

Mansfield Woodhouse

Heritage walks



Two fantastic walks around the hidden treasures
of Mansfield Woodhouse

Walk 1

Time: 4 hours (approx)

Distance: 6 miles

Not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs. Walkers must be active

Key

- Walk 1
- Refreshments
- Caravan & Camping
- Golf Course
- Parking
- Fishing

Introduction

The Heritage Trails are active walks around the outskirts of Mansfield Woodhouse indicating a number of historical sites (see map).

The heritage trails also show a wide variety of wildlife, from Bee Orchids at Oxclose Wood to farmland birds among the agricultural land, not forgetting the mixture of aquatic species, including Dragonflies and Damselflies at Spa Ponds.

1 Whinny Hill

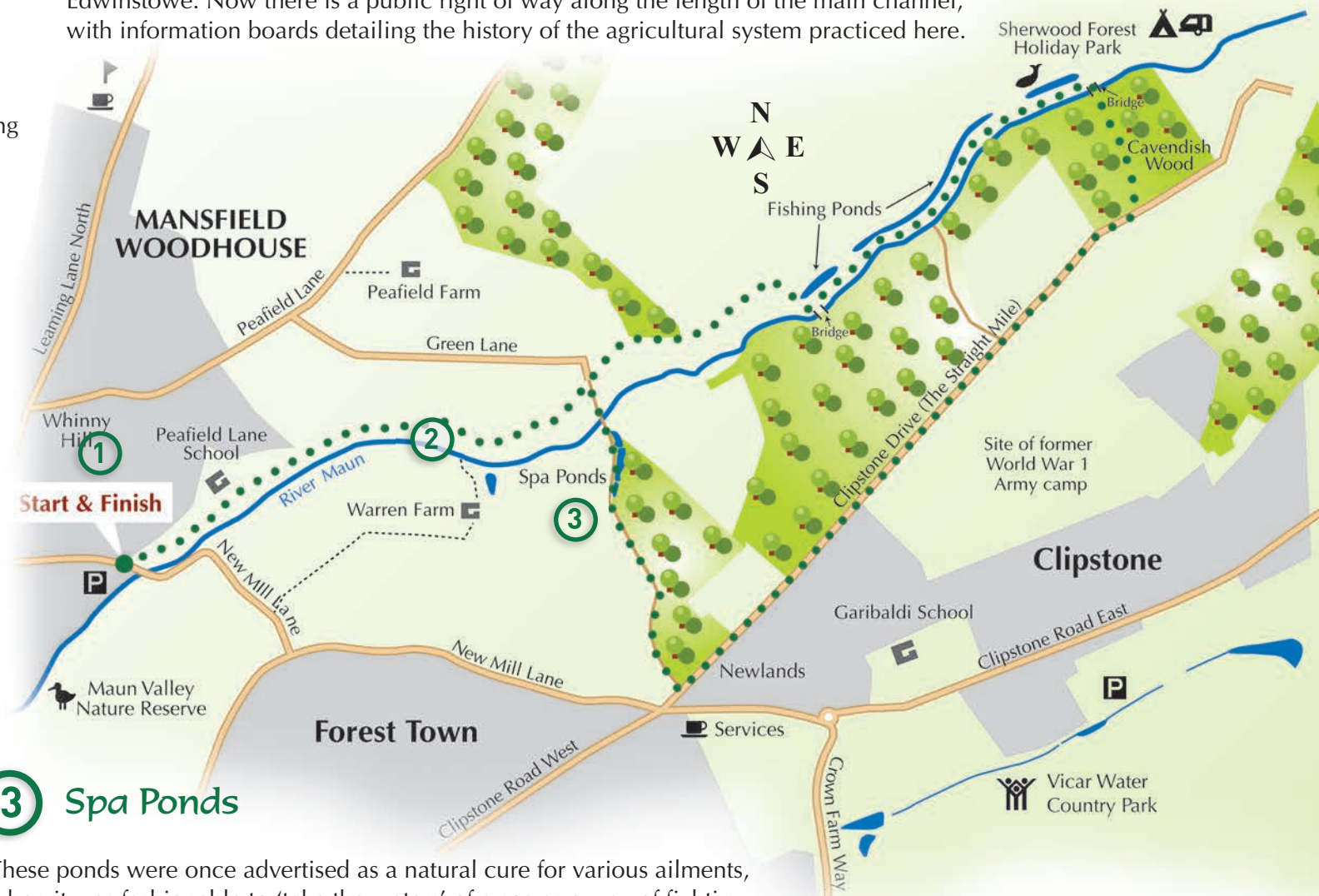
This area was investigated by local antiquarian Hayman Rooke in 1789, who believed it to be a Roman camp. Nowadays, it is thought that this site dates to the Iron Age, and was a small example of a hill fort, with two ditches running around its perimeter.

Flint artefacts have been found nearby the old earthworks, which are now built over by the houses on the area known as Roman Bank, named due to Rooke's belief in the site's origin. Rooke came to this conclusion due to the discovery of a Roman brooch found at the other end of the current allotments, 650m away from the site.



2 Flood Dykes

These meadows were once cultivated as 'flood meadows', with channelled water regularly poured over them to increase crop growth early in the season. These meadows were created and organised on the orders of the Duke of Portland and stretched over nearly 500 acres from Mansfield Woodhouse to beyond Edwinstowe. Now there is a public right of way along the length of the main channel, with information boards detailing the history of the agricultural system practiced here.



3 Spa Ponds

These ponds were once advertised as a natural cure for various ailments, when it was fashionable to 'take the waters' of a spa as a way of fighting minor illnesses and diseases, hence its name 'Spa Ponds'.

Walk 2

Time: 2 1/2 hours (approx)

Distance: 4.5 miles

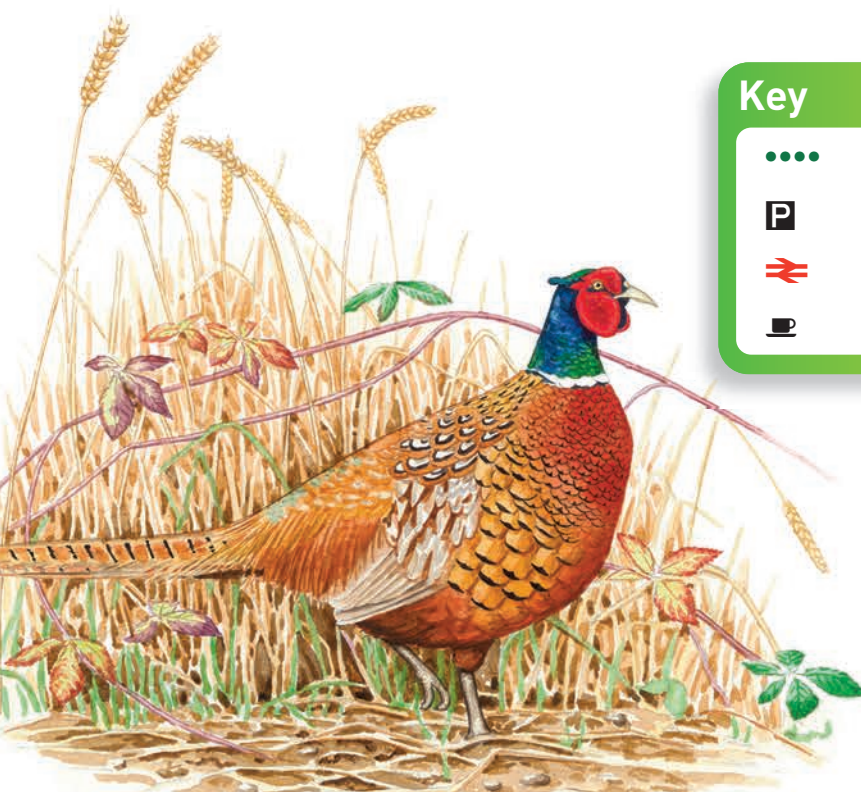
Not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs. Walkers must be active



2 Radmanthwaite

The village visible to the left of the path is Radmanthwaite. This settlement has been occupied under many different names from at least the 12th century, with early villagers possibly taking advantage of a source of workable materials, as well as a water supply.

The name may originally have meant 'clearing by the reedy pool', growing out of the phrase 'Reed-mere Thwaite', a thwaite being a clearing, and reed-mere meaning a marshy area by a pool of reeds.



Key

- Walk 2
- Parking
- Railway Station
- Refreshments

3 Roman Villa near Northfield

Whilst walking along this disused railway line, to your right is the site of a former Roman villa. The Villa site was first discovered and excavated by local antiquarian Hayman Rooke in 1786, who discovered at least two buildings close to each other, each over 30m (100ft) long. One building included a floor covered by intricate mosaics, brightly painted walls and an internal under floor heating system known as a hypocaust.

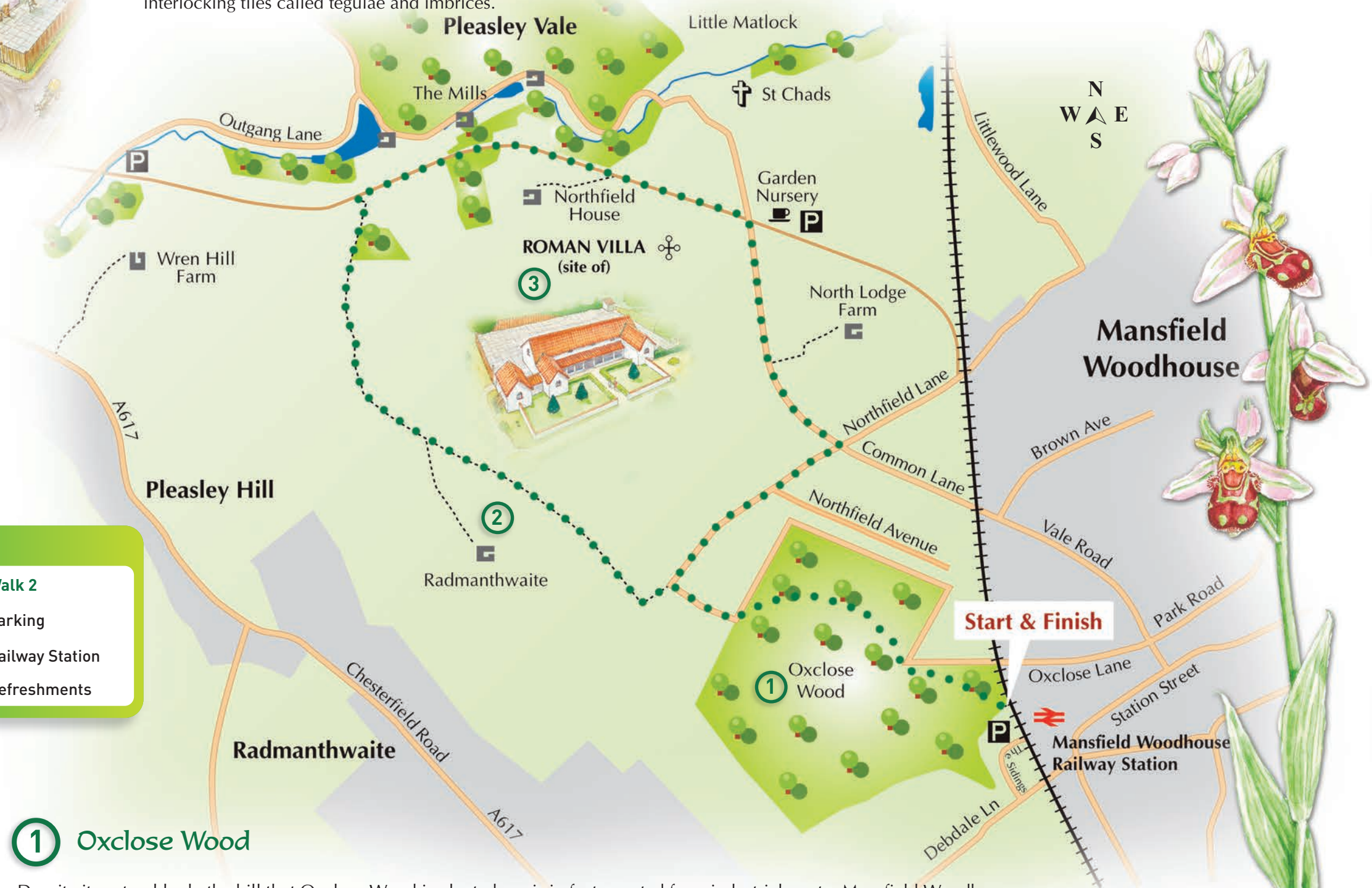
The villa buildings would have been built with stone foundations and walls, though the walls were probably plastered. The buildings had concrete floors, and had paved areas outside them. The roofs would have been made of interlocking tiles called tegulae and imbrices.

The villa site is thought to have been occupied from at least 130AD to 350AD, judging by the different types of coins, styles of pottery and other wares found, both on the site and in Roman graves nearby.

The site itself was probably inhabited before the building of the Villa, with evidence of a Romano-British village of wooden huts dating from 80AD being found on the site during excavations in 1936-1939.

It is also possible that a smaller and earlier settlement may have existed here before the Roman settlement, with Iron Age artefacts also found during the excavations of the villa site.

The Villa is currently protected under law as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, meaning that any disturbance to the ground of the area is a criminal offence, keeping the villa remains safe for the future.

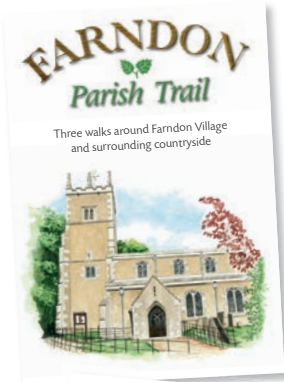


1 Oxclose Wood

Despite its natural look, the hill that Oxclose Wood is planted on, is in fact, created from industrial waste. Mansfield Woodhouse used to be an area of heavy coal mining and this area is one of the points where spoil (waste from the mines) was dumped making an artificial hill, known as Sherwood Pit Tip.

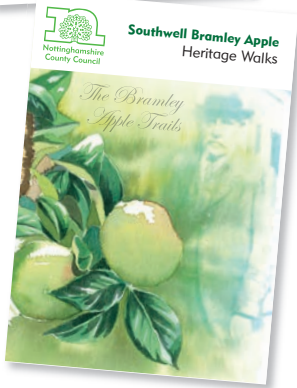


Other walks available around the County



Farndon Parish Trail

Made up of three walks, the Parish Trail explores Farndon village history, the River Trent and an abundance of wildlife in the local Nature Reserve.



Southwell Bramley Apple Heritage Trail

View some of Southwell's most poignant landmarks and take in the small rural market town's deep history as you follow the Bramley Apple trail.

This leaflet has been produced and funded by Nottinghamshire County Councils Local Improvement Scheme with support and guidance from Mansfield Woodhouse Society. Copies are available to download on the website www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/lis



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