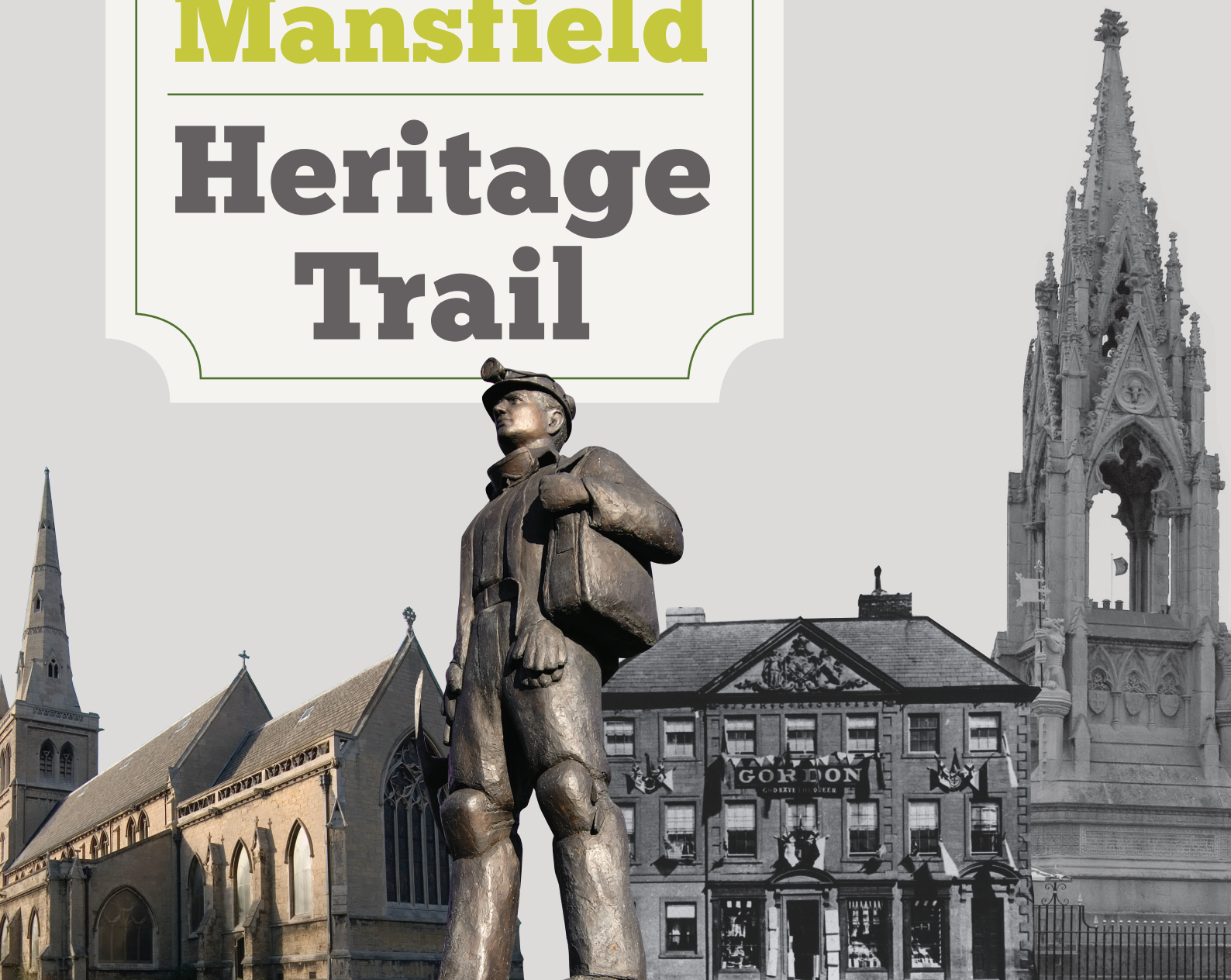


Mansfield

Heritage Trail



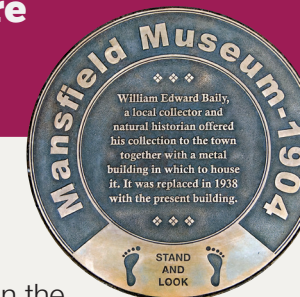
A tour around the heritage of Mansfield

Contents

Welcome	3
A history of Mansfield	4-5
Leeming Street	6-9
Market Place	10-13
Church Street	14-17
West Gate	18-22
Audio trail information	23

Welcome to Mansfield Town Centre Heritage Trail.

This will guide you around some of the interesting buildings and monuments in this bustling market town and will help to build up a picture of life here in times gone by.



The trail has been divided into colour coded sections and you can decide what you want to see and how far you want to walk. If you have the time and energy to follow the entire route it will last about two hours. There are places in each section where you can rest and get refreshments.

Please take care while walking around and watch out for the traffic as some of the roads on the route are busy.

Look out for the bronze plaques set into the ground at some of the stops on the tour. These include more details about the buildings and monuments.

The town boasts a wealth of history and there's even more information available at Mansfield Museum, the starting point of the tour. We hope you enjoy the stories behind the facade of the town's buildings.

This trail is also available as an audio guide to download (see page 23 for details).



A history of Mansfield

There is no certain answer to the origins of the name 'Mansfield'. In the Domesday survey of 1086 the town was recorded as 'Mamesfelde.' 'Mame' comes possibly from the Celtic 'Mamm' which derives from 'Mother Goddess' and refers to the life giving properties of the river that flows through the town. 'Mame' eventually became Maun; the name by which the river is known today. 'Feld' is old English for an area of open land. So, 'Mamesfelde' or 'Maunsefeld,' as it was later known, translates as open land beside the River Maun.

Mansfield has been important in the area for many centuries. A Neolithic stone axe dating back 6,000 years was unearthed during building work in the town and flint tools discovered nearby. The remains of a Roman villa are only a few miles away at Mansfield Woodhouse.

At the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, Mansfield was part of a Royal Manor owned by the King and thought to be the administrative centre for estates stretching right across the north of the county.

In 1227 Mansfield was granted a market charter. This period also saw the beginnings of small-scale quarrying and textile manufacture. Over the following centuries Mansfield grew slowly. It lay in an important position in the county on the western edge of Sherwood Forest, offering direct routes to Nottingham, Newark, Worksop, Chesterfield and Rotherham.

In the 18th century, Mansfield rapidly expanded with the onset of industry. Malting of hops for breweries was overtaken in importance towards the end of the century by framework knitting with a string of mills being powered by the waters of the River Maun. The population around this time reached 6,000 people.

The late 18th century saw the development of iron foundries and the first coal mines were sunk on the town outskirts. During the 20th century new industries such as metal box manufacture and shoe making saw the population rise to over 50,000.



Leeming Street

Pages 6-9

Market Place

Pages 10-13

Church Street

Pages 14-17

West Gate

Pages 18-22

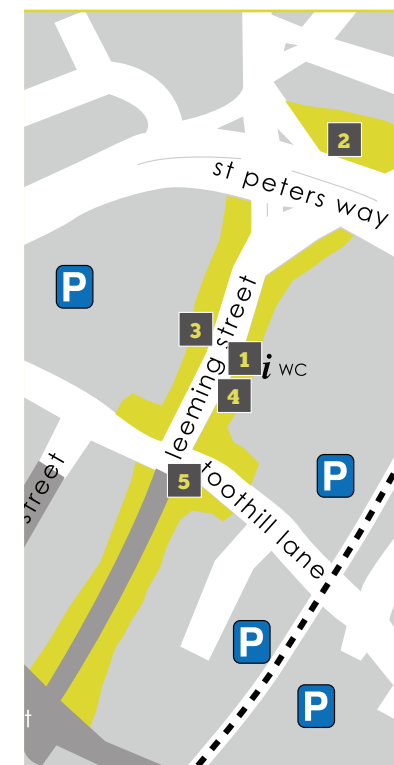


Leeming Street

Buildings from different periods reveal the colourful history of the town in this area. Remains of the medieval pattern of streets can still be seen, although many of the timber-framed buildings of the time were destroyed by two fires in the 16th century.

Meanwhile, late 17th century grand houses and tiny framework knitters' cottages sit alongside the remains of Mansfield's industrial past such as water-powered mills and maltings.

Sights at a glance



- 1 Mansfield Museum
- 2 Miners Sculpture
- 3 The Bowl in Hand Public House
- 4 The Old Library
- 5 Samuel Brunts Building

KEY

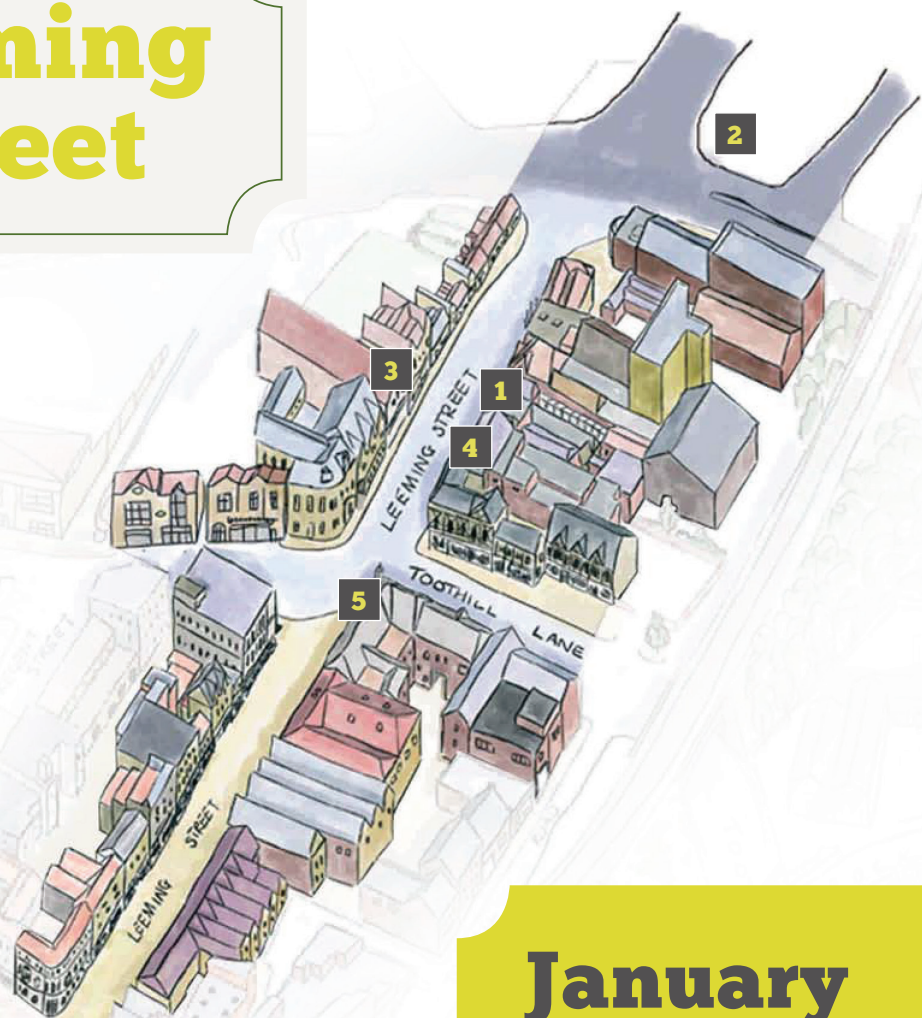
- Leeming Street area
- Built up area
- Pedestrian walk way
- Train line
- P Parking
- i Visitor information point
- WC Public toilets

In 1531

Mansfield was in great danger of being burned down in 1531. A fire broke out in Stockwell Gate in the early part of the year and 150 bays of houses were destroyed.



Leeming Street



January 1598

A commission was set up to enquire into the condition of Sherwood Forest. Mansfield Wood at this time had 480 oaks at more than 200 years growth.



1 Mansfield Museum

Local natural historian, William Edward Baily, donated his collection to the town together with an old metal chapel in which to store it. The 'Tin Tabernacle,' as it was known, was replaced by the present building in 1938 and houses exhibits telling the story of the town. The museum has a collection of paintings by local artist, Albert Sorby Buxton, which shows life in Mansfield around the turn of the 20th century.



2 Tribute to the British Miner

This three metre high sculpture by Nikolaos Kotziamanis celebrates Mansfield's coal mining heritage. Over 35,000 men were employed in Nottinghamshire's pits when the industry was at its peak in the early part of the 20th century.

3 Bowl in Hand



The first pub on this site dates back to the 1750s and was known as the Bowling Green Inn. The bowling green behind the building dates back to that time. The current building was finished in 1900. During the demolition of the old pub the son of the landlord, Thomas Doncaster, was looking for some marbles in the cellar when the gable end of one of the buildings being demolished fell down. He was buried in rubble for a short time but luckily suffered no serious damage.

4 The Old Library



This public library was built with money donated by the Scottish born industrialist, Andrew Carnegie, who made his fortune from the American steel industry. It is one of 2,508 such libraries built across the world with the aim of 'helping the industrious and ambitious to education.' The son of a weaver, Carnegie was perhaps the first to state publicly that the 'rich have a moral obligation to give away their fortunes.'

5 Samuel Brunts Building



On the front of the building is a statue of Samuel Brunts who died in 1711 leaving much of his wealth for charitable use. In his Will he stated that the money was to be used to benefit poor people of Mansfield who 'had been industrious and of sober life and conversation and feared the Lord.'

Gas Works

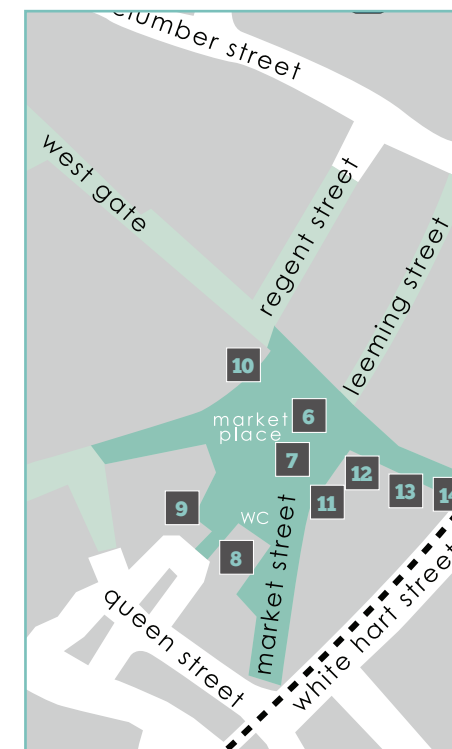
Mansfield Gas Works was erected and finished in July 1824. It is doubtful gas was used for lighting by then as the commissioners had not decided whether to use gas or oil for the purpose. Street lighting was installed in 1825-6 in only a few of the town's main streets.







Market Place

When the town was granted its market charter in 1227 Mansfield was a small settlement. At the turn of the 19th century the Market Place was a maze of small streets filled with shops and pubs. Space was so tight there was little room for horses and carts to pass through. The town's population had grown to around 8,300 most of whom lived within a 10-minute walk of the centre. It became obvious re-development was needed and in 1823 the newly appointed improvement commissioners decided to demolish the central area to make a more open market place.

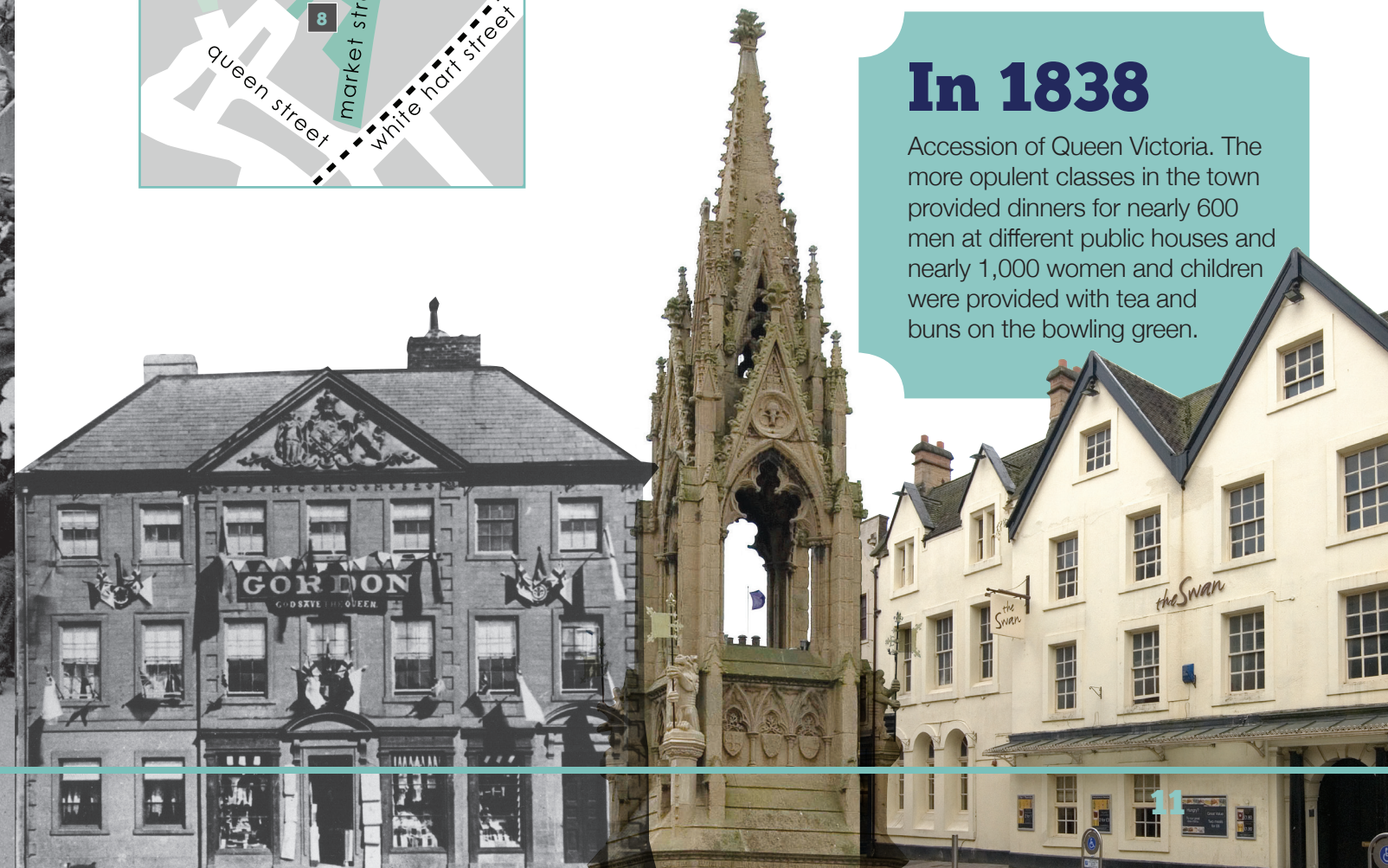
Sights at a glance



- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 6 Market Place | 13 White Hart Public House |
| 7 Bentinck Memorial | 14 Railway Viaduct |
| 8 The Town Hall | |
| 9 The Dial Public House | KEY |
| 10 Moot Hall |  Market Place |
| 11 Bakehouse Building |  Built up area |
| 12 The Swan Public House |  Pedestrian walk way |
| |  Train line |

In 1838

Accession of Queen Victoria. The more opulent classes in the town provided dinners for nearly 600 men at different public houses and nearly 1,000 women and children were provided with tea and buns on the bowling green.



Market Place



7 Bentinck Memorial



The monument, built in 1849 by public subscription, is a memorial to Lord George Bentinck of Welbeck Abbey, the son of the fourth Duke of Portland. Bentinck was a well-known politician and his family owned much of the land in and around Mansfield. It was supposed to contain a statue of Lord George but money ran out and it was never made.

8 Town Hall



Work to build the town hall, designed by William Adams Nicholson, began in May 1835. John Coke laid the foundation stone in July at a public ceremony attended by around 5,000 people. Building workers were treated to an 'excellent dinner and three pints of ale each' by members of the Town Hall Company. An illuminated clock was installed on the building and attracted a huge amount of interest when it was first lit by gas on 4 February 1837.

9 Dial Hotel

The Old Dial was built in the early 19th century and was demolished in 1841 and replaced with a new building at the Market Place end of the Old Dial's yard. The main entrance of the hotel opened out onto the Market Place to take advantage of its recent development.



10 Moot Hall



The Moot Hall, built in 1752, was paid for by the Lady of the Manor of Mansfield, Henrietta Cavendish Holles, who lived at Welbeck Abbey. The ground floor was used as a trading and meeting place whilst the first floor was used for scientific lectures, dancing and card playing. Meetings often featured demonstrations depicting events such as battles or volcanic eruptions. They were held at full moon so people could find their way home in an age before street lighting.

In 1546

There was another major fire. This was said to be wilfully started by Coll Davey. 130 bays of houses were destroyed and Coll was tried and hanged.

12 The Swan Hotel



At one time the foremost coaching inn in Mansfield, the Swan dates back to 1586 and replaces a building almost 200 years older. The old building was destroyed by a fire which ravaged much of the medieval heart of the town. It was a stopping off point for coaches travelling to London and York.

11 Bakehouse Building



This building is a reminder of early Mansfield. A former 'Backyard Bakehouse' it was once hidden away in Eclipse Inn Yard.

19 March 1789

To celebrate the recovery of George III from his mental malady, illuminations, bonfires and sheep roasting took place in the town.

13 The White Hart Inn



The present building dates from 1873 and stands on the site of the 16th century home of Dame Cecily Flogan, a local benefactress who died in 1521. It was used as an inn until it was demolished in 1872 to make way for the construction of the railway viaduct. White Hart Yard behind the inn would have been full of small traders and businesses.

14 The Railway Viaduct

One of Mansfield's landmark buildings, the railway viaduct, was built in 1875 for the Midland Railway Company. The 15 brick and stone arches span the heart of the town and stand as a testament to the Industrial Age.

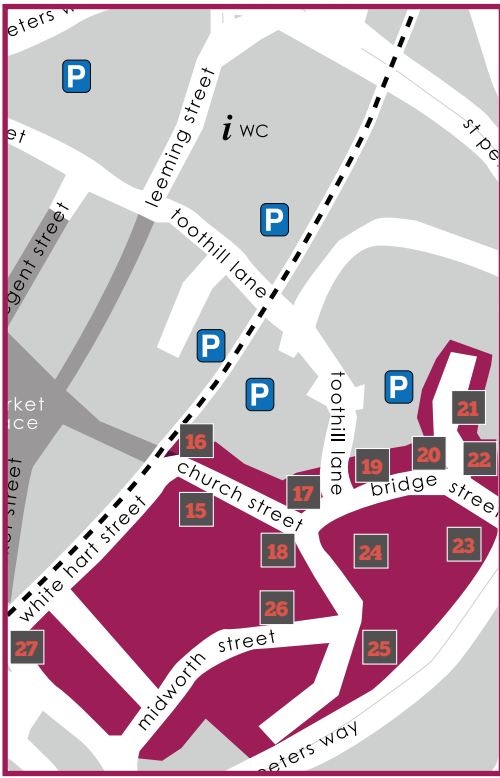




Church Street

Formerly known as Kirkgate, this is one of the oldest streets in Mansfield linking the church, the Moot Hall and the site of the old market place. Coaching inns provided rooms and refreshments for weary travellers and stabling for the horses. A tannery was established behind the Ram Public House in the 17th century which was still in business in the late 1800s. An inn and a number of cave houses were cut into the limestone cliffs which can be seen behind the modern shop fronts.

Sights at a glance

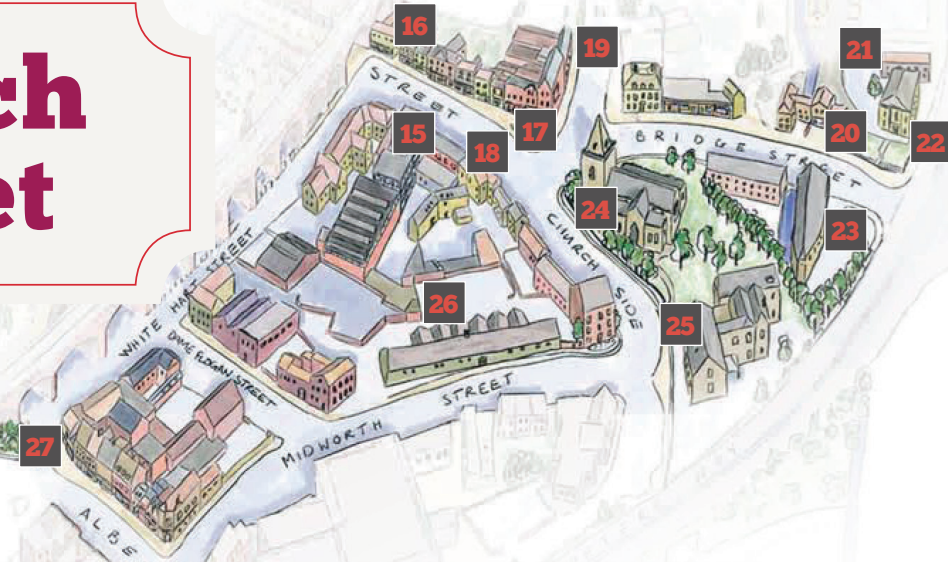


- 15** The Post Office
 - 16** White Lion Yard
 - 17** Amphitheatre Sculpture
 - 18** The Ram Public House
 - 19** St Peter's House
 - 20** The Sundial
 - 21** Rock Court/ River Maun
 - 22** Methodist Church
 - 23** Town Mill
 - 24** St Peter's Church
 - 25** Grammar School
 - 26** The Maltings
 - 27** High Heels Sculpture
- KEY**
- Church Street area
 - Built up area
 - Pedestrian walk way
 - Train line
 - P Parking
 - i Visitor information point
 - WC Public toilets

In 1776
The bridge from which Bridge Street takes its name was built. Before the bridge was built there were stepping stones over which horses and carts were driven



Church Street



15 Post Office



This fine building dates from the 1920s. Of particular note are the magnificent Ionic columns topped with ornamental capitals.

17 Amphitheatre

David Annand's sculpture is a meeting place as well as a work of art. The bronze life-size figure in the sculpture represents a leader physically holding up a broken amphitheatre. The underlying theme is the struggle to maintain the civilised infrastructure of society. Work by a local poet has been sand blasted onto the sculpture to give people encouragement to sit and contemplate.



16 White Lion Yard



This yard was named after an inn that was almost entirely dug into the rock face and contained cave houses that were lived in until 1901. Timbers that date back to the 16th century have been found here. The yard was restored in 1994 after a long period of neglect.

20 Sundial House



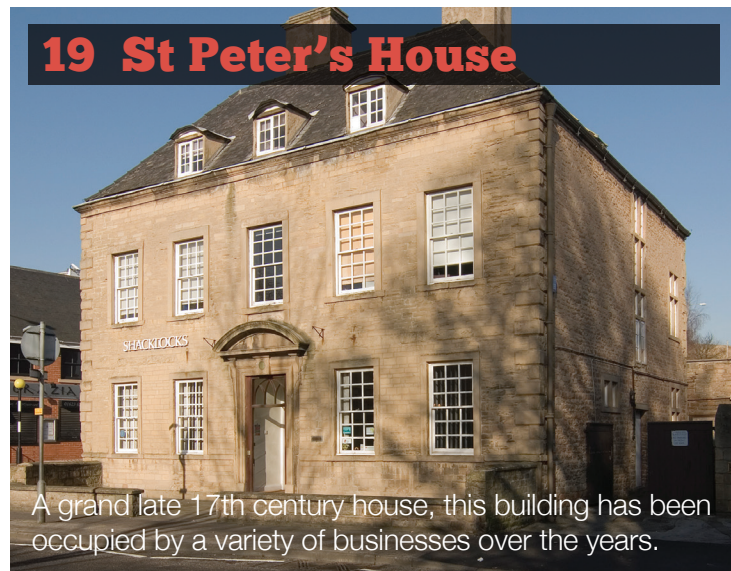
The painted sundial on the upper storey of this 16th century building serves as a reminder of a time when it was commonplace to structure the working day by the light from the sun.

18 The Ram Public House



This timber framed building dates back to the 17th century or maybe even earlier. Do not be deceived by the black and white timbered frontage as this was added in the 1920s when the building was restored. Some of the original timbers do still exist but are inside the building.

19 St Peter's House



A grand late 17th century house, this building has been occupied by a variety of businesses over the years.

21 Rock Court



This block of terraced houses was built in the 17th century. In 1836 they were converted into a private school, known as Maltby's Academy. Principally for boys, the school, run by three generations of the Maltby family, remained here until 1887. The building is now a private residence.

24 Church of St Peter and St Paul



The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, is thought to date back to Saxon times. In 1304 the church was partly burnt down but rebuilt soon afterwards in the Norman style with a fine arch at the end of the nave. The tower dates back to the 12th century and is topped by a small spire which was added in 1666. St Peter's is the home to a set of bells, the earliest of which dates back to 1603.

27 High Heels



Renn and Thacker's seven metre high stainless steel and bronze sculpture makes reference to the shoe industry, prominent in Mansfield since the mid 19th century.

22 Bridge Street Chapel



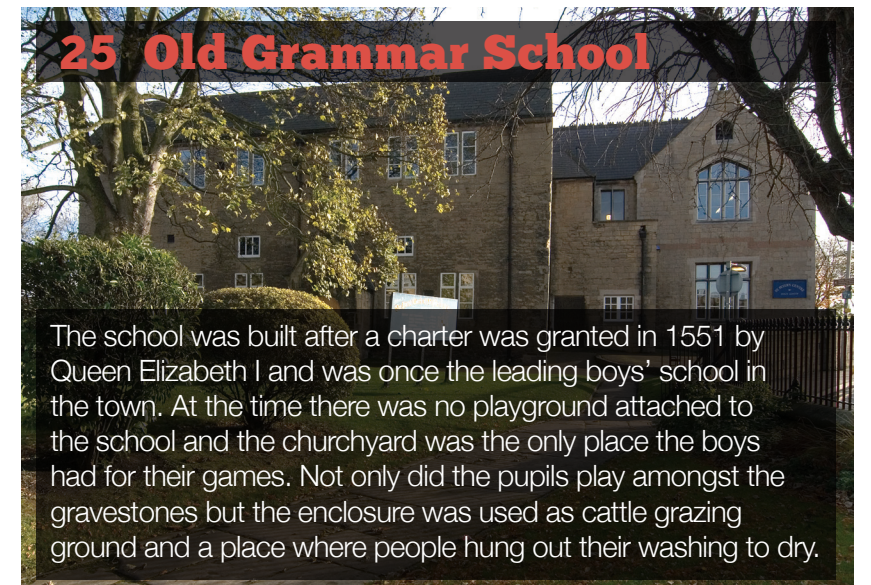
This site was brought by the Wesleyan Methodists from the Earl of Chesterfield in 1812. The chapel, built in 1864, was well known for having the 'best church music in Mansfield.'

23 Town Mill



The Town Mill was built as a corn and malt mill in the 1740s and with the onset of the Industrial Revolution was converted to cotton spinning in 1795. After a fire the two upper storeys were demolished and the building served as a warehouse until it became a pub.

25 Old Grammar School



The school was built after a charter was granted in 1551 by Queen Elizabeth I and was once the leading boys' school in the town. At the time there was no playground attached to the school and the churchyard was the only place the boys had for their games. Not only did the pupils play amongst the gravestones but the enclosure was used as cattle grazing ground and a place where people hung out their washing to dry.

26 The Maltings

The Maltings is of typical design; a long, single storey building with a floor that slopes slightly from one end of the building to the other. Malt production here dates back to 1740 and was used to make beer for Mansfield Brewery when it began brewing in 1855. Mansfield's malt was known for its high quality. Prior to the building of the railway malt was despatched on pack-horses which returned with coal required for the malt production.



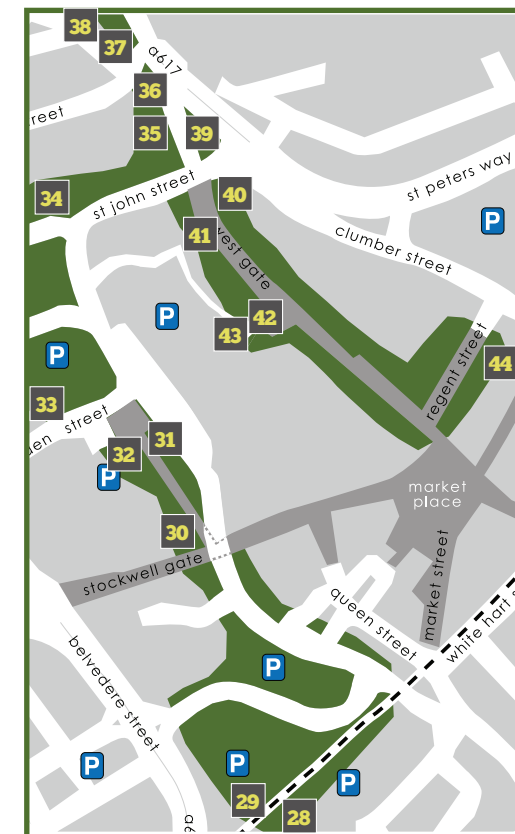
West Gate

In 1814

It was back in 1814 that an umbrella was first unfolded in the town. It was owned by a gentleman who had lived in the tropics for a long time. The astonishment was great and the gentleman was an object of curiosity for a long time whenever a shower occurred and he was out with his umbrella.

Now one of the busiest streets in modern Mansfield, West Gate was the site of a cattle market until 1877 when it was relocated to Nottingham Road. The shop with the horses' heads on the frontage is the site of the old Nag's Head Inn dating from the early 1700s and a meeting place for market traders and visitors. A number of 17th century houses survive at the northern end of West Gate and a stream, the Ladybrook, ran along the southern end and was home to an 18th century tannery.

Sights at a glance



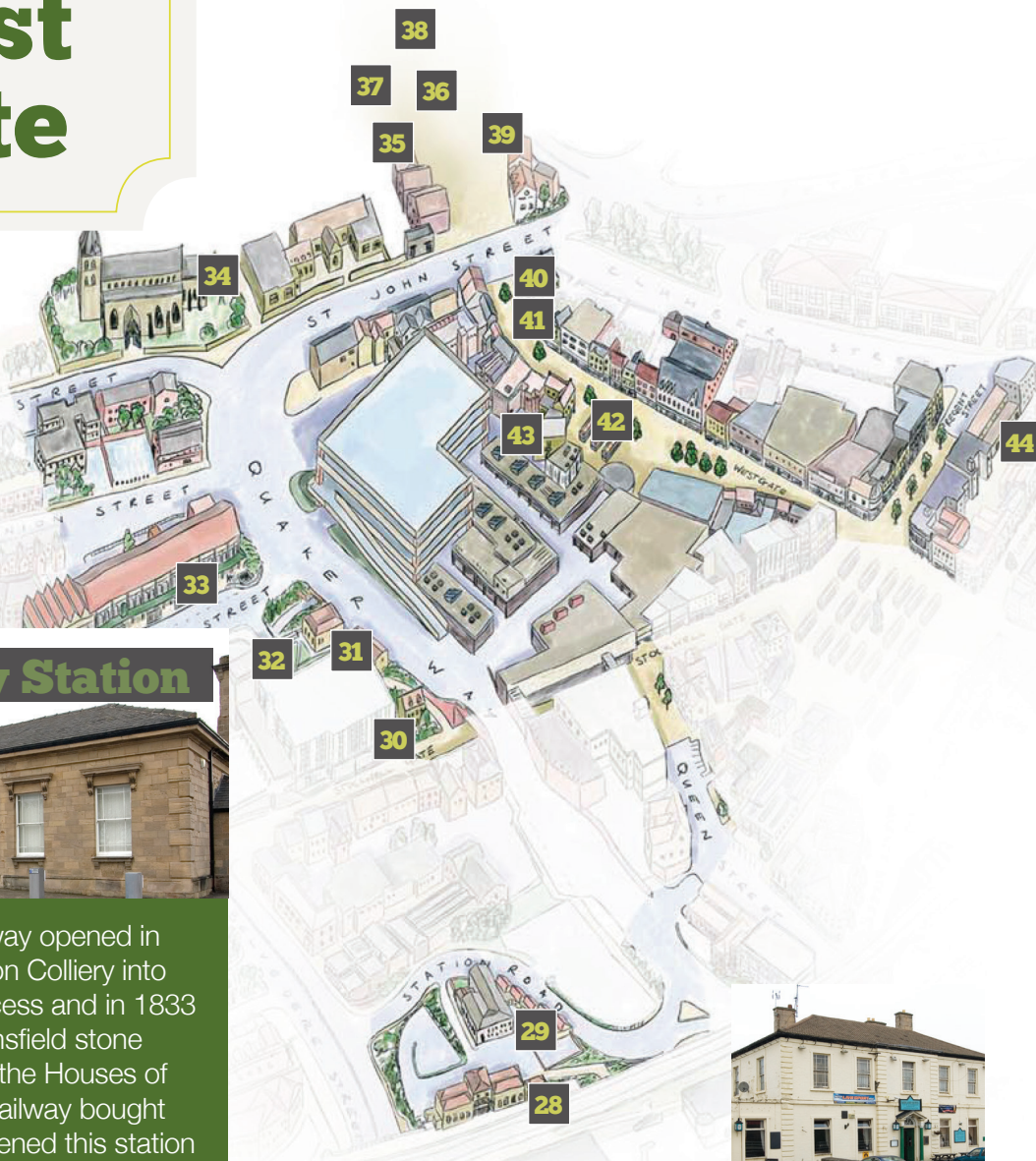
KEY

- West Gate area
- Built up area
- Pedestrian walk way
- Train line
- P Parking

- 28** The Railway Station
- 29** The Midland Hotel
- 30** Old Meeting House
- 31** Parsonage
- 32** World War One and World War Two Memorial
- 33** Rosemary Centre
- 34** St John's Church and School
- 35** Framework Houses
- 36** Feather Sculpture
- 37** West Gate House
- 38** St Philip Neri Church
- 39** 72-74 West Gate
- 40** Cromwell House
- 41** Centre Tree
- 42** Buttercross
- 43** Waverley House
- 44** Old Electricity Showroom



West Gate



28 The Railway Station



The Mansfield to Pinxton Railway opened in 1819 bringing coal from Pinxton Colliery into Mansfield. The line was a success and in 1833 was used to transport the Mansfield stone required to rebuild sections of the Houses of Parliament. In 1847 Midland Railway bought the line and two years later opened this station which served as the northern terminus for the service from Nottingham, until the viaduct was opened in 1875.

30 Old Parsonage



This house was occupied by the Reverend Robert Porter who was one of the ministers ejected from the Church of England following the Act of Uniformity. Meetings of the Unitarian community began here in 1666 and continued until the building of the Old Meeting House around 40 years later.

Unitarian community began here in 1666 and continued until the building of the Old Meeting House around 40 years later.

29 Midland Hotel



Opposite the station is the Midland Hotel, originally built in 1805 and once known as Broom House. Prior to its purchase by the Midland Railway Company in 1862, it was an asylum for men and surrounded by a very high wall to prevent escapes.

31 Old Meeting House

The Unitarian Church was founded by a group of Anglican clergy following the 1662 Act of Uniformity which dictated the way that all Church of England ministers should run their churches. Many of these ministers either left or were ejected from the church. The Old Meeting House is the oldest non-conformist church in the county. It was opened in 1702.



32 War Memorial



A memorial to the fallen of the World Wars can be found in the garden to the rear of the Parsonage.

34 St John's Church & School



With the coming of industry to Mansfield there was an increase in the town's population. As a result there was a need for another parish church. St John's was built in 1855-6 at a cost of £8,000, £6,000 of which was donated by Henry Gally Knight. He stipulated that at least 500 of the 1,000 seats were to be 'free seats' for anyone that wished to worship there. 'Pew renting' was a common practice at the time enabling those who could afford it to have the best seats in the church.

37 West Gate House



Now in use as offices, this fine building dates from 1780 and was altered and extended in the 19th century. The adjoining coach house and boundary walls date to the same period.



33 Rosemary Centre

The shopping centre occupies the building formerly known as Lawn Mills, which was established in 1906 by the Cash family. It was used to prepare cotton which was then sent for weaving in the damper atmosphere of Lancashire.

Children

often worked long hours in bad conditions in the hosiery trade. Children as young as four and five would twine yarn often sat on their mother's knee. By 1800 90% of the boys in Mansfield were apprenticed to become framework knitters.

35 Framework Knitters House



Unlike in the large mills, framework knitting was a cottage industry and a very hard life for knitters and their families who lived in poverty. There was a framework knitters' behind the building to your left.

36 A Spire for Mansfield

This abstract tree form by Wolfgang and Heron ties together ideas of heritage and hope. It acknowledges Mansfield's forest heritage and the evolution of ancient forest to coal and organic fossil fuels. It is over 12 metres high and made from stainless steel and bronze.



38 Church of St Philip Neri



This Roman Catholic Church was the first one to be named St Philip Neri. As the congregation grew, a new church and convent was built on the site. By the 1920s it was clear new premises would be needed and this church was opened in 1925.

39 72-74 West Gate

These former houses date from the late 17th century. After being refaced in the 1800s they were restored in the late 20th century. They probably survived as they are situated away from the redevelopment area of the town centre.



West Gate

41 Centre Tree



A plaque on the wall of Cromwell House is reputed to mark what was once the centre of Sherwood Forest. A tree has now been planted a short distance away on West Gate to mark the spot.



43 Waverley House

The building to the right of the Buttercross is Waverley House. It was built in 1754 from dressed stone left over from the building of the Moot Hall in the Market Place.



40 Cromwell House

Cromwell House was built in the mid 17th century in what was then a rural location at the edge of the town. In 1788 Reverend Samuel Catlow, who was a minister at the Old Meeting House, established his 'Literary and Commercial Seminary' at Cromwell House. This school was aimed at the mercantile and middle classes and taught reading, writing, merchants' accounts, algebra, geography, and continental languages. Fees were £36 per annum, excluding washing and the boys had to provide two sheets, four towels and a silver spoon.



42 Buttercross

The Buttercross dates from the 16th century and would have been on the edge of the town. A sundial sits on the top with a stone ball. This area was the cattle market until 1877, when a site on Nottingham Road was opened. This caused trade to fall off in the nearby pubs and so ordinary traders were allowed to operate here shortly afterwards.

44 Old Electricity Showrooms



Opened to the public on 21 July 1939 the Electricity Showrooms were part of a handsome row of buildings erected in the business quarter of the town. A whole range of electrical equipment was on sale and cooking demonstrations were staged to encourage the town's folk to change their coal-fired ranges for modern electric cookers.

With the onset of the Second World War the use of the buildings changed. The Air Raid Patrol wardens had use of the basement; the mezzanine floor was still used as a showroom by the Electricity Board whilst the top floor was used as a council chamber and committee room.

Audio Trail

The Mansfield Town Centre Heritage Trail is also available as a pre-recorded audio guide to download. This self-guided trail takes you on a tour around the historic building and monuments.

As you walk around the town you can listen to local people relating personal stories of working life and past events in the town. Historians offer an insight into how Mansfield was transformed from being a small market town into the bustling hive of activity that it is today.

How to download . . .

To download the trail visit the link shown below and follow the instructions to save the files onto your computer or download direct to your MP3 player, iPod or compatible mobile phone.

If you have an MP4 player or video iPod you will also be able to view a number of old photographs and watercolour paintings of the town as well as historic film of a steam train crossing the viaduct and a royal visit to the town.

The great thing about this audio tour is that you can listen at your leisure. There are no time restrictions and you can create your own itinerary. Once you've downloaded the tour you can use it as many times as you want.

Mansfield District Council has collated the information contained in this leaflet in good faith. Every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy. All maps and diagrams are artistic representations and are not Ordnance Survey based maps. Mansfield District Council cannot be responsible for omissions, inaccuracies or alterations.

Download the trail straight to your device from this link
www.mansfield.gov.uk/heritage-trail





The Heritage Trail is possible thanks to:



Mansfield
District Council



Project Part-Financed
by the European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

