

Tell us what is important to you about Local Nature Reserves & Parks by filling in this short survey and mailing it back to us at the address below

Feedback

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode:

Email:

Contact Tel. No.

Are you: Male Female

Which age group do you fit into?

- under 16 16-25 26-40
 41-50 51-60 61-70 over 70

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- Yes No

What is your ethnic group?

Please tick one of the following:

- Asian or Asian British Black or Black British
 Chinese White Other Ethnic Group please describe

If you would like to receive details of other events in Mansfield District, please tick this box.

How did you travel to the area today?

- Car Bus Train Motorcycle Walk
 Taxi Other (please state)

How many people visited in your group?

- Alone 1 2 3 to 4
 5 to 7 8+

Did you stay overnight in local accommodation?

If so, please state for how long and where.

How did you find out about this leaflet?

- Tourist Information Point/Centre Library
 Accommodation Community Centre
 Civic Centre Attraction please state Other please state

When did you last visit one of Mansfield District's Local Nature Reserves or Parks? Tick one option:

- In past couple of weeks In last six months
 Over six months ago I have never visited
 Can't remember

If you have never visited, why is this?

- lack of time lack of transport not interested
 did not know about them another reason please specify

If you have visited one of the Local Nature Reserves and Parks in the last year, please tell us which one/s and how would you rate the experience overall?

(from 1 = "not worthwhile or enjoyable" to 5 = "extremely enjoyable and worthwhile")

- 1 2 3 4 5

How much did you spend on your visit to the area?

- Under £10 £10 - £20 £21 - £30
 £31 - £40 £41 - £50 Over £50

How would you rate this guide?

- Excellent Good Poor Very Poor

If you scored this guide as Poor or Very Poor, please tell us why

Do you feel anything is missing?

Please return to: Mansfield District Council, Tourism, Civic Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Notts, NG19 7BH

Thank you: Your views are important and we value them.

Your guide to Local Nature Reserves & Parks in Mansfield District

There's a wonderful world of wildlife right on your doorstep just waiting to be discovered. All you need to do is look!

A good place to start would be the protected lands of Local Nature Reserves and Parks. They are already well geared up for visitors with designated footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths in abundance.

Within all the hustle and bustle of a busy market town and surrounding villages, visitors can still retreat for some peace and quiet.

Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are protected open green spaces set aside for wildlife. A total of nine have been designated by Mansfield District Council (MDC), seven of which were designated during the Natural Connections project; a partnership between the Council and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT). The two organisations have been working in partnership to create more LNRs and manage them sensitively to enhance the local environment for local people and visitors alike.

One of the main aims of this project is to provide opportunities for local people to become involved and to work in partnership with the Council in the future management of these sites, working towards the reserves long term protection. Local people can contribute by joining one of the local "Friends of" groups who organise various events to raise funds for management projects and to promote the reserve and its wildlife.

For more information about Friends groups contact Parks Development Tel: 01623 463245.

Look out...

Follow the trail signage to guide your way along the walks and trails throughout the District.

Accessing the Trails

By car: A variety of access points and car parks can be found along the trails, these are shown on the map.

By cycle: A number of the routes are ideal for cycling and cycle lockers can be found in the town centre. Tel: 01623 463463 for further information.

By bus: A variety of bus routes pass close to the trails and Mansfield Bus station is only 400 metres from the trail. Full details are available from Traveline Tel: 08706 08 26 08 www.traveline.org.uk

By train: Trains run frequently, Monday to Saturday, on the Robin Hood Line (Nottingham to Worksop). Railway stations at Sutton Parkway and Mansfield are both accessible from the trails. For timetables Tel: 08457 48 49 50 www.nationalrail.co.uk

Refreshments & toilets

Refreshments and toilets can be found at many venues within the town centre and in villages along the trails. These are marked on the maps.

In Step 'Walking the way to health initiative'

'In Step' is a programme of short walks led by trained volunteers and is a fun way to improve your health and make new friends.

How much will it cost?

Walks are FREE. You will need some small change if you wish to have refreshments after the walk.

Can children & dogs attend?

Yes, but they must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Dogs must be kept on a lead.

Can I volunteer?

If you are over 18 and under 75 you may be able to become a volunteer walk leader or back-up leader. Full training is given.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to find out more about the walk scheme please contact:

Sunday walks information: 07951 968366
 Monday walks information: 07951 945407
 Thursday walks information: 07951 968437



3 Shirebrook Wood

Shirebrook Wood has been planted on the former spoil heaps of Shirebrook Colliery. This landscape now offers fantastic views across the district of Mansfield, looking towards Sherwood Forest in the east.

4 Sookholme Bath

Sookholme Bath is the site of a natural spring forming the source of Sookholme Brook. There is evidence that the spring was used as an ancient healing spa. Nearby fragments of Roman bricks and tiles have been found, marking the site of a Roman tile kiln.

5 Hills and Holes and Sookholme Brook

The former limestone quarry stretches the whole length of Sookholme Brook and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest together with the Hills and Holes area where the brook joins the River Meden. This area is very important for wildlife and contains some of the finest remaining limestone plant communities in Nottinghamshire.

7 Meden Vale - The Bottoms LNR (SK578 692)

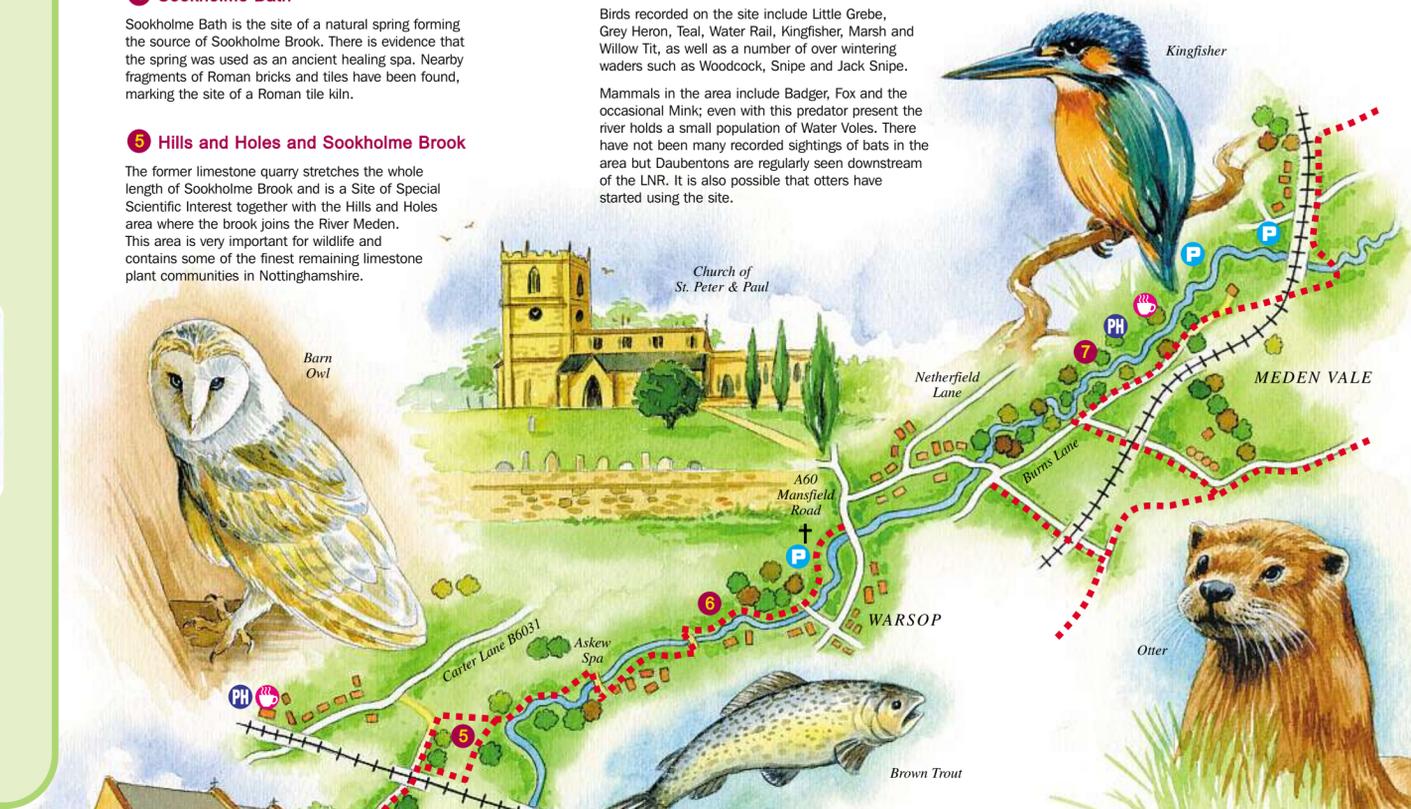
The river meanders through the length of this reserve and is flanked on either side by low-lying wetlands. The area regularly floods during the winter months and provides excellent habitat for amphibians and reptiles including Newts and Grass Snakes.

Birds recorded on the site include Little Grebe, Grey Heron, Teal, Water Rail, Kingfisher, Marsh and Willow Tit, as well as a number of over wintering waders such as Woodcock, Snipe and Jack Snipe.

Mammals in the area include Badger, Fox and the occasional Mink; even with this predator present the river holds a small population of Water Voles. There have not been many recorded sightings of bats in the area but Daubentons are regularly seen downstream of the LNR. It is also possible that otters have started using the site.

KEY to symbols

- Trail Route
 Café
 Public House
 Parking

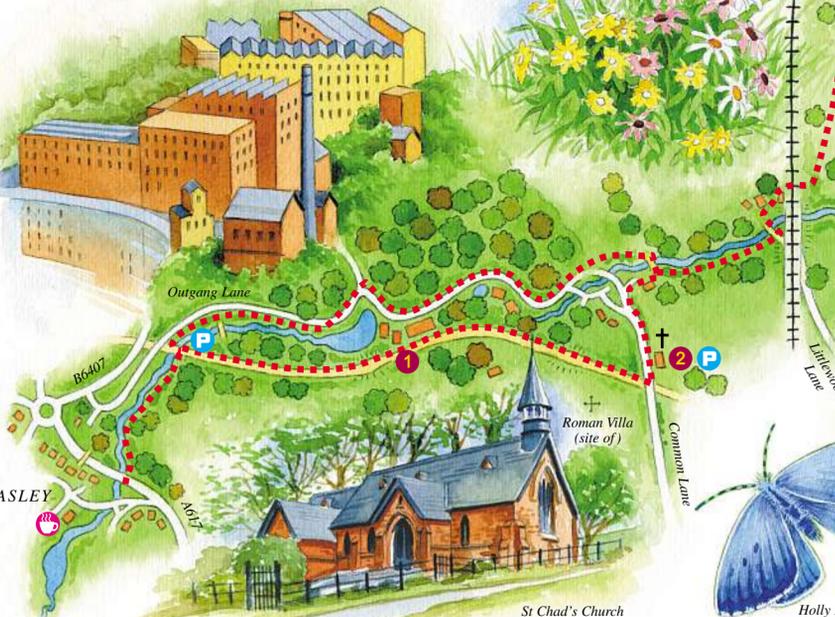


1 Pleasley Vale & Mills

Meden Trail LNR

This local nature reserve runs along a disused railway and covers nearly 10 hectares including a section designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It contains some of the best remaining calcareous grassland in the county and also includes fine examples of calcareous woodland scrub as well as interesting limestone crags and fissures.

The impressive complex of mill buildings in the bottom of the valley were built in 1847, 1850 and 1913, and were originally water powered. They ceased production in 1987 and have recently been converted into industrial and business units.

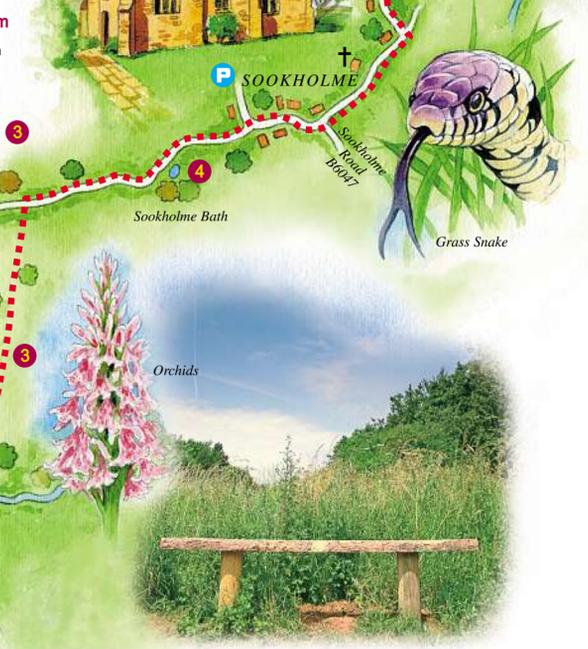


2 Pleasley Vale Plant Nursery & Tea Room

Pleasley Vale Plant Nursery & Tea Room is located within a former building of the mill complex. This Centre boasts an abundance of plant species. Enjoy light refreshments in the café and soak up the atmosphere of this tranquil site. Toilets are also located in the centre.

Open from 1st March to end of November annually.

Opening hours:
 10am - 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday
 and Bank Holiday Mondays



6 Market Warsop - The Carrs Park & LNR (SK565 683)

The Carrs in Warsop is a large open space, which includes the Local Nature Reserve, recreational and play areas, a mill pond and the River Meden. This park is a former water meadow (Carrs is an old English word meaning a marshy place), which was once common land. The park is now managed by Mansfield District Council and caters for a wide range of leisure activities. There is a well-equipped children's play area with picnic tables. The Carrs is also the venue for Warsop Carnival which is held in July.

The nature reserve contains a diverse mixture of habitats, including wet willow carr, hawthorn scrub, and both wet and dry grassland. Between the mill dam and River Meden is a small island that is an important haven for wildlife.

The Willow woodland to the south of the amenity grassland contains plants that are classed as ancient woodland indicators such as Wood Anemone, Dogs Mercury and Wild Garlic.

The River Meden is one of the cleanest rivers in the county and shoals of Brown Trout can be seen in its waters. The site is also great for birdlife with over one hundred species of birds recorded the highlights of which include Goosander, Osprey, Marsh Harrier and Waxwing.

Along the river is a pleasant walk lined by mature willow trees, which links the Carrs by a footbridge to the park on Carr Lane. Here there is another children's play area, as well as the BMX track, Skateboard Park and bowling green.

Grime

If you spot any unsightly litter when walking along the walks and trails in Mansfield District please contact us and let us know so that we can ensure the routes are clean and clear for your enjoyment. Thank you.

Please call 01623 463463 or email Grimebusters@mansfield.gov.uk



The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Working to protect wildlife in your County

The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is the County's largest environmental charity. We are run by local people for the benefit of local wildlife. We now have over 9000 supporters but need your support in order to continue protecting wildlife.

The Trust is also a partner in the largest voluntary organisation in the UK concerned with all aspects of wildlife protection, The Wildlife Trusts. This partnership of 47 County Trusts and Urban Wildlife Groups manages more than 2300 nature reserves and has more than 600,000 members.

For details of how you can support our work, please contact:

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust,
 The Old Ragged School,
 Brook Street, Nottingham, NG1 1EA

Tel: 0115 958 8242

Fax: 0115 9243175

Email: nottswt.cix.co.uk

www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/nottinghamshire



The Sherwood Forest Trust

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Sherwood Initiative Area Partnership Scheme is putting back Britain's heart of oak through the re-creation of the traditional landscapes and habitats of Sherwood Forest. We include communities in development of co-operation, direct action, local responsibility and pride to secure delivery of strategic heritage landscapes, interpretation, and education and community involvement.

Contact: 01623 758231

Website: www.sherwoodforest.org.uk

Email: sherwoodtrust.en@nottscg.gov.uk



Join us for one of the many exciting events taking place at Local Nature Reserves and Parks, including 'Summer in the Streets' open-air concerts, theatre and family events. For the latest 'What's On' events information contact 01623 463026 or visit www.mansfield.gov.uk/whatson

1 Kings Mill Reservoir

Kings Mill is a large reservoir and area of natural beauty on the Sutton-in-Ashfield and Mansfield border. It provides a habitat for a wide range of wildlife, and is ideal for walking, nature study and water activities. A new visitor centre opened on this site in late Spring 2006.

2 The Hermitage LNR (SK521 598)

This small nature reserve used to be part of Hermitage House gardens and is so called because it is believed in Tudor times the Bishop of St David's used the location as a religious retreat. The site was given to the council in 1986 by a Mrs Valance as an open space for the benefit of the people of Mansfield.

At the western end sits King's Mill Viaduct, a Scheduled Ancient Monument and believed to be the oldest railway viaduct in England. Josias Jessop built it in 1817 for the Mansfield & Pinxton Railway Company to serve the Mansfield & Pinxton line, which connected the town with the Cromford Canal at Pinxton and was used to transport cotton to Hermitage Mill.

The reserve is dominated by the disused millpond of Hermitage Mill, which is surrounded by mature deciduous woodland of Ash, Oak with the occasional Holly and Yew and with ancient woodland indicators such as Wood Anemone, Bluebell, Lesser Celandine and Dogs Mercury.

Despite the sites small size a total of 46 species of bird have been recorded with 42 of these species having bred. This includes breeding Grey Heron and breeding Pochard. Also present are pairs of Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail, Spotted Flycatcher, Willow Tit, Bullfinch and Reed Bunting.

The site is not suitable at present for the disabled, as the only formal access is via a flight of steps leading from Kings Lodge Drive.

3 Oakham LNR (SK529 598)

Oakham Local Nature Reserve was created to replace habitats lost through the construction of Oakham Business Park. It comprises a wide assortment of wildlife habitats ranging from flower rich dry grassland and recently planted woodland areas to wetland habitats next to the River Maun.

There is a well-maintained boardwalk and bridge over the river Maun that allows pedestrians to walk from Kings Mill reservoir through Oakham across Sheepbridge Lane onto Quarry Lane Walkway LNR and into Mansfield town centre.

Bird species recorded include Grey Heron, Kingfisher, Dipper, Nightingale, Lesser and Common Whitethroat and Green Woodpecker. Water voles use both the river and the man made scrapes, and there is a colony of the British White-clawed Crayfish in the nearby Cauldwell Brook.

The flower rich grassland areas support lots of butterflies, which include Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Brimstone and Common Blue.

4 Quarry Lane Walkway LNR (SK533 602)

The River Maun meanders through this reserve, eventually entering Field Mill Pond. The Mill Pond attracts a wide variety of birds including Little Grebes and breeding Mute Swans. The area also boasts a thriving population of Water Voles. As the river flows through the site it falls over a number of small ruffles attracting Kingfishers and breeding Grey Wagtails. The river is flanked by mature woodland dominated by Ash, Beech and Oak. This woodland provides breeding habitat for a number of bird species including Spotted Flycatcher and Bullfinch.

The grassland creates small open 'meadow' areas between the trees and scrub which is a haven for invertebrates most noticeably butterflies with several species being recorded for example Meadow Brown, Common Blue, Small Copper and Brimstone.

Along the southern edge of the site is a frequent limestone exposure, which provides a rare habitat. This site has many important historical features including Drury's dam viaduct, and the remains of the extensive mill building once the third largest in Europe.

The site has flat, well-maintained footpaths that make the area accessible to all.

5 Titchfield Park

A welcome contrast to the busy commercial area surroundings. Titchfield Park is within easy walking distance of the Town Centre and is adjacent to Water Meadows Swimming & Fitness Complex. The Park has recently been refurbished providing excellent facilities, including an improved pavilion and play area, for a good family day out.

6 Town Centre

Mansfield Town Centre is packed with things to do for a great day out, so whilst you are walking or cycling along the trails, why not take a couple of hours to see more of the town and the family attractions only a few minutes away.

The Market Place still hosts a market most days, and holds regular speciality markets including monthly Farmers Markets (3rd Tuesday of every month). The traditional market place is complimented with designer boutiques and specialist shops, whilst the Four Seasons Shopping Centre is packed with top high street shops and department stores.

The town has plenty of great places to eat and drink from a la carte pavement cafes to pub meals.

For a visitors guide to Mansfield contact visitor information or see our website.

Learning & Discovery

Mansfield Museum

Our dynamic Museum and Art Gallery contains a fascinating mix of permanent displays of local art and artefacts. Let our exquisite Buxton watercolours of the local landscape take you back to the turn of the century. Savour the delicate beauty of the Pinxton porcelain.

Discover a new green world in the hands-on XplorActive environment gallery.

The newest of the permanent galleries focuses on helping children (and their parents!) understand the crucial part they play in sustaining their environment. Inter-active displays encourage them to trace, weigh, find, draw, peep and twist their way through a journey from the kitchen to the edge of the wood, via the street, the park and the river. Trails and art materials are available for those who want to Xplor just that bit more Actively!

7 Carr Bank Park

A delightful, well presented town centre park with Green Flag Status. Carr Bank houses the old manor which now operates as a hotel and restaurant. The park offers a range of sports activities, a sculpture park and hosts events throughout the year. Planting throughout the park reflects the planting schemes of the original park design together with the introduction of wildflower meadows and naturalized areas.

8 Ravensdale LNR (SK552 619)

This Local Nature Reserve lies on the steep slopes of the Maun Valley from the top of which are great views over Mansfield and the surrounding countryside. The site is important for nature conservation as it supports lowland heathland and old oak woodland habitats.

Many of the common bird species are present including Tawny Owl, Great-spotted Woodpecker with breeding pairs of Common Whitethroat, Willow Warbler and Yellowhammer.

9 Maun Valley Park LNR (SK548625)

This Local Nature Reserve is the largest in the District covering 17 hectares of protected habitats alongside the River Maun from Bath Lane to New Mill Lane and comprising ancient oak woodland, grassland, water meadows, riverside and wetland habitats.

The River Maun

The River Maun has been important in the historical development of Mansfield particularly in the supply of waterpower for a wide variety of mills. Today it is an important part of the natural environment providing habitats for wildlife, and providing the local community with valuable amenity and recreation areas. Its source lies near Sutton-in-Ashfield, and from there it flows north east through Mansfield, Edwinstowe and Ollerton, through the heart of the Sherwood Forest area. Near Markham Moor it merges with the River Meden to form the River Idle. Its main tributaries are Rainworth Water and Vicar Water.

10 Spa Ponds (SK570 634)

This reserve contains three medieval ponds with a fourth modern pond, all of which are fed by a natural spring that can be seen percolating through the sand; these two features are rarely found on Sherwood Sandstone. The ponds are an important area for a variety of invertebrates, particularly dragonflies.

The River Maun runs adjacent to the reserve with an adjoining willow carr, which was formed due to mining subsidence. During the winter this wet woodland holds a number of Water Rail. Other wildlife includes birds such as Little Grebe and Kingfisher with Goldcrests in the surrounding conifer plantations.

11 Parliament Oak

Parliament Oak marks the boundary of Clipstone Park a royal hunting estate dating back to the 13th century; it was a favourite of King Richard I, who spent most of his time in England at the nearby Clipstone Palace. It was in the year 1212 that Richard's brother King John summoned a parliament which was held under this tree when he was informed of the Welsh revolt and an insurrection in the north of England. The King in his anger then rode to Nottingham Castle where he ordered the execution by hanging from the castle walls of 28 boys aged between 12 and 14 years of age; the boys were being held by the King as hostages in order to keep the Welsh Prince Llewellyn in subjection. King John and his army then moved on to Wales where they quelled the Welsh uprising.

King Edward I is also said to have summoned a parliament which was held under this tree in the year 1290, the King was staying at the nearby Clipstone Palace while he and his army were on their way to Scotland.

There are over five hundred trees that are over one thousand years old in the area including important trees like the Major Oak and Parliament Oak.



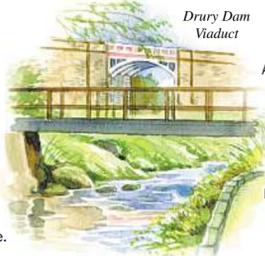
Nightjar



Photograph taken 1870



Grey Heron



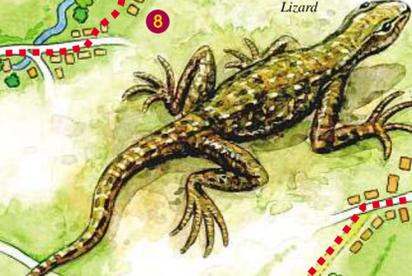
Drury Dam Viaduct



Water Vole



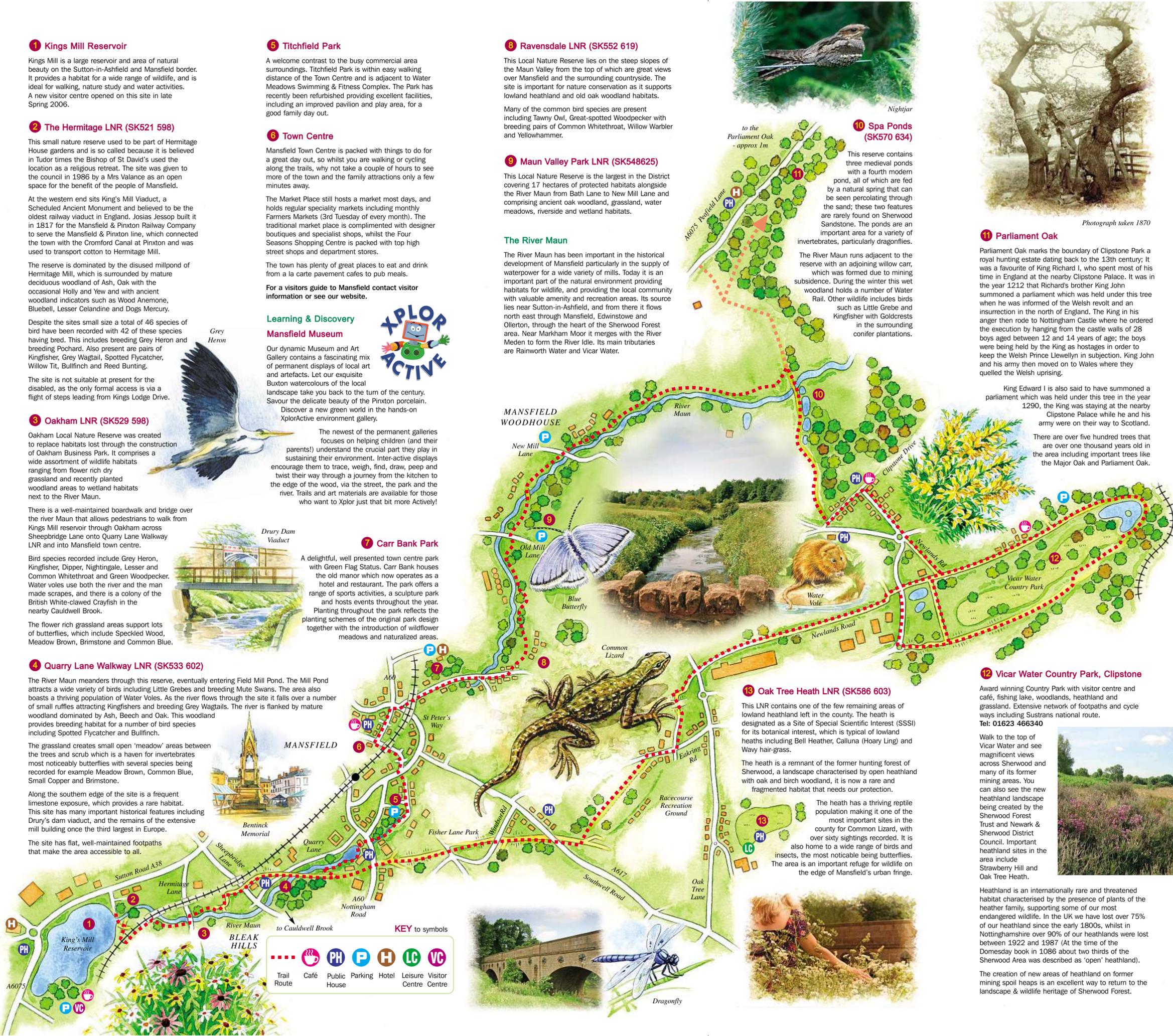
Blue Butterfly



Common Lizard

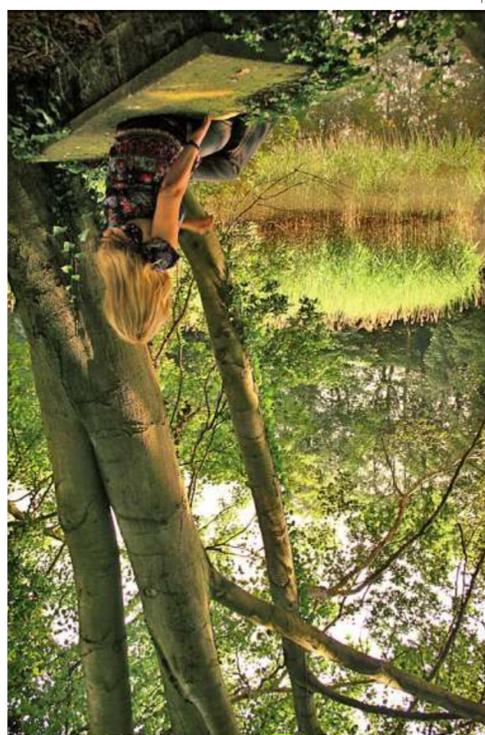


Dragonfly



KEY to symbols

- Trail Route
- Café
- Public House
- Parking
- Hotel
- Leisure Centre
- Visitor Centre



Welcome to Mansfield District's Local Nature Reserves & Parks

Where to find us



For more information contact us:

Email tourism@mansfield.gov.uk
 Phone 01623 463026
 Fax 01623 463900
 Post Tourism
 Mansfield District Council
 Civic Centre
 Chesterfield Road South
 Mansfield
 Notts NG19 7BH
 Internet www.mansfield.gov.uk and www.visitmansfield.co.uk

SHERWOOD FOREST TRUST
wildlife TRUSTS
SHERWOOD initiative

Mansfield District Council
 Creating a District where People can Succeed

Supported by the **Heritage Lottery Fund**

The information in this leaflet is available in large print.

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