

Nottingham Express Transit



A Network of NET Walks

Pat Armstrong



I am in the process of developing what I hope will be a Network of NET Walks.

These are walks of about 8 – 10km long which start and finish at NET tramstops. The walks are described with what I hope are clear descriptions with maps and photos. Each walk has a separate Appendix giving details of sites and some local history along the walk.

You may be able to follow the route description on your phone but I prefer to print the description in 'booklet' form which is clearer to read and easy to carry.

The walk descriptions are listed below, each with an Appendix. I don't know how many more I will complete but there will be some I am sure.

## A NETWORK OF WALKS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1. Wilford Village</b>  | <b>5. The Meadows, Nottingham Canal &amp; River Trent</b>           |
| <b>1A. Wilford Village Appendix</b>                                | <b>5A. The Meadows, Nottingham Canal &amp; River Trent Appendix</b> |
| <b>2. The Park Estate &amp; Nottingham-Beeston Canal</b>           | <b>6. Cinderhill, Broxtowe &amp; Bilborough</b>                     |
| <b>2A. The Park Estate &amp; Nottingham-Beeston Canal Appendix</b> | <b>6A. Cinderhill, Broxtowe &amp; Bilborough Appendix</b>           |
| <b>3. The Lace Market &amp; Sneinton</b>                           | <b>7. Clifton Village</b>   |
| <b>3A. The Lace Market &amp; Sneinton Appendix</b>                 | <b>7A. Clifton Village Appendix</b>                                 |
| <b>4. Nottingham University &amp; Wollaton Park</b>                | <b>8. Clifton Estate &amp; Ruddington</b>                           |
| <b>4A. Nottingham University &amp; Wollaton Park Appendix</b>      | <b>8A. Clifton Estate &amp; Ruddington Appendix</b>                 |

I am a retired local government officer, I live in West Bridgford and I enjoy walking. During the early Covid lockdowns I thought it would be good to plan some walks to share with others to provide some ideas for their 'permitted daily outdoor exercise'. Rather than just describing a walk route, I included photos of interesting sites the walk passed and some local history. The response was positive and even those who were unable to do the walks enjoyed reading the history of their area. Eventually, after doing 19 routes, I ran out of new ideas for walks starting and finishing in West Bridgford .... so, what next?

The answer very quickly became obvious to me – start and finish at tram stops. This would hopefully do three things:

- encourage more people across Nottingham to take up walking, with its physical and mental benefits;
- provide people an easy way to learn a bit more about their local history; and
- celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening, on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2004, of Line One of the Nottingham Express Transit.

I include the last of these as the tram has been an important part of my life. Working for Nottinghamshire County Council and then Nottingham City Council, I set up and led the team responsible for developing the Nottingham tram project from its concept in 1990, through the early years of proving its viability. We promoted its case through Parliament (we had to obtain an Act of Parliament for Line One), fought to obtain funding from Government, instigated Nottingham's unique Workplace Parking Levy to assist tram funding, assessed private sector interest, worked to devise a Public Private Partnership and negotiate contracts for the achievement of NET Line One and then managed the progression of the development of Phase Two.

Although having other management responsibilities in transport and planning over these years, NET remained my prime focus. This culminated in the signing of contracts for Phase Two in December 2011. I retired from the post of Director NET at the City Council in January 2012.