

# St Ann's, Mapperley Park & Alexandra Park



Discover green walkways, a hidden reservoir, a leafy Edwardian suburb, the home of Ichabod Wright and one of our Nottingham's lesser-known recreation parks

## Walk No 13

### DESCRIPTION

Produced by the Nottingham Local Access Forum with the support of Nottingham City Council. May 2022  
For other walks in this series see [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/localaccessforum](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/localaccessforum)

A circular and hilly walk exploring parts of St Ann's, Mapperley Park and Alexandra Park. Discover green walkways, a hidden reservoir, a leafy Edwardian suburb, the home of Ichabod Wright and one of our Nottingham's lesser-known recreation parks.

### THE FACTS

<b>Area</b>	St Ann's, Mapperley Park, Alexandra Park
<b>Distance</b>	Short Walk: c 2 miles/ 3km Long Walk: c 3 miles/ 5km
<b>Duration</b>	Short Walk: 45 mins – 1 hour Long Walk: 1.5 – 2 hours
<b>Maps</b>	As leaflet, street map or OS Explorer 1:25000 Map 260
<b>Travel Information</b>	Public transport bus services to / from city centre on The Wells Road and Woodborough Road. (see <a href="http://www.nctx.co.uk">www.nctx.co.uk</a> )
<b>Terrain</b>	Mainly walkways, pavements, and surfaced paths. Some steep ascents and descents. Steep steps down from reservoir. Paths in park may be muddy and overgrown. Steps and steep slopes unsuitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and prams.
<b>Start/ Finish</b>	Entrance Gate to Robin Hood Chase on The Wells Road
<b>Refreshments/ Facilities</b>	Shops on Wells Road near start; toilet facilities in St Ann's Valley Centre. Shops on Woodborough Road near junction with Hungerhill Road

#### Shorter walk options:

1. At point D, short walk route to point I via Vickers Street as detailed in the route description.
2. At point E a less hilly option can be taken by turning right on Magdala Road, then left onto Lucknow Drive and following this to roundabout then turning right up Mapperley Hall Drive to point G.

**Cover images:** Clockwise from top left: Malvern House, Mapperley Hall, Mosaic at Robin's Hood Chase, Malvern House Lodge

## THE ROUTE

- A. Start at the **entrance gate to Robin Hood Chase** on the **St Ann's Well Road**. Walk up this path passing **St Ann's Valley Centre** and The Chase on your right and **St Ann with Emmanuel Church** on your left. Continue up the path as it passes under Abbotsford Drive and continue on to reach Woodborough Road. Cross Woodborough Road at pedestrian lights then continue up the path, which has now become **Corporation Oaks** to the top.
- B. Here you reach the railings surrounding **Belle Vue Reservoir**. Turn left to walk clockwise around the reservoir enjoying the views (best in winter!) between the trees to the city and the countryside beyond. What buildings and landmarks can you identify? Ignore the first path on your left (Elm Bank). Opposite a Severn Trent sign saying 'Belle Vue Reservoir', take the next path, and then steps down to exit onto **Mapperley Road**.
- C. There are some impressive buildings on Mapperley Road including the **WEA building (no 41, Malvern House)** opposite the exit from the reservoir. Turn right and walk along Mapperley Road. Take time to notice the buildings including **Marlborough Hall** on your right. Walk as far as Vickers Street.
- D. For the short walk, turn right down Vickers Street to Woodborough Road; cross Woodborough Road to arrive at the top of **Hungerhill Road**. Continue walk from **point I** below.  
For the long walk continue along Mapperley Road to the pedestrian refuge just opposite **Lucknow Road**. Cross Mapperley Road using the pedestrian refuge then walk along Lucknow Road to Magdala Road. Cross Magdala Road and bear slightly left to reach **Lucknow Avenue**.
- E. Walk along the length of Lucknow Avenue as it rises and falls. Enjoy the variety of architectural styles of the houses, typical of **Mapperley Park**. On your left, part way along, you pass the white buildings of **Mapperley Hall**, former home of Ichabod Wright, now apartments.
- F. At the end of Lucknow Avenue turn right on **Mapperley Hall Drive**. Walk up this road as it climbs very steeply. At the roundabout keep straight ahead and continue up Mapperley Hall Drive to **Woodborough Road**.
- G. Turn right, and cross Woodborough Road at the pedestrian refuge near the bus stop. Continue walking down Woodborough Road until you reach **Dagmar Grove**.
- H. You have reached an area known as **Alexandra Park**. Turn left down Dagmar Road, then right along Albert Road. Follow this road, again enjoying the

- architecture. Beyond the houses on the left (inaccessible from here) are the gardens of **St Ann's Allotments**. Continue round as the road becomes The Crescent and eventually rejoins Woodborough Road. **Nottinghamshire Hospice** is a little way up Woodborough Road. Turn left to walk down Woodborough Road. On your left beyond Alexander Court there is an entry to **Gorse Gardens** (part of **St Ann's Allotments**) and beyond that **Lambley Almshouses**. Continue to **Hungerhill Road**.
- I. Turn left to walk steeply down Hungerhill Road. Soon you come to **Sycamore Park** (on your left) which is worth exploring. There are sports grounds, fields and a children's play area. For a wilder feel, it is also possible to explore paths among the trees near the boundary of the park with Alexandra Park and St Ann's Allotments (no public exit on this side of the park).
  - J. At the bottom end of the park, cross Hungerhill Road to **Abbotsford Drive** and walk up this road. Where this becomes a bridge, take one of the paths to the right or left to rejoin **Robin Hood Chase**. Turn left and walk down Robin Hood Chase to return to the start.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**Robin Hood Chase & Corporation Oaks:** which lead up from St Ann's Well Road to Belle Vue Reservoir were two of four tree lined "Walks" created by Nottingham's 1845 Inclosure Act (the other two are Elm Bank, which continues on from Belle Vue reservoir towards Mansfield Road, and Queens Walk in the Meadows area). Large houses for doctors, solicitors and factory owners lined the walks on both sides.

**St Ann's / Valley Centre:** the centre offers access to NHS and Nottingham City Council services. **St Ann with Emmanuel Church:** opened in 1974 replacing two previous churches: St Ann's Church, Nottingham, and Emmanuel Church, Woodborough Road.

**Belle Vue Reservoir:** The first reservoir opened in May 1851 to meet the demand for water storage facilities for a growing city. It was designed by Thomas Hawksley (1807-1893) of the Trent Waterworks company. Hawksley was born at Arnot Hill House (in Arnold) and has been described as "the greatest water engineer of the age". The Inclosure Commission forced a reluctant Ichabod Wright of Mapperley Hall (see below) to sell the land on top of what was then known as Toad Hill, a popular beauty spot. A second, larger, reservoir designed by T.C. Hine was opened

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in June 1864. Water was pumped to the reservoirs from the Park waterworks on the Ropewalk, and later from the Bagthorpe works on Haydn Road and eventually connected to Mapperley Reservoir on Porchester Road. Outlet pipes spread “octopus like” from Belle Vue to the rest of the city. The reservoirs, constructed from Mapperley bricks, still serve the city today. For more information see [www.ng-spaces.org.uk](http://www.ng-spaces.org.uk).

**Malvern House** (41 Mapperley Road) is grade II listed and was built in 1874, probably by Henry Sulley, for T.B Gutts a lace manufacturer. For many years it was a GP practice. It now houses the Workers Education Association (WEA) offices.

**Marlborough Hall:** a Victorian Mansion, now apartments, was at one time a convent and later a hall of residence for Nottingham Trent University.

**Mapperley Park:** Following the Basford Enclosure Act of 1792 much of the area of what is now Mapperley Park remained as open park land owned by the Wright family of bankers. Development for housing began following the Borough Extension Act of 1877 when Mapperley, Carrington and Sherwood were among several satellite villages brought within the boundaries of Nottingham. Roads, drains and sewers were laid out in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The area initially developed as an exclusive suburb for the Edwardian middle classes and most of the houses were built between 1900 and 1950. Local red brick features in the construction of the houses, 62 different architects were involved, and design styles include “Neo Gothic”, “Vernacular Revival”, “Queen Anne Revival” and “Arts and Crafts”. Some of the street names e.g. “Lucknow” (India) reflect the military connections of the Wright family. Stipulations stated that development should not include any brick yard, asylum, school or business. Mapperley Park was designated a Conservation Area in 1976. More information can be found in the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan 2007 ([www.mapperleypark.org](http://www.mapperleypark.org)).

**Mapperley Hall:** originally Mapperley House, was built by Ichabod Wright in 1792 and owned by the Wright family until end of 19<sup>th</sup> century. From 1905 it housed a Hall of Residence for male students of University College Nottingham (now the University of Nottingham). D.H. Lawrence was a student. During the first world war it was an auxiliary hospital run by St John’s Ambulance, and in the second a civil defence headquarters. Post war it was offices for the Electricity and Water Boards. The Hall was converted to residential apartments in 1999.

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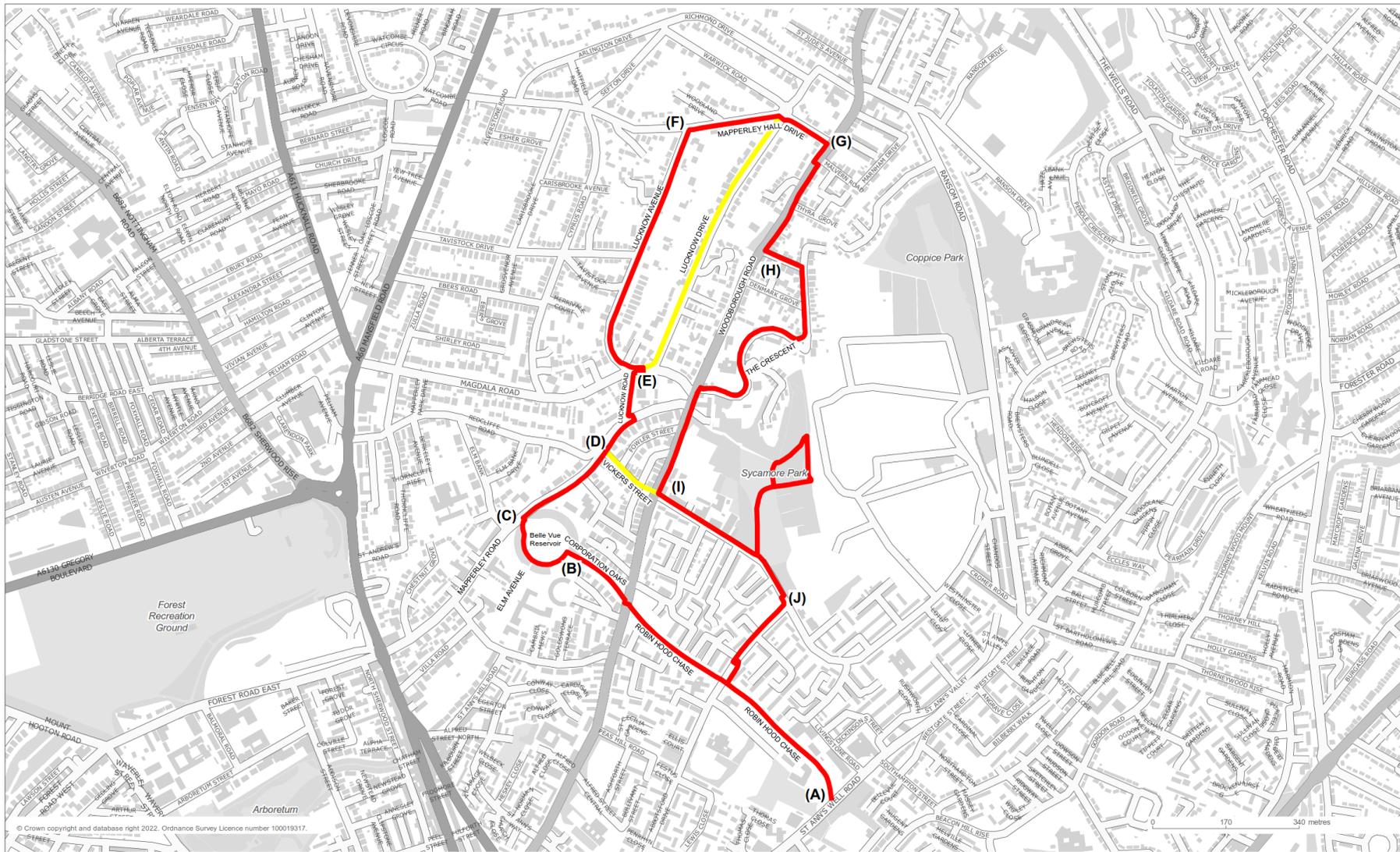
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**Woodborough Road:** is one of the principle radial roads out of Nottingham. The area either side of Woodborough Road north of Mapperley Road has been known as Mapperley Plains and was historically important for brick making. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century trams operated from the city centre to Mapperley along Woodborough Road.

**Alexandra Park:** The first properties were built from 1857 on Park Drive (now The Crescent) which was a gated community. It was extended northwards to Albert Road from 1862 (named after the prince who died in 1861). The estate was originally (and confusingly) named Mapperley Park but was re-named Alexandra Park after 1871 to commemorate the marriage of Prince Edward to Princess Alexandra of Denmark. Other road names reflect the popularity of the couple. Significant buildings include Springfield (built for Benjamin Hine a hosiery manufacturer), Enderleigh (built for T.C. Hine’s brother John Green Hine, but originally occupied by Daniel Underwood a cigar manufacturer) and Fernleigh (one time home to members of the Player family, now leased from Nottinghamshire County Council to **Nottinghamshire Hospice**, a charity founded 1980 to “add life to every day for people who have been told their illness cannot be cured”). All were designed by architect T.C. Hine. For more information see [www.mapperleypeople.co.uk](http://www.mapperleypeople.co.uk).

**Lambley Almshouses:** were built in 1897 replacing Almshouses built in 1814 on Derby Road. The original funding for these had origins in a sale of a “close” of land in Lambley in 1654 from which the “rents and profits” were to go “to poor burgesses, tradesmen and townsmen of the town of Nottingham” (Lambley Historical Society Newsletter, January 2007).

**Sycamore Park:** was part of an area of parochial glebe lands (along with St Ann’s Allotments – [www.staa-allotments.org.uk](http://www.staa-allotments.org.uk)) so could not be built on when the area of St Ann’s began to be developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It remains a recreation park with children’s play facilities, sports facilities and some wilder areas to explore which border (but with no access) Alexandra Park and St Ann’s Allotments.



- The Walk
- Short Route Option


1:8,000  

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