



WALK 5: The Meadows, Nottingham Canal & River Trent

Photos and description: 2024

Take the Nottingham to Beeston and Chilwell NET service to the NG2 tramstop, the **S** start of this walk.

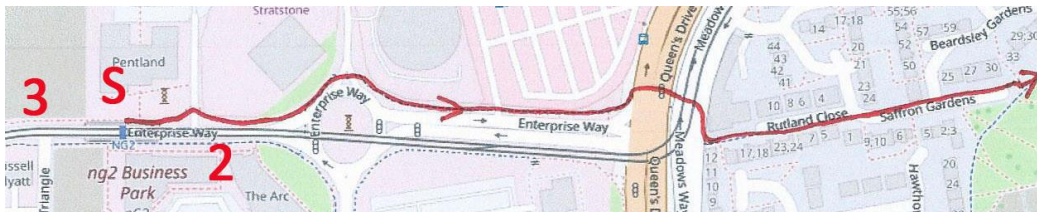


This walk is about 9 km (5½ miles) and goes through parts of **The Meadows (1)**, then alongside the Nottingham Canal, along Meadow Lane and over Lady Bay Bridge, alongside the River Trent to the Suspension Bridge and then through more of The Meadows to Queens Walk tramstop (on the Nottingham to Clifton South line), the **F** finish of the walk.

The description includes directions and a note of interesting sites along the way. For some of these sites, marked in red and with a red number on the maps, there is further information in **5A. The Meadows, Nottingham Canal & River Trent Appendix**.

The NG2 tramstop on Enterprise Way is so named as it serves the **ng2 Business Park (2)** which is on land that used to be dominated by the **Royal Ordnance Factory (3)**.





Go east along Enterprise Way and cross over Queen's Drive and Meadows Way.

Ahead is Midland House apartments, built in 2022 on the site of a small Police Station which closed in 2015



Go ahead (to the right of Midland House) along Rutland Close and Saffron Gardens and then bear left along the path that goes alongside the trees on the left of this photo. This area is part of the 1970s housing.



Continue along the path until you reach **St George in the Meadows Church (4)**.



Pass the church on your left and immediately turn left into **Queen's Walk Recreation Ground (5)**. Go through the path and loop round to the exit onto **Queen's Walk (6)**.

Cross over the tram lines, taking note of the 'story pole' here.



This one, titled 'Green', was inspired by Thomas Hawksley's Trent Waterworks which first provided safe water for Nottingham – see **(21)**.





Continue along the path (Kirke White Walk) through housing and under Sherriffs Way.



This takes you to the Bridgeway Shopping Centre – a mix of local shops, a Co-op, and the **Poets Corner pub (7)**.



Opposite the pub is a pathway under the buildings with some remarkable street art.



Continue along Kirke White Walk past the Bridgeway Hall Methodist Mission, which hosts a foodbank and community café.

Then turn left along Arkwright Walk which used to be **Arkwright Street (8)** – a busy road linking the city centre to Trent Bridge.



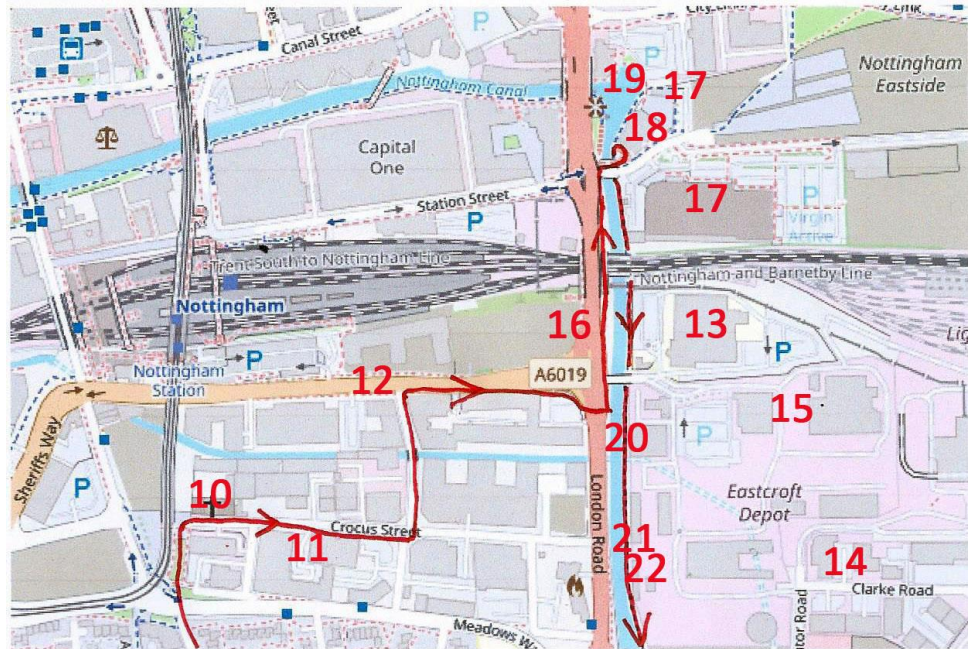
Go along Arkwright Walk to its junction with Meadows Way. Here Arkwright Street continues ahead, past the very large Unity Square offices (the new home to HM Revenue and Customs and other government departments)



To the left are new blocks of apartments and student flats, older offices (Karlsrhue House) and **Castle Rock Brewery & Vat and Fiddle Pub (9)** – a little way off the walk route...but if you fancy a pint.....

To the right, the NET route climbs up to Nottingham Station.

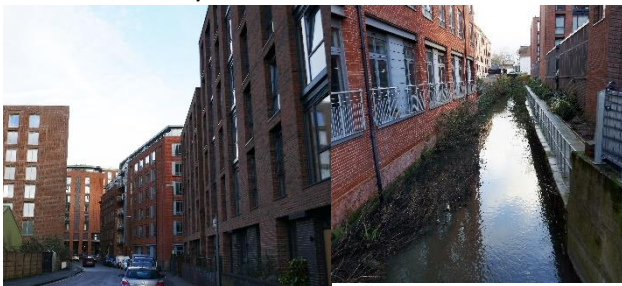
Cross over Meadows Way and go alongside the NET tram track but, just before the track goes up to Nottingham Station with The Unitarian Chapel (Pitcher & Piano) spire in the distance, turn right along Crocus Street



Go past, on your left, the Victorian factory building, recently converted to **The Glassworks (10)** apartments, and on your right the **Albumedix (11)** building.



Turn left into Summer Leys Lane, over the Tinkers Leen (see **27**) and then turn right on **Queen's Road (12)**, past, on your left, The Barnum and then The Place (under construction)....



...and, on your right, the Hicking Building



Cross over London Road and ahead on the left is **Nottingham College (13)**, in the distance is **Eastcroft Incinerator (14)**, and on the right is the City Council's **Eastcroft Depot (15)**.



Turn left along **London Road (16)**, over the railway and past, on the right, the Nottingham London Road Low Level Station, one of two old **Railway Stations (17)** here.



At the junction with Great Northern Close, go down onto the canal path beside **Binks Yard restaurant (18)**.

This part of the canal is known as **Poplar Arm Corner (19)** where the canal turns sharply to the left under London Road. But we go the other way – south, alongside the canal – **Nottingham Canal (20)**.



Continue along the towpath and on the left is a superb piece of urban art – **Canalside Street Art (21)**.



Part way along this painting there used to be a short arm of the canal – I think it was here as there is a vertical break in the wall (under the first E). This arm served the **Sanitary Wharf (22)**.



....water lilies...

This is a pleasant walk, with little noise impact from London Road, running alongside but behind a wall. You may pass a few anglers.....



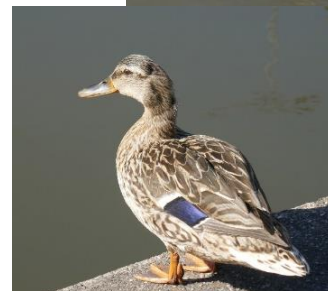
...ducklings...



...geese and goslings...



...and ducks, clearly posing for the camera!



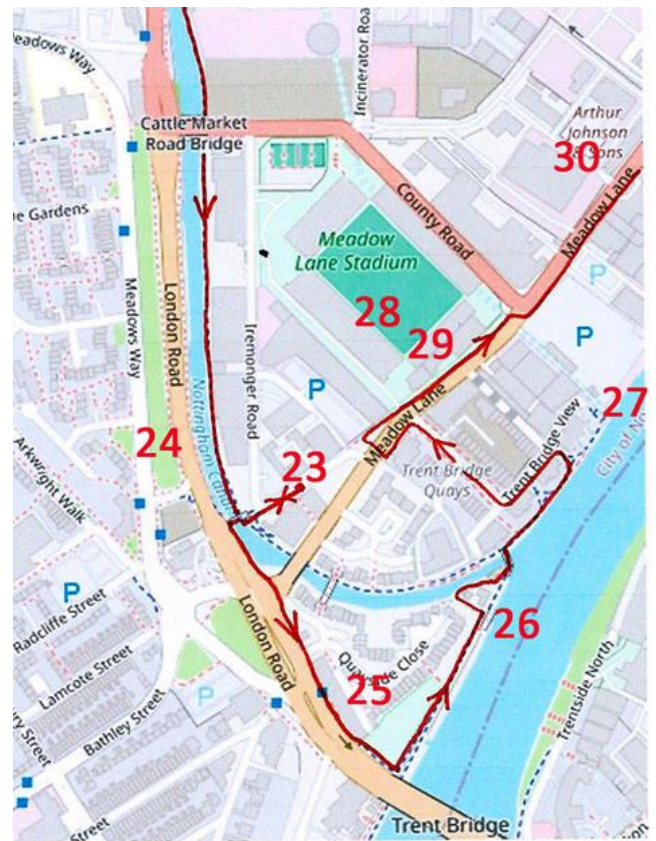
Continue along the towpath and under this bridge.



Immediately after the bridge (which used to be the route of Meadow Lane) go up the steps to the left.



Ahead is the **Trent Navigation (23)** and opposite it is a mural of Jimmy Sirrel and Brian Clough.



Turn round and go over the bridge onto London Road. Look to the right and, on the opposite side of the road you will see some pillars – these are all that remains of a row of almshouses – **Burton's Almshouses (24)**



Turn left, towards Trent Bridge, cross the road that is now Meadow Lane and go alongside the **Turneys Court (25)** building.



At the end of the building, turn left, down the slope to the river....



....and then turn left, past more of the Turneys Court/Quayside Close housing.



A short distance further along there is a stone buttress jutting out into river – this largely ignored edifice used to be part of a bridge built in the 1840s: the **Navigation Bridge (26)**.



Immediately after this, turn left down the short alley to the Meadow Lane Lock and turn right, then up the steps and continue left, over the canal and then alongside the Trent, in front of the Trent Bridge Quays apartment blocks.



At the end of the apartments, the path stops and there is a sluice gate to control water flowing into the Trent from the **Tinkers Leen (27)**.



Turn around and then go right and then left and right again which takes you to Meadow Lane, opposite the Notts County FC stadium. Turn left and after a few yards cross over to....



...the seated statues of the 'Legends of the Lane', Jimmy Sirrel (Notts County's most successful Manager during 18 years) and Jack Wheeler (physio, coach, trainer and caretaker-manager between 1957 and 1983). And, they also have a tram named in their honour (as, of course, has Brian Clough).

Turn right and go past the **Meadow Lane Stadium (28)**, home of Notts County FC since 1910.

There used to be this sign above one of the doorways

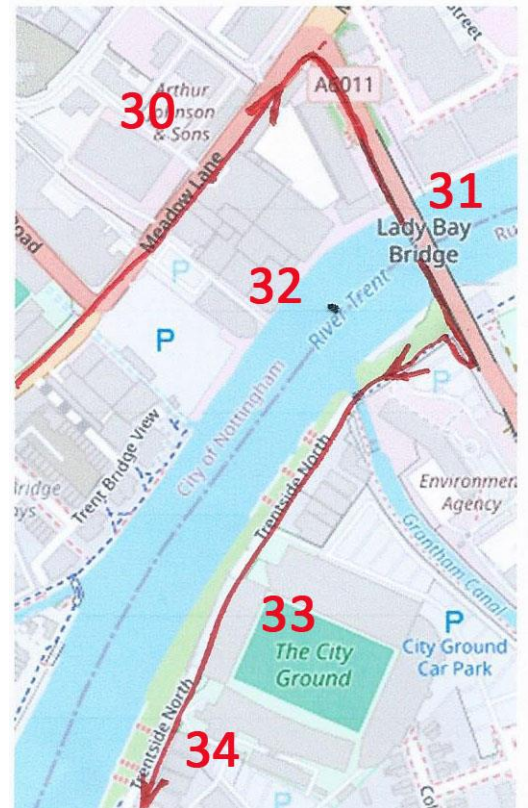


It has now gone, which I think is a shame – **The Broken Wheelbarrow (29)**.

Continue along Meadow Lane, and past the **Cattle Market (30)**. The gates and gate piers (adorned with bulls' heads) are Grade II Listed; they were made by Charles Smith & Sons of Birmingham in 1886.



Turn left towards Lady Bay Bridge and below the bridge on the right is Boatyard Boulders, a rock climbing experience using artificial rock faces.



Continue over **Lady Bay Bridge (31)** and go down the steps at the end of the bridge.



Go alongside the river towards Trent Bridge, past on the left, the Environment Agency Trentside Offices.

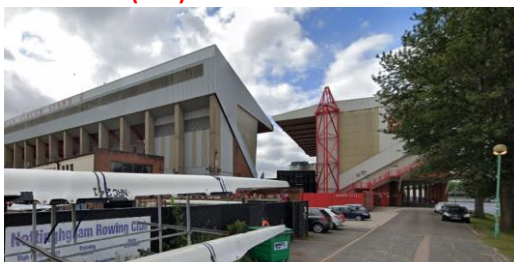
After a few yards you cross a bridge over the Grantham Canal; no longer accessible by boat.



Across the river is the **Nottingham Office Equipment building (32)**.



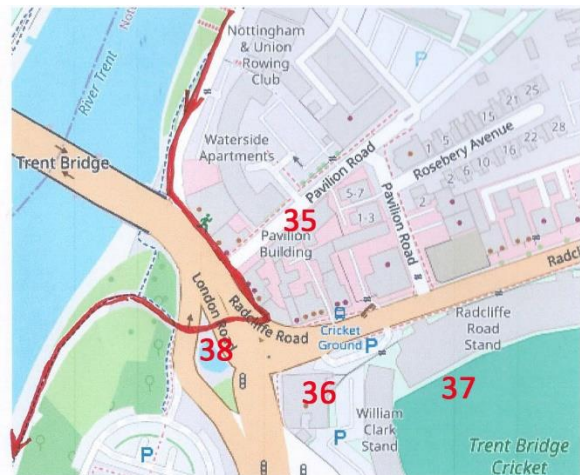
Continue past a number of rowing and canoe clubs and the **Nottingham Forest City Ground (33)** and then more rowing clubs – **Nottingham Rowing Clubs (34)**.



On the river bank below the boat clubs is a low wall (green arrow in photo) which may be remains of the Bridgford end of the Navigation Bridge, opposite the buttress (blue arrow) on the other side.



Continue up to the Bridgford end of Trent Bridge and turn left, past the Waterside Apartments. These were originally built as a hotel but more recently used as Rushcliffe Borough Council's Civic Centre.



Cross Pavilion Road, which leads to the Forest Ground – the older red brick building on the right of Pavilion Road is named **Pavilion Building (35)**.

Continue along Loughborough Road to Radcliffe Road and on the corner is an attractive curved building; Bank Chambers Building – originally a bank, then Ladbrooks betting shop and now a company selling windows.



On the other side of Radcliffe Road is the **Trent Bridge Inn (36)**.

Behind the Inn is **Trent Bridge Cricket Ground (37)**, home to the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club.



But, no time for cricket – need to get back to the walk. From outside the Bank Chambers Building (left hand edge of this photo), cross over Loughborough Road to the green area (bottom right of photo).



Within the island between the roadways approaching Trent Bridge, two arches of the old bridge remain – **Trent Bridge (38)**.



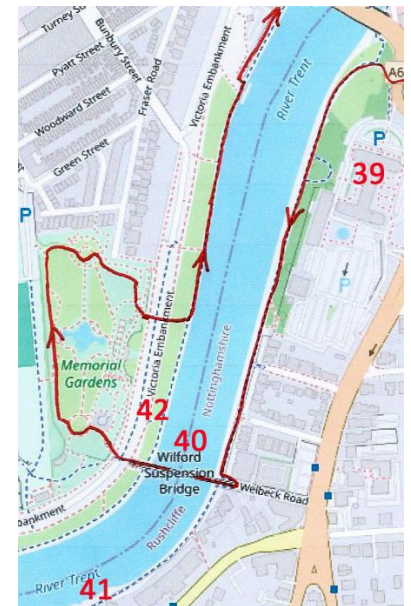
Continue over the crossing and through to the path leading down to the river.

Walk alongside the river – the path here is named ‘Recreation Walk’ on old maps but, apparently, it was known locally as ‘Lovers Walk’.

On the left is **County Hall (39)**...



...and on the opposite bank is the War Memorial on Victoria Embankment.



A bit further along, just before the Suspension Bridge, is the stark contrast of adjacent buildings; The Glasshouse apartment block built c2016 and Welbeck Hall, an Edwardian-period building, built in 1909 as a centre for Freemasonry, one of Nottinghamshire’s largest and most important Masonic Halls, now also a wedding venue.



Cross over the **Wilford Suspension Bridge (40)**.



Looking to the left (upstream), there is a mixture of properties; Riverview Court retirement housing complex built in 2016 (previously Becket Grammar School; see Walk 1.) and the Rivermead flats built in the 1960s. Between them is a house with conical roofs. Next door to this there used to be another interesting house – ‘**Plaisance (41)**’, which belonged to Jesse Boot.



Continue over the bridge to **Victoria Embankment (42)** and go into the Memorial Gardens, with the 1930s bandstand on the left and the Memorial Arch on the right.



Walk through the Memorial Gardens, past the fountains and the Memorial...



...the statue of Queen Victoria



...perhaps some wildlife.



Leaving the Memorial Gardens, cross over the Victoria Embankment road and go down to the riverside. Turn left, towards Trent Bridge along the path with a view in the 1920s not so different to today:



<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/victoria-embankment-1920s--18647785941843826/>

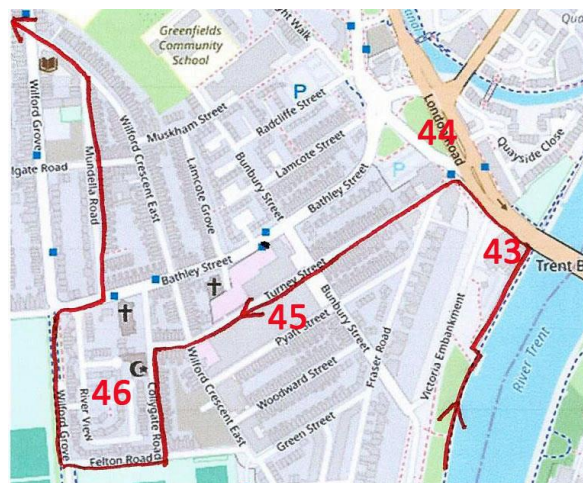
Go up the path beside what was the **Town Arms (43)**, now the Brewhouse & Kitchen. Turn left and ahead is the **London Road/Arkwright Street junction (44)**.



Turn left, just before The Embankment pub, into Turney Street and at the junction with Bunbury Street, opposite on the left, is a **Nottingham City Transport depot (45)**.

Continue to walk down Turney Street to its junction with Collygate Road.

To the right is St Faith's Church. Opened in October 1915 it was an Anglican parish church until 1981. Then it became Elim Pentecostal Church and later the Full Gospel Revival Church.



Go the other way (turning left out of Turney St) along Collygate Rd and note the building on the right. It is now the Meadows Muslim Centre but used to be part of the **Mundella School (46)**.



Walk to the end of Collygate Road, turn right and right again, thus around what was the Mundella site, now redeveloped as houses – River View and, appropriately, School Close.



The school opening plaque is mounted on a wall on River View

Continue up to Bathley Street, turn right and then left onto Mundella Road. The street is interesting because of the very different style of housing on each side.

The early housing in the Meadows was terraced, constructed mainly for those that worked on the railways and in the factories.

Much of it was basic 2-story terraced houses, as here on Allport Street, off Waterway Street.

But some were 3-story, as these, dating from the early 1900s, on the right hand side of Mundella Road



On the left side of Mundella Road are semi-detached houses of an unusual design – 1920s or 30s (?)

There are a few more interesting buildings remaining from the older Meadows

Continue along Mundella Road and on the left, just after the Play Area with its painted wall, is Mundella Works (Nottingham Paper Bag Co. Ltd). Possibly an old warehouse.

At Wilford Crescent turn left and at the next junction (Wilford Grove) is Meadows library, built in 1925 with a donation from the Carnegie Foundation. It is Grade II Listed.



Continue along Wilford Crescent East and note its crescent structure – not up to the Royal Crescent in Bath, but still quite distinctive. Wilford Crescent (East and West) follows the line of a watercourse - the Wilford Drain - which remained uncovered until the area was developed in the late 1880s.



Another old warehouse, which is actually called “The Warehouse”, has 1897 carved on the front. It is now SB Modelmakers Ltd, specialists in architectural models.



At many of the junctions there are examples of a common feature of areas of terraced housing – the end properties were once ‘corner shops’ serving the local population. Now converted to extra home space.



The last terraced street on the left is Glapton Street and beyond here is much newer housing, dating from after the late 1960s. This area was once dominated by the **Great Central Railway (47)**.



But, we don’t go ahead – take the path to the right (1st photo below) and go along the alleyway; the railway would have been to the left (2nd photo).



Before the underpass, turn left up to Robin Hood Way



Go to the tram crossing and turn right along Queen’s Walk



Beside the **Queen’s Walk Community Centre and Pilgrim Church (48)** is the Queen’s Walk tram stop – the end of this walk (F).

