

Geographygeek Explorer Trail 7: Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (2.4 miles)



Really Important Health and Safety bit:

- Take someone responsible with you and do not talk to strangers.
- Watch for cars when walking alongside the roads.
- Wear suitable footwear as some of the paths can be muddy or slippery.
- Be calm and sensible around nature and beside rivers.

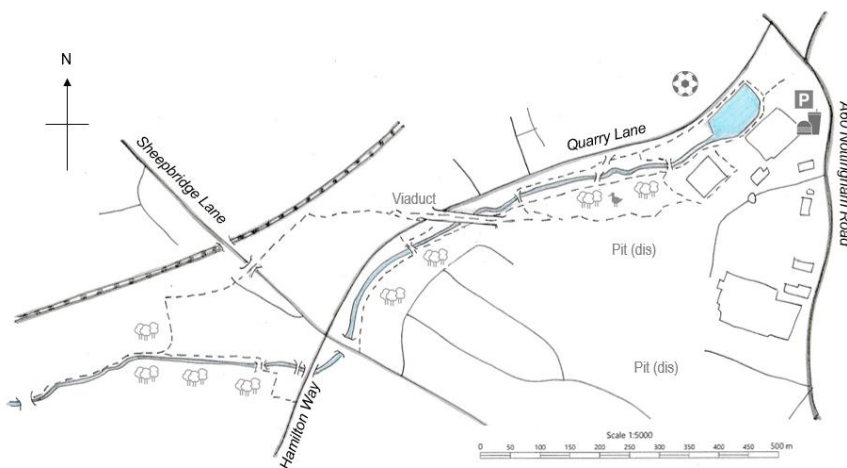













You will also need:

- A compass or a compass app

Park at Mansfield Leisure Park (NG18 1BU). Some of these car parks have time or customer loyalty restrictions so park with care. The walk starts to the north of PC World.

Fill in the boxes to answer the questions as you go along. For now, ignore all of the small letters that are shown in the bottom of some of the boxes, but try not to write over them as you'll need them later!



KEY	
	Retail park
	Woodland
	Eating out/fast food
	Nature reserve
	Footpath
	River
	Lake
	Railway line
	Football ground
	Disused pit/quarry
	Viaduct



1. From the retail park, walk to the north of PC World. There is a path that starts by the phone box at the junction between Nottingham Road and Portland Street. The path runs between the retail outlets in a 230° SW direction. Follow this path and you will see a lake in front of you and the football ground to the north east. Find the green information board.

What is the title on the information board?

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			i		

2. Walk to the south of the lake, at a rough bearing of 200°. See if you can spot any herons in this lake. These are tall birds with long legs and long necks that are not a very common sight in the UK. As you pass by the lake, continue along the river at a bearing of 250° WSW. You will pass by a small footbridge

What material is the footbridge made out of?

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- Continue along the path through the trees, with the river to your right. This area used to have sand and stone quarries, but much of it is now a nature reserve. You can see this stone used in a lot of the buildings around the area.
- The next bridge is made of stone. It used to lead off from Quarry Lane to the north towards to the old quarry to the south. There is a path here leading off to the left, but remain on a path of 260° WSW towards the trees ahead. Notice the bird table to your left and the row of terraced housing to the north.
- Not far beyond the stone bridge, you will see a path to the south that climbs uphill. Take this path and follow it uphill to the south-east. You will climb 30ft (9m) in height here and reach the highest part of the walk.
- At the top of this hill you will join a path that runs east to west. Walk to the west and onto the viaduct. A viaduct is a bridge that carries a railway line. Trains no longer run across here, but notice how the paving has been made to look like a train track. This route was an offshoot from the main railway line, which is just to the north of this spot. From the viaduct you will see a large trailer factory to the north.

What three letters are written on the sign for the trailer factory?

r

- After you have walked over the viaduct, look out for a path at a bearing of 120° SE that drops 40ft (12m) downhill. Follow this path down to pass by a metal gate onto Quarry Lane below. As you pass by the metal gate, find the small circular sign on the wooden post attached to it.

Who manages this land?

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	s															
		e						s								

- Walk along quarry lane at a bearing of 240° SW and almost immediately you will see a footpath sign on the southern side of the road. Carefully cross over and follow this path at a bearing of 124° SE. You will see a bridge ahead, but before you cross the bridge, follow the footpath to your left, alongside the river (in a north easterly direction). This will take you to a pond dipping area at the foot of the viaduct. Look at the sign located in the pond dipping area.

What is the pond dipping area locally known as?

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- The pond dipping area is a dead end, so return to the footpath and take a bearing of 160° SEE across the footbridge. Once across the footbridge you will see a grassy area with some information about the

viaduct and a path that runs along the river from a north-east to south-west direction. Follow the south-west path with the river on your right. You will pass a rock outcrop to your left. Notice the large tree that is growing horizontally out of the rock! This is an example of biological weathering, which is where the roots of plants slowly break down rocks over time.

10. You will eventually meet the main road. Before you exit the path onto the road, look at the signs around you.

What is the name of this section of the walk?

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		m							

11. Exit onto the main road, walking in a 300° NW direction towards the traffic lights. Cross the traffic lights to bear 210° SW onto Hamilton Way.
12. Walk past the metal fencing on your right and then immediately after, cross through the anti-motorcycle barrier and onto the footpath along a bearing of 290° WNW. Follow the path around to the north and then cross the bridge over the river. Either side of this bridge you will see some protection that has been put in place to stop the river banks from eroding.

Look at the pictures below. Which type of protection has been put in place here?

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 <p>Groynes – wooden fences that run out into a body of water.</p>	 <p>Gabions – rocks in wire cages.</p>	 <p>Matting – a special fabric with turf growing through it that keeps the banks in place .</p>
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13. Once across the bridge, follow the path around to the west. You will see the river bank to your left and eventually some metal railings to your right. Where the path splits off to the north, continue in a westerly direction. Eventually you will meet Hermitage Lane.
14. At this point, we're going to turn around, but if you want a longer walk you can cross this road and continue along the river to another lake (where you can often see lots of herons), another viaduct and finally Kings Mill reservoir. Before you turn around, look at the sign at the entrance to the path.

When was the Oakham designated as a local nature reserve?

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15. Retrace your steps, walking towards the north-east along the river. When you reach the split in the path, follow a bearing of around 60° NE. This takes you along a path to the north, with a small stone

wall to your right. Maintain this northerly route all the way up the hill, past the cement factory down the hill to your left.

16. Eventually this path will lead you to the east. You will still have the stone wall on your right and some wire fencing to your left. You will come to some steps down to a small lane that you need to cross.

How many steps down to the lane are there? (*hint: don't count the top as that's the footpath, count the number of times that you actually step down*).

q

17. Cross the lane and continue in a north-easterly direction across a bridge. Look down from the bridge to the north-east. There's another bridge, with a height restriction and instructions for tall vehicles to pass underneath carefully.

What is the height of the bridge in metres?

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18. Continue along the path at a 45° NE direction, through some trees. Where the path splits, take a 90° E direction (to the right of the stone wall rather than to the left of the stone wall). Continue along an easterly bearing and you will reach a point in the walk that you have visited before. Continue along the highest route and up onto the viaduct. Once on the viaduct, look down to the road below.

What does the white writing say that is painted alongside an arrow on the road below?

	j		
		e	

19. Once across the viaduct, continue in an easterly direction. Do not follow the path by the river that you walked along earlier, but stick to the higher route to the east. Eventually you will reach a wooden fence and the path leads you to the left of this fence. Follow this path out onto the leisure park, where you started the walk.

NOW USE THE ANSWERS TO CRACK THE CODE AND COMPLETE THE INFORMATION ABOUT MANSFIELD:



Mansfield is a town of around 110,000 people, which lies between 50 and 70m above sea level. It was named after the river , which flows through the town. The remains of a Roman settlement have been found on this site and legend links the town to Hood due to its location on the western edge of Sherwood Forest. The geology of Mansfield is largely sedimentary, which means that the rocks here were formed by the build up of sediments within . Dolostone is commonly found here, which is similar to Limestone. This rock was formed around 2 0 million years ago. The geology of the area determined much of the industry in the town, e.g. quarrying and mining. Textile mills and breweries were also found here. As these industries closed down, the residents of the town have found new employment in industries such as plastics, components for the aerospace industry and electronics.