

10A. Bulwell to The Forest Appendix – Further Information on Sites along the Walk

The walk routes are drawn using Open Street Maps from the internet <https://www.openstreetmap.org>, with some use of Google Maps <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-e&q=google+maps>, and old maps are from Old Maps Online <https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/England> and National Library of Scotland, Ordnance Survey Maps <https://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/>

Facts, descriptions, old photographs and historical information used in the walks are from sources openly available on the internet. The sources are recorded with links – readers can use the links (available at time of writing – 2024/5) to obtain further information.

1. Bulwell

The earliest documented settlements in Bulwell appeared around 800 AD, and were most likely built around the same time as the first local bridge across the River Leen. The river was significantly narrower, shallower and slower-moving in Bulwell than in other potential locations along its length, and the threat of highwaymen was a danger on existing cross-country routes; thus a toll bridge was constructed at Bulwell, to allow bona fide travellers a quicker and safer passage from north to south, while impeding others.

The bridge created a rare direct road to Nottingham from the north-west, so introducing regular traffic from across the country to the area for the first time. A gatehouse was built for the toll-collectors and as protection for travellers, and led to the founding of the new settlement. The travellers were an almost captive market, and the abundance of sandstone made it easy to build dwellings. As the volume of traffic using the road increased, so did the size and population of Bulwell.

Bulwell ('Buleuuelle') is mentioned as a village in the 1086 Domesday Book.

The name is supposed to derive from the spring called "Bull Well", which runs out of the Bunter sandstone over a bed of clay, near the Moor Bridge tramstop (see Walk 9). The Place Names of Notts suggests that the first part of the name may stand for an Anglo Saxon person called Bulla, or it describes the bubbling sound produced by the water flowing out of the spring.

At some point the magnesium limestone and the Bulwell sandstone on which Bulwell sits began to be quarried. The strong, easily worked and durable rock, a dull yellow-orange magnesium limestone similar to the Bunter sandstone under Nottingham Castle, offered a building material easy to quarry. Many houses, schools, churches and garden walls of Bulwell sandstone stand to this day for miles around Bulwell.

An early example can be found in sections of the wall surrounding Wollaton Hall, which was built using Bulwell stone in the late 16th century. The sheer quantities used there and elsewhere in the city suggest some kind of professional mining operation must already have been in operation by this time. Bulwell stone was later also used to repair the damage caused to the palaces of Westminster during the Second World War.

White's 'Directory of Nottinghamshire', 1853, notes that: "Bulwell.... is a scattered populous village and parish, containing 3,785 inhabitants, and 1,210 acres of land, including 140 acres of unenclosed forest. The Rev. Alfred Padley is the principal owner and lord of the manor, who resides at Bulwell Hall, a pleasant mansion embowered in trees, about a mile N.W. of the village..... Bulwell lime is considered to be the best in the county for all purposes.... Here is a neat station on the Nottingham and Mansfield Railway."

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/NTT/Bulwell> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulwell>

Bulwell tramstop is situated alongside the first stop on the Robin Hood Line (RHL) from Nottingham before it continues north. When the alignment for NET Line 1 was being planned, work was on-going to reopen this old railway route from Nottingham to Hucknall and then on to Worksop. Stage 1 to Newstead opened in 1995 and further stages were completed in subsequent years. This meant that the obvious route for a tram track to Hucknall was already being used. The simpler option was to run the tram tracks alongside the RHL with reduction to single track running where necessary. The more interesting option was to follow the experience from Nottingham's German twin city, Karlsruhe – track sharing. We did quite a lot of work on this second option but in the end the 'simpler' option was chosen.

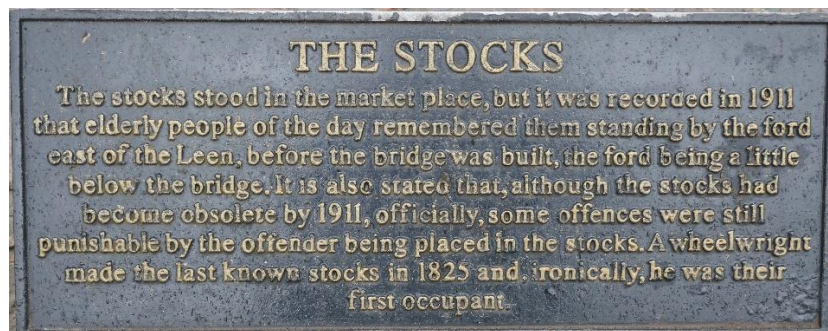
2. Bulwell Bogs

The area alongside the River Leen from Highbury Road going south has been known for over 900 years as "Bulwell Bogs". Here, the Leen is crossed by the **Stone Bridge**, built in the early 1830s and restored in 1979, carrying Station Road, and then the **iron footbridge**, built in 1880. The old stone bridge has its date on the north side, "1833", with the initials "G.H." underneath the date. These initials stand for George Holmes, the builder, who was also the superintendent of the Baptist Chapel in Bulwell.

A short way along from the old bridge the last set of **stocks** was erected, and the story goes that Bob Piggin, the wheelwright who made them, in 1825, was fated to be their first public occupant. (The current stocks are presumably a replica of the original)

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/bulwell2.htm>

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/books/bulwell1946/bulwell5.htm>



"The Bogs" had for many years, been an area where children 'played and made dirt pies', but in about 1867-8 the Lord of the Manor enclosed the land and rented it to a Mr Wilkinson. The children's play area was lost. In 1872 a boy was charged with trespass and damaging the grass but, in court, evidence was given as to the long public usage of the land and magistrates dismissed the case.

In response to the Lord of the Manor's actions, the people of Bulwell staged a peaceful protest, massing in hundreds to protect their common land. Described in the official records as "impeccably well behaved and peaceable to a man; indeed rather joyous of spirit!" the people of Bulwell marched a short distance before enjoying lunch by the river. Thereafter the crowd is said to have "dispersed quietly and as directed with no further disturbance". The Nottingham Corporation stepped in and agreed to buy the land and designate it for the "pleasure and leisure of the people of Bulwell".

The whole Bogs area was set to be cleared in 2002 to make way for a road bridge and transport interchange for buses, trams, taxis and trains. Fierce local opposition produced a successful campaign to stop the plans and with help from local community groups and residents, the facilities at Bulwell Bogs were instead upgraded in 2003 to produce a bigger play-park, a safer paddling pool and a cleaner feel, and won a Green Flag Award in 2004 for work done to regenerate the area.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulwell>

In May 2024 it was announced that Bulwell would receive £20m of Government 'Levelling Up' funding for the town centre which would include Bulwell Bogs getting improved wet and dry play activity areas and be made more accessible.

<https://nottstv.com/marketplace-and-bulwell-bogs-improvements-outlined-in-20m-levelling-up-plan/>

3. Local Heroes Statues

Heroes from the world of sport, music and community campaigning have been honoured in the shape of steel tributes by a walking and cycling charity Sustrans.

The figures, erected in 2023, represent Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Emily Campbell and Karl White and were designed and made by artists Katy and Nick Hallett. They are part of a national portrait bench scheme featuring 30 figures installed on 14 of the most popular cycle paths across the National Cycle Network, in recognition of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee year, thanks to funding from the Department for Transport.

The three Nottingham heroes were chosen after residents were invited to say who they believed had made a positive impact on their communities.

Cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, from Mapperley, won the BBC Young Musician competition in 2016 and in 2018 he performed at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at Windsor Castle and was awarded an MBE in the 2020 New Year's Honours list for his services to music.

Weightlifter Emily Campbell, from Bulwell, won a silver medal at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo and a gold at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022.

Karl White, who was known locally as "Mr Meadows" for his tireless work within the community, died in 2021 after contracting Covid 19. He had been a driving force in the area, with his love for sports leading him to set up the FC Cavaliers football club in 1978. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-65163611>

4. Old Basford

Old Basford was Anglo Saxon. The spelling of the name has gone through a variety of iterations over the centuries, being called "Basseford", "Bassefurthe", "Besseford" and "Basford" at points. The name appears as Baseford in the Domesday survey of 1086. The name contains the Old English personal name Basa, which may mean that it refers to a ford across the River Leen, named after an important person living here - "Basa's ford". At some time in the past there may have been three fords over the Leen at Basford: at David Lane crossings, Nottingham Road and St Leodegarius church.

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/basford-pronounced-baseford-who-st-9649391>

From the 1790s people came here to framework-knit hosiery and used the clean water from the Leen for bleaching and dyeing works. This is evident from the top map (1885), which shows four bleach works. The Leen once meandered far more. Lincoln Street was flooded in 1947 and in the 1960s most of the river channel was straightened (except in Vernon Park – see 9) and deepened to prevent more flooding.



As shown on the second map, from 1889, Basford was well served by railways, with three stations bearing its name in one form or another.

A - Basford Vernon (just named Basford Station on this map) was the earliest, on the Midland Railway's Nottingham to Mansfield Line.

B – Next built was Basford North, on the GNR (Great Northern Railway), which was later Basford & Bulwell.

C - Then came New Basford on the Great Central Main Line.

Basford North and New Basford closed along with the lines on which they were situated. Basford Vernon closed in 1964 but the line on which it stood remained open for freight and was subsequently reopened to passengers as the Robin Hood Line. The station itself did not reopen, but it is now the site of Basford NET tram stop.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basford,_Nottingham

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/basford1.htm>



Because of the parallel running of the RHL railway there was a need to provide safe crossing points for pedestrians accessing the tram, such as at the Basford tram stop.

This stop is located on the site of the sidings and goods shed of the former Basford Vernon railway station



The Basford Vernon station was on the Midland Railway's Nottingham to Mansfield Line. It opened on 2 October 1848 and closed to passengers on 4 January 1960 and to goods on 2 October 1967. (photo 1963)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basford_Vernon_railway_station



5. Vernon Picture House

The Vernon Picture House took its name from Vernon Road. It was opened on 19th January 1917 and closed on 27th August 1961 when the final films were "The Monolith Monsters" and "Abbott & Costello Meet the Mummy". From 2nd September 1961 it was re-opened as a bingo club (photo), which closed in 1990. The building is now an industrial unit.

<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/31842>



6. Pearsons Bleach Works

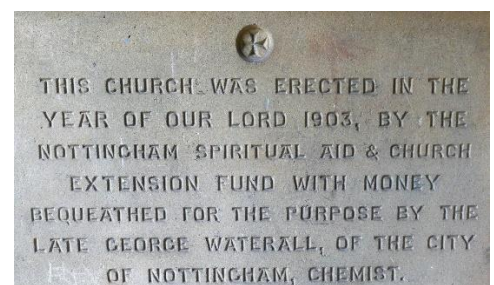
This factory building from the late 19th century, retains a plaque reading 'George Pearson and Co/Bleachers Dyers and/Lace Finishers'. The company was originally formed in 1796 by Andrew Pearson. The building is a rare survival of an industry which transformed Basford from small village to industrialised suburb within a century.

A short distance further along Southwark Street, facing the end of Bulwell Lane, is a house which was Pearson's home – an example of how Victorian factory owners sometimes wanted to live close to their factories and employees.

7. St Aidan Church

Aidan was a monk at Iona, an island of the Inner Hebrides in Scotland, when King Oswald of Northumbria requested that he be made bishop of the newly converted Northumbrians. Consecrated in 635, Aidan settled on Lindisfarne, where he established his church, monastery, and see near the royal stronghold of Bamburgh. Under his direction and that of his successors, Lindisfarne flourished as a leading ecclesiastical centre until the Danish invasions began in 793. From Lindisfarne, Aidan evangelized northern England. He founded churches, monasteries, and, on Lindisfarne, a school for the training of ministers.

A bequest of £11,000 from a Nottingham chemist, George Waterall, was used to fund the building of St Aidan's Church as a chapel-of-ease for those who could not reach the parish church, St Leodegarius (see **18**). It was designed by Robert Evans & Sons in neo-Gothic style, and work began in 1903. Built of stone, it was opened in 1905, although the exterior of the east end was left unfinished with irregular bricks and stonework to key in when more money became available to build a chancel.



A concerted effort was made to complete the church in the mid-1960s, but not enough money was forthcoming. However, some internal work was undertaken including unique sculptures, by Witold Gracjan Kawalec, added to the columns of the nave, representing Work, Peace, Mercy, Hope, Life, Guidance, Humility, Justice, Grace and Music. But there was never enough to fund a chancel so the outside of the east end looks unfinished and is now always likely to remain so.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Aidan>

<https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/basford-st-aidan/hintro.php>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Aidan%27s_Church,_Basford



8. Ernest Sallis building

The Vernon Works of the Ernest Sallis company occupies two buildings in art-deco style, built in the 1950.

E.Sallis Ltd, manufacturers of medical knitwear and surgical garments occupy these and other premises on Waterford Street. The company was founded in 1858 and evolved from a cottage industry with hand knitting frames to hi-tech computerised knitting machines. It is still run by the family descendants.



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2929040>



9. Vernon Park

Before 1900, this area was owned by Charles Cox who lived at Vernon House, with an ornamental lake and garden, and his bleach works was next door, both now demolished. The lake stored water from the river Leen for use in the bleach works.

The house and works are both shown on the left map from 1885. Note that at that time Waterford Street was not there. The street was constructed by 1901 but was originally called Woodford Street (see right map), becoming Waterford Street by 1920.



The City Council bought the house and surrounding land in 1900 at a cost of £11,750 and opened the park in 1901, naming it Vernon Park after the house name. While the house remained it became the pavilion for a new bowls club with a bowls green at the side.

The park has seen considerable investment in recent years including a new pavilion with a community room, a high quality football pitch, floodlit tennis courts, public toilets and a new children's play area. The major makeover which took place in 2008 costing more than £1 million garnered Vernon Park its first ever Green Flag. In 2012 on her Diamond Jubilee, Queen Elizabeth visited Vernon Park as patron of Fields in Trust, as Vernon Park was the latest park or green space to receive this accolade. Recently the pond has had considerable investment with new fishing platforms, boardwalk, platform for teaching angling, and works to reinforce the banks.

<https://parksandplaygrounds.weebly.com/nottingham-parksplaygrounds/vernon-park-ng6-0ap>

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/zvbljgoi/old-basford-and-new-basford-walk.pdf>

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/basford4.htm>

Many of the buildings noted along this section of the walk can be seen in this old photograph. Southwark Street-Arnold Road runs across the middle, with the Pearson Bleachworks at the right (A), then Waterford Street with Pearson's house (B) on the corner. Further along is the old school building, now the Mosque (C), then the Baptist Church and old school (D) and, to the left, St Aidan Church (E).



Along Waterford Street are another old school, now Green Crescent School (F) and to the right, Vernon House (G), with Vernon Park (H) behind. <https://nottstalgia.com/forums/topic/15540-vernon-park/>

10. Vernon Road

The Midland Railway through Basford was opened in 1848. Its construction included level crossings (LC) at the David Lane Lincoln Street junction and over Nottingham Road. This made the horse bus journey from Nottingham to Bulwell along Lincoln Street very slow, so in 1882 Basford businesses persuaded the Midland Railway to build the Vernon Road, directly linking David Lane and Nottingham Road. The long, tall, stone wall you see alongside the road was then built to stop the horses now using Vernon Road being startled by the trains.

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/zvbljgoi/old-basford-and-new-basford-walk.pdf>



11. Lincoln Street

Lincoln Street was the shopping street for 'Basford Town', the name given to what once was an area of narrow streets.

By the mid-1960s they had all gone and Lincoln Street declined.

Built in 1971, the only local shops were part of the concrete Basford Flats but all were demolished in 1985.



1962



1982

Old photos of Basford from: <https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/gallery/56-pictures-basford-through-years-3537367>

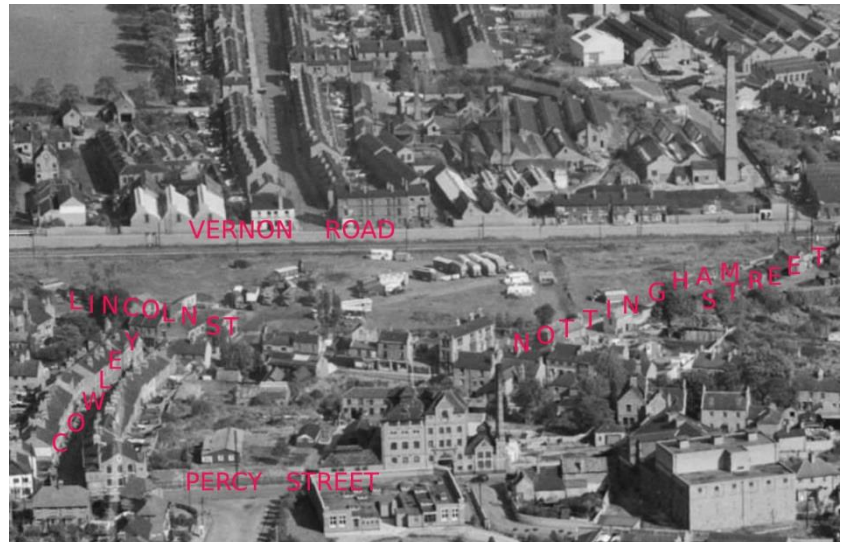
12. Lincoln Street Water Meadows

Lincoln Street Water Meadows is a park area, with the River Leen alongside, and which apparently dates back to the 1800s. It was once known as Billy Bacon's Field, after Billy, a local butcher with one shop at 9 Lincoln Street, who grazed cattle there prior to slaughter. From 1930 it was the site of Basford Wakes fair, where some rides and stalls moved to after Goose Fair.

English churches at their consecration were given the name of a patron saint, and either the day of the church's consecration or the saint's feast day became the church's festival. Church services began at sunset on Saturday and the night of prayer was called a vigil, eve or wake from the Old English word "waec," which means "watch" or "vigil." Each village had a wake with quasi-religious celebrations followed by church services then sports, games, dancing and drinking.

As wakes became more secular the more boisterous entertainments were moved from the sabbath to Saturday, and Monday was reserved for public entertainments such as bands, games and funfairs.

During the Industrial Revolution the tradition of the wakes was adapted into a regular holiday particularly, but not exclusively, in some parts of the North of England and industrialised areas of the Midlands where each locality nominated a 'wakes week', an unpaid holiday when the mills and factories were closed for maintenance.



This old aerial photo shows caravans having arrived prior to setting up the fair rides, etc.

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/zvbljgoi/old-basford-and-new-basford-walk.pdf>

<https://guide.in.ua/business/10480515/lincoln-street-water-meadows-nottingham>

<https://nottstalgia.com/forums/topic/16873-old-basford-street-name-history-community/>

<https://nottstalgia.com/forums/topic/21770-basford-wakes/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakes_week#CITEREFHarlandWilkinson1873

13. Lord Nelson pub

The Lord Nelson pub was a Kimberley tied house that was built in the 1960s to serve the Basford flats complex. After the flats had been demolished in 1985 the pub survived but eventually closed in 2012. It is now residential.

The pub was apparently named after an earlier 1908 Lord Nelson PH on Percy Street.



1982, with Basford flats behind



1998

https://www.closedpubs.co.uk/nottinghamshire/nottingham_ng6_lordnelson3.html

14. Prince of Wales Brewery and Maltings



Founded in about 1869. Registered in June 1894. Acquired by the Home Brewery Co. Ltd in 1916. The brewery buildings and maltings survive. The brewery is listed grade II, architect William Bradford, 1891, and has an excellent tower. The brewery was closed and sold in 1921 to Murphy & Son Ltd, who renamed them the Old Basford Mills. Murphy supply chemicals to industry, including the brewing industry, and the garden trade.

The maltings building has been converted to residential use and is now student accommodation run by Nottingham Trent University.

https://breweryhistory.com/wiki/index.php?title=Hutchinson_%26_Sons_Ltd

https://breweryhistory.com/wiki/index.php?title=Murphy%27s_Factory,_Old_Basford_-_formerly_the_Prince_of_Wales_Brewery



Photo: Brewers' Journal 1901

15. Verdonis factory

The factory was built in the 1920s for George Spencer who, having grown up in Basford, had 2 knitwear sites in Nottingham and a further works in Lutterworth. The factory manufactured lace clothing including ladies' underwear trading under the brand Verdonis. The site's offices date from 1925 with the brand name Vedonis in mosaic tiles on both sides of the building. The factory was later taken over by Davenports and apparently shut in 1994 and has since been repurposed for use by small businesses. The offices were left vacant and had become derelict before, in June 2022, they were severely damaged by a fire.

1946 photo. <https://nottstalgia.com/forums/topic/14973-nottingham-from-above-basford/>

<https://www.28dayslater.co.uk/threads/nottingham-miscellany-2022.134527/>



16. The White Swan

The White Swan pub was originally owned by the William Henry Hutchinson and Son's Prince of Wales Brewery (see 14). It was a Home Brewery house since 1921 and was most recently operated by Marston's before closing for good in 2010. The ground floor was used by office workers after it was converted in 2017 to a place of residence. It is now student accommodation.

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/only-one-left-demise-pubs-5348101>



17. Basford House

Basford House is a Grade II listed house formerly known as Manor House. It was built c1739, altered late C19 and C20 and is now flats and offices.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1247130>

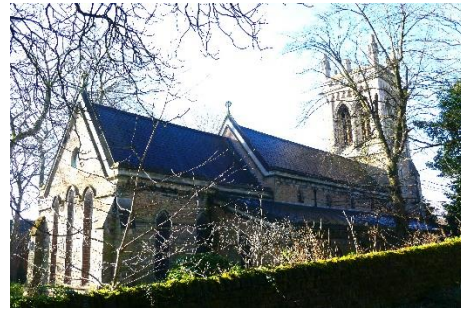
A Nottinghamshire History *Transactions of the Thoroton Society* (1916) article describes it as a "comfortable, square, brick-built house near the church, which still wears a distinguished look Its panelled rooms and its old world garden (which formerly extended to the church and the Leen) with its pools of gold-fish have now lost all their attraction. since then the Midland Railway Company, who now own the property, have encroached upon it and taken away much of its beauty....." <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/tts/tts1916/summer/leen7.htm>



Basford House (A Nicholson, 2005).

18. St Leodegarius Church

The church owes its name to a C7th French martyr, also known as St Leger. The chancel dates from the 1180s and the south arcade from c1250. The south aisle and porch date from around 1340. Much restoration has been done, including having its floor raised because of flooding, rebuilding the tower which collapsed in 1859 and further work after a fire during decorating work in 1900. The church is Grade II* listed.



It is thought that the Luddite, James Towle was buried in an unmarked grave near the main gate. Aged 36 in 1816, Towle was from Basford. He was a member of the Luddite gang which carried out an attack on Heathcoat and Boden's lace mill in Loughborough on June 28th 1816. 55 frames were broken and some lace fabric stolen. During the course of the raid, a number of guards and workmen were forced at gunpoint to lie on the floor, and one guard, John Asher, was shot and wounded. Towle had been recognised, and was arrested a few days later. In early August 1816 he was tried at the Leicester Assizes for aiding and abetting the raid. He was convicted and sentenced to death and was publicly hanged at Leicester on 20 November 1816. A further six members of the gang were hanged the following year, and two others transported for life.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Leodegarius_Church,_Basford

<https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/basford-st-leodegarius/hhistory.php>

[https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/learning/biographies/jamestowle\(d1816\).aspx](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/learning/biographies/jamestowle(d1816).aspx)

19. NET and RHL Lines

For much of the route there was enough space for the single RHL track and the two NET tracks but in some places more width was needed – as here, in Basford, where the River Leen had to be diverted a little.



Just before Wilkinson Street the tram route curves away from the RHL and goes on-street. This photo from August 2002 shows the track under construction on the curve.



20. NET Depot and Park & Ride Site

This was, of course, where the new trams arrived for Line One. This photo shows construction work on the depot in June 2002. The operator moved in during September.



This photo is of Tram 201 (now named Torvill and Dean) on test at Bombardier's test track in Derby. The last tram of Nottingham's original tram fleet was numbered 200.



Tram 201 was delivered to Nottingham on 30th September 2003. I remember one early morning standing at the junction of Wilkinson Street and Western Boulevard waiting to 'spot' the first tram arrive on the back of a long lorry.



The depot and P&R are accessed along Armstrong Way.....



As shown on the 1885 map below, the depot is situated on land which was once occupied by the Scotholme Reservoir and Water Works, one of five Nottingham Corporation waterworks supplying water to the Nottingham area in the 1880s. Note the significant differences between the maps, particularly the changes to the River Leen and also the absence of Wilkinson Street which was built in the 1930s linking Hyson Green to the then newly built ring road (Western Boulevard).



1885



2023

21. Cussons Soap Factory

The large plot of land alongside Wilkinson Street has been vacant for more than a decade, having previously been occupied by a soap factory, originally Gerard's and later Cussons'.

Gerard's Soap Works was originally located in Basford. The company was started in 1876 by brothers Thomas and William Gerrard on a 14-acre site — known as Mill in the Hole. They chose wisely as there was plenty of space to expand.

The railway ran alongside one boundary and it was close to dyeing, bleaching and finishing firms and other local companies who would become major customers. But the best asset was an abundance of suitable water which could be pumped from the nearby River Leen, filtered and used for cooling and other processes before being returned to the river at a rate of 35,000 gallons an hour.

Gerard's initially concentrated on industrial soaps at a time when local laundries and textile firms had their supplies delivered in bar form. But as methods progressed they began to receive it as flakes, which dissolved more rapidly.



Gerard's Soap Works vehicles outside the Basford factory in the 1930s.

After 21 years as a private concern, the firm was floated as a public limited company in 1897 with founder Thomas Gerard as chairman and his two sons as directors. Around this time the company began making household soap — then sold in 15-inch lengths — and later started producing toilet soap. During the First World War, it installed a plant to recover glycerine, widely used for explosives. After the war the company extended its range of household toilet soap and soap flakes.

But on September 26, 1921, a disastrous fire virtually destroyed the factory, putting it out of action for many months and throwing 160 employees out of work.

However, the blaze — described in one report as a “roaring furnace” — proved to be a blessing in disguise. New premises, subsequently extended, were erected on a site adjoining Wilkinson Street and the latest machinery installed.

Gerard Brothers were eventually acquired by Cussons, a major company founded by Thomas Tomlinson Cusson, who opened a chemist shop in Ossett, West Yorkshire, in 1837.

When Cussons bought old established London perfumers Bayleys, of Bond Street, in 1921, they chose the famous Imperial Leather scent as the basis for a new soap. From the start Imperial Leather stood out from its rivals. The ivory colour and rich creamy lather soon won the trust of generations.

Cussons products were made by Lever Brothers during the war and, by 1970, the Nottingham factory had 470 employees, working five shifts.

In March 2006, the plant closed. Production transferred to Thailand, where a new plant was opened.

The company demolished the Wilkinson Street factory and in 2010 submitted a plan to build housing on the site. However, planning permission for this development expired in 2013, leaving the land to become overgrown - with the factory's chimney the only structure left standing in 2025.

In 2023 the site was sold to Scotholme Works Regeneration Limited but I am not aware of plans for its development although it is expected to be for housing.

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/history/basford-factory-leading-role-britains-1628425>

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/clues-over-future-former-soap-9836994>



22. Shipstone's Star Brewery

James Shipstone & Sons opened a brewery in New Basford in 1852 and closed in 1991. It produced the Shipstones brand of beer, known locally as Shippo's.

The 7-acre Star Brewery has a red illuminated star at the top of the tower which could be seen for miles around.

In 1922, it absorbed both the Beeston Brewery Company and William Hooley Limited. By 1939, the company owned 550 licensed premises, thirty diesel lorries for long distance delivery work and fifty horses for local delivery work.



Shipstone's Brewery, New Basford
(photo: A Nicholson, 2005).

The brewery remained an independent family business until 1978 when the company was purchased by Greenall's of Warrington which also purchased a number of other breweries from neighbouring towns and cities. Greenall's introduced minor changes to the production of the various Shipstones beers and increased the marketing of the company. In 1987, Shipstones became the main shirt sponsor of Nottingham Forest F.C., an arrangement which continued until 1994.

In 1990, Greenall's announced that they were ending all beer production and becoming a retailer only company. Production at Shipstones Brewery ended in early 1991 after 139 years. The Shipstones brand continued to be produced for some years afterwards at breweries in Burton upon Trent.

Now some housing and retail units have been constructed on parts of the site and the landmark Victorian building, constructed in 1900 with later extension, remains standing and is presently owned by a local auction house; John Pye and Sons.

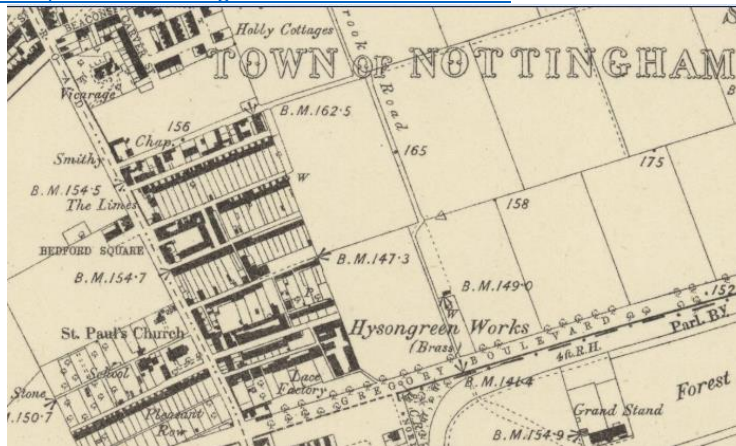
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shipstones_Brewery

23. Hyson Green

There are differing opinions about the origins of the name 'Hyson Green'. One theory says that a local man called John Ison had gardens and two houses in the area, which were known as 'Ison Green', and which over time became Hyson Green. Another suggestion is that it was originally known as the 'High Sands' to distinguish it from the 'Low Sands' of Radford. After the enclosure act in 1798, the open forest at High Sands was cultivated. There were fields and gardens, and there is note of one ancient house and Bobbers corn mill. The first modern house was built in 1802; in 1820, rows of houses were built in Pleasant Row, Lenton Street, Saville Row, Lindsay Street, and Pepper Street by societies of workmen: stocking-makers and warp hands. The houses cost £70 each, and workmen paid for them in instalments. The upper rooms were used as workshops where the residents installed rented stocking frames. These four-storey houses had long individual gardens. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyson_Green
<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/how-nine-nottingham-suburbs-names-167451>

The area developed was still quite limited by the end of the 1880s, as shown in this 1885 map (surveyed: 1878 to 1881).

Note that Noel Street stopped at Gregory Boulevard, its current route north was fields with industry and terraced housing to the west.



Radford Rd ^

Noel St ^

In the 1960s, large numbers of houses were demolished as part of the council's slum clearance project. In 1965, a large complex of flats was built on the site of former terraced housing.

Poorly built and unpopular with residents from the outset the flats were demolished in 1988.

The site is now occupied by the ASDA store.



Hyson Green Flats.
 (Image: Nottingham Post)

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/gallery/take-trip-down-memory-lane-3312356>

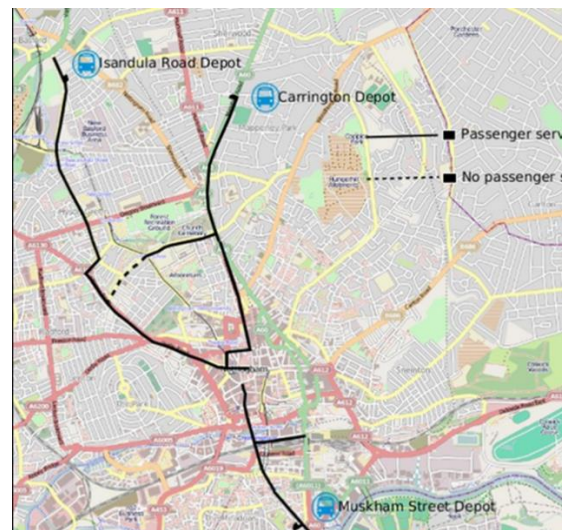
The section of NET track between Wilkinson Street and The Forest passes through Hyson Green and planning the exact route involved some controversy. The main road, Radford Road, is busy and fronted with many shops without rear access for deliveries. The case for the shopkeepers was well made by Erica Beardsmore – who later had tram 204 named after her. Splitting the tracks, one way on Radford Road (with some parking/loading bays for the shops) and the other way on the parallel, residential Noel Street (with parking bays for residents) was the answer.

But NET was not the first tram system to use Radford Road. As shown on this map (right), the Nottingham and District Tramways Company Limited was a tramway operator from 1875 to 1897 and one route went along Radford Road but then went up to Alfreton Road into Nottingham centre.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham_%26_District_Tramways_Company



The map (right) shows a tram 'depot' at Isandula Road – the 1885 map (left) indicates this as being 'Tram Stables' – the trams were horse drawn.



24. The Lings

Writing in 1914, Robert Mellors, *Old Nottingham suburbs: then and now*, tells that in 1637 the land where Hyson Green and Forest Fields stand was called the Lings. Basford Lings were to the north of this, that is where New Basford now stands. Nottingham Fields (now the Forest) lay to the south. The whole district was a wild, sandy area of gorse bushes, ling and heather with patches of grass.

The Lings had been enclosed under the Act 1792, the land was cultivated until 1820, when it is said the first house was built. In 1822 there were thirty houses, along streets that were very narrow, and formed without any concerted plan. A great boom came in the lace trade in 1823 and many more houses were built and the area had 8,000 inhabitants. "The boom lasted two years, and then came a great smash, and those who had been recklessly squandering their earnings in riot and dissipation were glad to sweep the streets for a bare subsistence, and not a few of them subsequently ended their days in the workhouse."

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/basford3.htm>

25. Lenos Cinema

The building started life as the New Basford Industrial Co-operative Society, but was converted into a cinema in January 1911. It was first called the Little John Picture Palace but changed its name to Lenos Royal Picturedrome in 1912. In 1917 the name was again changed, this time omitting the word Royal. Its last change of name came in 1930 when it became Lenos Cinema.



The cinema closed in 1968 and subsequently had various uses including a bingo club which continued into the 1980's and apparently hosted women's wrestling, a snooker hall and, by 1992 it was in retail use as a furniture outlet. It has since been demolished and replaced by an apartment block.

<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/50568>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/gwoodward/3066135217/in/photostream/>



26. Peppers Rest Garden

This small public park was originally established by Mr. John Pepper about 1824 as a tea garden and bowling green next to the "Cricket Players" public-house. The family name 'Pepper' may be linked to Pepper Street, which was one of the first housing streets built in Hyson Green in 1820 (see 23), but since demolished.

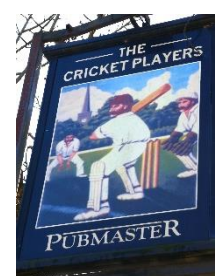
<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/radford3.htm>



27. The Cricket Players

This was a Shipstone's tied house that was built to serve the Hyson Green flats complex (some of which can be seen behind the pub in the photo).

Photo by Alan Winfield, 1982



A Nottingham Post article in April 2022 reported that the Cricket Players Pub could soon be transformed into student studio apartments. Plans had been submitted to convert and extend the former pub into a five-storey building that would provide 50 studio flats and four retail units. The site is currently used by a car washing

business and hosts Hyson Green Market stalls on its car park. The plans indicated that the existing building, which is on the council's Local List of heritage assets, will be retained, with the removal of the single storey elements and the preservation of the feature brickwork planned.

No further action seems to have been taken regarding this application.

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/plans-hyson-green-pub-become-6925671>

<https://neverendingpubcrawl.blogspot.com/2016/11/nottinghams-lost-pubs-part-1-hyson-green.html>

28. St. Paul's Church

The church was consecrated in 1844 to serve the newly forming community of Hyson Green, but it closed in 1994 as an Anglican place of worship, just 150 years after it first opened its doors. By then, the Anglican church could not sustain two church communities in the area, and the congregation merged with St Stephen's, Hyson Green, on Bobbers Mill Road. After it ceased to be a place of worship St Paul's was converted into flats as part of a housing association scheme.

<https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/hyson-green-st-paul/hintro.php>



29. Hyson Green Library

The building used to house the Hyson Green Library. In 2015 the library was relocated into the nearby Mary Potter Centre, further west along the boulevard. The old building is now occupied by a dance studio for Take 1, a charity and community organisation that was established in 1999. Their facilities include a dance studio, classroom areas, ICT suite and recording studio.

<https://take1studios.co.uk/>



30. New Art Exchange

Built in 2008, this RIBA award winning building houses the New Art Exchange, formed in 2003, which is the largest art centre dedicated to culturally diverse contemporary arts in the UK and also a registered charity.

<https://www.nae.org.uk/about-us/>



31. Hyson Green Community Centre

The construction of the building started in 1895. It was originally designed for the congregation of a Chapel on Lindsay Street (one of the old streets – see 23) due to the need for more space as the church grew; and was known as the Hyson Green Methodist Free Church. The church was used as a place of worship until the 1950s when it was re-appropriated as a girls club for 30 years before becoming a community centre.

<https://sarahormerodntuarchitecturaltechnology.wordpress.com/2015/05/02/hyson-green-community-centre-and-the-new-art-exchange-nottingham/>



Until recently, the building was occupied by the Nottingham Teaching College, a charity which taught English, maths and IT courses free of charge. A 2024 Nottinghamshire Live article reported that the college was unable to meet City Council rent requirements and had to leave the building but that it would be occupied by the Nottingham charity Himmah which focuses on teaching local residents about poverty, race and educational inequalities.

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/hyson-green-community-centre-new-9441893>

32. The Forest

The name "Forest" derives comes from the Middle Ages when the land was part of Sherwood Forest that once extended from the city of Nottingham to the north of Nottinghamshire.

The site of the Forest was one of the original areas to be protected in perpetuity by the 1845 Nottingham Inclosure Act, which set aside some 80 acres (32 ha) of Sherwood Forest for public recreational use. In commemoration, the Mayor of Nottingham planted the "Inclosure Oak" which can still be seen at the Mansfield Road entrance to the Forest. Joseph Paxton, a leading gardener and architect of the nineteenth century, was responsible for the criss-cross formation of walkways.

["Forest Recreation Ground - Nottingham City Council"](#). Nottingham City Council. 2013.

For over 300 years the Forest has been home to sport, including horse racing, cricket and football. It was home to Nottingham Racecourse by 1773, and it remained there until it moved to its current location at Colwick at the end of the 19th century. Nottingham Forest Football Club first played their games on the Forest after their formation in 1865, hence the club's name.

The city's Goose Fair is held on the Forest in October of every year. Goose Fair has existed since at least 1541, but it only moved to the Forest in 1928, from its previous long term home in the city's Old Market Square. Other smaller travelling fairs and circuses take place on the recreation ground throughout the year, usually coinciding with local school holidays.

There was an existing parking area (bus Park & Ride) towards the north-western end of the Forest but this was moved further west to provide for the Park & Ride that serves The Forest tram stop; this involved some loss of mature trees and greenery but the original parking area was re-grassed.

At the time NET was being planned the whole open space was subject to a review and improvement investigation which culminated between 2008 and 2015 with the Forest benefitting from a £5.2 million restoration project.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest_Recreation_Ground



The southern part of The Forest slopes uphill to Forest Road and, in the early 1800s, there were a line of about a dozen windmills, as shown on this 1835 map by the Mansfield cartographer, George Sanderson.

