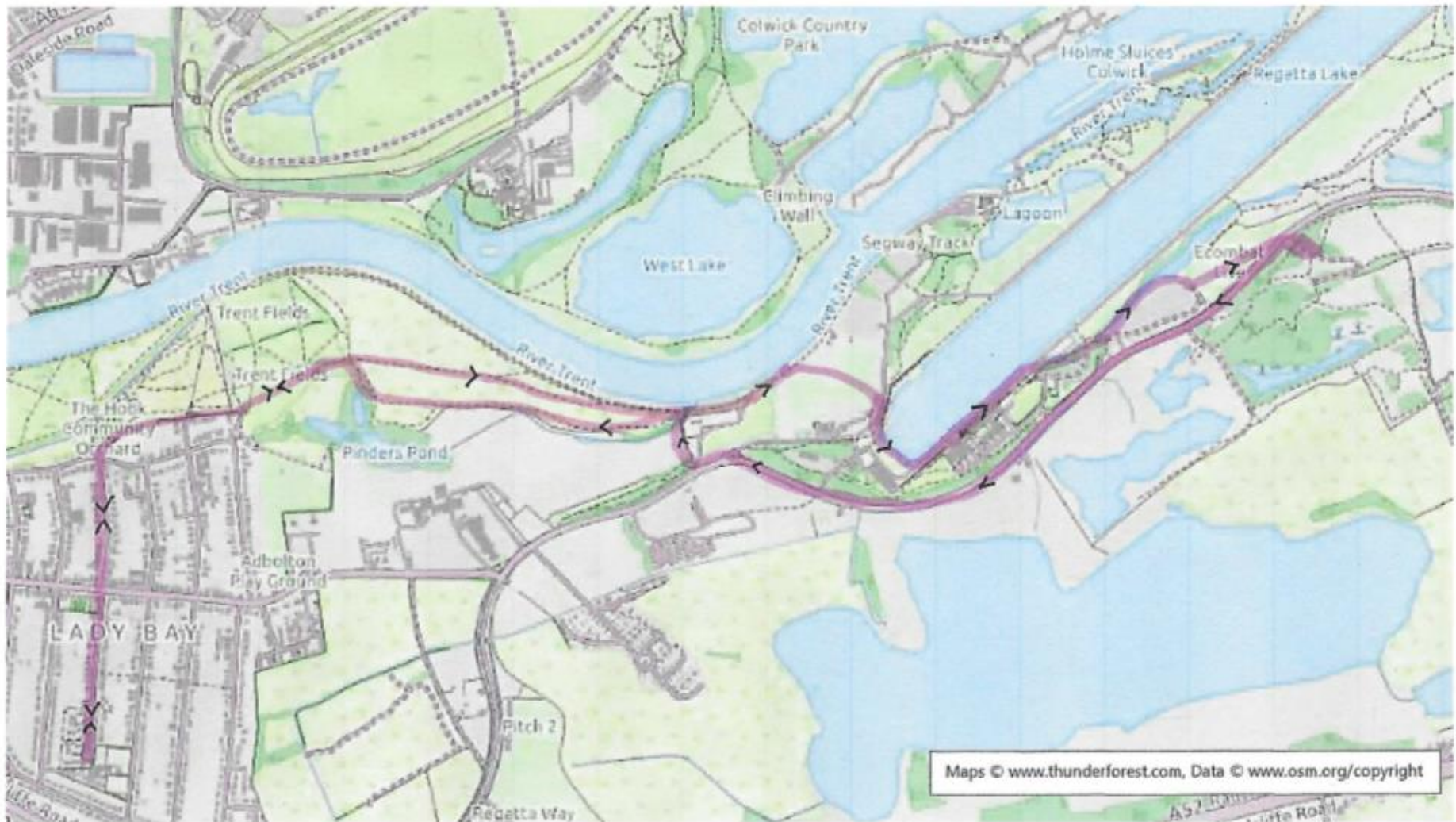
This walk takes you to Skylarks Nature Reserve the shortest way and the best way as it avoids all roads. Skylarks Nature Reserve has routes and walks for all, including a 2 mile footpath linking viewing screens and board-walks, situated at prime locations around the site, allowing fantastic views and access to lakes, woodlands, ponds, reed beds, meadows, scrapes and islands.

Clues

Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the path immediately right alongside the allotments. Once in open space on Trent Fields, keep the 'flood pool' on your left and head for the Sailing Club. Continue on the river path past the Sailing Club. At the next fence turn right and walk around the cricket ground heading towards 'Desperate Measures' canoe shop which is to the left of the cricket pavilion. Continue down some steps to the Water Sports area. Walk anticlockwise around the Regatta Lake until you pass the main building and the spectators' area. Then take a path diagonally right past a memorial stone and three garden seats, and down to a metal gate. Go through the gate and cross a field with the hedge on your immediate left. Look for Song Thrushes and Meadow Thrushes in this field. Enter the 'e combat zone' and look for a path diagonally rightwards that takes you to the road and the main Skylarks Nature Reserve car park. Return along the road. At the Sailing Club entrance opposite the campsite, take the short footpath right which takes you back to the river. Turn left and return to Lady Bay either by the river path or the footpath through Trent Fields and back to Mona Road and the Poppy and Pint!

Distance: 7.2 kms

Walking Time: 2 hours



Walk 6: The Watersports direct to the Northern Section of Skylarks Nature Reserve

Description

Most of our walks that go to Skylarks go the large reserve to the south of Adbolton Lane. This walk takes you to the smaller northern section of the reserve which is totally wheelchair accessible. This is a neat, short walk with a delightful circuit along Grebe Lake within the northern reserve. This walk shows you a easy way of slipping across from the Watersports perimeter path to Grebe Lake at Skylarks.

Clues

Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the path immediately right alongside the allotments. Once in open space on Trent Fields, keep the 'flood pool' on your left and head for the Sailing Club. Continue on the river path past the Sailing Club. At the next fence turn right and walk around the cricket ground heading towards 'Desperate Measures' canoe shop which is to the left of the cricket pavilion. Continue down some steps to the Regatta Lake. Walk anticlockwise around the Regatta Lake and pass the main building and the spectators' area. When you get to the 750m marker on the side of the Regatta Lake, next to a sign 'FOOTGOLF' move off the perimeter path onto a clear footpath right. You will see a large nature reserve information board by a style. Once through the style, you are in the northern section of Skylarks Nature Reserve. Turn left and take the green marked trail to the sensory hide. Keep left at any path junction, pass a second entrance on your left to the reserve, continue until you reach the remains of the sensory hide at the end of the path. A sign explains the fate of the hide which was burnt down a few years ago. Despite this, the views into the reeds and the pond are dramatic. Retrace your steps. Take the first path left which brings you to a green metal gate which marks the entrance with Adbolton Lane. Turn right before this entrance and keep to the path until it ends at a metal fence just past the entrance where you originally entered the reserve. Turn right and follow a narrow path which takes you into the 'e combat zone'. Here, a path leads to a field. Cross the field with the hedge on your right. Walk through a metal gate and up the track to re-join the Regatta Lake perimeter path. Continue clockwise around the Regatta Lake. Walk past the spectator's area, the main building and the garages at the end. You will then come to some steps that take you to one of the exit roads by 'Desperate Measures' canoe shop. Pass to the right of the canoe shop and cross the edge of the cricket ground to join the main river path just before the sailing club. Walk on the river path downstream until you get to The Hook. Work your way left across the field of the Hook to the Mona Road entrance / exit and back to the Poppy and Pint.

Distance: 8 kms

Walking Time: 1.25 hours





Walk 7: River Walk to The Toll Bridge at Wilford 🚲

Description

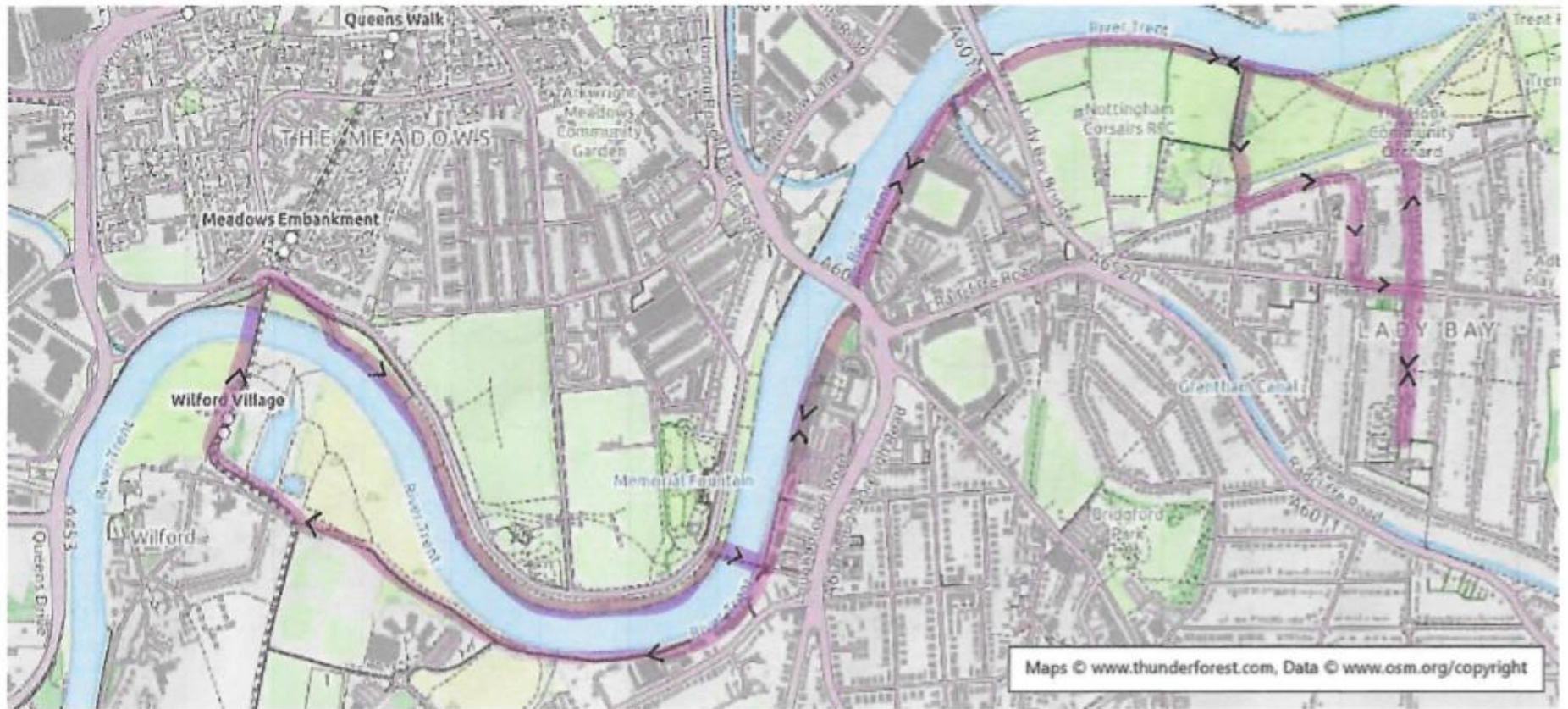
A walk upstream alongside the River Trent to The Ferry Inn at Wilford. Return on the Embankment. Good path surfaces mean that this route is perfect for children on bikes or scooters. The Ferry Inn dates to the 14th century but has been a tavern since the 18th century. The toll bridge opened in 1870. It was built by for the traffic for Clifton Colliery. The bridge is a cast-iron structure. The toll house is built of red brick and as of 2019 is used as a sandwich shop. Table of tolls to be taken under the Wilford Bridge Act 1862: For every horse or other beast drawing any Coach or Stage Coach, Omnibus, Van, Caravan, Sociable, Berlin, Landau, Chaijal, A-Vis, Barouche, Phaeton, Chaise Marine, Caleche, Carricle, Chair, Gig, Dog cart, Irish Car, whisky, Hearse, Litter, Chais or any little carriage 6D. For every horse or other beast drawing any wagon, wain, cart or other carriage. 4D. For every horse or mule, laden or unladen not drawing 1½ D. For every Ox, Cow, Bull or Neat cattle 1 penny; or for a score 6D.

Clues

Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the river path upstream. Go under Lady Bay Bridge, past the City Football Ground, under Trent Bridge, past the Suspension Bridge to the Ferry Inn. Cross the river on the Toll Bridge and return via the Victoria Embankment. Cross the river again on the Suspension Bridge and retrace your steps to The Hook and Lady Bay and the Poppy and Pint!

Distance: 8.75 kms

Walking Time: 2.25 hours



Walk 8: Iremongers Pond and The Toll Bridge

Description

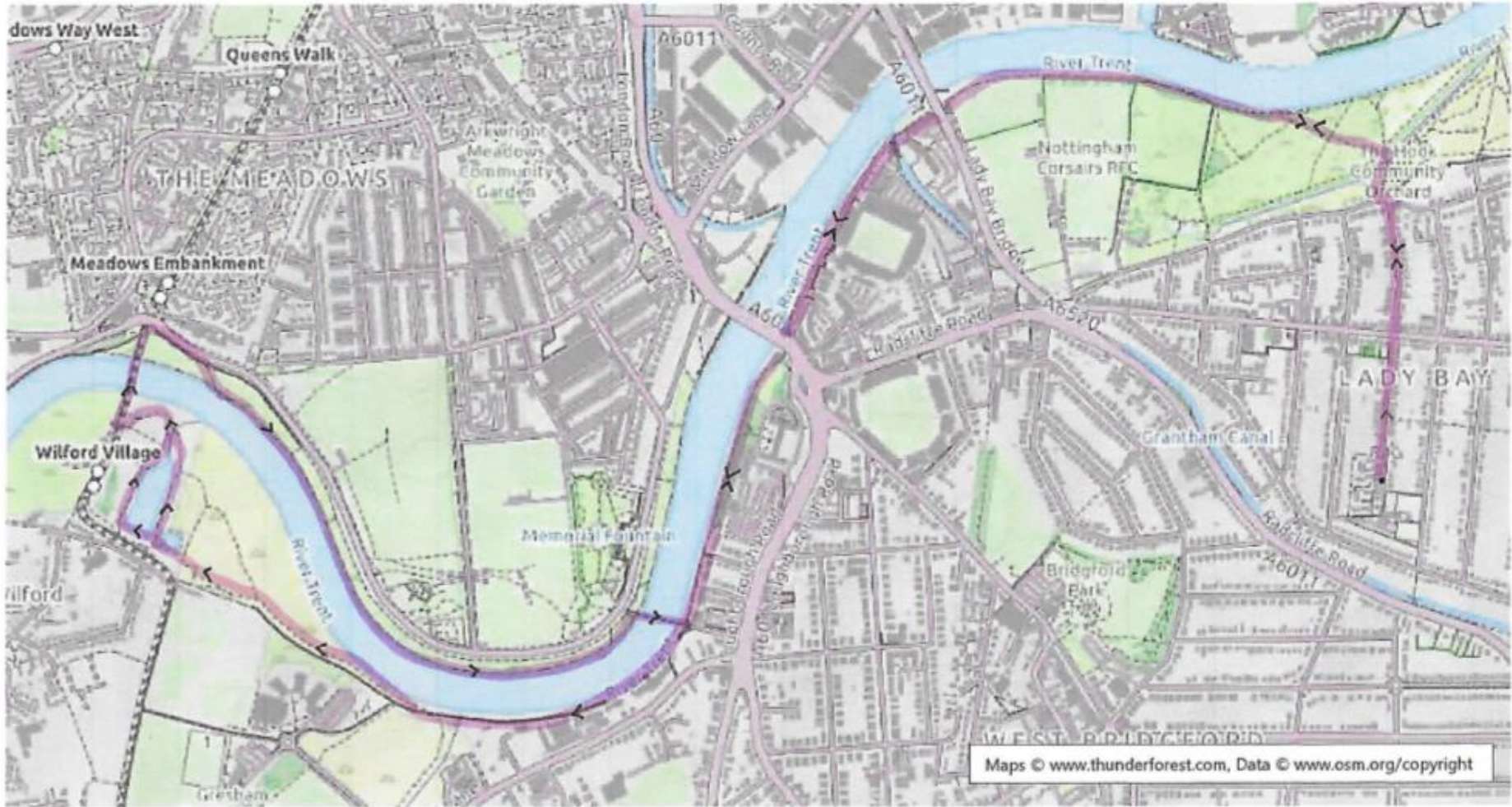
Iremongers Pond nestles on the south bank of the Toll Bridge. A beautiful Lake and Park unseen to most who walk the Toll Bridge. A great place for kids to explore. The pond offers quiet country walks round the recently completed bank side path for walkers, push chairs and dog walkers, together with quiet fishing for many native fish species. The name of Iremonger is still revered in city sporting circles. The pond is named after a pair of sporting legends, the Iremonger brothers. The two talented brothers, Albert Iremonger and James Iremonger, plied their soccer craft either side of the Trent; Albert at Notts County, Jim at Forest, and they also turned out with some success for Notts County Cricket Club. Their names were synonymous, yet rarely were they photographed together. The embankment at the eastern end of the pond once carried trains from Manchester to Marylebone Station, stopping at Nottingham Victoria Railway Station. The pond was originally dug to provide soil for the embankments in 1894. Swans, Moorhens, Great Crested Grebes, Tufted Ducks, Mallards Kingfisher, Cormorants and Herons can be seen on the pond. At present there is a spectacular display of May Blossom in this area together with Bull Rushes, Oak, Walnut and Willow.

Clues

Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the river path upstream. Go under Lady Bay Bridge, past the City Football Ground, under Trent Bridge and past the Suspension Bridge. Just before the Nottingham Emmanuel School the wooden fence on the right-hand side of the path ends. Here the main path goes up a ramp, with a wall and railings on both sides. Walk right off the main path and continue on a small footpath which runs parallel to the main path. This path then bends right towards the river and into an area of Hawthorn bushes. Follow the main path straight ahead and you will pass a small lake on your right before arriving at the main Iremongers Pond. Walk around the pond in a clockwise direction, stopping at the information boards on the way. Eventually you will see the Toll Bridge on your left. Work your way on good paths to the bridge. Cross the river on the Toll Bridge and return via the Victoria Embankment. Cross the river again on the Suspension Bridge and retrace your steps to The Hook and Lady Bay and the Poppy and Pint!

Distance: 9 kms

Walking Time: 2 hours



Walk 9: Round the Water Sports Regatta Lake – on the Perimeter Path

Description

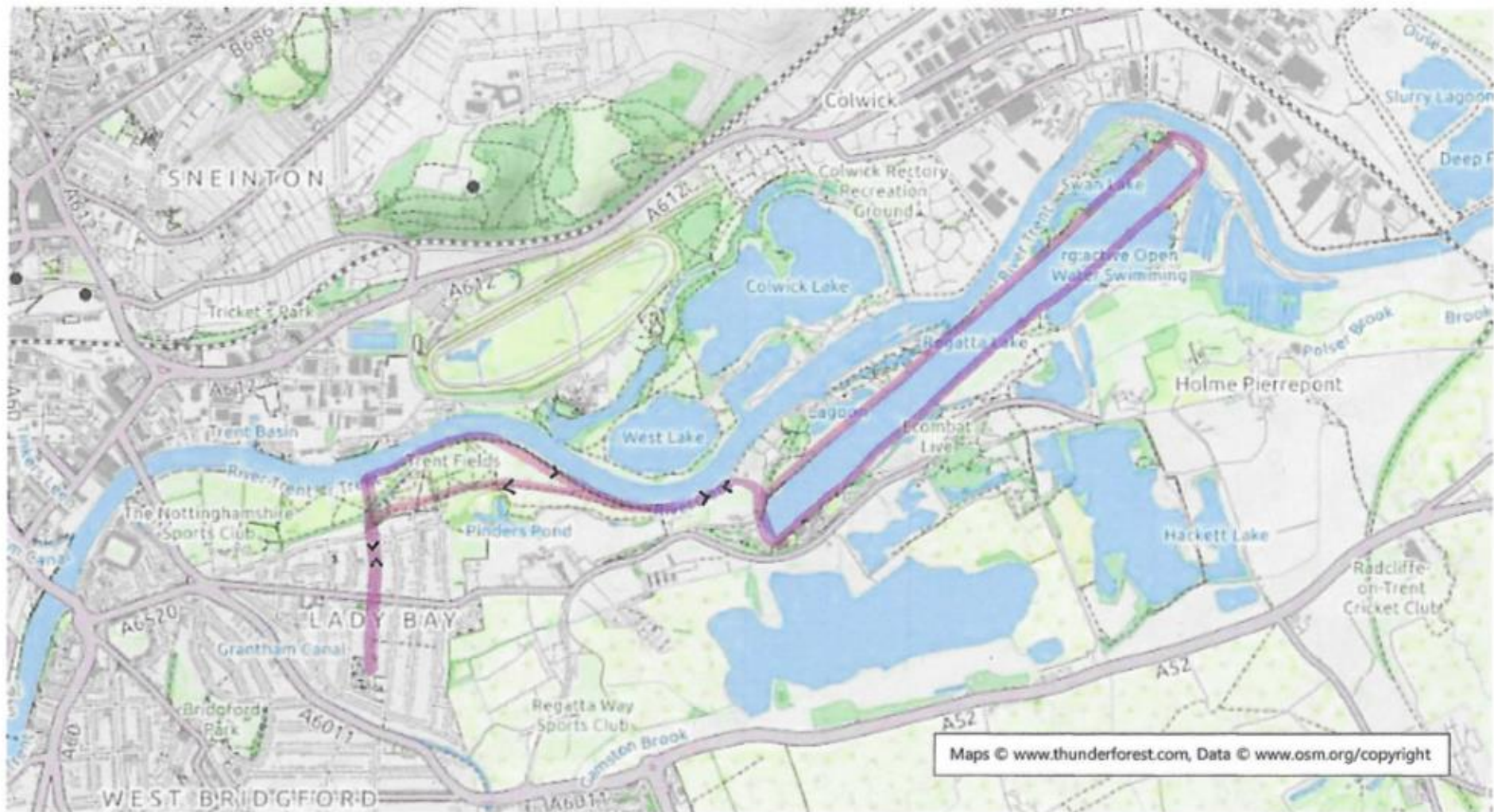
This is the place where everyone goes – pushchairs, scooters, bikes, walkers, runners. Wheelchair friendly. It is exactly 2 kms from one end of the Regatta Lake to the other and so it is a great place for mini races and time trials. Look out for Common Tern on the water.

Clues

Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, walk straight ahead to the river and follow the river path downstream. Head for the Sailing Club. Continue on the river path past the Sailing Club. At the next fence turn right and walk around the cricket ground heading towards ‘Desperate Measures’ canoe shop which is to the left of the cricket pavilion. Continue down some steps to the Water Sports area. Which way to go? Your choice! Clockwise or anticlockwise – it really doesn’t matter. When you get back to the steps retrace your steps back along the river to The Hook and Mona Road.

Distance: 9.5 kms

Walking Time: 2.25 hours



Walk 10: Round the Water Sports Regatta Lake – on Footpaths

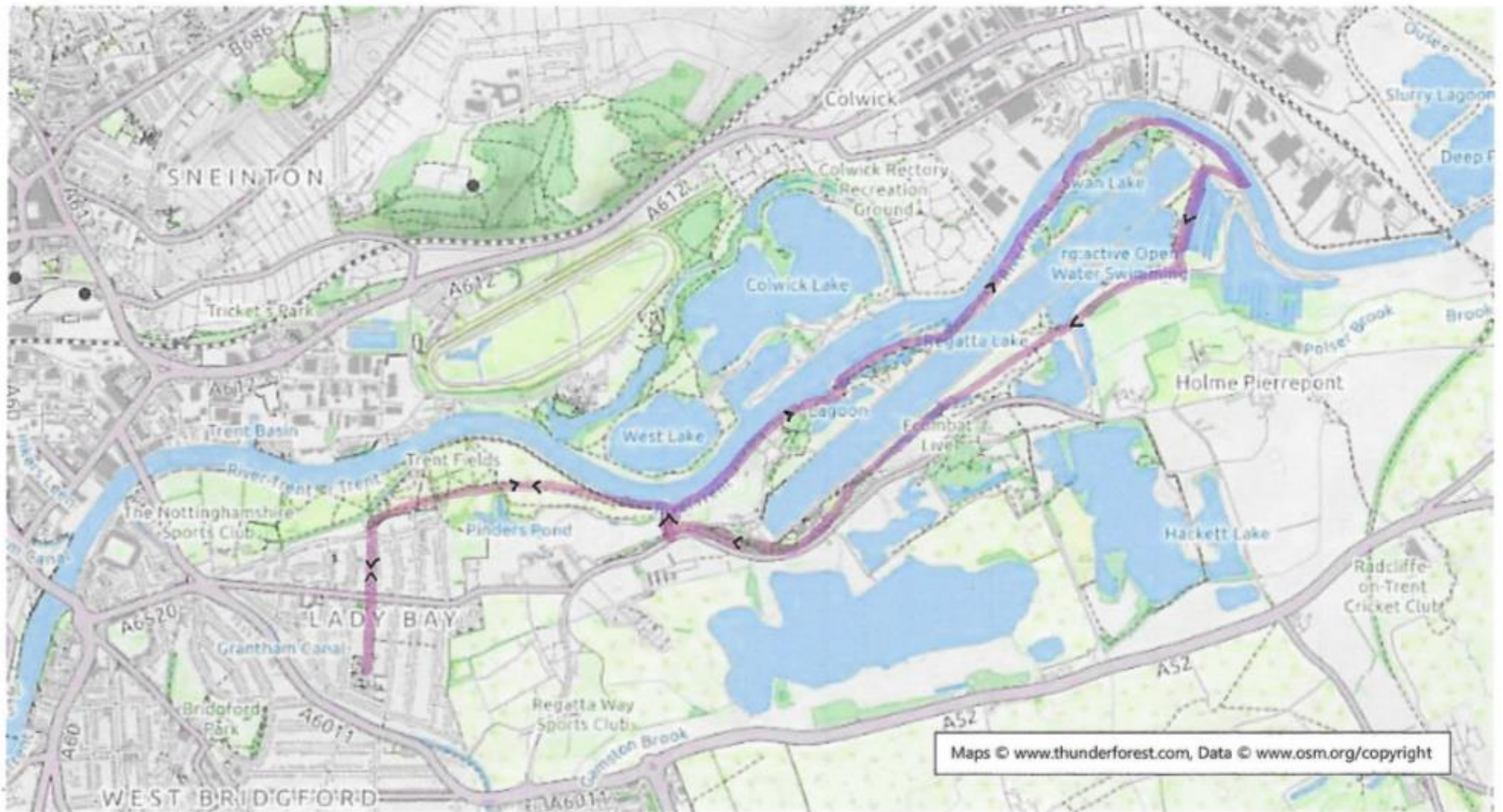
Description

Walking the perimeter path of the Regatta Lake at the Water Sports is popular with walkers, runners and cyclists. This route takes you around the Regatta Lake, yet completely off the busy perimeter path on quiet footpaths. The walk is varied, interesting and takes in The River Trent, woodlands and open fields. Holme Lock provides an interesting rest stop. Holme Lock is a delightfully rural location. For boaters, the broad and fast-flowing River Trent is a clear contrast to the narrow network of canals that it connects to. There is now a Hydro Power Plant at Holme Lock.

Clues

Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the path immediately right alongside the allotments. Once in open space on Trent Fields, keep the 'flood pool' on your left and head for the Sailing Club. Continue on the river path past the Sailing Club. Follow the path straight ahead with the river on your left. Walk past the canoeists' changing rooms to the beginning of the canoe slalom course. Turn left and cross the bridge over the starting point of the slalom course. The path then bends to the right, alongside a short canal section to Holme Lock. At the lock you will see a path heading through the right-hand hedge, going diagonally right to a footbridge. Take this path, cross the bridge and you are on the perimeter path of the Regatta Lake. Walk down the path until you get to a large blue screen on the waters' edge indicating the 1,000m marker on the water. At this point, turn off the main path onto a grassy path heading diagonally left. Follow this path and you will eventually get into a wooded area with the river close to you on your left. Carry on this path, keeping the river closely on your left. Keep left at every path junction. The path eventually takes you around the bottom of the Regatta Lake. When you get to the bottom far corner of the Lake, take a path diagonally right to a large concrete pipe. If you get to a ramp blocking the pathway, you have come too far. Beyond this pipe is the Regatta Lake perimeter path. At the far corner of the Regatta Lake, look down the Lake. On your left is a grassy path going away from the perimeter path. Take this path and walk ahead with a series of fishing ponds on your left. Go straight ahead, keeping left at any path junctions until you get to a T junction with a track. Go right. Go through a metal gate by the water-ski lake. Continue along the track, past the car park. At the elbow where the track bends left, go straight ahead through a wooden gate and at the 'Footgolf' sign, veer left onto a grassy track by the hedge. Keep on this grassy path and away from the perimeter path. Go through a metal gate on your left, turn right and go over a small footbridge. At the tarmac driveway. Turn left and walk along the drive towards the main entrance of the Water Sports. Before the entrance itself, turn off the drive onto grass and walk on the grassy bank along the hedge. Keep on this bank all the way round, past the Water Sports buildings and garages. You will eventually drop down to a narrow roadway, which leads to one of the exits. Take the path opposite and carry on this path to the next roadway. Turn left and walk along the road to the Sailing Club entrance. Take the path right next to the sailing club entrance which brings you out at the river on Trent Fields. Make your way back to The Hook and Mona Road, then to the Poppy and Pint.

Distance: 9.5 kms Walking Time: 2.25 hours



Walk 11: Skylarks Nature Reserve Circuit via Adbolton Lane and Regatta Way

Description

This route takes you on the classic Skylarks Nature Reserve round. Along the way are bird hides overlooking various lakes with a variety of birdlife including Egret, Kingfishers and Lapwings.

Clues

The direct road route to Skylarks Nature Reserve is along Trent Boulevard, Adbolton Lane and then Regatta Way. Go past the main entrance of the Water Sports and find the Skylarks Car Park on your right. At the Skylarks Car Park, follow the Blue Route anti clockwise. If it is muddy, avoid the back section. Return from the Car Park the same way to Lady Bay and the Poppy and Pint!

Distance: 10 kms

Walking Time: 3.25 hours



Walk 12: Sharphill

Description

This walk takes you to the delightful woods at the top of Sharphill. The route described below is a circuit which includes the very pleasant canal path from Lady Bay and into Gamston but then the less interesting meander through Edwalton before returning along the "Green Line". It is possible to shorten the route and avoid tramping the suburban pavements, by simply going to Sharphill there and back via the "Green Line". The views from Sharphill are fabulous and there are endless well-maintained paths to be explored through the charming Sharphill Woods. Look out for wild orchids in the woods.

Clues

Walk to the canal at the junction of Gertrude Road and Rutland Road and follow it to the left all the way to the main A6011. Use the crossing place about 20m to the right and go under the bridge to follow the canal path with allotments to your right. At the second bridge over the canal, fork right down a narrow path (there is a signpost with a missing sign), still keeping the allotments on your right. The path opens up to a roadway after about 200m. Immediately, bear left onto a wooden footbridge and from this point onwards follow the blue cycle track signs to Edwalton, Sharphill and Rushcliffe School. Keep going in the same direction and pass two more of these signs before reaching a road where the sign points right. Follow this road to the right as far as a roundabout where the Sharphill sign points the way to the left past the Meadow Covert Pub along Alford Road. Follow this to the end and turn right along Wellin Lane. Pass a Londis shop on your right before reaching a T-junction with Village Street where you turn right. Meet the main Melton Road and turn left still following the blue Sharphill sign. Over the brow of the hill you see the new "Edwalton Fields" estate being built by Bovis. Turn right down Rose Way towards the estate and you will see Sharphill rising behind the new development. At the roundabout turn sharp left down an unsigned narrow path between temporary metal fencing and follow this into the garden centre car park. Make your way diagonally across the car park towards a gate and opening between two fences under a young Silver Birch tree which leads onto a roadway. The main A52 ring-road is to your left and you will soon pass a building belonging to a company called Ergo on your right. Keep walking past a willow tree and towards car parks for various small businesses eventually reaching a stile with a public footpath yellow arrow. Cross into the field and, ignore the path bearing off to the right of a picnic bench and keeping the hedge on your left, keep following the same direction as the ring-road. Reach another yellow arrow public footpath sign, this time pointing both left and right. Turn right and climb gently up to Sharphill woods. There are many options for making your way through these woods. Maintain roughly the same direction and, no matter which path you choose, you will eventually end up at the north-west entrance next to a badger sett and a comprehensive information panel by the Wildlife Trust. Come out of the woods at this point to find a dramatic view of the city. Follow the main track down to the right as far as the yellow footpath post at the end of the hedge. Turn right here and follow the clear track down towards the houses and emerge onto Musters Road. Follow this for a short way onto Boundary Road where you turn right, again (confusingly) following a blue cycle sign to Sharphill and Edwalton. Pass Rushcliffe school on your right-hand side before turning left immediately after Sutherland Drive bus-stop down the Green Line footpath. This leads all the way back to Melton Road. At the end of the Green Line path, turn left and then take the first right at the traffic lights onto Rectory Road. From here you can make your way back to the Poppy and Pint via the West Bridgford park.

Distance: 10.5 kms

Walking Time: 2 hours



Walk 13: Sneinton Greenway to Colwick Park

Description

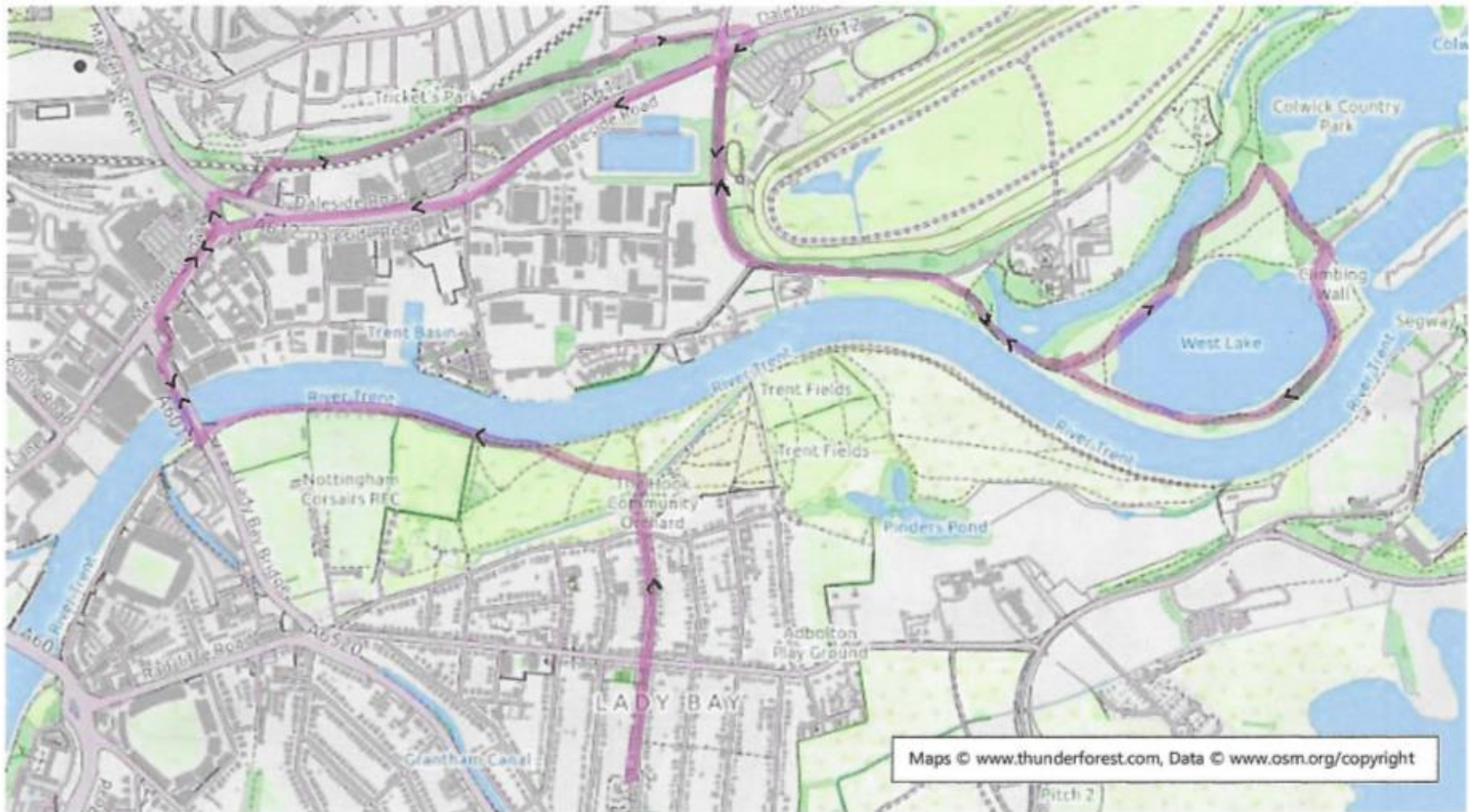
A system of paths on the former Great Northern Railway take you to the edge of Sneinton Woods to Colwick Country Park. There are some fantastic opportunities to see a rich diverse wildlife including butterflies, dragonflies and many migratory birds including the nationally important population of wildfowl that are present during the winter. The Country Park has two main lakes: West Lake and Colwick Lake. This walk takes you round the first of the two lakes – The West Lake. It is possible to explore the main Lake – Colwick Lake, as well, but that will add around 5kms to this walk.

Clues

Make your way to Lady Bay bridge via the riverside path from The Hook. Walk underneath the bridge then climb up to the bridge by concrete steps on your left. Cross the bridge on the left side pavement. Turn right at the traffic lights, then cross the main road so that you are on the pavement by the Lady Bay Retail Park. At the retail park roundabout, turn left and then immediately cross the road (A612) on the pedestrian crossing. Follow signs to the Sneinton Greenway. Head towards the right-hand side of the Harley-Davidson showroom and cross the railway line using the footbridge. Come down one level on the other side and take the elevated disused railway section right, signposted Sneinton Greenway. Keep on the path/disused railway line and come out at the Racecourse roundabout. Cross to the other side of the main road (A612) and head past the racecourse entrance towards the river on the road to Colwick Hall. Keep on this road until you get to a green sign: Public Bridleway. Take this path and keep left. You will now be walking around the first of the two lakes in Colwick Country Park – The West Lake. Walk round this lake clockwise and return to the Colwick Hall road. Retrace your steps on the pavements to get to Lady Bay Bridge. Drop down to the river path via the concrete steps and walk back to The Hook on the river path.

Distance: 11 kms

Walking Time: 2.45 hours



Walk 14: Colwick Wood Nature Reserve

Description

Two fantastic panoramic views – one to the west and one to the south - are provided by this walk up to Colwick Wood. Once in the woods there are many footpaths to be explored and enjoyed. These ancient woodlands have been designated as a geological site of special scientific interest. The top of the hill was once the site of a now demolished prisoner of war camp. A very respectable 185m (600') of ascent is involved in this walk- nearly as high as Pen y Ghent!

Clues

Begin as with *Walk 13: Sneinton Greenway to Colwick Park*, as far as the roundabout on the A612 by the racecourse. Turn left here down a road which bends to the left and over the railway at a level crossing. Immediately after the rather lovely stone mullioned railway cottage, enter the woods to the right and climb steadily up a path stepped with timbers. At the first path junction turn left and keep climbing. At the next path junction turn right, still climbing. From here all paths lead to the west-facing viewing point. The information panel identifies various landmarks in the panorama and has a copy of a painting of this view dating from the end of the 17th century. Walk on the continuation path from here out of the woods keeping a water-reservoir with a grassy roof on your right. Reach a 3-way public footpath signpost and turn left towards Greenwood Road (ignoring the other sign which also points to Greenwood Road straight on). Walk towards the large lime green sign thanking you for visiting Colwick Woods Nature Reserve. Just before the sign, turn right along a grassy path and head towards a building advertising the Greenwood Coffee Stop. Pass this building to the right and emerge by a children's playground. A main public footpath goes off to the right down into the woods, but ignore this and go straight on, keeping the woods to your right and an open grassy area with a football pitch to your left. This rises gently towards a wide skyline which suddenly opens up to a spectacular second panorama. Just as the ground begins to gently fall away, look out for a fainter track through the grass forking off to the right in the direction of the racecourse grandstand below. This path falls steeply down to join a more definite track coming down from the right through the woods. Turn left along this and reach a tree on your left with the word WITCH painted on its trunk. A few metres further on, turn right and follow a track to a T junction. At the T junction turn left, then take a track right up some steps. The path now dips and rises (sometimes very steeply) parallel with the main A612 below you to the left. Every so often a metal fence comes into view. Always keep this to your left as a 'handrail' as a guide to take you steadily back towards the wooden stepped path that you first took into the woods. From here, re-trace your steps back along the Sneinton Greenway and back to Lady Bay and the Poppy and Pint!

Distance: 11 kms

Walking Time: 2.5 hours



Walk 15: Holme Pierrepont to Bassingfield – Return by the Canal

Description

This is the shortest way of getting from the River Trent to the Grantham Canal over the A52. The section from Holme Pierrepont to Bassingfield is delightful. Here, you walk through open country with good views.

Clues

Firstly, from Lady Bay walk to the Skylarks Nature Reserve car park. Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the path immediately right alongside the allotments. Once in open space on Trent Fields, keep the 'flood pool' on your left and head for the Sailing Club. Continue on the river path past the Sailing Club. At the next fence turn right and walk around the cricket ground heading towards 'Desperate Measures' canoe shop which is to the left of the cricket pavilion. Continue down some steps to the Water Sports area. Walk anticlockwise around the Regatta Lake until you pass the main building and the spectators' area. Then take a path diagonally right, past a memorial stone and three benches, and down to a metal gate. Go through the gate and cross a field with the hedge on your immediate left. Enter the 'e combat zone' and look for a path diagonally rightwards that takes you to the road and the main Skylarks Nature Reserve car park. Turn left onto the road. Pass Blotts. At the entrance to Holme Pierrepont Hall, turn right on a gravel track that takes you directly to the A52 alongside Hackett Lake. Cross the A52 at the traffic lights and look for a footpath at the A52 / Stragglethorpe Road junction. This path heads diagonally left across a farmer's field. Head for the telegraph pole with the yellow and black stripes on the support cables. Go through the gate by the telegraph pole and follow the marked path as it winds right then left across fields, following yellow posts. You will shortly arrive at the edge of Bassingfield village. At Bassingfield, take the first footpath on your left and head for the canal. Go to the canal towpath by crossing the canal bridge. Turn right and walk the towpath to Tollerton Road. At the Tollerton Road, turn right and walk to the crossing point on the A52. Cross over the main road and follow the blue signs to West Bridgford through Gamston to the canal by Morrisons. Take the canal path back to Lady Bay.

Distance: 11.25 kms

Walking Time: 2.30 hours



Walk 16: Direct Route to Skylarks Nature Reserve and the Water Ski Lake

Description

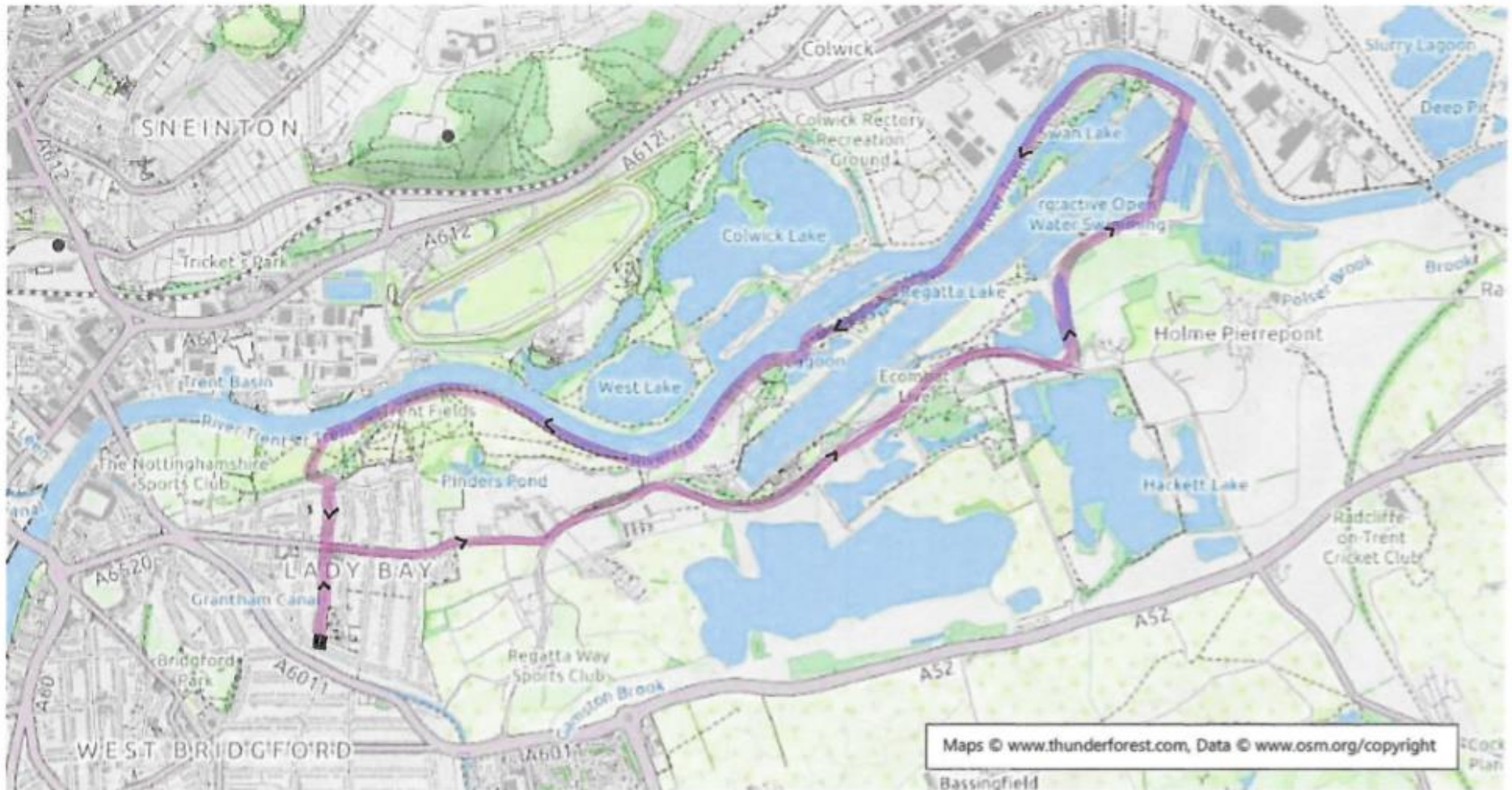
The water ski lake is a quiet, secluded, restful area amongst the busy paths around it. This small lake is the perfect place to rest, contemplate or picnic.

Clues

From Mona Road, take Trent Boulevard onto Adbolton Lane to Holme Pierrepont Campsite. Walk past the campsite on the back road to Radcliffe. There is an option here to explore Skylarks Nature Reserve on the right. You could also explore the Skylarks Nature Reserve further down the road on the left-hand side which is a wheelchair friendly loop. Otherwise, continue on the road past Skylarks and reach a road with a barrier on the left-hand side marked: 'Canoe Polo – Open Water Swimming'. Turn left onto this road which runs alongside some fishing lakes. The track bends right and then arrives at a car park for the water ski lake. Cross the car park and walk anti-clockwise around this small lake. There are good places here to rest or picnic. Continue round the lake and you will arrive at the bottom of the large Regatta Lake. Take the footpath that runs parallel to the end of the Regatta Lake and work your way anti-clockwise round this lake but alongside the river. Eventually, you will re-join the Regatta Lake. About halfway down the Regatta Lake, turn right onto a footbridge which takes you to Holme Lock. Follow the riverside path upstream until you get to The Hook at Lady Bay and back to the Poppy and Pint!

Distance: 12 kms

Walking Time: 3.25 hours



Walk 17: Skylarks to Holme Pierrepont Village. Return by the Water Ski Lake

Description

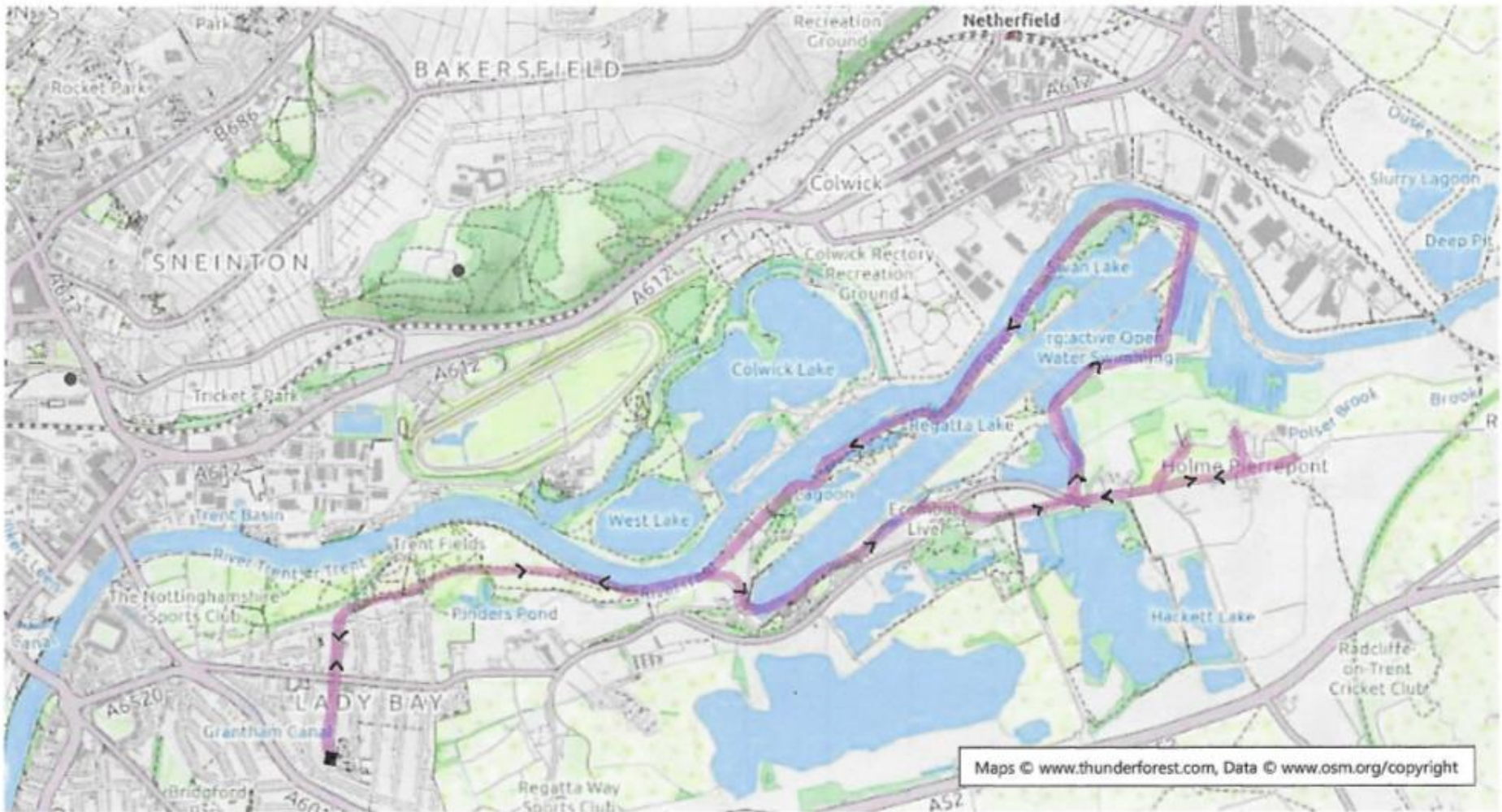
This walk takes you to Skylarks Nature Reserve and then on an exploration of Holme Pierrepont Village. On this exploration, you will first pass Holme Pierrepont Hall This is a Grade I listed medieval hall. The hall was built by Sir William Pierrepont around 1500 and inhabited by subsequent generations of the Pierrepont family. The village itself largely comprises of the next two roadways on your left. Each roadway leads to a small hamlet. Holme Pierrepont Village occupies the southern bank of the River Trent, which was the great highway upon which the Anglo-Saxons came to settle in the district and was at one period the dividing line between the kingdoms of Mercia and Northumberland. The Population Holme Pierrepont Village according to the 2011 census was 528.

Clues

Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the path immediately right alongside the allotments. Once in open space on Trent Fields, keep the 'flood pool' on your left and head for the Sailing Club. Continue on the river path past the Sailing Club. At the next fence turn right and walk around the cricket ground heading towards 'Desperate Measures' canoe shop which is to the left of the cricket pavilion. Continue on steps down to the Water Sports area. Walk anticlockwise around the Regatta Lake until you pass the main building and the spectators' area. Then take a path diagonally right past a memorial stone and three benches down to a metal gate. Go through the gate and cross a field with the hedge on your immediate left. Enter the 'e combat zone' and look for a path diagonally rightwards that takes you to the road and the main Skylarks Nature Reserve car park. Continue down the road past Blotts and Holme Pierrepont Hall. Explore the next two roads on the left which take you into Holme Pierrepont Village. Return back along the road until you get to a road on the right marked: 'Canoe Polo – Open Water Swimming'. Turn into this road which runs alongside some fishing lakes. The track bends right and then arrives at a car park for the old water ski lake. Cross the car park and walk anti-clockwise around this small lake. There are good places here to rest or picnic. Continue round the lake and you will arrive at the bottom of the large Regatta Lake. Take the footpath that runs parallel to the end of the Regatta Lake and work your way anti-clockwise round this lake but alongside the river. Eventually, you will re-join the Regatta Lake. About halfway down the Regatta Lake, turn right onto a footbridge which takes you to Holme Lock. Follow the riverside path upstream until you get to the sailing club. Beyond the sailing club, turn off the river path onto a path diagonal left that takes you across Trent Fields and back to Mona Road just past the allotments.

Distance: 13 kms

Walking Time: 3.5 hours



Walk 18: The Bassingfield Round - The Long Way

Description

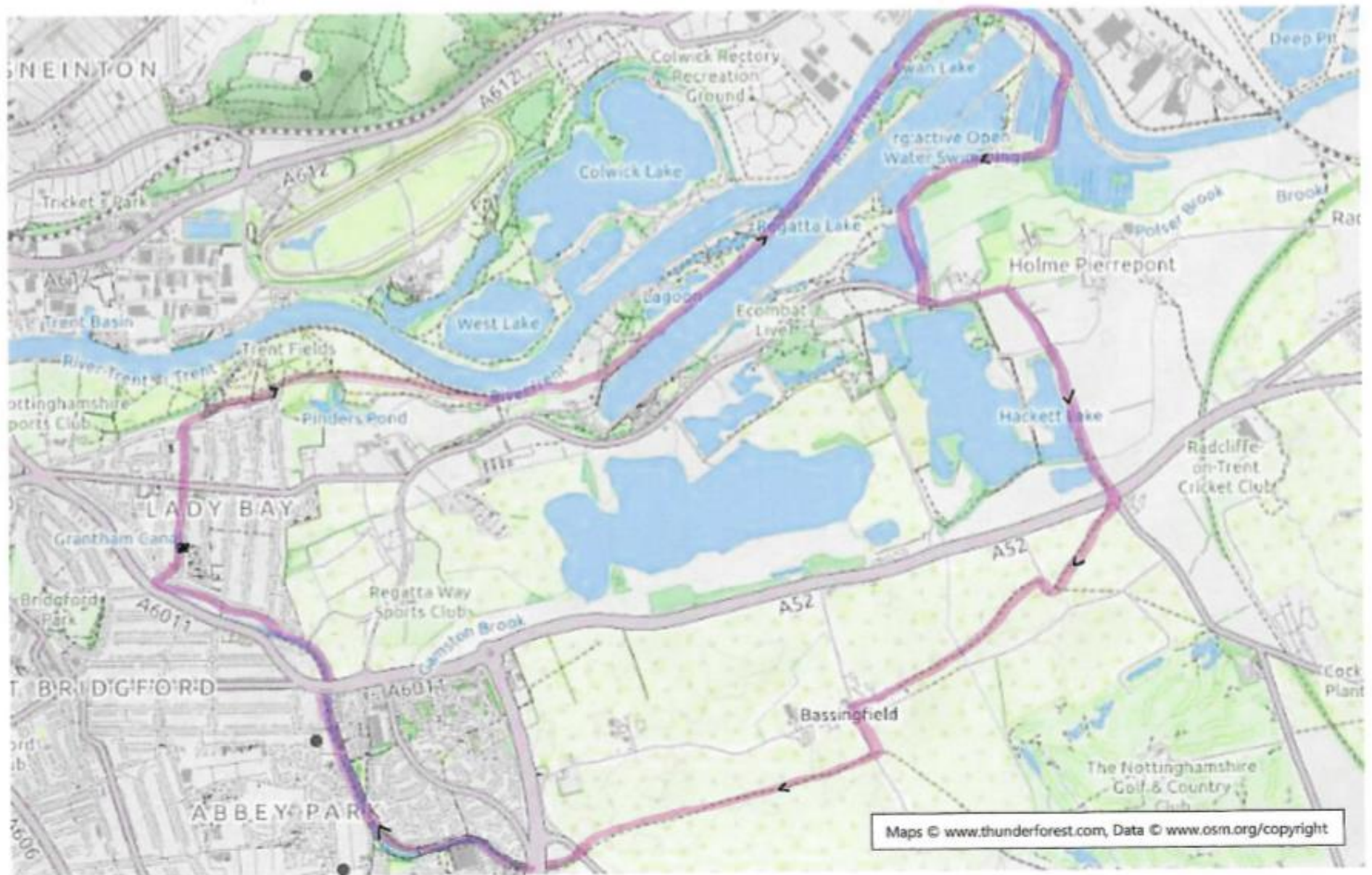
A walk which combines several others from the collection but with a few extra kilometres for those who want to be out for a bit longer. There are several ways to reach Pierrepont Hall, but the route described here goes the long way round the Water Sports rowing lake through the nature reserve that lies between the lake and the river.

Clues

Leave Lady Bay and cross The Hook to reach the Water Sports Centre and then, keeping the regatta lake to your right, follow the higher grassy path that undulates up and down parallel to the main path. On reaching some obstacle course equipment, branch off to the left and into the wooded nature reserve. There are several options through the woods but following the arrow signs seems to offer a particularly pretty route. After passing the top of the rowing lake on your right, stick with the woods and find a river-side path opposite the large Armitage Pet Foods factory on the other side of the river. Follow this until you reach a 5mph road sign and a poster about stopping the spread of aquatic diseases on an anglers' notice board. Turn right and pass a National Lottery sign to join a large track which passes lakes on both sides. On reaching a junction, fork right and pass a metal gate with various signs facing the other way put up by the Nottingham and District Federation of Angling Societies. On your right, pass the Water Ski Park, and continue to join another track heading off to the left just before the Footgolf and the Welcome to Holme Pierrepont Country Park sign. Emerge onto Adbolton Lane near Blotts and turn left as far as Holme Pierrepont Hall. Turn right here following public footpath signs down a byway towards The Rectory. Cross the A52 at the traffic lights and look for the stile on the corner of Stragglethorpe Lane branching off to the right. The public footpath the crosses this field diagonally is faint. Head for the telegraph pole, with the yellow and black stripes on the support cables, near where the line of hedges ends. About halfway across the field there is a traffic bollard to reassure you that you're on the correct path. Once you reach the telegraph pole, there are several yellow footpath signs to show you the way ahead through several fields and across a couple of small wooden bridges until you arrive at Bassingfield. Turn left here to join the canal and follow the canal towpath all the way back to first a minor road and then the A52. CROSS WITH CARE and follow the blue signs to West Bridgford through Gamston to the canal by Morrisons. Take the canal path back to Lady Bay and the Poppy and Pint.

Distance: 13.5 kms

Walking Time: 3 hours



Walk 19: Cross Country – Radcliffe to Bassingfield and Beyond

Description

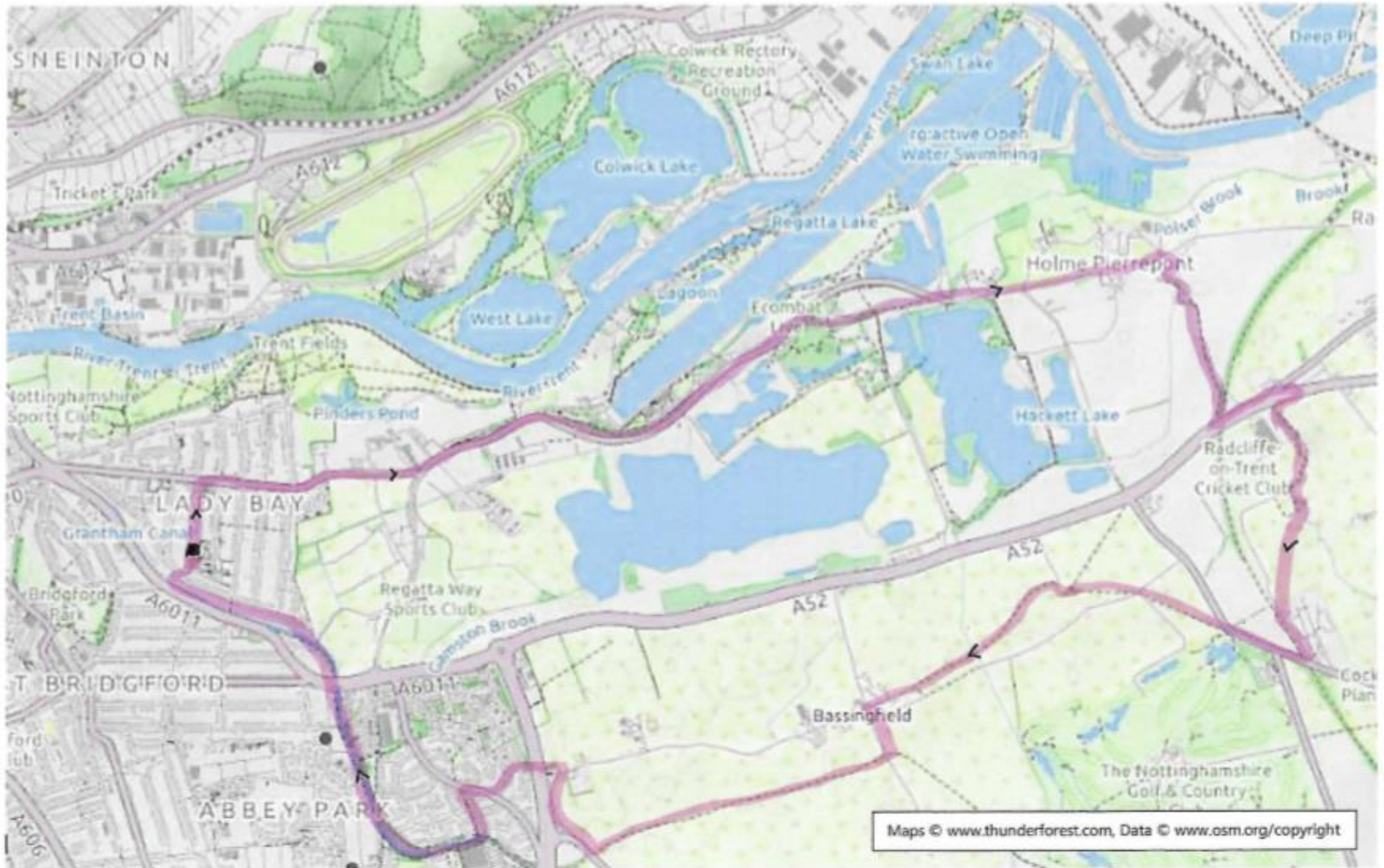
A quiet, yet well marked route. Off the beaten track. The footpaths from Radcliffe to Bassingfield are well marked but relatively unused. Here, you get a strong sense of being deep in the countryside, alone and away from the crowds.

Clues

Follow Walk 17 to Blotts. Continue down the track. Just after Holme Pierrepont Village look out for a footpath sign right. This path will take you to the A52. The path meanders but should be clear enough for you to see. You will see the disused railway line running parallel to you on your left. At the A52, turn left to the pelican crossing. Cross the main road and then turn left again. You will see a footpath sign on your right – before the Pylons. Take the path which leads to the Stragglethorpe Road by the Shepherds Pub. Turn right and walk down the road. Ignore the road on your left to the pub. At a bend in the road, take the footpath left. This will take you across the fields to Bassingfield. At Bassingfield, take the first footpath on your left and head for the canal. Go to the canal towpath by crossing the bridge. Turn right and walk the towpath to the Tollerton Road. At the Tollerton Road, turn right and head for the crossing point on the A 52. Cross over the main road and follow the signs through Gamston back to the canal by Morrisons. Take the canal path back to Lady Bay and the Poppy and Pint.

Distance: 13.5 kms

Walking Time: 3.45 hours



Walk 20: Cotgrave Country Park Direct along the Grantham Canal

Description

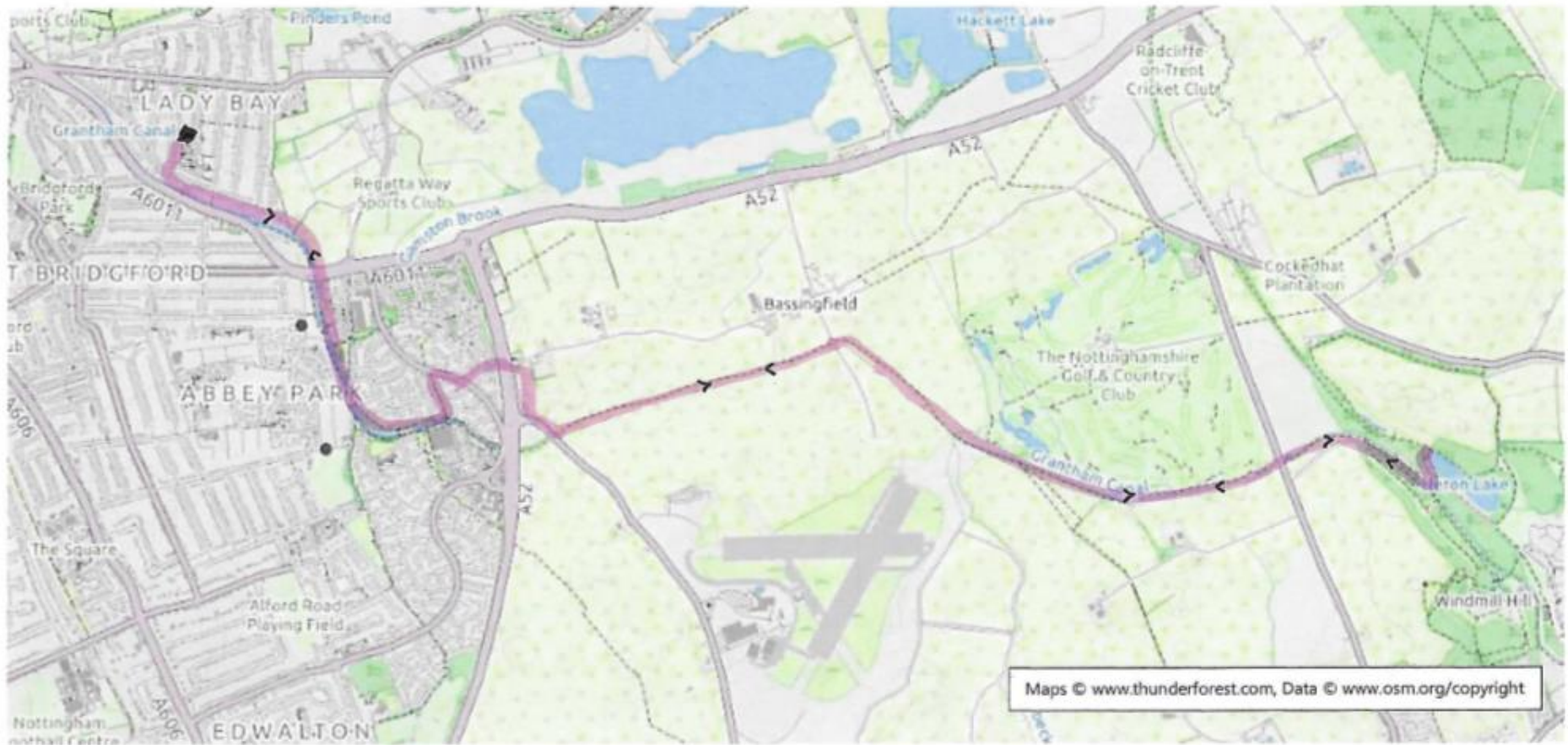
An extended walk along the canal brings you straight into the Cotgrave Country Park. Be sure to explore the Cotgrave Country Park before returning home.

Clues

Follow Walk 4 to the first canal bridge on the Grantham Canal past the A52. On your left is Bassingfield Village. Go straight on and walk further down the canal towpath. Pass Skinners Lock and cross the main road into Cotgrave. Continue on the tow path to the first foot bridge on this section (Bridge 13 by Lock No 6). Cross the footbridge and follow the path on the other side of the lock into Cotgrave Country Park by Heron Lake. For an exploration of the Country Park, See Walk 29: Return to Lady Bay by the same route.

Distance: 14 kms

Walking time: 4 hours



Walk 21: Grantham Canal across fields to Cotgrave and Gamston

Description

This walk takes you further along the Grantham Canal and then on lonely paths across country to Tollerton and back to Gamston via Cotgrave Water Treatment Works. A more beautiful place than it sounds. Look out for Skylarks across the fields and Jays by the A52. There is an interesting route back to the canal from here.

Clues

Follow Walk 4 to the first canal bridge on the Grantham Canal past the A52. On your left is Bassingfield. Go straight on and walk further down the canal footpath. Go through a gate across the towpath, and then take the first footpath on your right and walk southwards towards Cotgrave. Go past Peashill Farm to the water treatment works. Shortly after the treatment works, take a path right off the track and head towards Tollerton Airport. Look out for path signs all the way. Turn right through a hedge and you are in open country. Go ahead and cross straight over the Tollerton Road. Follow the path NW to the A52 where there is a crossing. Cross the A52. Find the continuation path on your right and follow signs: Radcliffe Road (Quiet Route) to the Grantham Canal by Morrisons. Retrace your steps along the canal to Trent Boulevard and back to the Poppy and Pint.

Distance: 14 kms

Walking Time: 3.25 hours



Walk 22: Cotgrave Country Park via the Disused Railway Line at Radcliffe

Description

A delightful section of walk is along the former mineral railway, which used to link the former colliery in Cotgrave (now the site of the country park) to the main railway network. The railway line brings you directly into Cotgrave Country Park – a beautiful area to explore. The railway line is an elevated section and so there are fine views across the landscape. The park has been created from the reclaimed land of a former colliery site. The park has been landscaped with woodlands, lakes, and wetland areas. There are 200 acres of public open space to explore on foot, by bike or on horseback.

Clues

Follow Walk 3 to the Water Sports area. Walk anticlockwise around the Regatta Lake until you pass the main building and the spectators' area. Then take a path diagonally right past a memorial stone and three benches and down to a metal gate. Go through the gate and cross a field with the hedge on your immediate left. Enter the 'e combat zone' and look for a path diagonally rightwards that takes you to the road and the main Skylarks Nature Reserve car park. Take the path into Skylarks and walk left across the field to Blotts. Look out for Green Woodpecker as you cross the fields. Take the main track right towards Radcliffe. Walk under the old railway line and immediately take the path right upwards and onto the railway line itself. Follow the track for around 2kms. The end of the track is marked by small wooden bollards leading to a narrow footpath ahead of you and a grey metal gate to your left. Go through the gate and immediately turn right by a blue sign to Cotgrave. Here you will find a park bench. Heron Lake is to your left. By the lake is a path junction and a sign: Grantham Canal and West Viewpoint. Turn right at this sign and you will soon arrive at the canal lock (number 6). Cross over the canal at the lock and take the canal towpath westwards towards Nottingham. At the next main canal bridge turn right over the bridge and take the path and then road through Bassingfield to the A52 Crossing. Cross the main road at the pedestrian lights and walk through Gamston back onto the canal before Morrisons. Take the canal path home.

Distance: 15.5 kms

Walking Time: 4 hours



Walk 23: The Four Tons: ClipsTON, NormanTON, TollerTON and GamSTON

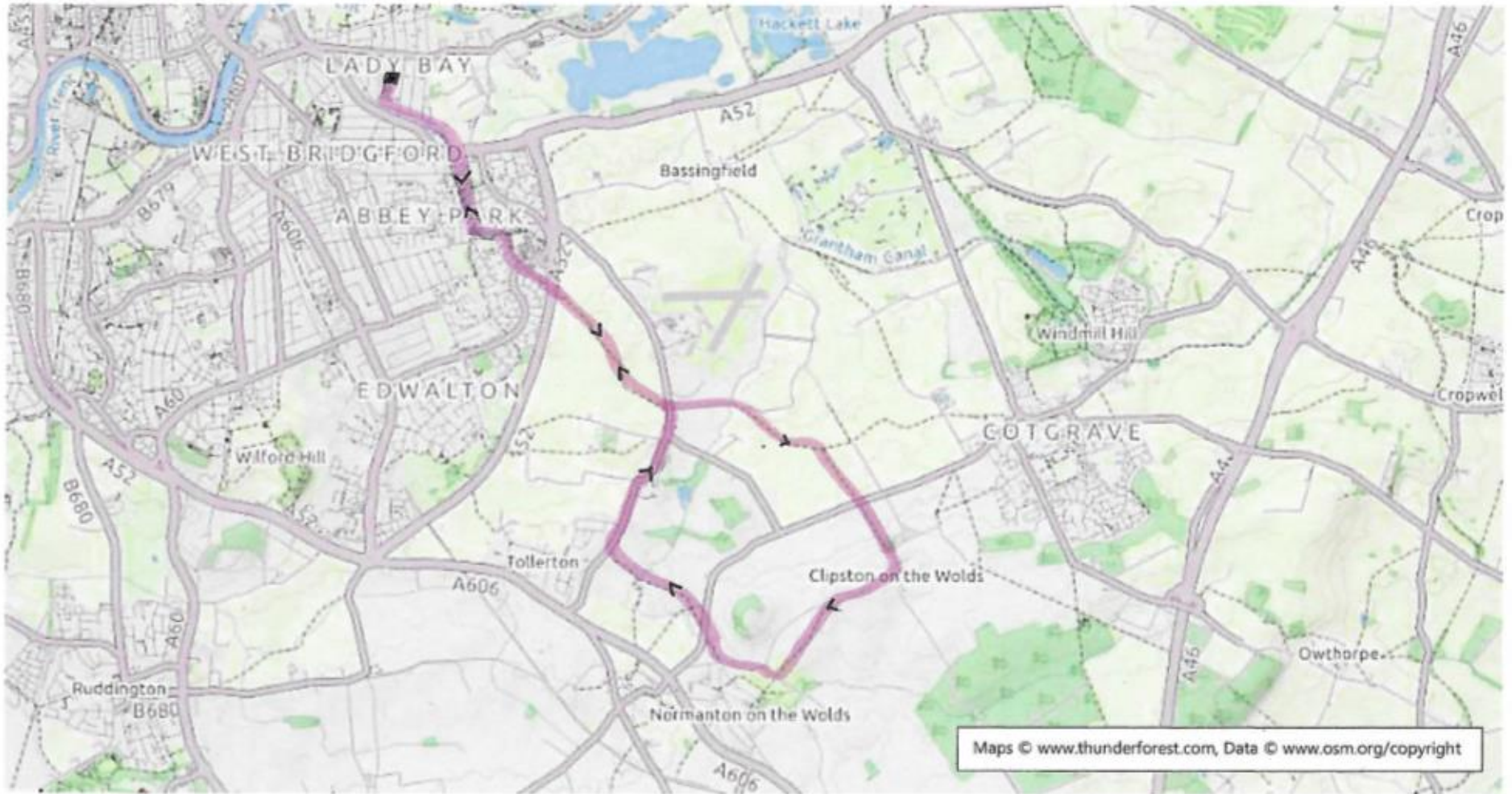
A superb circular walk taking in four villages in Rushcliffe – notably Clipston, Normanton, Tollerton and Gamston. You will enjoy open countryside and fine views throughout. There is also a rare opportunity to enjoy an ice cream and a carry out coffee at a local farm shop en route. A host of birdlife may be seen. Look out for Buzzard, Kestrel, Siskin, Yellow Hammer, Corn Bunting, Reed bunting and Skylark.

Clues

Follow the Grantham Canal out of Lady Bay until you reach the back of the Morrisons superstore where you follow the public footpath round to the right keeping Morrisons on your left. Follow this footpath across the road where a sign designates the end of the cycle route and follow it as it becomes grassy. Eventually, steps on your left take you to the main A52. **CROSS WITH EXTREME CAUTION.** Pick up the footpath on the other side of the main road and continue in the same direction across a series of fields. There are one or two kinks in the path, but it maintains roughly the same direction as it heads towards the village of Tollerton. Ignore the path off to the left which leads to a farm building and keep going over a few small wooden footbridges until you reach another road at the edge of Tollerton. Cross the road and join a wider track which again keeps the same direction. Cross a small wooden footbridge over a small stream. Then, walk through two hedges. At the third hedge, watch out for a fork in the path at the hedge with a signpost showing one yellow arrow leading straight on and one yellow arrow pointing to the right. Turn right here on the near side of the hedge and follow the footpath to another road. Cross the road and continue on the path ahead. The path climbs up straight ahead, through a metal gate, to join a lane at the edge of the hamlet of Clipston. Turn right at the lane. Pass the Clipston on the Wolds village sign. Go straight ahead to find Harpers Farm shop on the left-hand side. After visiting the farm shop, return to the main road and take Church Gate, the road on the left. Pass another Clipston on the Wolds village sign. About 300m further along the road take the marked footpath on the left and head towards Normanton. Go diagonally left along the path, cross two small wooded foot bridges and arrive at a lane. Turn right down the lane to the road. Turn left along the road. Pass the Normanton on the Wolds village sign and cross a bridge over a stream. Immediately after this bridge, take the marked footpath right. A substantial wooden bridge takes you back over the stream and then the path swings left. Continue on this grassy path and then go through a black metal gate onto a road. The path continues on the other side of the road and slightly to the right. Cross the road and continue along this path which goes diagonally right across a field. Go over a small wooden footbridge and continue with the hedges on your right. The path bends left and then straight ahead to the Tollerton Road. Turn right on the road and walk along the road for about one kilometre through Tollerton Village. Pass a church, and a phone box. Ignore the next footpath on the left – along Little Lane. Continue on the main road, past a 'Pinfold' on the right and a bus stop on the left. (A pinfold is a middle English term for a pound for stray animals, or a fold, as for sheep or cattle or a place of confinement or restraint). When you get to the 40mph road sign, take the path immediately on the left and join the same path that you walked on during the outward leg of this walk. Retrace your steps to the A52, Gamston, The Grantham Canal to Lady Bay.

Distance: 16 kms

Walking Time: 4 hours



Walk 24: Clipston on the Wolds and Cotgrave Forest

Description

A pleasant and peaceful walk out of Lady Bay along the canal, then across fields to Clipston and the woods beyond. Quite a long walk if undertaken on foot all the way, but another option is to drive or cycle to Clipston and walk around Cotgrave Forest from there. There are fine views back towards Nottingham. Eat your heart out Grisedale Forest, this is a fantastic forest walk – and so near to home! Look out / listen out for Yellow Hammer, Corn Bunting, Skylarks and Cuckoo on the fields around Tollerton.

Clues

Follow the Grantham Canal out of Lady Bay until you reach the back of the Morrisons superstore where you follow the public footpath round to the right keeping Morrisons on your left. Follow this footpath across the road where a sign designates the end of the cycle route and follow it as it becomes grassy. Eventually, steps on your left take you to the main A52. **CROSS WITH EXTREME CAUTION.** Pick up the footpath on the other side of the main road and continue in the same direction across a series of fields. There are one or two kinks in the path, but it maintains roughly the same direction as it heads towards the village of Tollerton. Ignore the path off to the left which leads to a farm building and keep going over a few small wooden footbridges until you reach another road at the edge of Tollerton. Cross the road and join a wider track which again keeps the same direction. Cross a small wooden footbridge over a small stream. Then, walk through two hedges. At the third hedge, watch out for a fork in the path at the hedge with a signpost showing one yellow arrow leading straight on and one yellow arrow pointing to the right. Turn right here on the near side of the hedge and follow the footpath to another road. Cross the road and continue on the path ahead. The path climbs up straight ahead, through a metal gate, to join a lane at the edge of the hamlet of Clipston. Turn right here to find Harker's Farm Shop selling all sorts of tempting goodies but closed on Sundays and Mondays. (This is where you can park or lock up your bike if you have decided to avoid the walk in). Pass Harker's on your left and follow the track straight on as it heads deep into Cotgrave Forest. Follow the track until you reach a T-junction showing 4 blue footpath arrows and two black arrows indicating the Notts Wolds Way. Turn left at this junction and follow the path through the woods until you reach another T-junction, this time with 3 Public Bridleway signs. Turn left here and keep going until you pass between two large concrete boulders on either side of the path. Shortly afterwards, you will reach another path junction with 4 pointers indicating both Public Bridleways and Restricted Byways. Turn left again and follow the path as it winds back towards Clipston. Extensive views of Nottingham and beyond open up here. On reaching a yellow painted footpath marker with a half broken maroon arrow to the left, turn left and return to the lane which leads into Clipston. Turn left up the lane and either return to your car/bike or return by the same route as you came down through the fields, taking the path just to the right of the 'Clipston on the Wolds' road sign and back towards Gamston.

Distance: 18.5km

Walking Time: 3 hours 45 minutes



Walk 25: Beeston Lock via the Beeston Canal. Return by the River on the Trent Valley Way – The Big Track

Description

A grand day out. Enjoy a packed lunch at Beeston Lock. The Beeston Canal provides an interesting walking route through the city and beyond to Beeston. The Beeston Canal ends at the River Trent opposite the City Ground which is where our walk begins. This route is known as The Big Track – popular with runners as it is exactly 20 kms long!

Clues

Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the river path upstream. Go under Lady Bay Bridge. Follow the side road up to Trent Bridge and cross the bridge on the right-hand pavement, heading towards the city. Immediately over the bridge, take the path on the right which slips down the side of the bridge to the river path **opposite** the City Ground. This path takes you to lock which delivers the Beeston Canal into the River Trent. Take the towpath on the right-hand side of the canal and follow it for around 10 kms through the city and out the other side until you reach Beeston Lock. On the way you will need to change sides on the towpath near The Premier Inn by crossing a Turnover Bridge. A Turnover Bridge gets its name because it was where the horse towing the canal boat could change sides of the canal towpath without unhitching the rope. Next, you will pass a The Navigation Inn and lock. Follow signs to Beeston. Pass bridge number 18 – the footbridge to Boots, and onwards. Eventually you will get to a bridge with an embankment on the left-hand side. Walk on the embankment and past some playing fields to Beeston Lock. Return by the River Trent following the Trent Valley Way. By Beeston Lock you will see a blue signpost. Follow the sign for West Bridgford, 5 miles. Eventually, pass through a metal gate. Take the fisher path right following more blue signs. Pass under Clifton Bridge and emerge onto the pavement just past B and Q. Turn right and walk along the pavement to The Victoria Embankment. Cross the river on the Suspension Bridge and take the river path downstream to The Hook and Lady Bay.

Distance: 20 kms

Walking Time: 4 hours



Walk 26: Cotgrave Country Park with a view

Description

Similar to Walk 22, but with an extension to take in an unexpected panoramic view. It is possible to avoid much of the road walking along Adbolton Lane on the way out towards Cotgrave by following the lovely footpaths which wend their way through the Nature Reserve between Adbolton Lane and the main Water Sports Centre Boat Lake.

Clues

Follow Walk 22 but once you reach the canal at Cotgrave Country Park, cross at the lock and turn right following a sign to High Trail. At the next path junction, leave the canal behind and follow a sign to the left to High Trail and West View Point. Reach another sign to the right to West View Point and follow a winding path through woodland to a ridge summit with three benches. Enjoy the view. Turn left along the main ridge path and follow this back down to the one you left before climbing through the wood. Go down a fairly steep flight of steps to another path junction where you turn right. Cotgrave village comes into view to your left. Follow this path down to the village. Pass through an area of residential housing before meeting the main road. It doesn't matter hugely which way you enter the village...there are various options but look out for the Children's Centre at the corner of the main street and Plumtree Road. Opposite this is Church Lane which you follow to reach a footpath on your right into and across the fields. Watch out for the footpath arrow signs on a low post to your left showing the way. Keep going in this general direction on the main footpath until you reach the Sewage Works to your right. Turn right immediately after this and follow the track all the way to the canal. Turn left until you reach the bridge at Bassingfield. Cross the canal, and follow the road in the same direction, straight ahead (not left towards Gamston and Nottingham). You will reach a footpath sign pointing right into the field. Follow this and notice a slight cutting off of the corner of the small field on your left by climbing a stile in and then another stile out again. Emerge onto the main A52 and WITH EXTREME CARE, cross over. (The traffic will pause when the lights change further along the road). Cross near the petrol station and turn right for a short distance before finding a footpath sign pointing in the Skylarks Nature Reserve. Follow this track all the way back to the far end of the lake on your right and then bear left towards the cluster of small Saxon huts. Pass these and cross Adbolton Lane into the 'e combat zone'. Again, bear left following the footpaths that eventually lead back to the Watersports Centre buildings. Pass behind these to eventually reach Adbolton Lane again and Lady Bay ahead of you.

Distance: 20km

Walking Time: 4 hours



Walk 27: The Cliffs of Radcliffe and the Shelford Round

Description

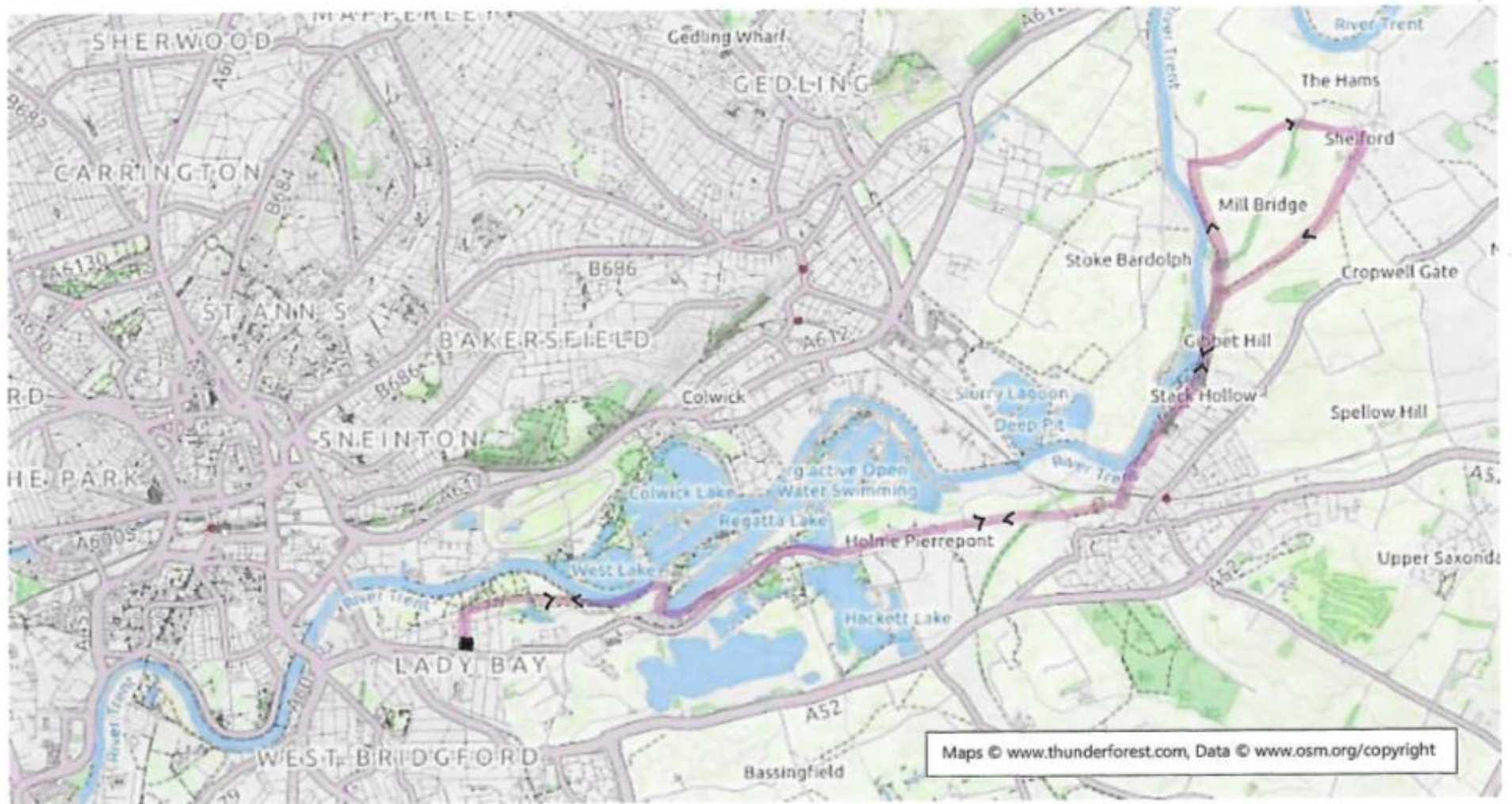
The highlight is the Radcliff Cliff Walk which takes you high along the river to nearby Shelford village. The Cliffs of Radcliffe give commanding views over the Trent Valley and beyond. This gives way to a spectacular riverside walk to Shelford with open paths and few people.

Clues

Walk to the hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the path immediately right alongside the allotments. Once in open space in Trent Fields, keep the 'flood pool' on your left and head for the Sailing Club. At the next fence turn right and walk around the cricket ground heading towards 'Desperate Measures' canoe shop which is to the left of the cricket pavilion. Continue on steps down to the Water Sports area and around the Regatta Lake in an anti-clockwise direction. Pass the main building and the spectators' area. Then take a path diagonally right past a memorial stone and three benches and down to a metal gate. Go through the gate and cross a field with the hedge on your immediate left. Enter the 'e combat zone' and look for a path diagonally rightwards that takes you to the road and the main Skylarks Nature Reserve car park. Turn left along the road and walk almost the whole length of this road then track to Radcliffe. You will pass Blotts and Holme Pierrepont Hall. Just after the railway bridge the track bends to the right at the start of some houses. At this bend, look out for a narrow footpath straight ahead alongside a farm. Take this path which will bring you out by the playing fields and onto the road at Wharf Lane. Once on Wharf Lane, turn left. Go past a Car Park. Just past the railway bridge take the narrow path up right onto The Cliffs of Radcliffe. Follow the path upwards and keep onto the main path until you eventually get to a metal barrier. Take the left-hand path and go straight ahead and downhill. The path goes through some woods. When the path opens up, you will see Shelford Church in the distance ahead of you. That is the furthest point on the walk. Continue on the path and you will pass a path on your right marked by a yellow post just before a wooden gate. Make a note of this yellow post as this is where you will return to after completing the Shelford loop. Continue ahead. The path will take you on the top of a flood defence embankment close to the River Trent. Here are Herons and Egrets. At a T junction, go through a metal style and turn right along a track. Head straight ahead for Shelford. Pass the church on your left and at the next junction, turn right, signposted Radcliffe and Newton. At the next junction turn right again and go past Bosworth Farm. As the road bends to the left, take the footpath right, which is on the bend marked by a green footpath sign. Follow the track and go straight ahead. Go through a wooden gate and walk across a field amongst the crops to the yellow marker post which you passed on the way. Turn left and retrace your steps along the Cliffs of Radcliffe to the car park and then across the footpath and beyond to Holme Pierrepont Hall, Adbolton Lane and Lady Bay.

Distance: 20.5 kms

Walking Time: 4.5 hours



Walk 28: Barton in Fabis along the Trent Valley Way

Description

The longest walk in the book to and from The Poppy and Pint, and one of the best. Most of the walk is alongside the River Trent upstream to Clifton and beyond. If you look across to the other bank of the river you may see Kingfisher nesting and feeding here. The highlight is walking through Holme Pit, Clifton Wood and Clifton Grove. These three areas together they make up part of the River Trent Wildlife Corridor and are given official Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status. Holme Pit also has SSSI status (Site of Special Scientific Interest) which shows just how special these sites are - well worth a visit. Holme Pit contains some of the best remaining areas of marsh; reedswamp and open water in Nottinghamshire and is of regional importance. So good is this section of the walk, that we have isolated it into a shorter circular walk of its own in case you don't want to walk the full distance here. See Walk 38.

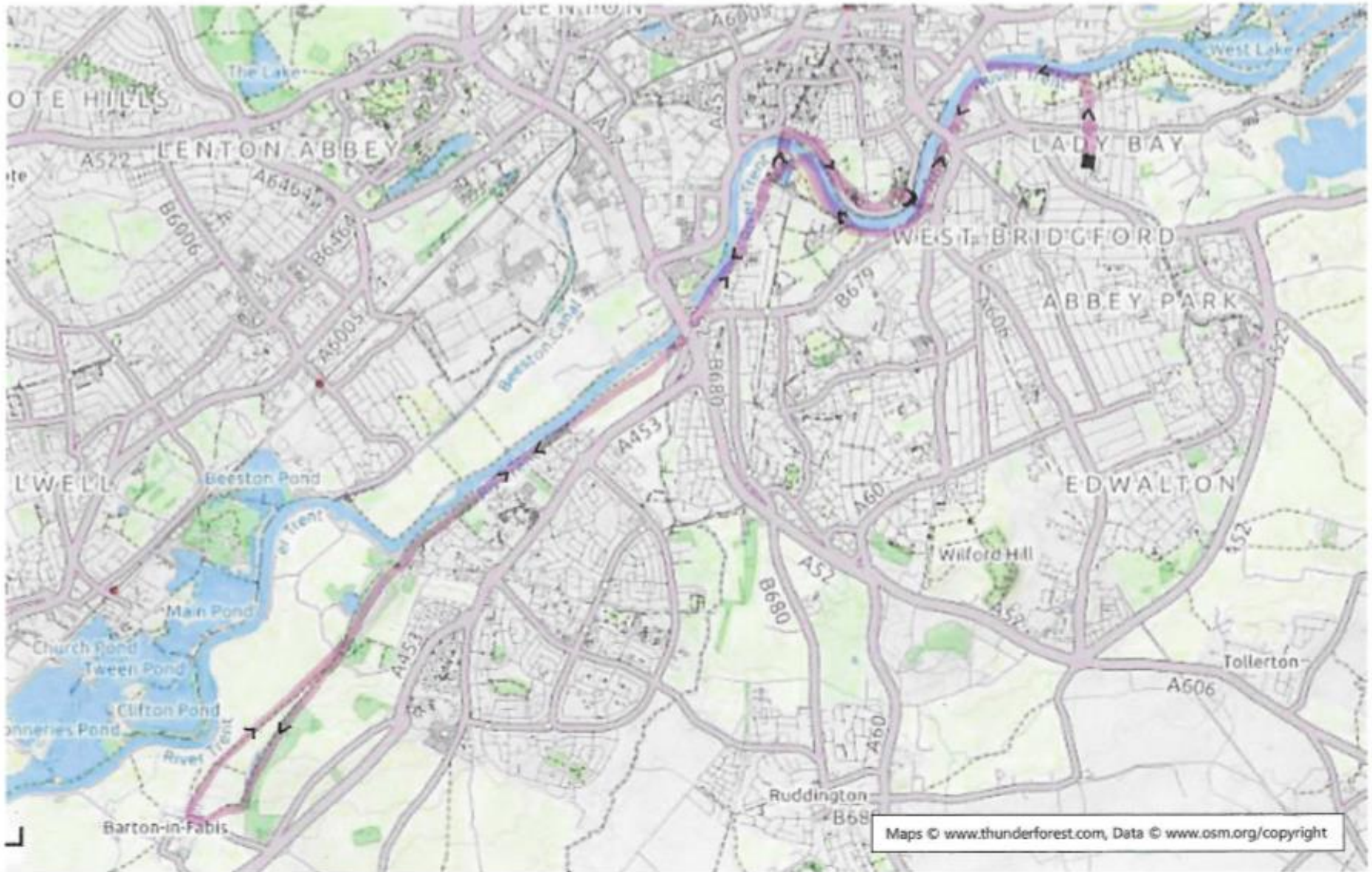
Clues

Walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the river path upstream. Go under Lady Bay Bridge, past the City Football Ground, under Trent Bridge, past the Suspension Bridge to the Ferry Inn. At the Ferry Inn, turn left and walk down the road following the blue sign to 'Wilford and Clifton'. Shortly, you will arrive at the 'Bee Railings' – railings with bee figures incorporated into the railing ironwork! Walk alongside the bee railings and take the path right, opposite Bader Road, signposted 'River Trent Greenway and Barton in Fabis'. Take this path and continue, following signs to Barton in Fabis. Head towards, and then underneath, the Clifton Bridge. Take the lower path at a fork, just before the bridge. Just before a car park, turn right, still following. Cross a metal footbridge and continue along a well-made up path to Clifton Grove Nature Reserve. Take the main path ahead, still following path signs to Barton in Fabis. You will then come to a signpost: 'Public Bridleway River Trent'. Do NOT take this path but keep left along the Trent Valley Way. You will eventually leave these woods at cross paths. Go straight ahead. The signposts are confusing here, and the directional path to Barton in Fabis is separate to the other directional post indicating what is left and right. DO NOT TURN LEFT onto the path shown as 'Barton in Fabis via Green Street'. Instead, go straight ahead and through the green style following the separate signpost: 'Public Bridleway Barton in Fabis'. Keep on the main path ahead. Go through a metal gate and at a minor road, turn right into Barton in Fabis village.

You are now on the return leg of the walk. You will soon come to Chestnut Lane, on the outskirts of the village, on your right. Walk up the lane to the end where the path goes to the right-hand side of, and very close to, a cottage. Continue on this path past the cottage and across two fields. Look for the gate with small waymarks on the gate post and continue until you reach the path where you came in. This path is marked: 'Holme Pit Pond, Clifton Grove and Clifton Woods'. Retrace your steps to the Ferry Inn. Go over the Toll bridge and return to Lady Bay by the Victoria Embankment, back over the suspension bridge and then the river path under Trent Bridge to the Hook and Mona Road / Poppy and Pint.

Distance: 23.5 kms

Walking Time: 5.5 hours



Quality Walks further afield – up to 15 minutes' drive from Lady Bay

Walk 29: An Exploration of Cotgrave Country Park

Parking

Start from the car park on Hollygate Lane. Take the A52 out of Nottingham towards Grantham. From the Lings Bar Roundabout, take the first set of traffic lights right onto Stragglethorpe Road. Go straight ahead and pass the campsite on the left. Hollygate Lane is the second road on the right. The car park is on the right after Maygreen Avenue.

Description

The Cotgrave Country Park has been created from the reclaimed land of a former colliery site. The park has been landscaped with woodlands, lakes, and wetland areas. There are 200 acres of public open space to explore on foot, by bike or on horseback. There are over five kilometres of surfaced paths and additional grass trails to explore on foot, by bike, with your dog. Admission and parking are free.

You can print the map of the park from: <https://www.cotgravecountrypark.co.uk/park-map/>

Bring Your Dogs: Dogs are welcome throughout Cotgrave Country Park. They can enjoy a swim in the specially created dog pool located on the path from the Hollygate Lane Car Park.

Bring Your Bikes: Exploring the Park by bike is a great way for cyclists of all abilities to enjoy routes around the park. Cyclists can access the park from the following locations: Car Park on Hollygate Lane; Via the Grantham Canal from Main Road (connects to highway cyclepath) or Hollygate Lane North Entrance onto Stragglethorpe Road.

Cotgrave Country Park is owned and maintained by Nottinghamshire County Council.

Clues

There are four waymarked walking trails, starting from the car park on Hollygate Lane. Yellow Trail is a short route of 3km on a level path. Blue Trail is 4km with some uphill path. Green Trail is 4.75km with several sections of uphill path. Red Trail is 5.8km and encompasses the two high points within the Park.

Cotgrave Country Park

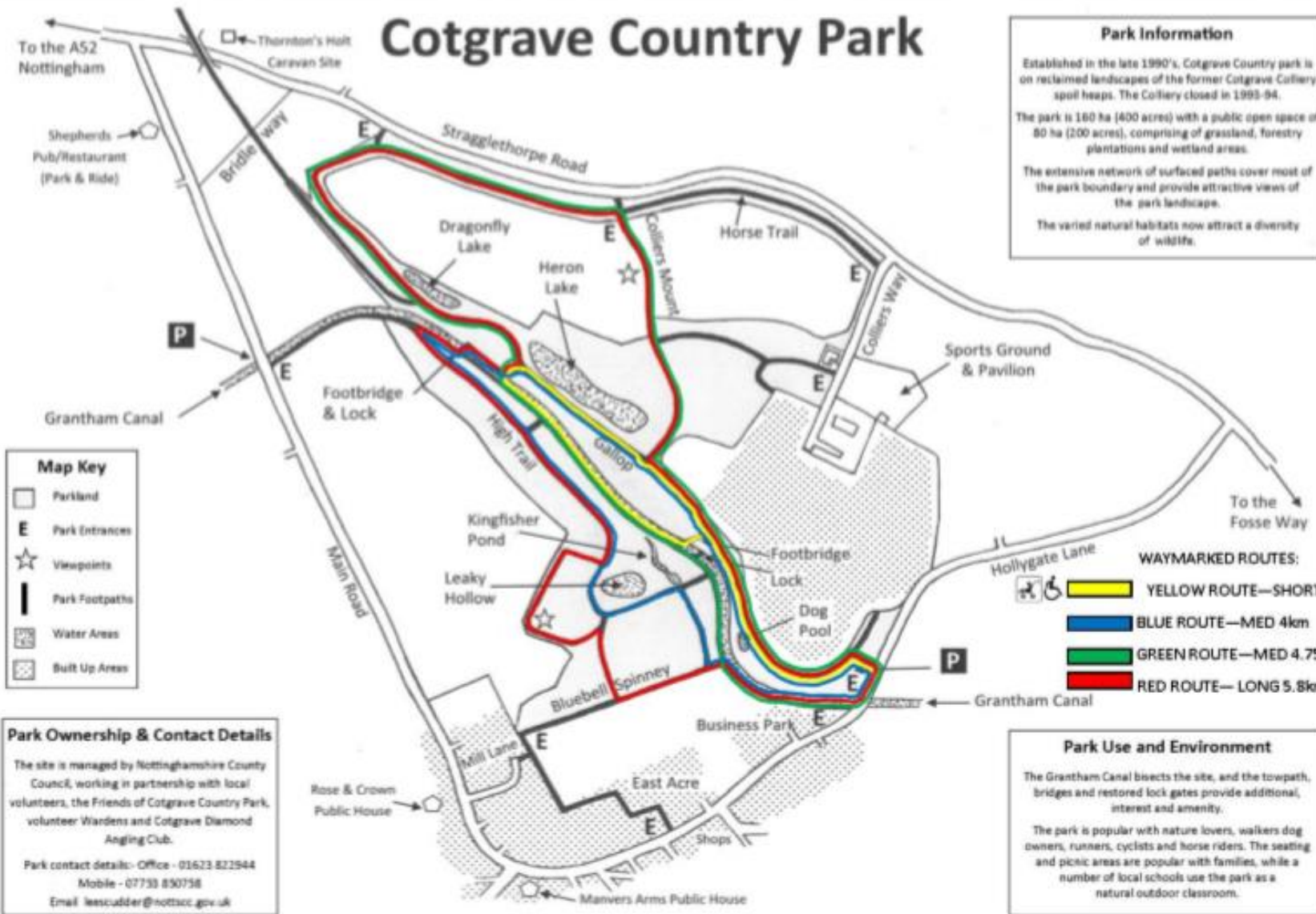
Park Information

Established in the late 1990's, Cotgrave Country park is on reclaimed landscapes of the former Cotgrave Colliery spoil heaps. The Colliery closed in 1993-94.

The park is 160 ha (400 acres) with a public open space of 80 ha (200 acres), comprising of grassland, forestry plantations and wetland areas.

The extensive network of surfaced paths cover most of the park boundary and provide attractive views of the park landscape.

The varied natural habitats now attract a diversity of wildlife.



Map Key

- Parkland
- E** Park Entrances
- Viewpoints
- Park Footpaths
- Water Areas
- Built Up Areas

WAYMARKED ROUTES:

- YELLOW ROUTE—SHORT 3km**
- BLUE ROUTE—MED 4km**
- GREEN ROUTE—MED 4.75km**
- RED ROUTE—LONG 5.8km**

Park Ownership & Contact Details

The site is managed by Nottinghamshire County Council, working in partnership with local volunteers, the Friends of Cotgrave Country Park, volunteer Wardens and Cotgrave Diamond Angling Club.

Park contact details:- Office - 01623 822944
 Mobile - 07733 830738
 Email: leescudder@nottscc.gov.uk

Park Use and Environment

The Grantham Canal bisects the site, and the towpath, bridges and restored lock gates provide additional interest and amenity.

The park is popular with nature lovers, walkers dog owners, runners, cyclists and horse riders. The seating and picnic areas are popular with families, while a number of local schools use the park as a natural outdoor classroom.

Walk 30: An Exploration of Colwick Country Park

Parking

The main entrance to the park is off Mile End Road, Colwick Village, on River Road. Go over Lady Bay Bridge, turn right onto Meadow Lane and right again at the roundabout onto the A612 Daleside Lane. Go past the racecourse. Continue past the traffic lights at the Toby Carvery and then turn right at the next traffic lights onto Mile End Road. Take the second right onto River Road. The car park is at the end of this road.

Description

Colwick Country Park, the house and parkland can be traced back to before 1362 where the ownership of the hall had passed through a number of families including the infamous Byrons and Musters. The current house dates from the late 18th century although there have been various modifications to the building and the design over the years. The park contains two large lakes, a marina, woodland and meadows. The River Trent also runs through the park so there is scope for continuing your walk along the Trent Valley Way walking route.

Activities in the park include:

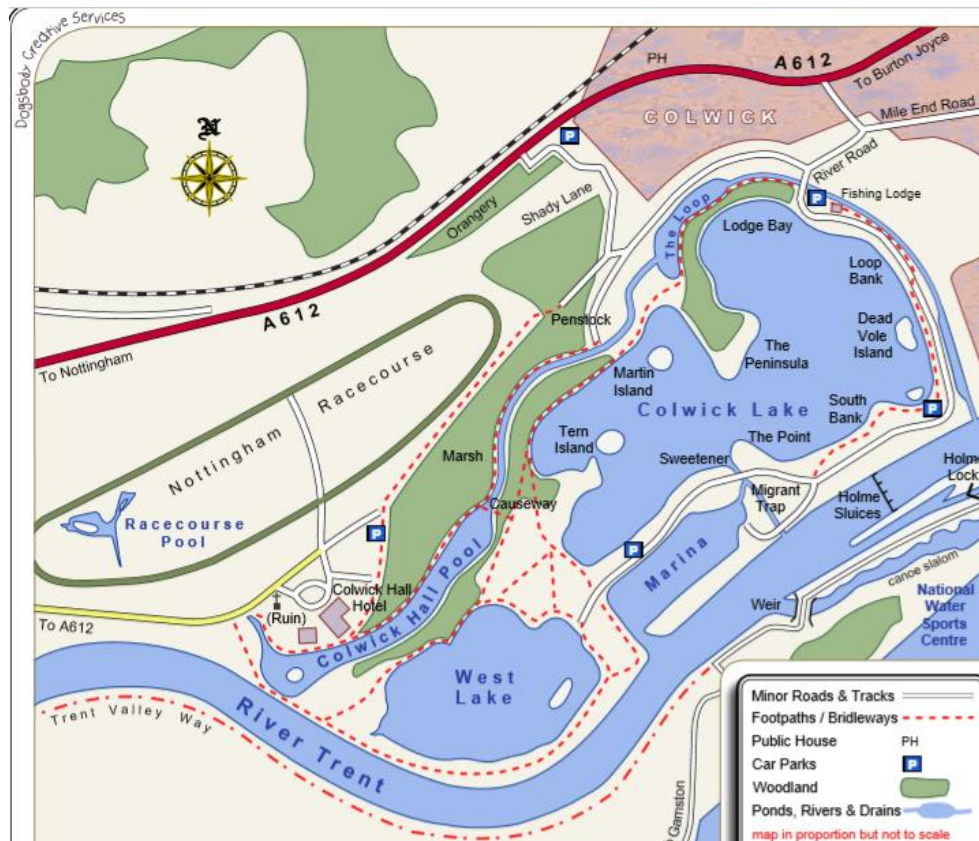
Cycle Route: Distance: 2 miles (4km). Enjoy several miles of lovely, waterside cycling in the country park.

Playground: The current playground at Colwick is an example of what can be achieved by recycling! Most of the equipment has been refurbished and reused from the previous play area on site and caters for toddlers to 10-year olds and is conveniently located near the toilet block on the main drive.

Swimming: The West Lake at Colwick Country Park is home to the Nottingham City Open Water Swimming Centre from April to October each year. Organised swimming sessions, with lifeguards present, take place on Wednesday evenings at 6pm and Saturday afternoons at 2pm. The West lake is designated as an "Excellent" DEFRA Bathing Water and tested weekly throughout the season.

Running: A Parkrun takes place every Saturday morning at 9am comprising one lap of Main Lake and two laps of West Lake.

Birdwatching: The racecourse and pool is a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its dragonfly species, this site has recorded 16 species of dragonfly with 14 species breeding. There are 220 recorded species of birds.



Map from Nottsbirders.net: http://www.nottsbirders.net/notts_maps/Map%20-%20Colwick%20Country%20Park.pdf

Walk 31: An Exploration of Skylarks Nature Reserve

Parking

From Trent Boulevard, drive out to Adbolton Lane. Turn left and head out on the back road to Radcliffe – still Adbolton Lane. Continue for two miles towards Blotts passing the Water Sports Centre entrance and main building on the way. The Skylarks Car Park is 2 kms along Adbolton Lane on the right.

Description

Created in 1982, Skylarks Nature Reserve became the first specially designed accessible nature reserve in the UK, allowing those with limited mobility improved access and better opportunities to experience wildlife and get closer to nature. Now owned by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, this 8.5 hectare site has been expanded to include a further 38 hectares to the south of Adbolton Lane, where since 2014, with careful planning, management and a dedicated team of volunteers, habitat has been restored as well as new wetland habitat created, resulting in the reserve now being recognised as one of the most important wildlife sites in the Trent valley.

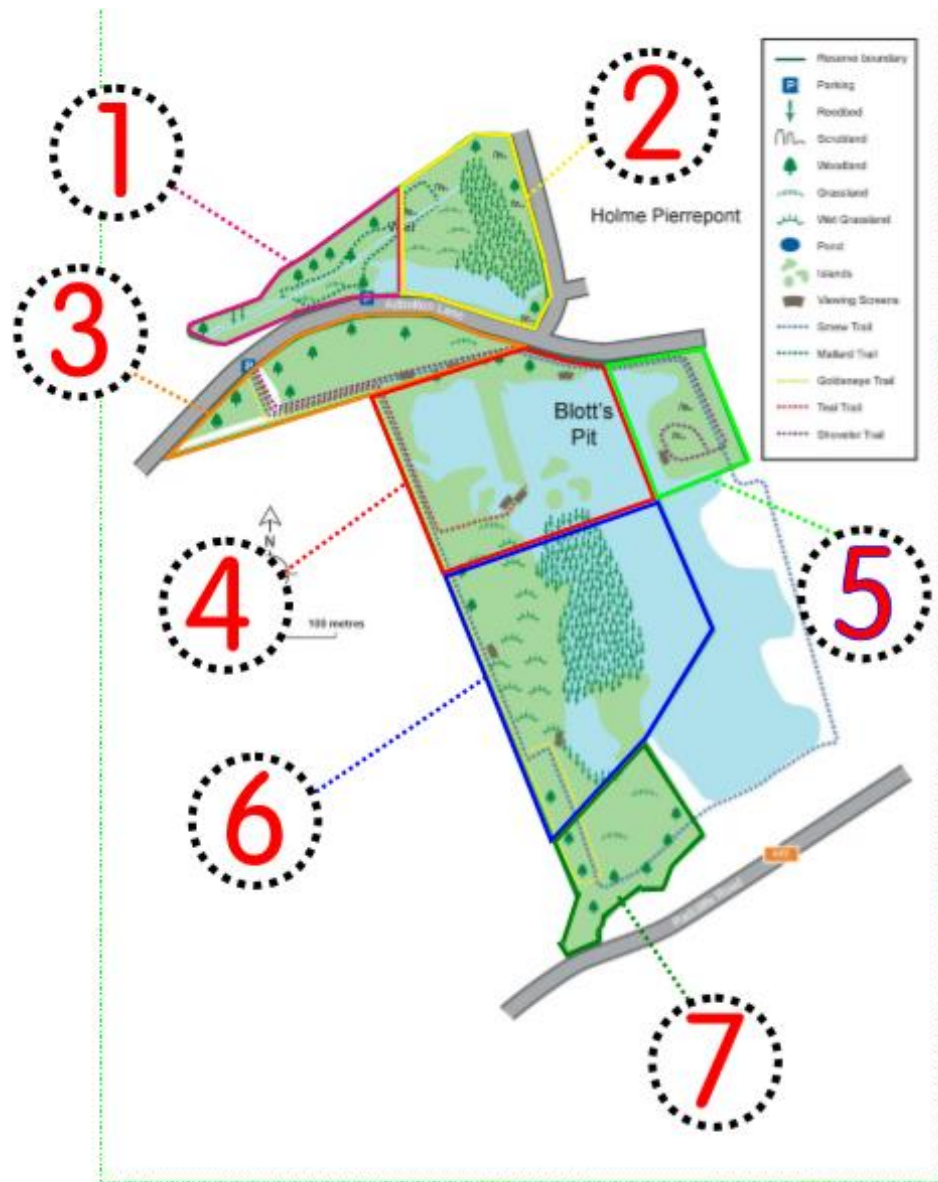
These former commercial gravel pits now comprise of a number of stunning and diverse habitats including lakes, grassland, reed beds, shingle islands, scrub and woodland, making it attractive to a wide variety of invertebrates (14 species of dragonfly), plant life (5 species of orchid), mammals (11 species of bat) and birds (over 200 species) recorded, many of the latter migrate to the reserve to breed or use it as an important refuelling station en-route.

Whether it's a short stroll or a day out discovering wildlife, Skylarks Nature Reserve has routes and walks for all, including a 2 mile footpath linking viewing screens and boardwalks, situated at prime locations around the site, allowing fantastic views and access to lakes, woodlands, ponds, reed beds, meadows, scrapes and islands.

Clues

There are five waymarked walking trails, starting from the car park on Adbolton Lane, the longest of which is blue.

Leaflets and maps are available from: <https://www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/nature-reserves/skylarks>



Walk 32: A Walk around Skylarks Nature Reserve

Parking

From Trent Boulevard, drive out to Adbolton Lane. Turn left and head out on the back road to Radcliffe – still Adbolton Lane. Continue for two miles towards Blotts passing the Water Sports Centre entrance and main building on the way. The Skylarks Car Park is 2 kms along Adbolton Lane on the right.

Description

The Skylarks Blue route takes you round the nature reserve in its entirety. It is a real gem. This footpath links viewing screens and boardwalks, situated at prime locations around the site, allowing fantastic views and access to lakes, woodlands, ponds, reed beds, meadows, scrapes and islands. Once a commercial gravel pit, this area has been colonised with plants and animals. A range of wetland birds can be seen on the reserve, such as great crested grebe, kingfisher and reed bunting. In fact, birdwatchers report that over 40 different bird species can be regularly seen here including many different warblers. The nature reserve provides a vital natural haven, protecting important habitats within a five-minute drive from Lady Bay. Look out for the sculptures en route with inspirational messages included.

Clues

From the car park, walk through the style and go ahead past the porta cabins. Ahead you will find your first blue directional post. Turn left at this post and follow the blue marked path. Take the concrete path to an open field. Here you may find green woodpecker feeding on ants in the grass in the field ahead. Continue on this path until you reach a wooden gate on your right. Turn right, go through this gate and head along a well-made up path towards the A52 main road. Along this path you will find sculptures and side paths leading to bird viewing screens. Take the third path on the left – exploring the other side paths as you go. Then turn almost immediately right through a gate and into a field. Take the grassy path, still heading towards the A52 main road. You will reach a gate on the far side. Go through the gate and turn left at the T junction, still following the blue directional posts. Be warned: the next section of path can get boggy after rain! Continue along the blue route with a water dyke on your right. Eventually, the path swings left and back towards Adbolton Lane. Continue along this path. Note, a short loop on your left towards the end of this section. Take this and get fine views of the lake yet again. The main path then swings left again. At a bridge turn right and onto the road by Blotts. Turn left and walk along the road to a style almost immediately on your left. Take the style and walk ahead across the field and back to the car park.

Distance: 4 kms

Walking Time: 1.5 hours



Walk 33: An Exploration of Wilford Claypit Nature Reserve

Parking

Park near the Apple Tree Pub. Take the B679 Wilford Lane out of West Bridgford towards the M1 motorway. At the traffic lights turn left just after the Co-op store onto Compton Acres. Continue along Compton Acres – across a mini roundabout. The Apple Tree pub is on your right just after Claremont Drive. From the Apple Tree Pub, walk out onto the road at Landmere Lane, turn right and walk down the hill. Take the second footpath non your right – marked by a large Notts Wildlife Trust sign.

There are entrances via Compton Acres, West Bridgford (SK571355) (NG2 7NZ) and Landmere Lane (SK569354) NG2 7NZ either side of the Apple Tree pub. Access to the reserve is open at all times however the SSSI section is restricted from public viewing.

Description

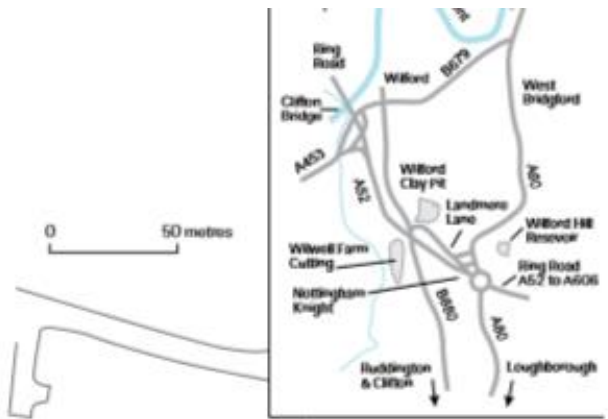
This nature reserve is within three miles of Lady Bay. It is an SSSI site with an array of habitats help to support the interesting plant species such as bee orchid, yellow-wort and yellow rattle. The reserve owes its existence to more than half a century of clay extraction by the Wilford Brick Company (1895 – 1967) for the excavation of brick-making clay. Whilst part of the area has been built on to form the Wilford Industrial Estate, the remainder has become a nature reserve which is now owned by Rushcliffe Borough Council and managed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. The marsh areas support a population of southern marsh-orchids as well as yellow sedge, false fox-sedge, common fleabane, and field horsetail. Some of the marsh areas have now developed into scrub woodland, with species such as goat willow, sallow and alder. Butterflies inhabit the glades so for example holly blue, speckled wood and brimstone can all be found at various times of the year. The site also supports varied bird life including green woodpecker, chiffchaff, great tit, blue tit, sedge warbler, blackbird, and goldfinch.

Clues

There is a circular path round the reserve.

A Factsheet is available from South Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust: <http://www.southnottswildlife.org.uk/content/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Wilford-Claypit-Factsheet.pdf>

-  Reserve boundary
-  SSSI Boundary
-  Woodland
-  Grassland
-  Marsh
-  Scrub
-  Pond
-  Footpath
-  Cliff Face
-  Willow Carr



Walk 34: Clipston on the Wolds and Clipston Forest 🚲

Parking

Park your car or cycle near the Harker's Farm Shop in Clipston. Take the A52 up the Lings Bar Road to the Wheatcroft Roundabout. Take the first exit onto the Melton Road A606. Turn left onto the Cotgrave Road towards Cotgrave. Take the second right into Clipston. Once in Clipston, you will find Harker's Farm Shop on your left just beyond the 'Clipston on the Wolds' road sign.

Description

A wonderful, woodland walk. Start and finish at the Farm and Shop. (Closed on Sundays and Mondays). There are fine views back towards Nottingham. Eat your heart out Grisedale Forest, this is a fantastic forest walk – and so near to home! The farm shop is situated in the midst of a working farm offering breath-taking views. The farm is surrounded by foot paths and bridal paths which lead into the woods, should you wish to explore the countryside.

Clues

Pass Harker's on your left and keep on following a track ahead as it heads deep into Cotgrave Forest. Follow the track until you reach a T-junction showing 4 blue footpath arrows and two black arrows indicating the Notts Wolds Way. Turn left at this junction and follow the path through the woods until you reach another T-junction, this time with 3 Public Bridleway signs. Turn left here and keep going until you pass between two large concrete boulders on either side of the path. Shortly afterwards, you will reach another path junction with 4 pointers indicating both Public Bridleways and Restricted Byways. Turn left again and follow the path as it winds back towards Clipston. Extensive views of Nottingham and beyond open up here. On reaching a yellow painted footpath marker and half broken maroon arrow to the left, turn left and return to the lane which leads into Clipston. Turn left up the lane and either return to your car/bike by the farm shop.

Distance: 5 kms

Walking Time: 1.5 hours



Walk 35: The Stoke Bardolph Round

Parking

From the A612 Nottingham to Southwell road, turn off right at traffic lights shortly **after** passing Victoria Retail Park. At the traffic lights the road is signposted for Stoke Bardolph. Follow the road through the village to the Ferry Boat Inn which will be found overlooking the riverside on your left. Leave your car in public car park by the river opposite the pub.

Description

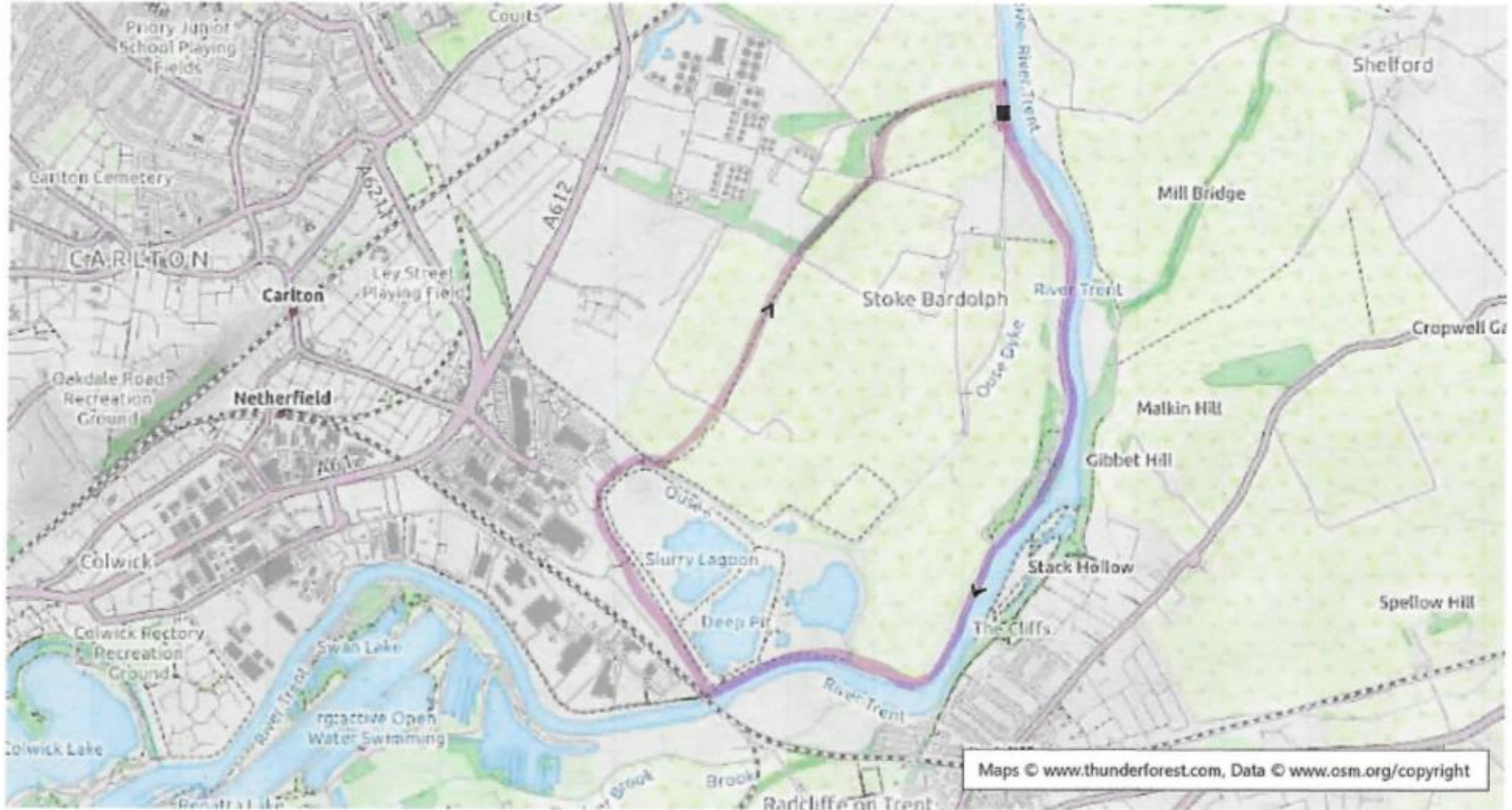
The walk is on good footpaths, mainly through arable land. The first two miles by the Trent are very pleasant. It passes Stoke Lock and Woods. It then goes through the Netherfield Lagoons, a wildlife Nature Reserve popular with native and migratory birds. You may also find frogs at your feet in Spring, with butterflies overhead in Summer.

Clues

From the Ferry Boat Inn, walk upstream alongside the bank of the River Trent. After around 1 km, arrive at Stoke Wood. Keep left and pass Stoke Lock. Continue on the river path. Once the river makes a sharp right-hand bend you will enter Netherfield Lagoons, a local nature reserve. You will see steep paths on your right to an embankment on the top. Take any one of these paths to see the lagoons in their entirety. Return to the river path and continue walking upstream until you see a signpost at a path junction. Take the right-hand path, marked Netherfield. At a Y junction, take the left-hand path which is narrow and **not** the more obvious open wide track on the right. Shortly, you will arrive at a metal bridge. Take the path straight ahead with a large field on your right. At the main Stoke Bardolph road, cross the road and take the footpath straight ahead over a stile. At the next track junction, go straight ahead again, and continue with a small water dyke on your right-hand side. As the track bends to the left, go straight ahead and keep the water dyke on your right. This path soon becomes an embankment with water dykes on both sides. This path takes you back to the road, with the Ferry Boat Inn on your right.

Distance: 7 kms

Walking Time: 2 hours



Walk 36: The Gotham Heritage Trail

Parking

Take the B679 Wilford Lane out of West Bridgford towards the M1 motorway. Continue on the A453. At the roundabout by McDonald's take the first exit left onto Clifton Lane which then becomes Nottingham Road, signposted to Gotham. Continue on this road until you get to Gotham. Car parking is at Cheese Hill. When travelling from the Nottingham direction you will have little notification of the Cheese Hill turning. If you pass the Gotham village sign – you've past the turning!

Description

This trail was created to mark the passing of the Millennium in 2000. It consists of a circular walk taking in Gotham Hills and part of West Leake Hills, returning through some of the Gotham village streets. The trail is marked by special 'Gotham Heritage Trail' Waymarks. A leaflet on this walk is available from <https://www.nottinghamsnooker.com/history/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/downloadthetrailinpdfformatifyou.pdf>

Clues

Start at Cheese Hill, just before the Gotham Village sign. From the sign, walk up the road towards Nottingham and take the slip road on the left, by the 'Gotham Heritage Trail' information board. Go up this track to the end. Turn left and go through a metal gate following a green public bridleway sign. Take the track in front of you uphill. Come to a gate with a yellow sign on it. Go through the gate and head uphill along a grassy path on the left-hand side of a hedge. Follow the bridle path beyond the gate, keeping the trees on your right. When the tree boundary turns away up the hill, the Weldon Spring information board should be in front of you. Continue upwards heading for the hedgerow turning slightly right to walk up the hill, with that same hedgerow on your left. Turn left through the bridle gate and continue walking with the field boundary to your right. Ignore the path going left – continue straight ahead following the public bridleway sign. Go through a white metal gate and continue with the fence / trees on your right. Walking on along the ridge you eventually reach Trent Valley View; this information board will explain what can be seen from here. Ignore the next two paths on your right and continue on the less obvious grassy path. Eventually, you will arrive at a gate with two horseshoes on a pole! Go through the gate, following Gotham Heritage Trail signs as well as blue arrows on signposts. Continue walking in the same direction, keep the border hedge and trees on your right. At the end of the field there is a gap in the hedge taking you to a track downhill and to the left. Continue walking down the hill and straight across Kegworth Road, following the tarred track upwards to the West Leake Hills. Initially walking a metalled surface followed by a farm track. Ignore the first path junction, indicating a path off right and continue through a metal gate and along the track to the next path junction which is clearly indicated by a wooden signpost with four bridle path indicators.

Go left at the cross paths. Pass another Gotham Heritage Trail Information Board – about 'Cuckoo Bush' – a Neolithic burial ground. Continue onwards. Go through two wooden gates and arrive at a roadway. Cross the roadway (Gypsum Way) and walk along Hill Road towards Gotham village. Where Hill Road

meets Leake Road you turn left and follow this road which then becomes Nottingham Road. In about one kilometre this road will take you straight back to Cheese Hill where you started the walk.

Distance 7.5 kms

Walking Time 2 hours



Walk 37: The Cliffs of Radcliffe from Radcliffe

Parking

Take the A52 Radcliffe Road towards Radcliffe on Trent. At the second traffic lights after the Lings Bar Roundabout, turn left into Radcliffe. Continue past The Chestnut Pub and then take the first road on the left: Wharf Lane. Just before the railway line is a recreation ground and car park: Wharf Lane Car Park.

Description

The cliffs of Radcliffe are well worth a visit. This walk is included in case the full 20 kms walk from Lady Bay is too far. The cliffs take you high above the River Trent on a wide Promenade with views right across the Trent Valley. If you close your eyes, you can imagine being on Brighton Sea Front! There's no ice creams but it is delectable, nevertheless. Look out for a short loop off the Cliffs walk taking you down to the river and back again. This is an interesting path taking you briefly along the river before coming back up to the cliffs via some Lily Ponds.

Clues

Turn left onto Wharf Lane out of the car park. Just past the railway bridge take the narrow path up right onto The Cliffs of Radcliffe. Follow the path upwards and keep onto the main path until you eventually get to a metal barrier. Take the left-hand path and go straight ahead and downhill. The path goes through some woods. When the path opens up, you will see Shelford Church in the distance ahead of you. That is the furthest point on the walk. Continue on the path and you will pass a path on your right marked by a yellow post just before a wooden gate. Make a note of this yellow post as this is where you will return to after completing the Shelford loop. Continue ahead. The path will take you on the top of a flood defence embankment close to the River Trent. Here are Herons and Egrets. At a T junction, go through a metal style and turn right along a track. Head straight ahead for Shelford. Pass the church on your left and at the next junction, turn right, signposted Radcliffe and Newton. At the next junction turn right again and go past Bosworth Farm. As the road bends to the left, take the footpath right, which is on the bend marked by a green footpath sign. Follow the track and go straight ahead. Go through a wooden gate and walk across a field amongst the crops to the yellow marker post which you passed on the way. Turn left and retrace your steps along the Cliffs of Radcliffe and back to the car park.

Distance: 8 kms

Walking Time: 2 hours



Walk: 38 Clifton Grove Nature Reserve along the Trent Valley Way

Parking

Park at the City of Nottingham River Users Car Park. Drive out of Lady Bay along Trent Boulevard to A6520 Radcliffe Road. At the Trent Bridge Inn traffic lights, turn left past County Hall and then turn Right at the next traffic lights onto Wilford Lane A453. Go under Clifton Bridge and then turn immediately right (opposite and just before the BP garage) up and then down a steep ramp and into the car park. Be careful when leaving the car park as there is a steep ramp down onto the road – risk of grounding unless you go slowly.

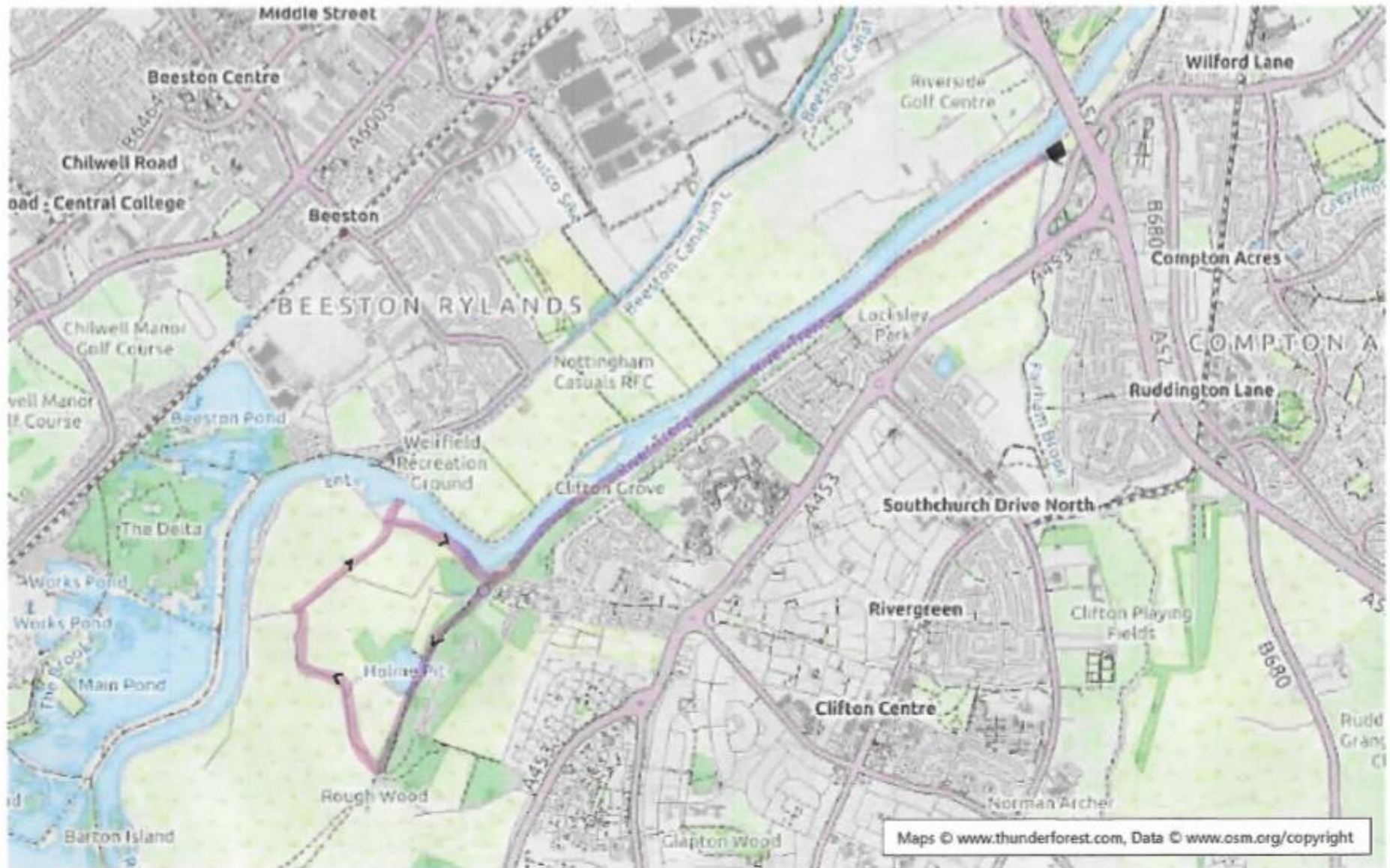
Description

This walk takes the very best of the Barton in Fabis walk into a short distance circuit of its own. It takes you to Clifton Grove, Holme Pit and then Clifton Wood. It returns on a loop next to the River Trent opposite Beeston Lock and Weir. If you've ever wondered how wildlife moves so effectively from one part of the city to the other, these three areas are a perfect example. All three lie back to back along the banks of the river, which makes it easier and safer for insects, animals and birds to travel distances. Together they make up part of the River Trent Wildlife Corridor and are given official Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status and Holme Pit also has SSSI status (Site of Special Scientific Interest) which shows just how special these sites are - well worth a visit. Holme Pit man-made pond is surrounded with reed swamp and wet grassland wildlife habitat. Different types of birds nest here depending on the time of year. The habitat can be perfect for bird breeding, a place for birds to stay during the winter and a great stop-off point for those that are just passing by on their way to somewhere. The area is also steeped in history – much of which can still be seen today. The woods were originally used as a grand back garden for the Clifton family in the 17th and 18th century and sits by their old house, Clifton Hall.

Clues

At the front of the car park is a short path marked 'River Trent Greenway' which takes you to the main path. Turn left and follow signs to Barton in Fabis. Cross a metal footbridge and continue along a well-made up path to Clifton Grove Nature Reserve. Take the main path ahead, still following path signs to Barton in Fabis. You will then come to a signpost: 'Public Bridleway River Trent'. Do NOT take this path but keep left along the Trent Valley Way. You will soon pass the Holme Pit Lake on your right. You will eventually leave these woods at a cross paths. Turn right here onto the track signposted: 'Public Bridleway Clifton Village River Trent'. Walk along this track as it goes through open country following signs to Clifton Village and Wilford. Go through a yellow gate. If you look left now, you will see Beeston Lock and weir in the distance. At the next cross paths, turn right. NB The sandy path ahead at this junction takes you to the edge of Beeston Weir with its sandy beach. Worth a detour as it may be the only beach we can get to for a while! Having turned right look up and you will see Clifton Hall and Church nestling on the hillside. At the next T junction, you are back on the original path where you came in. Turn left towards Clifton and Wilford and retrace your steps to the car park.

Distance: 8.6 kms Walking Time: 2.5 hours



Walk 39: Kneeton to East Bridgford along the River Trent

Parking

Park by the church in Kneeton. Take the A46 towards Newark. Take the junction after East Bridgford junction – marked Kneeton. Turn left off the slip road and follow signs to Kneeton Village. You will pass the church on your left.

Description

A delightful circular walk from the village of Kneeton to East Bridgford along the river Trent. The out route takes you high above the river giving you fine views across the river towards north Nottinghamshire. The return route takes you level and alongside the river all the way. Kneeton is a small Nottinghamshire Hamlet steeped in history. Look out for the mid-18th century barn on your route. Take a look round and see the old schoolhouse, church, beautiful old rectory, farmhouses and large residential properties. There are ten listed buildings in the village (including the cottages above) as well as a number of listed slate grave stones. For more information about the village, go to <http://nottsvillages.blogspot.com/2015/10/kneeton.html>

Wear your long trousers as some paths have stinging nettles!

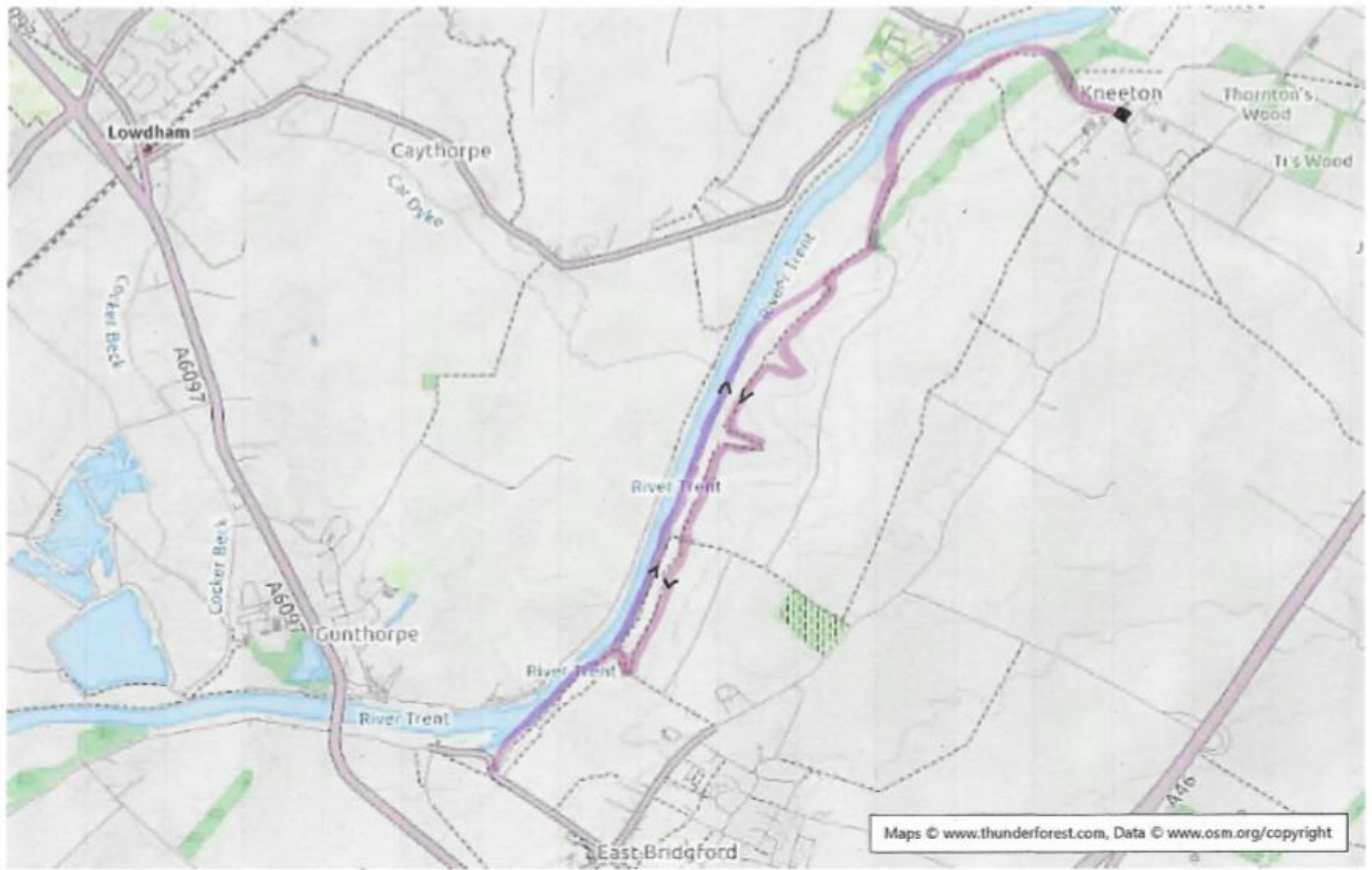
Clues

From the church walk down towards the river. Pass Vicarage Lane on your left and take the track in front of you. At the bottom of the track cross a style by a metal gate and enter a wide-open field. Take the track in front of you until you pass a short yellow wooden signpost in the grass. Turn right here and work your way towards the river. At the river edge turn left and walk upstream. Look out for Oyster Catchers, Sand Martins and Red Shank. At a fence, work your way left along the fence until you get to a metal gate with a style. Cross the style and take the path in front of you and diagonally left away from the river. Cross the next style, turn right down a muddy track for a few metres then turn left onto a narrow, grassy path. Soon you will arrive at a wooden style on the left with the words: 'Parish Paths Partnership'. Cross this style and work your way uphill on wooden steps, first left and then right. At the next style – which is a double style – cross both styles and enter a large field with a path at its perimeter. Turn right and take this path. See the river below you. At the next path sign, the way is confusing, and the arrow appears to be pointing downhill and into a thicket of stinging nettles! Ignore this and follow the path on the periphery of the field. Next, this path goes up and then back along a 'tongue'. Keep going on this periphery path. You will pass underneath some power cables. After the power cables, ignore the path right and continue. You will go out and back on another 'tongue'. The path ends at a path which goes downhill and right on some wooden steps. At the bottom of the steps, take the path opposite – on steps again – indicated by a blue arrow. You will soon arrive at a green 'public footpath' signpost indicating cross paths in four directions. Note: the path ahead is closed due to a landslip. Instead, take the right-hand path downhill on some more wooden steps. At the bottom of the slope, turn left and take the river path until you get to the weir which is by the river lock just before Gunthorpe. The weir is a particularly good place to turn around as the last 500m of this track goes past some underwhelming scenery that ends at the road to East Bridgford left and Gunthorpe right. This was the original turning point for the circular walk.

Return along the riverside path. Retrace your steps. You will soon pass the track on the right that you came down on. Continue on the riverside path all the way back to Kneeton. On the way you will pass a green metal fence and enter some open countryside with good views across the river. Eventually you will pass the style on your right with 'Parish Paths Partnership' that you took on the outward leg. Continue on the riverside path and cross one more style – always keeping the river next to you. You are now back in the wide-open field where you started. Cross this field, passing the short yellow wooden signpost in the grass. Cross diagonally right to the style next to the metal fence and go back up the track to the church in Kneeton.

Distance: 10.5 kms

Walking Time: 2.5 hours



Walk 40: Gotham and West Leake Hills

Parking

Take the B679 Wilford Lane out of West Bridgford towards the M1 motorway. Continue on the A453. At the roundabout by McDonald's take the first exit left onto Clifton Lane which then becomes Nottingham Road, signposted to Gotham. Continue on this road until you get to Gotham. Car parking is at Cheese Hill. When travelling from the Nottingham direction you will have little notification of the Cheese Hill turning. If you pass the Gotham village sign – you've past the turning!

Description

This route is a figure of eight and takes you on three ridges all with gentle climbs up and down hills to give excellent views. You will see panoramas in three different directions over to Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, Derbyshire and even the Peak District. Walking through the village of West Leake is also a treat – a conservation village with one main street. This walk has been described as one of the finest in Nottinghamshire, and I am inclined to agree. Look out for Jay, Lapwing, Skylark, Kestrel, Buzzard and Sparrow Hawk.

Clues

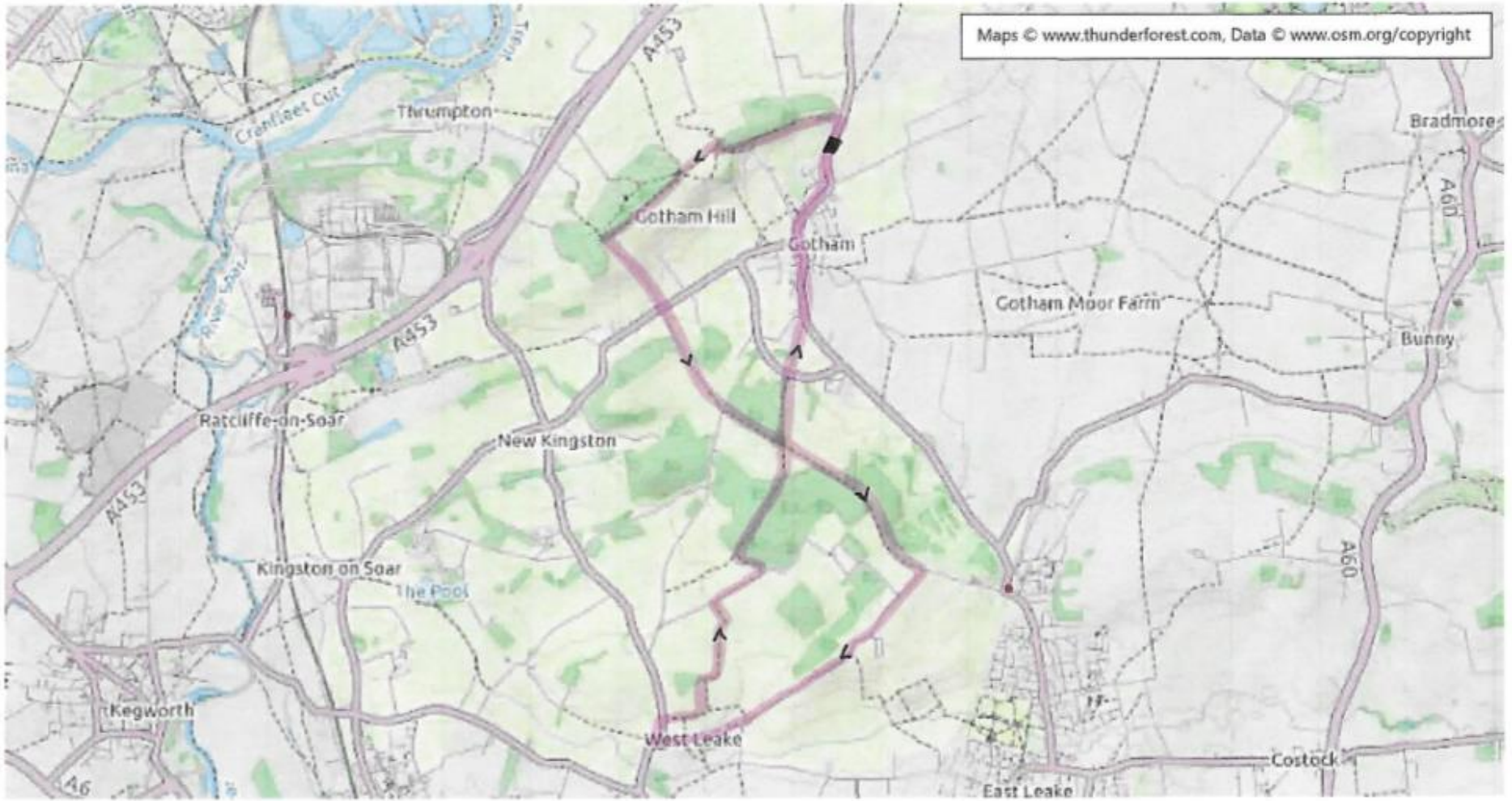
Start at Cheese Hill, just before the Gotham Village sign. From the sign, walk up the road towards Nottingham and take the slip road on the left, by the 'Gotham Heritage Trail' information board. Go up this track to the end. Turn left and go through a metal gate following a green public bridleway sign. Take the track in front of you uphill. Come to a gate with a yellow sign on it. Go through the gate and head uphill along a grassy path on the left-hand side of a hedge. Follow the bridle path beyond the gate, keeping the trees on your right. When the tree boundary turns away up the hill, the Weldon Spring information board should be in front of you. Continue upwards heading for the hedgerow turning slightly right to walk up the hill, with that same hedgerow on your left. Turn left through the bridle gate and continue walking with field boundary to your right. Ignore the path going left – continue straight ahead following the public bridleway sign. Go through a white metal gate and continue with the fence / trees on your right. Walking on along the ridge you eventually reach Trent Valley View; this information board will explain what can be seen from here. Ignore the next two paths on your right and continue on the less obvious grassy path. Eventually, you will arrive at a gate with two horseshoes on a pole! Go through the gate, following Gotham Heritage Trail signs as well as blue arrows on signposts. Continue walking in the same direction, keep the border hedge and trees on your right. At the end of the field there is a gap in the hedge taking you to a track downhill and to the left. Continue walking down the hill and straight across Kegworth Road, following the tarred track upwards to the West Leake Hills. Initially walking a metalled surface followed by a farm track. Ignore the first path junction, indicating a path off right and continue through a metal gate and along the track to the next path junction which is clearly indicated by a wooded signpost with four bridle path indicators. Make a note of this junction, as you will pass this on your way back! Go straight ahead here but note that from here, your path continues on the other side of the hedge. So first of all, turn left through the gate and then go immediately right alongside the hedge in the same direction as before. Go

through a wooden gate and along a gravel track to a Golf Course. Continue ahead and eventually come to a T junction of tracks. Take the right-hand track indicated by a blue arrow on a yellow post. Walk along the track all the way to the road in West Leake, ignoring the path on your right just before you reach the road. Go straight along the main road of West Leake. Just after a post box and bus shelter, take the first turning right. Head up the road. After 300m look for a footpath right. The path is obvious, but the signpost has broken off! Take this path. Turn left at the next path junction, indicated by a blue arrow on a yellow signpost. Keep the hedge on your left and continue ahead. The path bends right, then left and ends at a track T junction. Turn right and continue along the track to a large metal food hopper. Turn left here and then take the first path right along a wooded path. You will now follow this path all the way to Gotham! After a while, a sign indicates that the path is bending left. Continue on this path and you will arrive at the cross paths mentioned before with four bridle path indicators.

Now you finish the walk on the Gotham Heritage Trail. Go straight ahead at the cross paths. Pass another Gotham Heritage Trail Information Board – about ‘Cuckoo Bush’ – a Neolithic burial ground. Continue onwards. Go through two wooden gates and arrive at a roadway. Cross the roadway (Gypsum Way) and walk along Hill Road towards Gotham village. Where Hill Road meets Leake Road you turn left and follow this road which then becomes Nottingham Road. In about one kilometre this road will take you straight back to Cheese Hill where you started the walk.

Distance: 15 kms

Walking Time: 4 hours



Walk 41: Gunthorpe, Caythorpe and Hoveringham along the Trent Valley

Parking

Take the A52 Radcliffe Road towards Radcliffe on Trent. At the second traffic lights after the Lings Bar Roundabout, turn left into Radcliffe. Turn left again at the Co-op mini roundabout onto Shelthorpe Road. Drive out of Radcliffe. Turn left onto Shelford Hill signposted Shelford. Keep ahead and continue through Shelford to the A 6097. Turn left over Gunthorpe Bridge and take the very first right into Gunthorpe. Park at the car park in Gunthorpe, by the bridge and opposite the Unicorn Pub.

Description

A visit to Gunthorpe Lock on the outskirts of Nottingham is a blissful way to spend a day and be sure to pack a picnic if the weather is good. An important river crossing on the River Trent for many years, the first Gunthorpe Bridge was built in 1875. Before this a ferry was the only means of crossing the river here.

This circular walk follows a section of the River Trent and explores the adjoining countryside to the north of the river. The route takes you down the Trent Valley and around three Nottinghamshire villages and uses generally well-signed paths and tracks. With the route occupying the flood plain of the Trent there are no gradients to contend with.

Clues

Start at the Car Park at Gunthorpe by the bridge. Follow the river path NE until just before Gibsmere. Take the path signed left. At the T junction turn left along a track to Glebe Farm. Continue along the path and keep left ignoring the track to Coneygre Farm. Continue along marked paths to the road into Hoveringham. At this road junction, turn right then take the track left following the path to Caythorpe. Take the road into Caythorpe and then take the path right just past the phone box. Continue on this path to Gunthorpe and on the road down to the car park at the start.

Distance: 16 kms

Walking Time: 4.5 hours



Walk 42: The Rushcliffe 100 Walk

Description

The Rushcliffe 100 is a circular walk, 100km long, around the Borough of Rushcliffe. It was devised by a member of staff at Rushcliffe Borough Council - who has verified the route by walking it. The walk climbs up and down the hills and valleys of the Wolds, follows the Rivers Soar and Trent and crosses the Vale of Belvoir. It passes through beautiful farmland, woodland and villages and crosses some of the highest land in the Borough.

The walk is largely along public rights of way, footpaths and bridleways and only uses roads where necessary. As a circular walk it has no set start or finish point and can be walked in either direction. When planning the walk the author walked it as a series of circular day walks, which, it is anticipated, is how most users will walk it.

Clues

The walk has been split into six sections, as shown below.

- [Willoughby on the Wolds to West Leake \(PDF - 101KB\)](#) 13.6k (8.5m)
- [West Leake to Thrumpton \(PDF - 114KB\)](#) 19.1k (11.9m)
- [Thrumpton to Radcliffe on Trent \(PDF - 91KB\)](#) 19.1k (12m)
- [Radcliffe on Trent to Car Colston \(PDF - 138KB\)](#) 16.1 (10.1m)
- [Car Colston to Colston Bassett \(PDF - 131KB\)](#) 16.0k (9.9m)
- [Colston Bassett to Willoughby on the Wolds \(PDF - 130KB\)](#) 16.9k (10.6m).

Alternatively, you can download [all sections of the Rushcliffe 100 \(PDF - 694KB\)](#) guide.

These routes are given as a guide only. To walk any part of them will require the use of your own map and a degree of planning and map reading skill.

The section maps as shown are based on the 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey maps. Walkers should use the latest Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 maps as they show much more detail and will be more up to date.

Two maps are required: OS Explorer 260 Nottingham for the northern area and OS Explorer 246 Loughborough for the southern area.

Distance: 100 kms

Walking Time: 6 days!

Walk 43: The Final Walk

Description

A fine walk when the Lockdown has ended! It takes you from your own doorstep to an exceptionally fine pub and home again!

Clues

Walk from your house to the Poppy and Pint. Raise a glass to James and his staff. Stagger home.

Distance: Variable

Time: As long as it takes

NB: Some of these walks are in country parks that may be closed. Similarly, some may not be on rights of way. In these cases, do get the landowners permission. This author cannot be held responsible in the case of accidents or problems occurring on these walks.