

Walk No 17: Sneinton

Walk/Photos taken 1st – 8th December 2020

This walk, of about 10km, goes over Trent Bridge and along Meadow Lane to Sneinton. It then goes up to Green's Windmill – as I have taken long-distance photos of the windmill on a number of my walks I thought I ought to make it a Walk 'destination'. Return via Lady Bay Bridge and WB town centre.

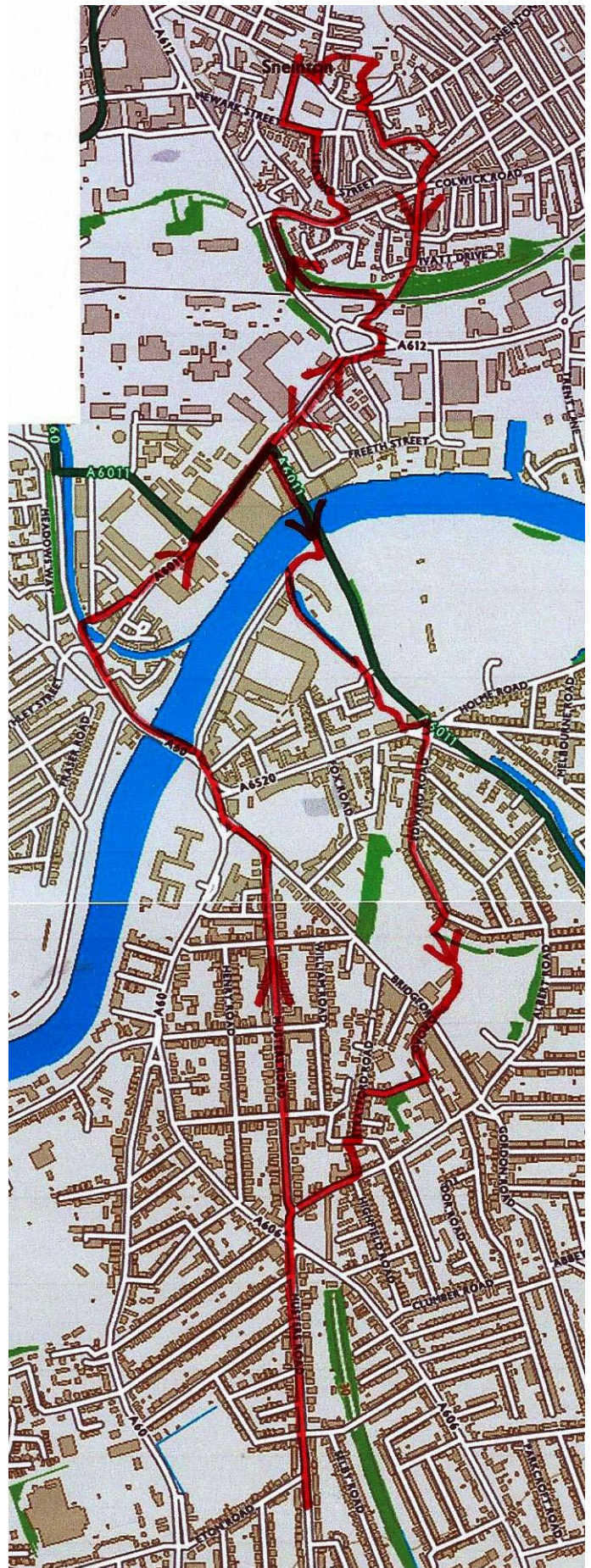
Further Information on Sites along the Walk is in document **17.1**

Go down Musters Road and over Trent Bridge (right side).

Looking east, our destination is just about visible in the centre of this photo...



...but better with a longer lens

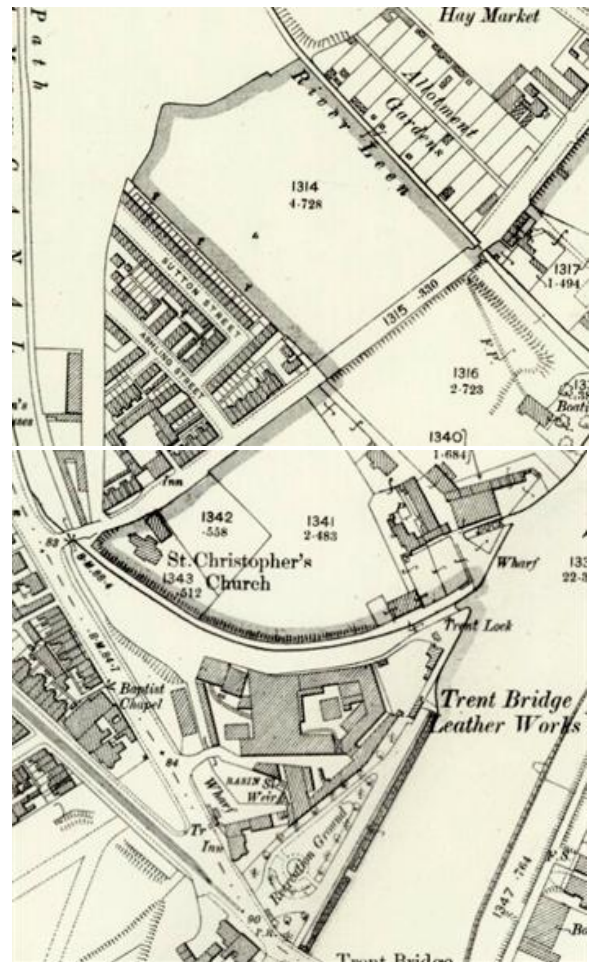


After crossing over Trent Bridge, land to the right is part of Sneinton Parish – see **Further Info 1. Sneinton Parish**

So, we are just about to enter Sneinton.

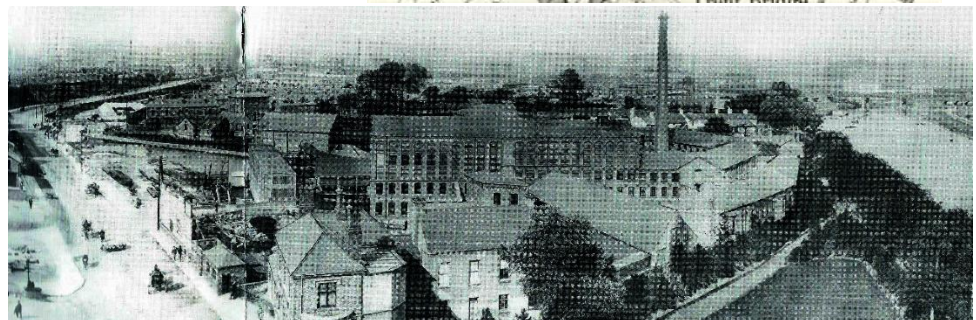
Go along London Road past the Turneys Court building. As noted in Walk 6, this was part of a leather works founded by brothers Edward and John Turney in 1881; however, this, the only remaining building, was built later (it does not appear on this map of 1899 so probably early 1900s). Indeed, there was an Inn where the building now stands. John Turney (later 'Sir John') lived at Adbolton Hall and was Sheriff and twice Mayor of Nottingham.

Also of interest on the map is the presence of a branch from the canal serving a wharf within the leather works.



A photo of the leather works, taken from the top of the Town Arms in 1898

(from 'Turning Back the Pages in Old West Bridgford', Dick Venner, Notts CC)



Continue along London Road, crossing Meadow Lane. Again, this road was not there in 1899 (but does appear in maps of 1913).

The original alignment joined London Road a little further along...

...Turn left across this bridge – presumably built when the canal was constructed in the 1790s...

.... look out for users of the tow-path

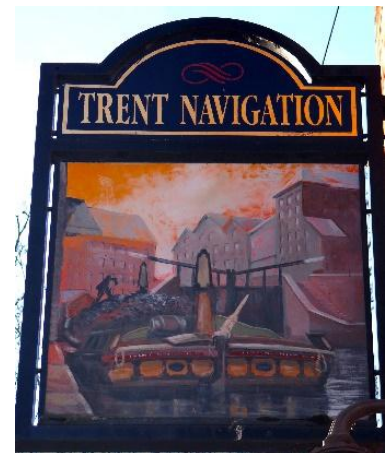


Just over the bridge, on the right, is an engineering works – in 1899 there was a church here. This was a corrugated iron, mission church, erected in 1885 to serve the growing

population of this part of Sneinton parish. Within a few years the decision was made to relocate the mission church to a vacant site on Colwick Road on which Sneinton Saint Christopher would be built in 1910. The original church on Meadow Lane was finally closed some time in 1901-2.

On the left is Iremonger Road – not there on the 1899 map, which shows an area of terraced housing on Sutton Street and Ashling Street – all this housing is now gone, with Ashling Street remaining in the industrial area but accessed off Iremonger Road. What does remain is the Inn marked on the 1899 map. This is the Trent Navigation, a Victorian pub which dates back to c1842 and once fed, watered and housed the men and horses working the Nottingham Canal.

It is now part of the Great Northern Inns group and home to the Navigation Brewery which opened in 2012 in the old stable block originally used by the canal horses.



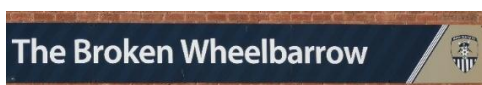
At the junction of the old and new alignments of Meadow Lane, on the left is Meadow Lane football ground, home of Notts County FC since 1910 (so not seen on the 1899 map above).

See: [Further Info 2. Meadow Lane](#)



Seated outside are statues of the 'Legends of the Lane', Jimmy Sirrel (most successful Manager) and Jack Wheeler (physio, coach, trainer and caretaker-manager).

Towards the end of the ground, on the wall are signs for:



This is a function facility with bar, soft seating area, dance floor, etc. For non-supporters wondering about the name – it is a club chant – see [Further Info 3: The Broken Wheelbarrow](#).

Opposite the Broken Wheelbarrow is the site of the Fruit Basket Direct – which supplies produce to ‘The Fruit Basket’ and ‘No8’ on Gordon Road, direct to many restaurants and to households – a much appreciated service (which I can recommend) during recent months. www.thefruitbasketdirect.uk



Continue along Meadow Lane, and past the Cattle Market. The gates and gate piers (adorned with bulls' heads) are Grade II Listed; they were made by Charles Smith & Sons of Birmingham in 1886.

See **Further Info 4: Cattle Market**.



Cross the junction with the road to Lady Bay Bridge (the old Midland Railway line crossed Meadow Lane on a bridge here) and after the Lady Bay Retail Park (on the left) we reach the junction with Daleside Road. Cross over towards KFC, turn left and then right to the pedestrian bridge over the railway (see map on next page).

In the C20th, this whole area from the Cattle Market to Sneinton was dominated by railways – see **Further Info 5: Old Railways**.

Today there is just the line from Nottingham to Netherfield and Carlton which we now cross by the pedestrian bridge.

Go down the ramp to the left (towards the city) and at the bottom of the first slope look to the right and there are walls of one of the old railway lines which crossed Meadow Lane on a bridge.

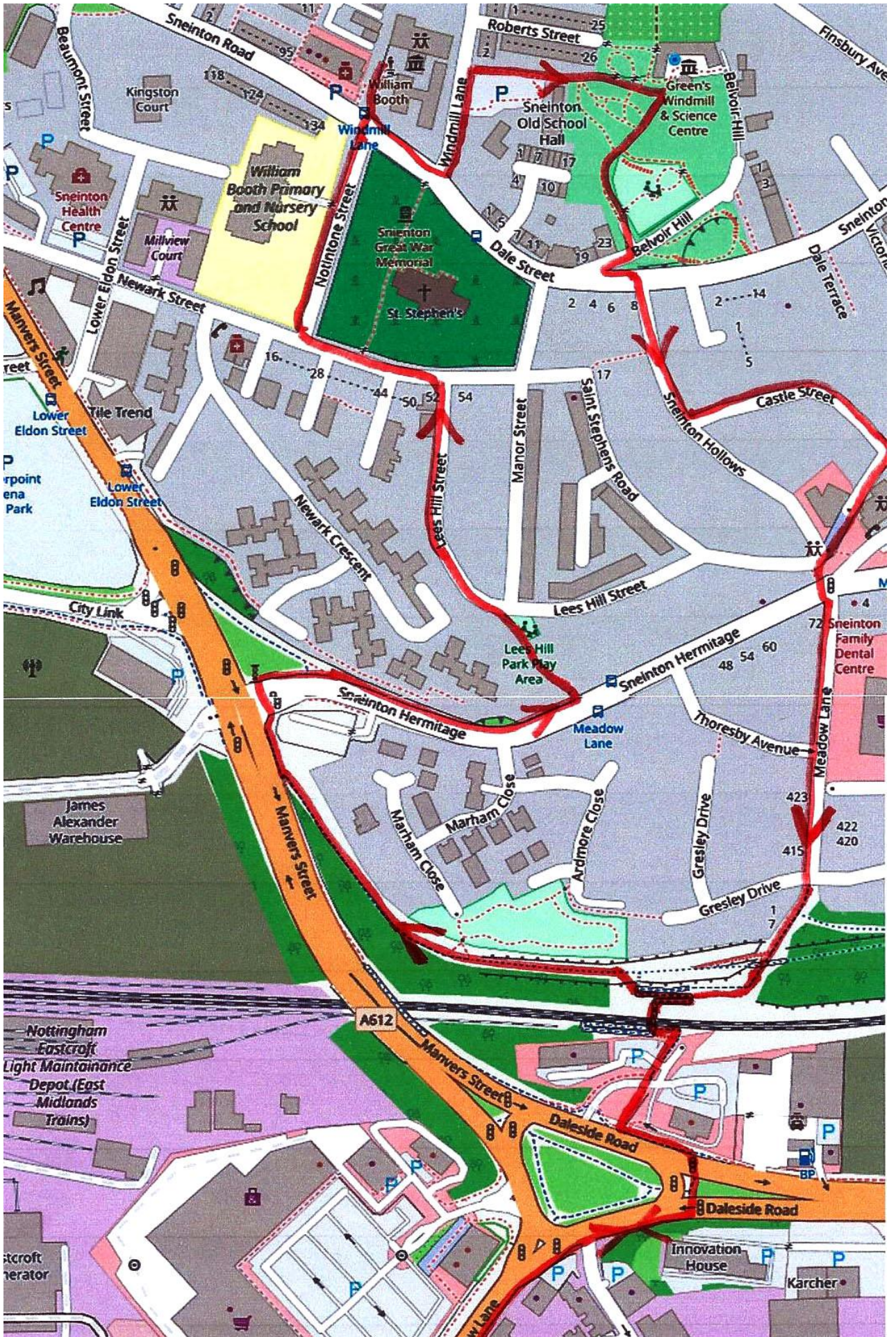
Don't go that way – continue towards the city and join the path...



This is the Sneinton Greenway which goes from Manvers Street to Nottingham Racecourse, following the alignment of one of the old railways. We just do the short section to Manvers Street.

For this section, we need a better map....



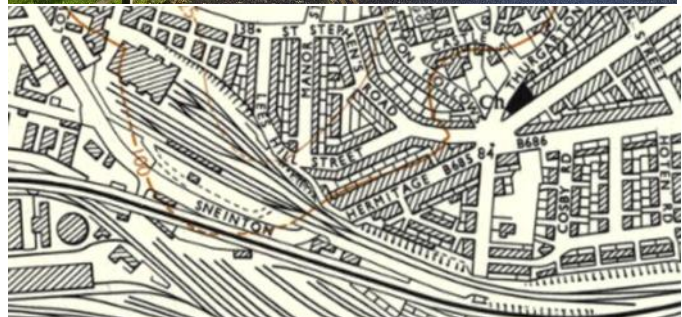


At Manvers Street go right and then cross over Sneinton Hermitage.

Lurking in the trees is a sculpture of a dragon which has an interesting back story – see [Further Info 6: The Sneinton Dragon](#)



Go along Sneinton Hermitage, beside the high stone wall. Above this is an estate of white houses. This is the site of the old London and North Western Railway goods station – see [Further Info 5: Old Railways](#).



A little further along Sneinton Hermitage, there is a gap in the wall revealing some caves.

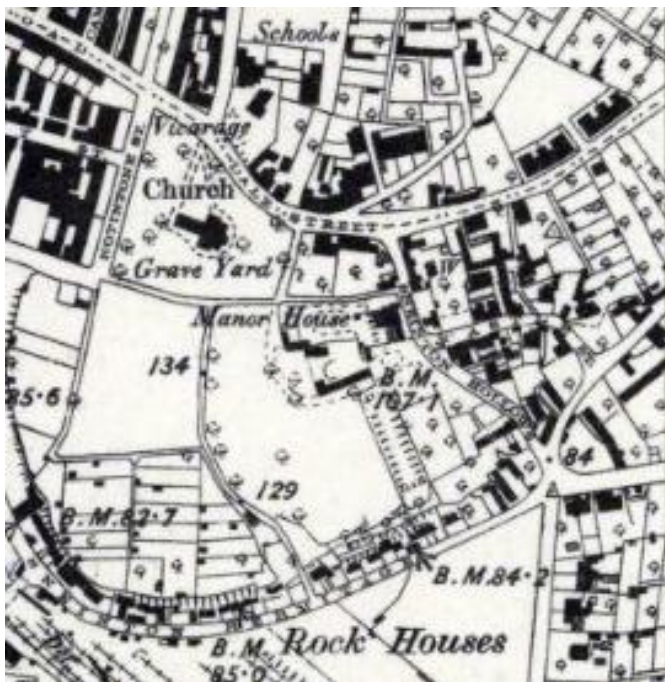
These are the remaining part of a larger area of cave dwellings which were the origin of the name 'Hermitage' – see [Further Info 7: Sneinton Hermitage](#).



Just past the caves, the stone wall changes to blue brick, where the railway used to cross the road on a bridge, and after this there are steps we must climb, up to the left – Lees Hill Footway – which goes up to Lees Hill Street – turn left.



Most houses in this part of Sneinton date from the 1890s/early 1900s but, as this map surveyed in 1880/81 shows, this area of Sneinton, above Sneinton Hermitage with its 'Rock Houses', was undeveloped – with allotments and land belonging to the Manor House



The Manor House building was demolished by 1894. Manor Street now stands at this location. The architecture suggests this to be a late 1600's-early 1700's.

At the end of Lees Hill Street is the churchyard and St. Stephen's Church– see [Further Info 8: St Stephen's Church](#).

Turn left along St Stephens Road and then right into Notintone Street. Notintone was the Norman name for Sneinton – see [Further Info 9: Notintone](#)

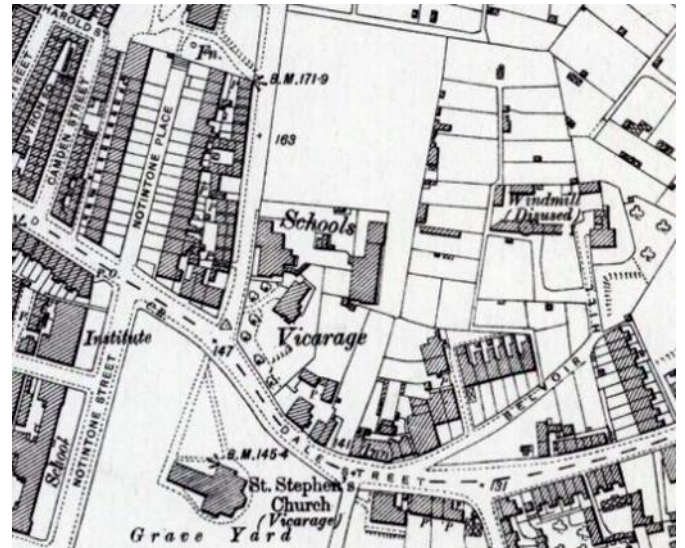


Go to the end of Notintone Street and onto Sneinton Road/Dale Street; ahead is a complex of Salvation Army premises – church, care centre, community centre, etc.



Turn left and immediately right before the shops. This leads to Notintone Place and the William Booth Birthplace and Museum. Booth was the founder of the Salvation Army – see [Further Info 10: William Booth](#)

As shown on this 1899 map, Notintone Place was a street with what appear to be small terraced houses on one side and slightly larger ones on the other – the side of Booth’s birthplace. The buildings that house the museum are all that remain, the others were demolished sometime after the mid-1960s.

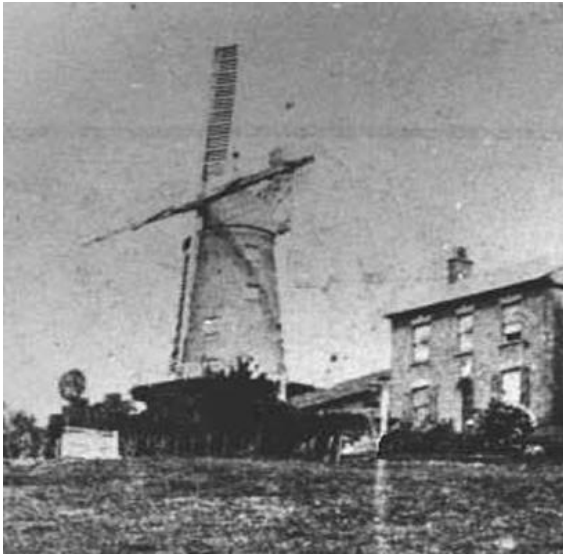


Return to Sneinton Road/Dale St, turn left, past the Salvation Army premises, and then turn left on Windmill Lane.

On the corner is another of those huge former Vicarages we have seen on a number of my walks. This 7 bedroom property is Grade II listed and apparently has been used regularly as a film location including the award winning drama "Oranges & Sunshine" starring Emily Watson & Hugo Weaving and most recently on the new BBC One comedy series "Truckers".



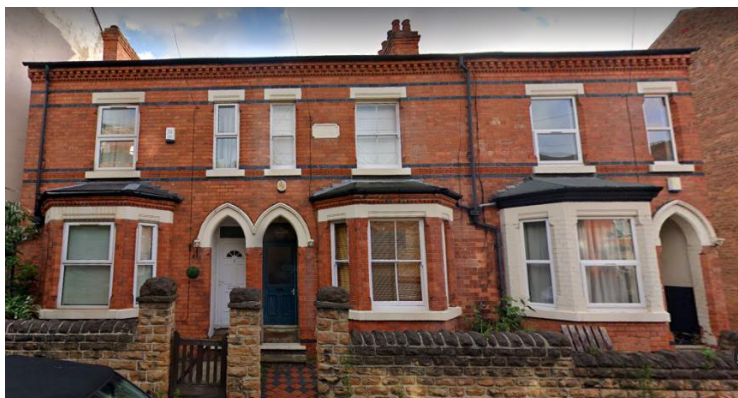
Behind the former vicarage, where ‘Schools’ are shown on the 1899 map (only one building remains – now a nursery), is a car park – at the far side is a path; follow this through to the top of Belvoir Hill, overlooking the city of Nottingham, where we reach the ‘destination’ of this Walk – Green’s Windmill.



For the history of the mill and the Green family, see [Further Info 11: Green's Windmill](#)

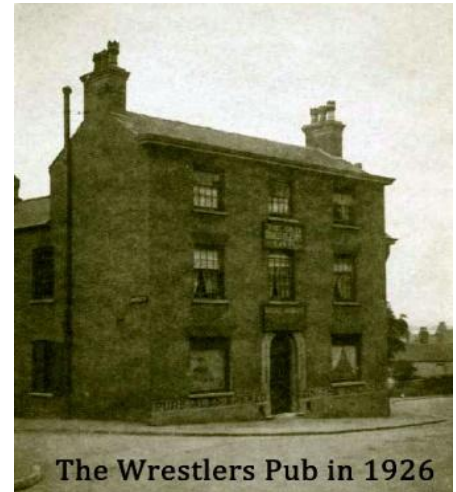
The area around the mill is now very different from what it was when the Green family lived and worked here. What is now Green's Windmill Park was created during renovation of the mill in the 1980s, with various further changes later. Before that there were allotments here that had existed since before the mill was built. The children's play area was the site of C19th terraced housing. From the early C19th there were significant areas of house building to accommodate people employed in the factories and workshops that were springing up in the area.

Leaving the mill, go down the path to the right of the play area and turn right onto Belvoir Hill, then left and right into Sneinton Hollows. This street has terraced housing dating from the late 1890s/early 1900s. Many of the houses have carved heads supporting the door arches and some houses are named.

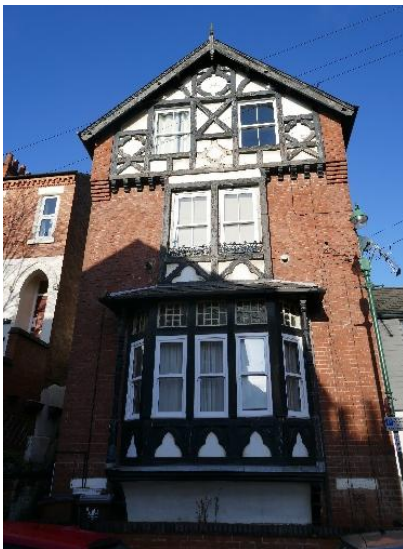


The first terrace on the left is named 'Hornbuckle Villas' - See [Further Info 12: Hornbuckle's](#)

The property at the corner of Sneinton Hollows and Castle Street – No 15 Sneinton Hollows – used to be a pub called ‘The Wrestlers’. It closed in 1957.



Turn left into Castle Street – most of the houses here are larger, detached Victorian buildings, probably originally the homes of factory owners/managers of the old industrial area below. Originally, the dominant local industry was bobbin net making and framework knitting but later this diversified into lace making, machinery manufacture and malting.



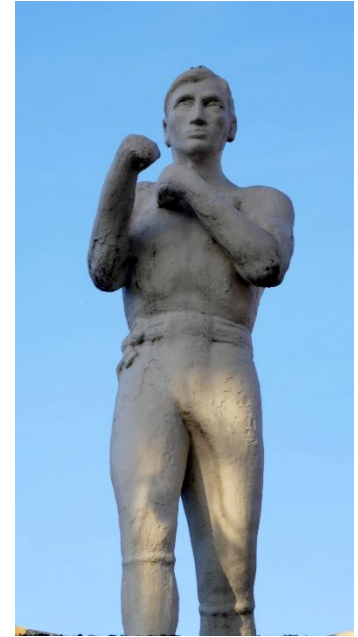
The house with the tower, No 10 Castle Street, is known as 'The Towers'. Apparently, *'it was built by a man who owned all the barges on the Trent. He sat in the tower so he could keep an eye on them, making sure they were on time'*.

See [Further Info 13: The Towers](#)

At the end of Castle Street is Thurgarton Street. If you want to see the Lord Nelson pub ([Further Info 12: Hornbuckle's](#)), turn left and then second left into Lord Nelson Street. Otherwise, turn right and out to Hermitage Square.

Looking back, on the right is the Sneinton Hermitage Community Centre; the building was a United Methodist Church....

....on left is a boarded up pub. Before it closed it was 'The Hermitage' and before that 'The Bendigo'.



On the left, just visible, is Green's Windmill

On the roof of the pub is a statue of William Abednego Thompson – 'Bendigo' – the famous Nottingham bare-knuckle fighter – see [Further Info 14: Bendigo](#)

Turn towards Sneinton Hermitage and on your right is an old Police Station, dating from 1894 and how the street looked when trams ran along it in the early 1900s.



Robert Mellors, Old Nottingham suburbs: then and now [Sneinton] (1914) comments:

The Police, under Sir Robert Peel's Act, have superseded the parish constables, much to the advantage of law, order and security. Their work requires fortitude, courage, energy and firmness, and they deserve to be well sustained by the sympathy of the people, for a yielding policeman will soon have disorder. Only vigilance and penalties will deter some people from wrongful acts.

Cross over Sneinton Hermitage and go down Meadow Lane. After about 150m the road comes to a 'T' junction with Ivatt Drive – the old Meadow Lane continues ahead as a path. It then goes under an old railway bridge and would then have gone over a level crossing. Indeed, there is still a sign!



So, its back over the pedestrian bridge to cross the railway, then cross Daleside Road and go along Meadow Lane....

..... and turn left onto the Lady Bay Bridge



...looking towards Trent Bridge

Once over the bridge, go down the steps to the riverside.

Turn left, towards the Forest ground – but look over the river where there is an interesting building, possibly 1920s or 30s?, with a large bay window. It is now Nottingham Office Equipment but used to be part of a Co-op Bakery on Meadow Lane.



The room with the large bay window was apparently used for cake decorating with the window providing maximum light to the mainly female workforce.

Apparently, on the night of 8/9 May 1941 part of the Bakery site was hit in a Luftwaffe bombing raid that resulted in the loss of 49 lives and another 20 injured.

(Ray Teece www.nottingham21.co.uk/build_coop_bakery).

This raid also caused the deaths of 43 Bridgford residents and 47 injured. 34 houses were badly damaged and about 900 more had some damage.

Turn left down the path alongside the short stretch of water which originally linked the Grantham Canal to the River Trent.



The Brian Clough stand is on the right.

At the end of the canal path, go ahead to the car park at the rear of shops and then down the left side of Laithwaite's and out onto Radcliffe Road. Turn left and cross over Radcliffe Road at the traffic signals and turn down Edward Road

At the post box, turn right into Bridgford Park.

Go through the gate on the left, before the tennis courts, and across towards Bridgford Hall and go between the Hall and the magnificent Holm Oak and round to the front of the building



For a little bit of history of the Hall, and also the Library and the old Rectory, see [Further Info 15: Bridgford Hall, Library & Rectory](#)

Go out of the Park by the gates beside the Library and go ahead on Bridgford Road and then turn right into Church Drive.

This map, surveyed between 1879 and 1882, shows how few buildings there were at that time. West Bridgford was still very much a village; the population in 1881 was 293 in 54 houses – little different than it had been in 1801



at 235 in 40 houses. The Nottingham-Melton Mowbray railway was built in 1879 but the growth in terraced housing – Stratford Road, etc – did not come until the 1890s. West Bridgford became one of the first Urban Districts in 1894, with election of its Councillors in December. By the 1901 census, the number of houses had risen to 1,500. By 1914 the population was 13,476 and there were 3,369 houses – the village was now a town.

Buildings that were there in the 1880s, and still remain, are the 1840s cottages at the bend on Bridgford Road....



...and the former C18th farmhouses beside the churchyard on Church Drive.



And, of course, St Giles Church (Grade II Listed) which has medieval origins (C13-C16)



but most now dates from restorations in 1871/2 and between 1896 and 1911



The Grade II Listed Lutterall Hall was not built until 1929.

According to Thoroton's 'Antiquities of Nottingham', 1676, the Lutteral family were lords of the manor of Bridgford (the 'West' was not added until C16th) for eight generations from 1194.



Turn left at Stratford Road and then right and left, through the path named Edwalton Avenue, right on Rectory Road and left at Musters Road – and the end of the walk.