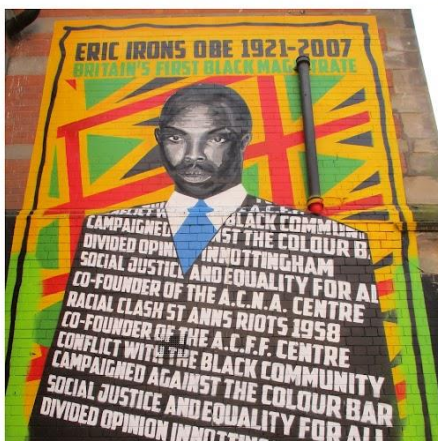


Meadows Walk



Circular walk from Wilford exploring The River Trent, Victoria Embankment, Nottingham & Beeston Canal, Queen’s Drive Recreational Ground. Easy walking route with fine views and peaceful surroundings with plenty to see and explore.

Walk No 17

DESCRIPTION

A circular walk along mainly flat and step free surfaced paths by the river and canal. With the option to further explore the Memorial Gardens on Victoria Embankment and visit Nottingham Castle.

THE FACTS

Area	Wilford, The Meadows, Nottingham City Centre
Distance	C 6km/ 4 miles
Duration	2 – 3 hours
Maps	As leaflet, street map or OS Explorer 1:25000 Map 260
Travel Information	Car parking at start location. Public transport bus and tram services to start point. (see www.nctx.co.uk ; www.thetram.net & www.traveleastmidlands.co.uk)
Terrain	Mainly surfaced paths. Mostly suitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and prams. Steps up and down at Island Quarter but can be avoided by following the alternative step free route in the route instructions.
Start/ Finish	Wilford Village Tram stop, NG11 7AB. Option to start walk at Nottingham Railway Station (train/tram), leaving the train station at main entrance, crossing the road to access the canal towpath between points D and E. Pick up the main walk at Nottingham Justice Centre.
Refreshments/ Facilities	Ferry Inn at Start/End, 1881 Café near Wilford suspension bridge, various locations in City Centre part of walk and Wilford Toll Bridge Café.
Shorter walk options: From point B turn left and walk along Victoria Embankment to Wilford Toll bridge and cross the bridge to return to the starting point A at Wilford Village Tram stop.	

Cover images: clockwise from top left. Wilford Suspension Bridge, Nottingham & Beeston Canal, Eric Irons OBE Mural, Nottingham War Memorial Arch and Gardens.

THE ROUTE

- A.** From the Wilford Village Tram stop cross over the tram lines to the pavement with trees and **Iremongers Pond** (*which can be explored*) in front of you. Bear right and head slightly down hill and take the surfaced path on the left which continues round past the pond. With the tram lines to your right continue ahead as the path climbs up a grass bank. When this path meets a tarmac track continue along this with the River Trent on your left and Nottingham Emmanuel School on your right. Eventually **Wilford Suspension Bridge** comes into view. As you approach the bridge follow the path to the right and then turn left and cross over the bridge.
- B.** After crossing over the bridge, you are now at Victoria Embankment. *There is an option here to turn left here to visit the 1881 Café and explore The Meadows Recreation Ground.* Turn right and walk along the embankment past the **Nottingham War Memorial and gardens**, again you can leave the path here to explore the gardens further. Continue along the embankment path, as you reach Bunbury Street take the path to your right which leads to the River Trent. Turn left following the path alongside the River Trent. As you reach **Trent Bridge** notice the various river levels recorded on the wall on your left with October 1875 being one of the highest. Continue on the path passing under the bridge. Once past the bridge, continue straight on, ignoring the paths off to the left. Across the river on your right are **Nottingham Rowing Club** and the **Nottingham Forest FC City Ground**. Continue over the Meadow Lane footbridge which crosses the **Nottingham & Beeston Canal** and immediately turn left.
- C.** Continue along the canal passing the **Meadow Lane Lock** on your left. This area was once a historical industrial area in the city and the **Turney Brothers Leather Works** building, now flats can still be seen on London Road today. After passing under 5 bridges look out for the recently painted piece of artwork on your right celebrating the canal's history. Pass under the low railway bridge crossing and then under Station Road Bridge to arrive at **The Island Quarter**. Walk up the steps and bear right to cross the bridge, and then back down the steps to follow the canal towpath on the opposite side of the canal. For the step free alternative route, continue past the steps and **Binks Yard** building and take the path to the right. At the top of the path turn right passing the front of the **Blinks Yard** building. Continue on the path crossing over the canal to reach the pedestrian crossing. Cross the road and continue along the path onto **Station Street** passing **Nottingham Station** on your left. Cross the road continuing ahead onto the pedestrian area passing under the tram bridge. As you reach **Carrington Street** use the Zebra Crossing to cross the road and turn right. Take the next path to the left into **Castle Wharf** to re-join the main route.
- D.** Continue along the canal towpath as it heads under two adjacent bridges, the higher of which carries the tramway over the canal. As you pass under Carrington Street Bridge look right to see a mural celebrating the work of **Eric Irons OBE**, Britain's first black magistrate and campaigner for equal rights. Continue passing through **Castle Wharf**, now vibrant with cafés and bars in warehouses that were once busy with boats loading and unloading. Continue past **Nottingham Justice Centre** to your left and the iconic **British Waterways building** on your right, then take the path to your left away from the canal towpath leading to Wilford Street and the **Nottinghamshire Archives** building.
- E.** *There is an option here to cross Wilford Street and turn right. At the **Grace Church** turn left onto Castle Boulevard. After a short distance you will see the grounds of Nottingham Castle, cross the road to enter **Brewhouse Yard** to explore further, visit the **Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem pub** and turn left to walk up Castle Road to see the **Robin Hood Statue & Nottingham Castle** before retracing your steps to the **Nottinghamshire Archives** building to continue.* Turn left and continue along the pavement on Wilford Road, crossing over the railway bridge with views across to Nottingham Station. As you reach The Vantage building use the first pedestrian crossing to carefully cross Wilford Street. Then use three more pedestrian crossings to cross the busy Waterway Street. Turn left and continue using the drop curve crossings to cross the service road and then tramlines on Meadows Way. Turn right and continue along the pavement until you reach Castlefields. Turn left and head down Castlefields crossing over the road as you reach **Queen's Walk Recreation ground**. Go past Welbeck Primary School and enter the recreation ground via the gate, passing the information board. Turn left following the path which

heads towards the play area. At the play area take the path that passes the outdoor gym equipment and leads to the gate which exits to Queen's Walk.

- F. Turn right and walk along the pavement down Queen's Walk, there is an information board here about the Inclosure Act Green spaces which both the Recreation Ground and Queens walk are part of. Continuing along Queen's Walk you will pass a number of **story poles** illustrating The Meadows and its people that were installed when some lime trees were removed to accommodate the tram line. At the end of Queen's Walk continue on to the **Wilford Toll bridge** passing the Wilford Toll booth which is now a café. As you cross the bridge there is a chance to enjoy views of the Victoria Embankment and River Trent before arriving back at the Wilford Village Tram stop.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Iremongers Pond is a tranquil and beautiful location for walking and enjoying nature. There is a wheelchair-accessible walk around the pond in addition to further trails and areas to explore beyond. The area is named after two brothers who were sporting legends Albert and James Iremonger. James and Albert were the best-known goalkeeping brothers to come out of Nottingham and also played regularly for Nottinghamshire Cricket Club. The pond is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and is cared for by the Iremongers Pond Association.

The Pond has been known by numerous names including 'George's Pond' and 'Shipstones Pond'. The pond, like the Ferry itself, likely came under the stewardship of the landlord of the Ferry Inn. It is believed that 'George' was a landowner who owned the land before the Great Central Railway created the pond as we know it today. In the 1980s, the Ferry Inn was managed by the Shipstones Brewery who handled day tickets for fishing on the pond. Albert Iremonger was the landlord of the Ferry Inn in the 1940s during which he likely exercised stewardship of the Pond. During this time the name may well have stuck and has now been formally adopted.

Wilford Suspension Bridge also known as Meadows Suspension Bridge, was originally known as the Welbeck Suspension Bridge. It is a combined suspension footbridge for pedestrians and cyclists, and aqueduct which crosses the River Trent, linking the town of West Bridgford to the Meadows, and carries a water main and gas pipeline.

The bridge is owned by Severn Trent Water. It is a Grade II listed structure and was designed by Arthur Brown, of Elliott & Brown. The plans were drawn up by Frank Beckett Lewis, the City Architect. It was constructed by the Nottingham Corporation Water Department at a cost of £8,871 (equivalent to £940,000 in 2021), with the principal purpose of carrying water to Wilford Hill reservoir.

Nottingham War Memorial and gardens commemorating the dead of World War 1, are early 20th-century gardens laid out on land donated by Sir Jesse Boot. They lie on the Victoria Embankment and incorporate the city's war memorial in the form of an arch and terrace. The main entrance is marked by the **Memorial Arch** which overlooks the river and dominates the area. The memorial was later adapted to commemorate those people who died in the Second World War. It was listed at Grade II in 1972. **Queen Victoria's statue** arrived in the memorial gardens at Victoria Embankment in 1953 after standing in the city centre's Old Market Square since it's unveiling in 1905. **Victoria Embankment** was constructed between 1898 and 1901 with 10 miles of concrete steps, 7.5 miles of iron fencing and 150 seats.

Trent Bridge is an iron and stone road bridge across the River Trent in Nottingham, England. It is the principal river crossing for entrance to the city from the south. The bridge was designed by Marriott Ogle Tarbotton. Construction started in 1868 and was completed in 1871 by Derbyshire iron maker, Andrew Handyside. The general contractor was Benton and Woodiwiss of Derby. It was completed for a cost of £30,000 (equivalent to £2,971,765 as of 2021). There were three main cast iron arch spans each 100 feet (30 m) braced by wrought iron girders. The width between the parapets was 40 feet (12 m). It is a Grade II listed building.

Nottingham Rowing Club was formed in 2006 as a merger of the Nottingham Boat Club & Nottingham Britannia Rowing Club, two historic clubs that were established in 1894 and 1869 respectively. The boathouse is also locally well known as a music venue with Elton John, Rod Stewart and the Sex Pistols having performed there.

Nottingham Forest FC City Ground is a football ground on the banks of the River Trent. It has been home to Nottingham Forest since 1898 and has a capacity of 30,455. The stadium was a venue when England hosted UEFA Euro 1996, and is only three hundred yards (270 m) away from Meadow Lane, home of Forest's

neighbouring club Notts County; the two grounds are the closest professional football stadiums in England and the second-closest in the United Kingdom, after the grounds of Dundee and Dundee United. They are located on opposite sides of the River Trent.

Meadow Lane Lock is where the **Nottingham & Beeston Canal** meets the River Trent. When the canal was first opened it brought coal to Nottingham from the mines to the north, and linked the city up with the Grantham, Erewash and Cromford canals as part of Britain's growing waterways network. Today only five miles of canal remain, passing through the city centre before re-joining the Trent at Beeston.

Turney Brothers Leather Works building, London Road is more than 160 years old. The five-storey former factory is Grade II listed and only became flats, which overlook the River Trent in 1982. Given its age, the restoration of the building and transformation was a difficult job, in particular, soundproofing, as the construction had been predominately timber and cast-iron frame. The front of the building was retained so you can still read Turney Brothers LTD as you pass by. The leather business in Nottingham almost became extinct and the Turney brothers are credited with reviving the dying industry before finally closing the factory in 1981.

When **Nottingham Canal** fully opened in 1796 it had a huge impact on the city's fortunes. The new waterway made it possible to bring huge amounts of coal into the heart of the city. Companies scrambled to build warehouses and factories, adding wharfs, canal arms and basins for their own boats. The section of Nottingham on the opposite bank of the canal became almost surrounded by water, and was renamed '**The Island**'. Boots the Chemist expanded its production facilities to The Island in 1887 allowing the company to rapidly grow. The towpath alongside the canal switches sides here. The cleverly designed Turnover Bridge built 1792-96 by William Jessop and James Green for the Nottingham Canal Company allows the horse to cross over the canal without needed to be unhitched. Look out for the Canal & River Trust information boards along the route for further details.

The Island Quarter has now become an iconic canal-side destination for Nottingham, boasting restaurants, bars, and events space. From casual all-day

dining, drinks and entertainment at Binks Yard with its expansive outdoor terrace, stage and screen built for live performances, to refined dining at the Cleaver & Wake restaurant and bar.

Street Art **Eric Irons OBE** was created by local artist Honey Williams it highlights the incredible work of Eric Irons and was officially unveiled on 4th October 2021. The artwork celebrates the life and achievements of Eric Irons OBE, who moved to Nottingham from Jamaica after WWII and would go on to become the first black magistrate in the UK. As well as depiction of Eric Irons OBE, the mural features a number of references to his life, including his Jamaican roots, his time as an RAF serviceman during WWII and the work he did for the black community in Nottingham having moved to the city in 1948.

Castle Wharf was once busy with canal boats loading and unloading cargo. Today the canal is a gateway to a calmer world in the heart of the city. On 28th September 1818 a huge explosion destroyed the buildings on the opposite bank of the canal, killing ten people and shattering windows all over the city. A barge was unloading 21 barrels of gunpowder destined for the coal mines when one of the crew, Joseph Musson, noticed that the powder was leaking. Intending to have a bit of fun, Musson dropped a hot cinder on the loose powder. Unfortunately, the burning loose powder spread to the barrels.

The **Nottingham Justice Centre** was designed by the Nottingham County Council Architect's Department with William Saunders Partnership and Cullen, Carter and Hill. It sits on the site of Nottingham Carrington Street railway station and the gateposts still frame the pathway from Carrington Street to the court. There are 18 courtrooms in the main block, with six courtrooms in the Youth and Family block. The complex of buildings also includes the Bridewell Police Station. The Midland Railway goods shed dating from 1874 was rebuilt to form car parking for the court complex.

The **British Waterways Building**, formerly known as the Trent Navigation Company warehouse, is Grade II-listed. It was originally built in around 1919 for the storage and loading of goods and materials onto canal barges for transportation across the country. More recently, the building was converted for leisure use as part of the 1996 Castle Wharf development. A gym and the Wetherspoon pub The Company

Inn were based within the building but have both closed. The building is now home to the Glee Comedy Club. There are current plans to turn the six-storey former warehouse into 12 studio flats, 42 one bedroom apartments and 41 two bedroom apartments.

Nottinghamshire Archives holds the archives for the county of Nottinghamshire.

Queen's Walk Recreation Ground dates back to the 1845 Inclosure Act and was originally laid out as a cricket ground sometime around 1860 making it one of the oldest green spaces in the city. Queen's Walk was named after Queen Victoria's visit in 1843.

Lime trees have lined **Queen's Walk** for as long as anyone in The Meadows can remember. To accommodate the new tram line to Clifton, some of the trees needed to be removed. But as many as possible were given to the community for reuse, and the Meadows Tree Project was formed. Twelve trees were set to become the story poles that now line Queen's Walk and 33 were given to other woodcarving projects, while replacement lime trees have been planted on Queen's Walk. The story pole carvers Dan Sly, Mark Manders, and Karl Wilby worked with over 200 people of all ages to create these works of art, illustrating The Meadows and its people. Before The Meadows was developed, wild Nottingham crocuses used to grow here, probably because they were useful in marshy areas for treating malaria. Crocus Street is among the places still named after them. Each of the 12 story poles includes a crocus, can you find them all?

Wilford Toll Bridge was built between 1863 and 1870 and was commissioned by Sir Robert Clifton whose statue stands nearby. Locally referred to as the 'Halfpenny Bridge', is a tram, pedestrian and cycle bridge in Nottingham, England. It crosses the River Trent between the Meadows and Wilford. It originally opened as a toll bridge for general traffic but was closed when declared unsafe in 1974. Following demolition of the central span, a narrower footbridge and cycleway was opened in 1980. The bridge was once again widened to accommodate an extension of the Nottingham Express Transit network in 2015. Parts of the northern side of the bridge are Grade II listed building, including the former toll house which is now a café.

ROUTE MAP

