

1 QUEENS WALK, 90 feet wide, taking just over 6 acres, was laid out from here to Queens Road. The path's gravel surface was completed by early 1851, and it was opened on May 18<sup>th</sup> 1851. It is unfortunate that the northern end was removed to make way for Sheriff's Way, but a few remaining trees can still be seen on the west side.

1A Unfortunately, the tram was put down the middle in 2015, removing trees and pushing walkers aside.

2 QUEENS WALK RECREATION GROUND, originally known as Meadows Cricket Ground, was given 6 1/4 acres. It was described, by the Nottingham Review in Feb. 1848, as "a strip of land in the centre of the Meadows, including the most favoured locality of the crocuses." The Meadows were famous for the great expanse of crocuses, described in many letters and diaries.

St. Mary's Church is well worth a visit. It was the parish of this church which was inclosed, with such benefit to all.

9 THE GENERAL CEMETERY. 1836 4 acres of extra land, for burial of nonconformists, was added to the existing cemetery in 1845.

8 THE ARBORETUM. "promises to rival that in Derby." Nottingham Review. Feb 1848 It had just over 17 acres, including its approach. It was laid out to be "an ornamental pleasure garden," and opened with great ceremony 11 May 1852. Charges for entry were made for half of the week. In 1857 the townspeople protested; counsel's opinion was sought; he said it was not legal to charge the inhabitants; the charges ceased. The bandstand, the aviary, Feargus O'Connor's statue, the Bell Tower, the Russian guns, all have a tale to tell from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

10 WATERLOO PROMENADE. This is another of the public Walks, of just over 5 acres. It is bordered by both modest and grand dwellings, with service roads behind. By 1873 the main part was laid out, planted and fenced, and all was complete by 1876.

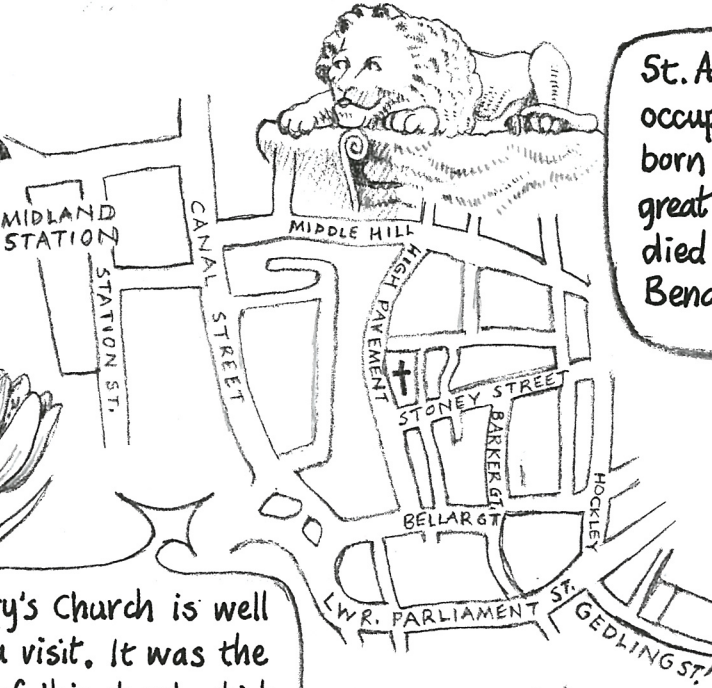
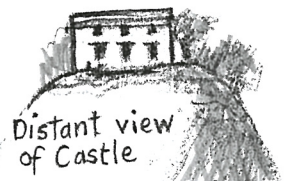
11 THE FOREST. The largest of the Inclosure parks, after several adjustments it contained 71 acres. It encompassed the already existing racecourse, cricket ground and militia training ground. In 1856 the road across it was closed and other ground given in exchange. Two lodges were built in 1857, and the pavilion in 1928

12 CHURCH CEMETERY. The Church of England bought land for a cemetery and 4 more acres were given, at the west end for the burial of C. of E. inhabitants.

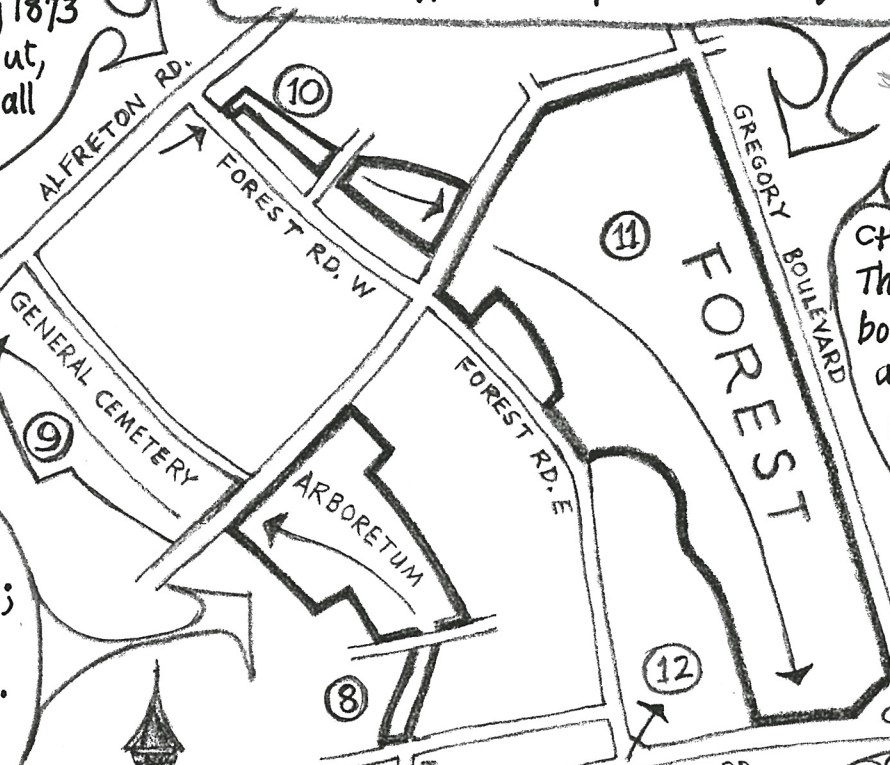
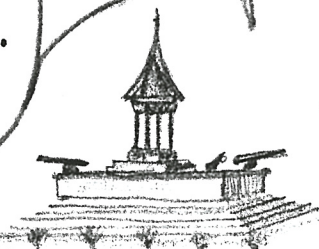
4 5 6 7 ROBIN HOOD CHASE. CORPORATION OAKS. ST. ANNS HILL. ELM AVENUE. These walks contain just over 10 acres and are 90 feet wide. They were opened on May 18<sup>th</sup> 1851. "The public recreation walk, encircling the projected reservoir of the Nottingham Waterworks Company, from its elevated site and position, will command a delightful N.E. view of the Town." Nottingham Review. Feb. 1848

3 MEADOW PLATTS CRICKET GROUND soon became known as Bath Street Recreation Ground and is now Victoria Park. In 1858 a drinking fountain was given and swings and other playground items were provided. Cricket, so close to a busy road, discontinued and in 1894 it was laid out, planted and renamed.

WILFORD BRIDGE



St. Anns Cemetery. The most notable occupant is William Abednego Thompson, born 1811. He became a prizefighter of great fame, known as Bendigo. He died in 1880 and the tombstone, Bendigo's Lion, was raised by admirers.



J. Perry fecit.



**Alotments** to be set out for Recreation of the Inhabitants.

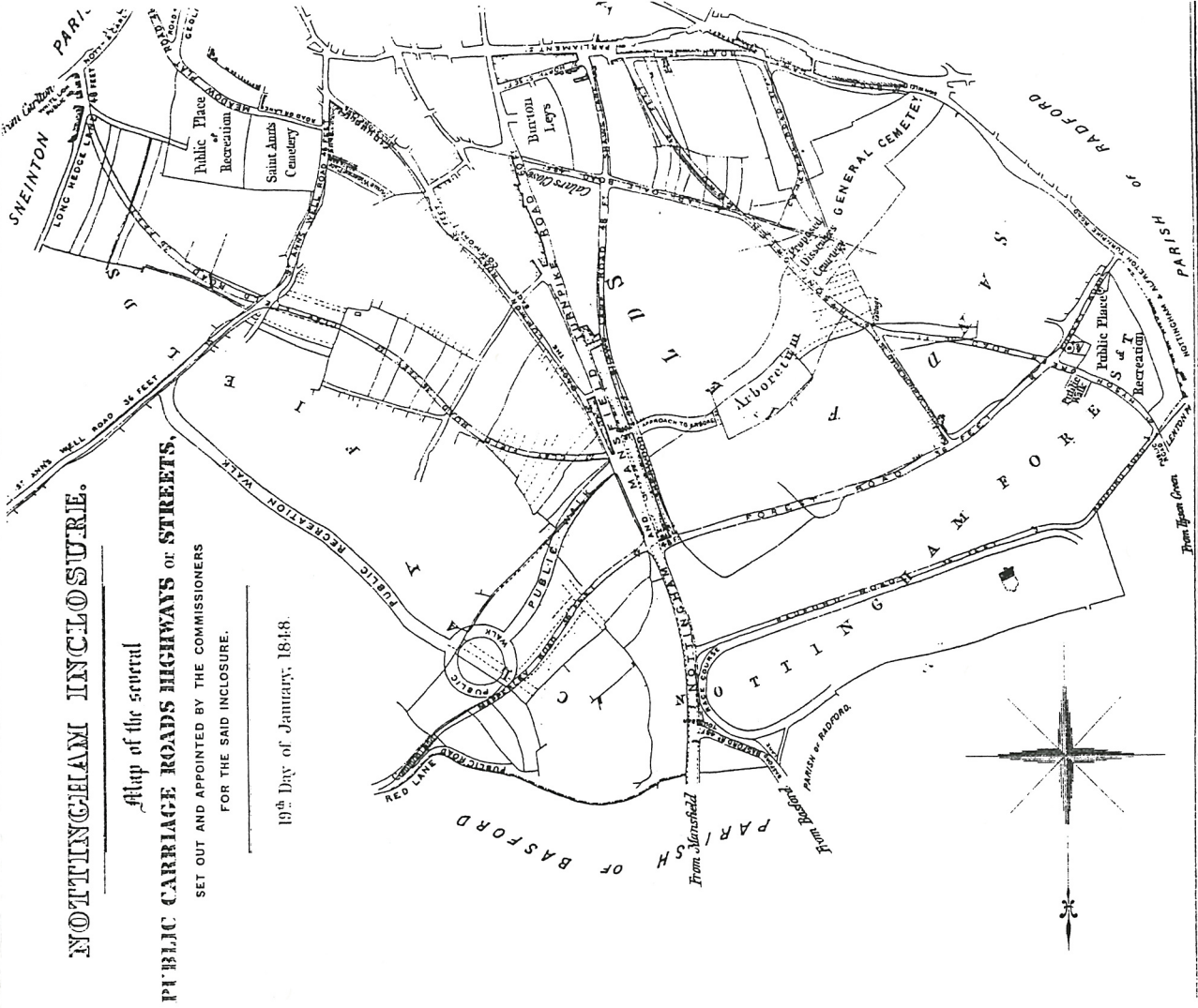
LIII. And be it enacted, That the Commissioners shall allot and award unto the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, and in such Sites as they the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses shall select, out of the Lands next following herein-before described; that is to say, the said Field, the *Clay Field*, the *Meadowes*, and the *East Croft Meadow*, or any of them, One or more Piece or Pieces of Land not less than Forty-five Acres nor more than Fifty Acres, the Excess beyond the said Forty-five Acres to be determined by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses in Council assembled, who shall also determine how much of the Land so allotted shall be appropriated to and for public Walks round or about the Town of *Nottingham*, and shall appoint and determine the Direction and Extent of such public Walks, and shall, if they think fit, appropriate so much of the Land so allotted, not exceeding Five Acres, and in such Situations as they shall think best, for the Purpose of forming and shall make and form thereon public Baths and Outbuildings and Gardens connected therewith, for the Use of the Inhabitants of the said Town of *Nottingham* for ever; and the said public Walks, Paths, and Gardens shall be under and subject to such Rules, Orders, and Regulations for the Management and Sustentation thereof as the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses in Council assembled shall from Time to Time think fit; and the Residue of the Land so allotted shall be used and appropriated as Places of public Recreation for the Inhabitants of the said Town in such and so many Places, and in such Proportions, and subject to such Rules and Regulations, from Time to Time, as the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses shall appoint and determine; and the said Commissioners shall further allot and award unto the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, out of and from the said Commons and Waste Lands called the *Forest* and *Mappletrey Hill*, such further Piece or Pieces of Land to the Extent of Eighty Acres or thereabouts as the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses shall select, the same or some Part thereof to comprise and include the present Race Ground, Cricket Ground, and Military Training Ground situated on the said Forest; and the whole of the said Allotments or Pieces of Land containing Eighty Acres or thereabouts shall be appropriated as and for public Places of Recreation, and subject to such Rules and Regulations from Time to Time as the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses shall appoint and determine; and such several Allotments of Forty-five Acres or thereabouts, and of Eighty Acres or thereabouts, shall for ever hereafter be held by the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, to be set out and maintained by and at the Expense of the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses.

**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> VICTORIAE, Cap. 7.**

and Burgesses for the Purposes aforesaid, and shall be in the first instance fenced out of the Inclosure Expenses Fund, and the said several Pieces shall for ever afterwards be required and maintained by and at the Expense of the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses; and the said public Walks and Places of public Recreation shall be in the first instance formed and made by and at the Expense of the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses; and shall for ever afterwards be required and maintained by and at the Expense of the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses.

LIV. Provided always, and be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Commissioners, if requested so to do by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, to set out and allot to such Person or Persons and in such Manner as the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, and the Bishop of the Diocese, shall jointly direct, from and out of the Lands to be allotted to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses for public Walks and Places of Recreation, from and out of any other Lands to be allotted to them under this Act, partly from the one Source and partly from the other, (whichever the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses shall choose.) One or more Piece or Pieces of Land, containing in the whole not less than Eight Acres nor more than Twelve Acres, to be

Land may be set out for a Cemetery.



Scale of Chains  
1000 500 0 500 1000

**NOTTINGHAM'S MEADOWS and FIELDS of St. Mary's Parish were not inclosed until 1845. Parliament had just passed an Act allowing future inclosures to give around 10% of the open land to the inhabitants, who were losing their previous free access.**

Because of this 122 acres of Public Walks and Recreation Grounds were created, and 8 acres were also given to two cemeteries, 4 for dissenters and 4 for C. of E. burials. These are the allotments for public recreation, 130 acres in all.

The Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses seem to have set about their task with energy and enthusiasm, taking the maximum acreage allowed for this purpose, and doing all the work to a high standard, taking the best advice. The town took a pride in its new possession. It is now our heritage and we should be proud of it too.

The more formal parts were laid out and opened officially, but the facilities on the Forest must have continued in use after 1845 much as they had before. This park, therefore, can be said to date from 1845.



**FRIENDS OF THE FOREST** are a group formed to protect the Forest Recreation Ground from further encroachment and to work for its improvement as an open space.

If you would like further information on Friends of the Forest, how to join or support our work, please email [friendsoftheforest100@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheforest100@gmail.com).

*Published by Friends of the Forest.*

# TAKE A WALK

around the

# UNIQUE and



St. Mary's

# HISTORIC



Benig's Lion

# INCLOSURE



Bell Tower

# LANDS of NOTTINGHAM

130 acres given to the inhabitants for public recreation by the 1845 Inclosure Act.



Distant view of Castle

Take a bus to Wilford Bridge to start at ①.  
Follow the numbers and arrows on the map to ②  
Cross Mansfield Road to take any bus back to the city centre.  
There are pubs and cafes in the city, and a cafe on the Forest.