

# MAPPERLEY BRICKS, HILLS & HOSPITALS WALK



**Circular walk exploring hills, hospitals, parks and former brick works in the Mapperley/ St Ann's area and enjoying extensive views across Nottingham and beyond**  
**Walk No 9**

## DESCRIPTION

A circular walk, with some steep ascents and descents, exploring hills, hospitals, parks and former brick works with extensive views across Nottingham and beyond.

## THE FACTS

<b>Area</b>	Mapperley, Mapperley Park & St Ann's
<b>Distance</b>	C 4 miles/ 6 km
<b>Duration</b>	2 – 2.5 hours
<b>Maps</b>	As leaflet, street map or OS Explorer 1:25000 Map 260
<b>Travel Information</b>	Public transport - bus services on Woodborough Road, Porchester Road and The Wells Road (see <a href="http://www.nctx.co.uk">www.nctx.co.uk</a> )
<b>Terrain</b>	Mainly walkways, pavements, and surfaced paths. Some steps. Sections in Coppice Park may be muddy in wet weather so wear suitable footwear. Some steep ascents and descents. Unsuitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs.
<b>Start/ Finish</b>	Sainsbury's on corner of Ransom Road/ Woodborough Road
<b>Refreshments</b>	Sainsbury's on Ransom Road. Cafés and shops in nearby Mapperley.
<b>Shorter walk options:</b> From Point I walk up Ransom Road to return to start, omitting Coppice Park	

**Cover images:** Clockwise from top: Hine Hall, former Mapperley Hospital and Chapel, Coppice Park

## THE ROUTE

- A. Start at the **Sainsbury's on corner of Ransom Road/ Woodborough Road. St Jude's Church** opposite was built in 1877. Cross Ransom Road, then Woodborough Road at pedestrian crossing. Turn right, then immediately left to walk down **St Jude's Avenue**. At the end turn right to follow pedestrian path between houses onto Private Road. Turn left on Private Road.
  - B. At the junction with **Morley Avenue** enjoy the views from Hillview Avenue, then turn right to walk along Morley Avenue. This is the site of the former entrance to **Mapperley Brick Works**. Continue on Morley Avenue where it crosses Gordon Rise. Further along, on the right where some new houses are, is the site of the former Fewkes Lace Embroidery Factory.
  - C. Where Morley Avenue reaches **Mapperley Rise** cross over to walk along Park View. Where Park View turns to the right take steps down between houses 21 and 23 onto Penarth Rise. This whole area was formerly part of **Mapperley Brick Works** operated by **Edward Gripper** and the **Nottingham Patent Brick Company**. Turn left and follow this road round keeping left until it comes out onto **Sherwood Vale**. Turn right to walk up Sherwood Vale.
  - D. At the top look back to enjoy the views behind you. **Kimberley Water Tower** can be seen on the horizon. Turn right to walk up **Woodthorpe Road**. The housing estates on both sides are former clay fields/ brick works. On the left at the junction with Woodborough Road, is a **covered reservoir**, formerly a brick yard, where wild flowers can be seen growing in the grass. On the right is a former **Methodist Chapel** (built 1903). Cross Woodborough Road at pedestrian crossing taking you to the junction with Porchester Road. A short diversion to the right along Woodborough Road brings you to some attractive cottages ("**Fern Cottages**") set back from the road built for brickyard workers and reputedly designed by T. C. Hine.
  - E. Walk down Porchester Road, keeping to the right pavement, passing **Duncan Macmillan House** (NHS), as far as Kent Road on your left. There are fine views, to the left, of the steep streets in an area known as **Porchester Gardens**. Take the steps almost opposite Kent Road up to **City Heights**, a residential area with a mix of new buildings and conversion of the former **Mapperley Hospital**.
  - F. From City Heights, enjoy the extensive views to the southeast, including the **Belvoir Ridge** (and castle), before continuing to walk ahead, then turning round to the right to the other side of the former Mapperley Hospital building. Walk as far as the former **Mapperley Hospital chapel**. There are good views over the city to the southwest. Go through the gate in the fence on your left and follow the path through the park which takes you down to **The (St Ann's) Wells Road**.
  - G. Turn left and walk down The Wells Road (or go through the gate in the wall to your left and follow the path behind the wall through trees) until you reach Astley Drive on your right. Turn right onto Astley Drive, then right onto Pendle Drive, then second right onto Hazelbank Avenue climbing steeply. Where Hazelbank Avenue turns left continue straight ahead up steps between houses. This brings you onto Ransom Drive. Turn left to look through the gate at the splendid **Hine Hall**, former asylum hospital and now private apartments.
  - H. After looking at Hine Hall walk back along **Ransom Drive** (\*see note at end) with new houses on your left and **Nottingham Academy** on your right. Note the view back to Mapperley Hospital and Chapel. At the end of the new houses turn left at gap in the fencing. Note more extensive views, this time to the southwest, before descending steps onto **Ransom Road** (previously New Coppice Road, built 1837). Cross at pedestrian crossing.
  - I. For shorter walk turn right and follow Ransom Road up to return to the start. Otherwise, turn left down Ransom Road, cross Caunton Drive, then soon enter **Coppice Park** through entrance on your right.
  - J. Follow steep path down through trees into grassy area. Continue down through the park past children's play area to the southern edge of the park where there are views over **St Ann's Allotments/ Hungerhill Gardens**. Then turn to walk back up grassy area with trees on both sides. Where this returns to the open grassy area and a seat, turn left. Follow path up steps and then right (or take path through the trees on right) to bring you to the park exit on Caunton Road.
  - K. Turn right on Caunton Road, then left on Ransom Road, following this up to return to Woodborough Road and the start of the walk.
- (\* from H it is possible to follow a path, steep in parts, through the trees behind the new houses, on Coppice Close, which comes out lower down Ransom Road, in which case you may enter Coppice Park lower down).

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**Mapperley Brick Works** Brick making has taken place for centuries in the clay fields of Mapperley. Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century this was mostly a seasonal and almost rural industry. Nottingham's rapid industrial expansion in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries increased the demand for bricks. In the 1860s Edward Gripper introduced large scale mechanised brick making to his brick works in Mapperley, including Hoffmann Kilns. These brick works supplied c 10m of the total c 60m bricks used to build St Pancras Station. Brick production ceased in Mapperley in 1969. (see "Clay Stealers to St Pancras Station" by Jeffrey A Sheard for a history of brick making in the area).

**Fewkes Lace Embroidery Factory** (Charles Farmer Lace until 1993) on Morley Avenue was established c 1910 on the site of a former brick works. The factory, which designed and made Schiffli embroidered lace, was initially managed by Charles Farmer then by three generations of the Povey family, latterly brothers Nick and Edward. In 1981 Fewkes Lace was one of 3 local companies to make lace for Princess Diana's wedding dress. It was Nottingham City's last lace factory when it closed in 2011. Sadly, the Schiffli lace machines, from the 1920's and 30's, were destroyed when the factory closed. In 2020/21 new houses were built on the site.

**Porchester Gardens** The Porchester Freehold Garden estate was created in 1887 and contained 832 allotments for local people to spend their free time in a healthy environment and grow fresh produce. Population in Mapperley grew significantly from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and many allotment gardens had houses built on them. Haywood Green, a short detour off the route (on Haywood Road, first left off Porchester Road), was part of a plant nursery run by John and Ada Doubleday. From 1961 to 2016 it was home to Porchester Bowling Club. The park came into community ownership in 2017 (see haywoodroad.uk)

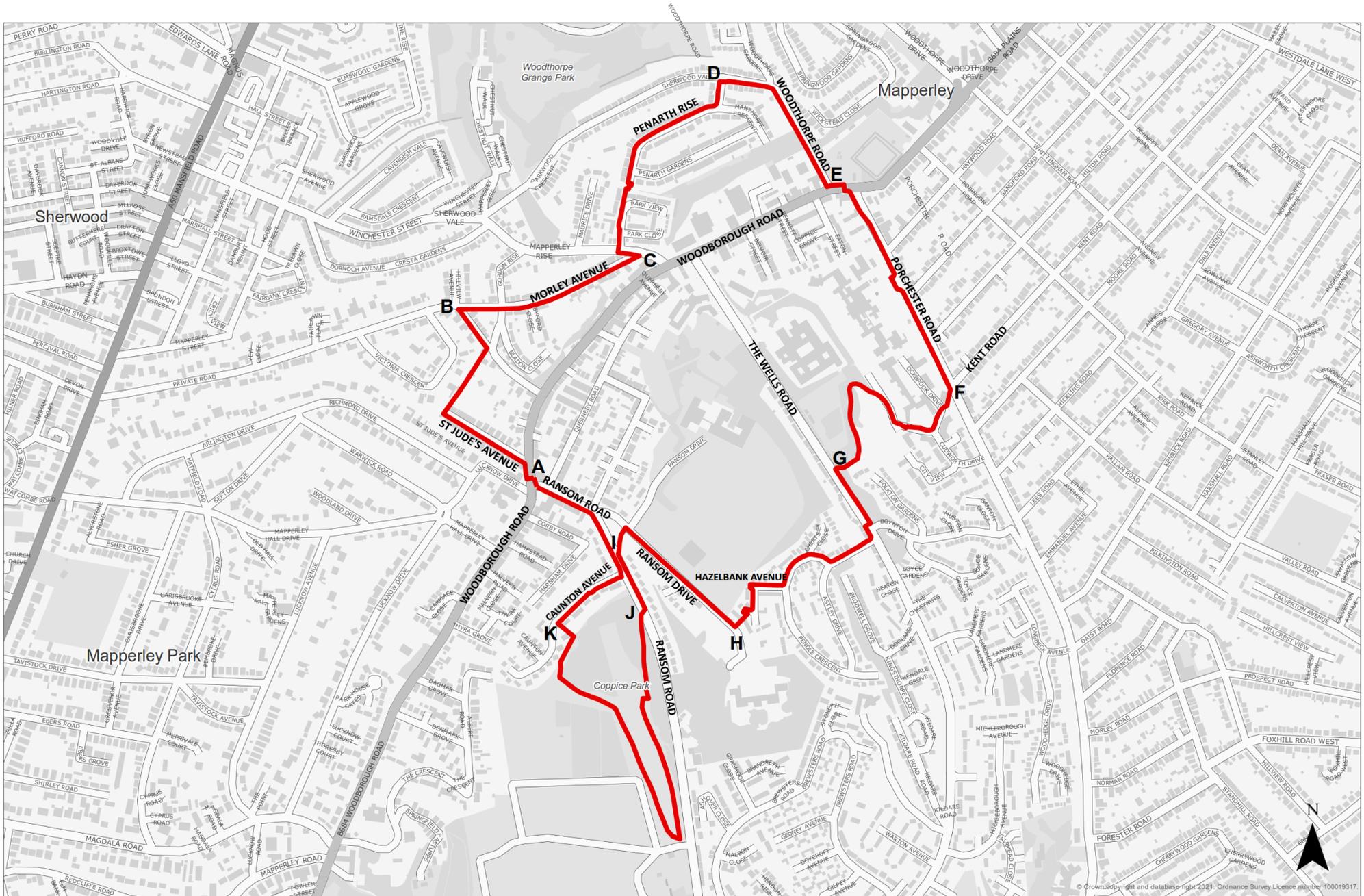
**Mapperley Hospital** Following the opening of the County Asylum in Sneinton in 1812 and the Coppice Hospital in 1859 (see below), by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century much larger facilities were needed. Mapperley Hospital, designed by George Thomas Hine (son of Thomas Chambers), opened in 1880 and was expanded to the south (including the chapel) in 1889. Mapperley closed as a psychiatric hospital in 1994. The original "north side" is now Duncan Macmillan House (NHS/ university medical

school) and the south side has been redeveloped as apartments (**City Heights**). The chapel is sadly derelict. (see countyasylums.co.uk)

**St Ann's Well**, once rated as one of the great healing wells of England, gives its name to the road. The earliest written reference gives the name "Brodwell", possibly derived from the Saxon Brod, a name still in use in 1301. Annual pilgrimages to the well, starting with a service at St Mary's church, took place on Easter Monday from 1216 until the outbreak of Civil War in 1642. The well was under the control of the monks of Lenton Priory until the Priory's dissolution in 1536. The Well was also a meeting place of the Outlaw according to the stories of Robin Hood. An 18<sup>th</sup> century description says the Well was surrounded by "fair summer houses, bowers or arbours covered by plashing and interweaving of oak-boughs for shade", and in 1797 was described as being under an arched stone roof, of rude workmanship. Development on the site after the Enclosure Act of 1773 included a pub, then tea room, then private house. In 1857 a large "gothic style" monument was constructed over the Well to protect it. However, in 1887 buildings in the area were demolished to make way for the Nottingham Suburban railway. It was believed that the well and monument were covered under one of the supports for the Wells Road Viaduct (demolished in 1957). There is now confusion over the precise location of the well. (see nottinghamhiddenhistoryteam.wordpress.com)

**Hine Hall/ Coppice Hospital** was designed by the architect Thomas Chambers Hine and opened as the Coppice Private Asylum in 1859 for fee paying patients, relieving pressure on the first county asylum which opened in Sneinton in 1812, following the Country Asylums Act of 1808. The Coppice Hospital became part of the National Health Service in 1948. It closed in 1985 and was subsequently converted to apartments as Hine Hall (see countyasylums.co.uk)

**Coppice Park** opened as a recreation ground in 1904 and is one of Nottingham's oldest parks. It was the site of woodland that was "coppiced" for centuries to provide wood for fuel, construction and repair purposes. To the South and East the park borders **Hungerhill Gardens/ St Ann's Allotments**, the largest area of Victorian detached town gardens in the world. To visit St Ann's allotments, or for more information about its unique history, see [www.staa-allotments.org.uk](http://www.staa-allotments.org.uk).



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 The Walk

1:6,500



**Nottingham**  
City Council