

CINDERHILL AND OLD BASFORD WALK



Circular walk along parts of the River Leen Greenway, revealing unusual sculptures, Basford Hall fish pond, Rock House Wall, the wild landscape of Stanton Tip and old railway and tram lines.

Walk No. 15

DESCRIPTION

A circular walk up and down the River Leen Greenway from Basford Crossings. On the way, see Local Heroes sculptures, Stockhill Park, Basford Hall Conservation Area, Stanton Tip wildlife site and Northern Baths. Walk through woods, meadows and past a pond and stream. Cross over River Leen bridges and go past Catchems Corner.

Area	Old Basford, Stockhill and Cinderhill
Distance	4 miles (around 6 km).
Duration	2.5 - 3 hours.
Maps and Information	As leaflet, Street map, OS Explorer map 260 Nottingham; Godfrey Edition old OS map reprints with info: "Old Basford 1913" and "Bulwell 1913".
Travel Information	Turquoise and yellow line buses (see www.nctx.co.uk) David Lane, Cinderhill and Highbury Vale tram stops are on the route (see www.thetram.net).
Terrain	Mostly flat pavements and surfaced paths. Loose surfaced paths near the River Leen. Uneven and can be muddy on Stanton Tip.
Start/ Finish	Greenspace on Southwark Street, next to Southwark Bridge over the River Leen, near Basford Crossings.
Refreshments	Pubs: Headstocks (Bagnall Road) and Catchems Corner (Vernon Road). T&B's café (Cinderhill Road) and proposed at new Jurassic Cove Adventure Golf Course (Stockhill Park).

Shorter Walk Options

1. From E to G, missing Stanton Tip, by walking along Garton Close and then the side of the old GNR railway embankment to reach the River Leen (details are in the route description).
2. From G, continue down the Leen back to Basford Crossings, instead of walking past Catchems Corner and along Bulwell Lane.

Cover Images Clockwise from top left: Bagnall Cottages, Southwark Bridge, Rock House Wall, Stanton Tip

THE ROUTE

A From the small, wooded, greenspace on Southwark Street, almost opposite Waterford Street, turn right down Southwark Street and cross the River Leen over **Southwark Bridge**. Go over David Lane railway / tram crossings and straight after, turn right and continue alongside the tram lines. Continue along the Leen, past the new **Local Heroes sculptures** and then a National Cycle Route 6 signpost. Turn left here along the public bridleway / cycle path. Go past **Basford United** football ground and then through several motorcycle barriers and across 3 small roads in the housing estate. After them, go past an overgrown mill stream to the remains of the corn mill that burned down in 1938.

B Turn right up Mill Street and over the junction with Firecrest Way. Cross over Mill Street at the zebra crossing and then right, up to Stockhill Lane, with the bizarre **Rock House** stone wall opposite you. Go left, then soon, cross over to reach the public footpath to Aspley (or use the zebra crossing nearer the school). Follow the footpath, with the school on one side and Basford Allotments on the other, to Stockhill Circus. Go right, then down either side of the **Broad Walk open space** and back on to Stockhill Lane opposite the fire station, where you turn left. The corner house ahead of you has a foundation stone and plaque to Stockhill council estate, Nottingham's first. At the pedestrian crossing here, cross Stockhill Lane again, then turn left to reach **Stockhill Park**.

C Continue past the park with the railings on your right until you reach Nuthall Road at the new **Jurassic Cove Adventure Golf Course**. You can also visit the park by walking along the top of the wide grass causeway. This carried the **Ripley Rattler** tram from 1913-1932 and was known as Dark Lane. There is no exit at the far end, so you will have to return to Stockhill Lane through the gate at the start of the golf course driveway. Turn right along Nuthall Road and past Nottingham College. Across the road is well-known architect **T.C. Hine's Christ Church**, built in 1855 for the miners at Cinderhill Colliery.

D Take the public footpath on the right, soon after the Tesco petrol station. Go through the small metal gate on your left into the grassed Conservation Area and continue ahead. You will soon be able to see **Basford Hall** on your right. Just before

the playground, turn left down a wide grassy path into the woods. This passes the side of what was Fowler's Pond, once Basford Hall's fish pond. Emerging on to Silver Birch Close, walk ahead, then turn left along Japonica Drive. At the road sign at the end, turn right along the public footpath above Cinderhill Tram stop. On reaching Bagnall Road, turn left over the railway bridge and cross the road towards the Headstocks pub, then right along Cinderhill Road. Cross the road at the zebra crossing and continue right, along Cinderhill Road. You will soon pass the row of the c1800 stone **Bagnall Cottages**.

E When you reach Park Chase, by the artistic "Welcome to Bulwell" sign, you may prefer the shorter, easier walk that avoids the main route over Stanton Tip. First, turn right down Garton Close almost opposite you, then keep ahead on the path by the side of the tall **Great Northern Railway embankment and a stream**. Follow the NET tram sign to reach the River Leen to then rejoin the main walk across the **blue footbridge** (at point **G**). For the main walk, turn left along Park Chase, then through the cycle barrier and on to **Stanton Tip**. This was **Cinderhill Colliery's** spoil heap until 1986, but is now full of wildlife. Follow the occasionally narrow and uneven path. Ignore the paths to the left, instead keep right as the path gradually descends towards a **pond**. Keep on the right bank to reach a lane. Hidden behind the fencing here is another pond. Turn right, back to Cinderhill Road. Turn left, then over the zebra crossing. Continue ahead along Cinderhill Road until you reach **T&B's small café**, just past Bulwell Auto Services.

F Turn right in-between T&B's and the Auto Centre along a short, sign-posted public footpath to reach another **River Leen footbridge**. Either cross the river and turn right, soon going up the steep steps or slope, then along the path through the woods between the Leen and the railway lines. Alternatively, don't cross the river, but follow the River Leen downstream. Both paths meet at the blue footbridge. The shorter Garton Close walk comes out here too. You are now in the **Basford Junction Local Wildlife Site**, where you can also see some old railway viaduct foundations.

G From the footbridge, go along the surfaced public footpath curving left away from the Leen towards Highbury Vale tram stop. Before reaching it, at an NET tram sign, keep left, up the path that rises to a railway bridge. Cross this, passing **Mo's Meadow** on the other side. Turn right along Lauriston Drive, then first left along

Gabrielle Close to reach its colourful play area and then right, along Oakleigh Street to reach Vernon Road. Calvary Family Church at this junction was once the **Northern Baths**.

H Turn right and walk along Vernon Road toward the **Catchems Corner** pub. Cross Vernon Road here and go left of the pub down Bulwell Lane, passing Southwark Primary School, the remains of the wall and garden of a large demolished house and lastly the listed, but now closed, **Old Pear Tree** pub. At the Southwark Street junction just after it, turn right, back to the walk's start at point **A**.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Southwark Bridge: Next to the Leen is George Pearson's former bleachers and dyers works from 1891, with a description etched into its brickwork. Facing the end of Bulwell Lane is Roseberry House, Pearson's home and it's a rare example of how Victorian factory owners sometimes wanted to live close to their factories and employees.

Rock House Wall: Rock House was demolished in 1982, being council offices from 1930-74. Charles Cox, the owner of what is now Vernon Park once lived there. The stone wall is 18th or 19thC and all that's left. It has 3 even older bricked-up gothic doors and 4 bricked-up windows. The Victorian house had some similar Gothic features too. There may be some rock cellars with carved seats behind the wall and it may also have been a medieval cell of Lenton Priory, built when land in Basford was given to the monks.

Stockhill Estate: After WW1, better housing was needed and the "Habitations fit for Heroes" policy began. Houses were to be more like cottages, with gardens, lots of space inside and lots of light. It led to Nottingham's first "garden city" council estate of 350 houses. In 1919 building began on land bought from the Duke of Newcastle. Cecil Howitt, who designed Nottingham's Council House, designed Stockhill, wanting attractive variations in roofs, gables and sizes of housing groups. The estate used Basford Allotments behind, while Broad Walk had a village green quality.

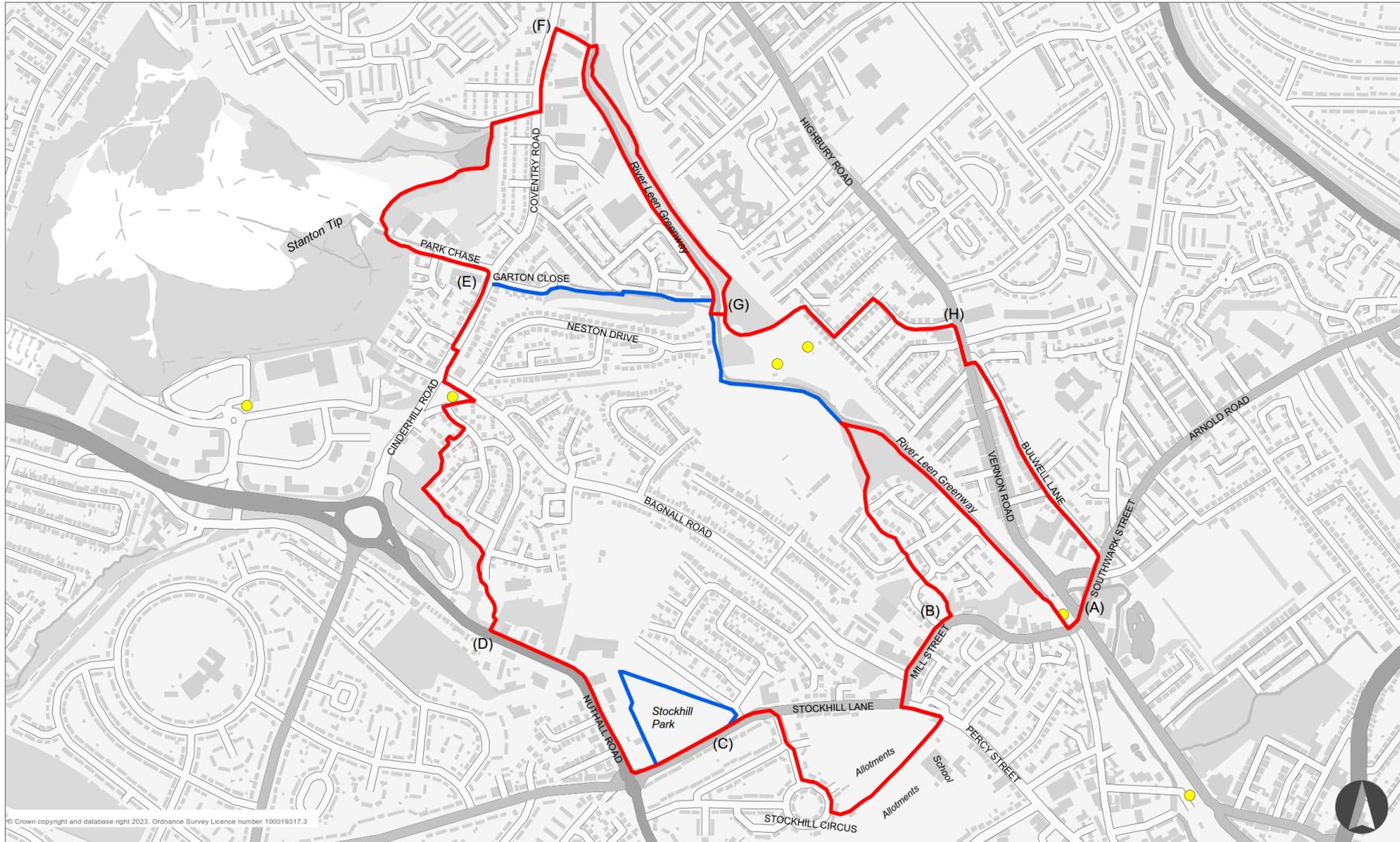
Basford Hall: It was built for the Duke of Newcastle in 1770, but leased to Robert Hall, a bleacher and yarn spinner. Hall developed a park, now mostly covered by the college. His son Samuel laid out the street grid for Sherwood. Miss E.M. Edge of Strelley Hall sold it to Basford Miners Welfare in 1940 and it's been used as a social club since then.

Cinderhill and Colliery: Cinderhill takes its name from "cinders" from a lime kiln. This stood where the Colliers Arms pub was, now covered by Phoenix Park tram stop. It used local limestone, possibly from the 15thC quarry at Quarry Holes Nature Reserve nearby. Cinderhill Colliery was the county's first deep mine, built by Thomas North in 1841, closing in 1986, now home to Phoenix Park and tram terminus. It was also called Babbington Colliery, after North's "Babbington Estate" of collieries that included one at Babbington village, 5 miles west. North had both housing and Christ Church built for his miners. He lived at Basford Hall and died penniless, but the memorial to him in Old Basford's Church Street cemetery was paid for by many grateful employees.

Stanton Tip: Originally Cinderhill colliery's spoil heap, its name may relate to clay from here being used to line furnaces at Stanton Ironworks near Ilkeston. The land is identified for 500 houses in the Strategic Plan but is now grassland and some woodland used by local people and has lots of paths and views. Skylarks and many wild flowers may be seen here. Part is now the Stanton Pond and Pasture wildlife site and conservation work is undertaken by Nottingham Green Guardians.

Northern Baths: Opened in 1908 to serve Basford and Bulwell, with a main swimming 'pond' and 'slipper baths' for people with no bathrooms. Three hundred towels with "Northern Baths" embroidered on were provided and each bather was given one when they went in, which cost 3d. Nine more slipper baths were provided in 1922. The boiler house chimney is still there. It's now Calvary Family Church, which is also a community facility.

Catchems Corner: Originally the Station Hotel, being close to Basford and Bulwell Station, may have been named because people could catch'em, both the trams and the trains. Or because a shopkeeper ran out to catch trade before people boarded a train. One earlier pub sign did show a man running to catch a train. After other businesses, it became Catchems Corner again in 1969.



- The Walk
- Other Walk Options
- Tram Stops

1:7,000

