

WELCOME

Welcome to Mansfield's Town Centre Trail!

Mansfield is a bustling, historic market town which forms the heart of Robin Hood country.

Walking round, you will be surprised to see a fascinating heritage on view. Stand back and admire highlights such as the dominating 19th century 15 arch viaduct which straddles the town centre; a beautiful church dating back to Saxon times and the old market square.

Bringing you into the 21st century are the modern indoor Shopping Centre, enthralling Museum and Art Gallery and lively Arts Centre and Palace Theatre.

This leaflet will guide you round some of the most interesting areas of the town centre, taking in important sights, buildings and memorials in Mansfield's history.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, help and advice on Mansfield and its attractions, contact the Tourist Information Centre based in Ollerton on:

01623 824545 (24hr answerphone)

Alternatively, write to the Tourist Information Assistant at The Civic Centre, Mansfield. (From January 2002)

For a range of leaflets to accompany this one, with information on eating out, evening entertainment, accommodation, parking, shopping and other activities, visit the museum on Leeming Street in the town centre.

OTHER LEAFLETS AVAILABLE

- Access Map
- Map & Guide
- Business Directory
- Where To Eat & Drink
- Accommodation Guide
- Mansfield Mini-Guide



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The aim of the Mansfield Town Centre Partnership is to improve Mansfield Town Centre for all who work, live or visit there, by making it a safe, accessible and attractive environment, through Public and Private Partnership.

Our key objectives relate to Development, Security, Accessibility, Environment, Marketing and Monitoring.

Partners are Mansfield District Council, Four Seasons Shopping Centre, Nottinghamshire County Council, Boots the Chemists, Nottinghamshire Police, Mansfield Chamber of Trade & Commerce, Mansfield 2010, North Nottinghamshire TEC, West Nottinghamshire College, & the National Market Traders Federation.

For more information, please contact...

Diana Shore, Town Centre Manager, on
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Mansfield Town Centre Partnership has collated the information contained in this leaflet in good faith. Every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy. However, all maps and diagrams are artistic representations and are not Ordnance Survey based maps. Mansfield Town Centre Partnership cannot be responsible for omissions, inaccuracies, or alterations. Visitors are advised to make relevant enquiries prior to any bookings.

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Mansfield Town Centre Town Centre Trail

— part of —
**ROBIN HOOD
COUNTRY**

Including

- Tour Of Mansfield Town Centre
- Points Of Historical, Cultural and Educational Interest



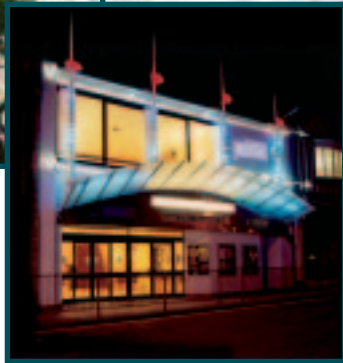
Opposite you'll find a suggested route for your walk around Mansfield town centre.

The walk has been split into three sections, and has been planned to include the main points of interest that Mansfield has to offer, so you can decide what you want to see and how far you want to walk.

Each section of the walk includes at least one place where you can take a rest and get refreshments.

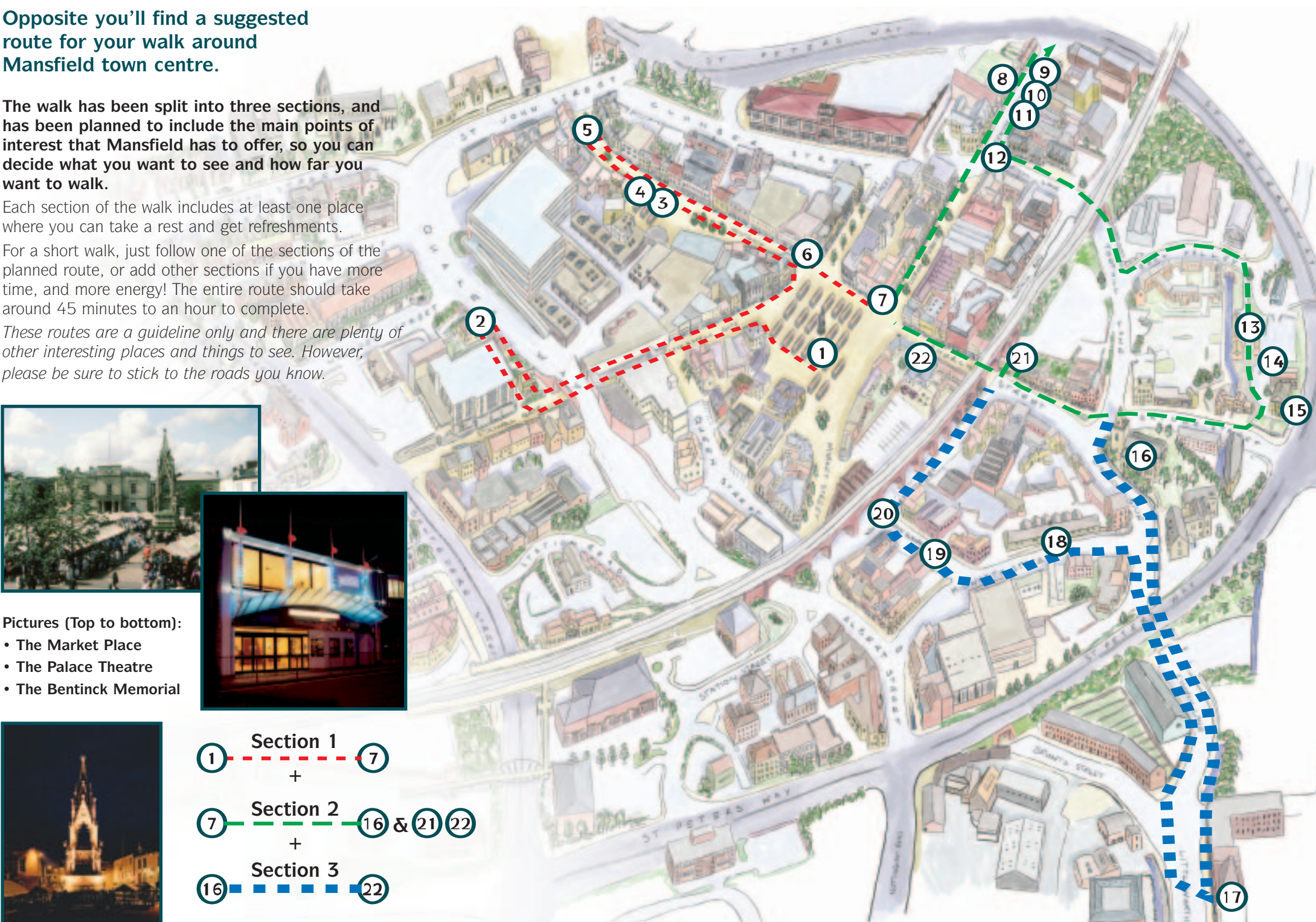
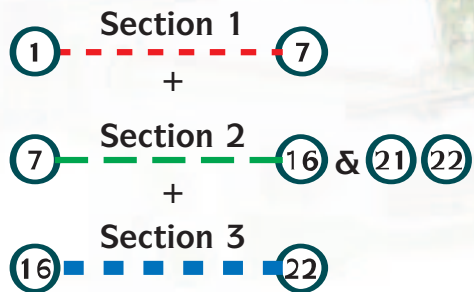
For a short walk, just follow one of the sections of the planned route, or add other sections if you have more time, and more energy! The entire route should take around 45 minutes to an hour to complete.

These routes are a guideline only and there are plenty of other interesting places and things to see. However, please be sure to stick to the roads you know.



Pictures (Top to bottom):

- The Market Place
- The Palace Theatre
- The Bentinck Memorial



BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

The walk is as long or as short as you want to make it, but on average will take about 45 minutes to complete. Take a moment to familiarise yourself with the map provided, to make sure you see everything you want to. Remember, look above eye-level when viewing buildings, so as not to miss much of the interesting architectural detail. PLEASE take care - Look up for interest but LOOK OUT for traffic. Some roads on this walk are busy. Finally, this Town Centre Trail by no means exhausts the wealth of interesting things to do and see in Mansfield. Take a copy of our 3D Map leaflet, available from the museum on Leeming Street, for more information.

Enjoy your day!

1. THE MARKET PLACE

The Moot Hall, on the Westgate corner of the Market Place, was built in 1752 by the former Lady of the Manor of Mansfield. The inscription beneath the coat of arms '17HCHOM52' gives the date, as well as the initials of this benefactor, Henrietta Cavendish Holles, Countess of Oxford and Mortimer.

Surprisingly, the building did not meet with her approval and after a brief glance she returned to Welbeck Abbey in disgust! The ground floor was always used for trading purposes but the first floor was one large room where Mansfield's grandest social occasions were held.

Originally the clear space now occupied by the thriving Mansfield Market was a mass of tiny streets, shops and pubs. However, these had become so congested by the beginning of the nineteenth century that horses and carts could barely pass through. Therefore, Parliament passed the Mansfield Improvement Act in 1823, appointing Improvement Commissioners with power to make major changes to the town. They decided to demolish the crowded central area in stages to make a new clear Market Place which was completed in 1845.

The Town Hall, built by a proprietary company at a cost of £6,000, was completed in 1836. Described by a contemporary as a "bold, spacious and noble building" it originally contained a news room and a library while its Assembly Room was judged one of the finest in the district.

The Bentinck Memorial was built in 1849 in memory of Lord George Bentinck, the younger son of the fourth Duke of Portland. Bentinck was a member of Parliament for many years and is most well known for his friendship with Benjamin Disraeli. Notice that the memorial is not complete! Public subscription raised enough money for the memorial but funds ran out and the statue of Bentinck was never put in its central space.

Until recently, the beautiful frontage of the Edwardian sandstone building, presently occupied by the Bradford & Bingley, had been hidden behind modern alterations. Bradford & Bingley, with assistance from Mansfield District Council's Town Scheme grant, were able to restore the original shop front, revealing an ornate stone cornice and cast iron columns.

2. THE OLD MEETING HOUSE

In the 1660s, Parliament passed legislation banning clergymen who would not conform to the beliefs of the Anglican Church. In particular they were forbidden by the 'Five Mile Act' of 1665 to come within that distance of a city or borough. Mansfield, however, was not a borough at this time, so a group of Non-Conformists were able to settle here. At first, they met in each other's houses including that of Robert Porter, which is now known as The Old Parsonage.

In 1702 land was secured behind this building on Stockwell Gate, for the erection of the Meeting House by these Presbyterians. This stone building is still used today by their successors, The Unitarians.

3. WAVERLEY HOUSE

Waverley House was partially built from dressed stone left from the rebuilding of the Moot Hall. The first tenant of these two buildings was John Simes, landlord of the Swan Inn on Church Street in the mid eighteenth century.

4. THE OLD MARKET PLACE

Known today as The Old Market Square or Buttercross, the area around the old sundial (probably placed here in the seventeenth century), was Mansfield 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 trade here from shortly afterwards. The Victorian historian, Groves, relates the story of the ball falling off the top of the sundial and killing a workman, who was erecting part of 'Wombwell's Wild Beast Show'!

The building opposite, with horses' heads above the shop front, was built in 1986. The style of the building is that of the Nag's Head Hotel which previously occupied the site.

5. THE CENTRE TREE, WESTGATE

This plaque and tree mark the legendary centre of Sherwood Forest. The imposing stone building on the corner is Cromwell House, named after Dr. Samuel Cromwell, who lived here for some forty years from

the 1680s. Indeed, the house may have been built for him. In 1788 the Rev. Samuel Catlow, a non-conformist minister, opened his "literary and commercial seminary" in the building. This school was so successful that in 1800 it expanded into the adjoining house. Fees were £36 per annum, excluding washing, and the boys had to provide two sheets, four towels and a silver spoon.

6. REGENT STREET

Regent Street was created in the late 1920s by the demolition of a large number of slum premises between Westgate and Clumber Street. The new buildings which were built over the following thirty years, gave the street a grand and imposing air.

7. LEEMING STREET

Originally one of Mansfield's narrowest roads, being scarcely wide enough to take a horse and cart, Leeming Street has been widened twice, first in c.1800 and again a century later. The photograph shows Leeming Street in 1904, after the second widening to ease congestion into and out of the Market Place.

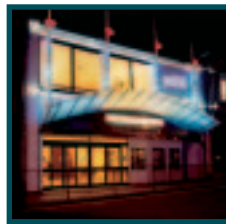


8. THE BOWL IN HAND

This pub, originally called the Bowling Green Inn, was already well established by 1732. At the end of the eighteenth century a recreation hall was built next to the green for various activities such as dancing, billiards and cards. Both the pub and the hall were rebuilt around 1900 when Leeming Street was being widened. The hall still stands today, hidden behind a modern frontage.

9. THE PALACE THEATRE

The Palace Electric Theatre was opened on December 13th 1910 to show silent films and live entertainment. In the 1930s, it was converted into a 'talkie palace' and twenty years later, after a period of uncertainty, its future was secured by Mansfield District Council. Today, as the Palace Theatre, it attracts international stars, and is also a venue for local amateur performances.



10. THE MUSEUM

In 1904 Edward Baily, a local collector of natural history specimens, bequeathed his collection to the town, together with a building in which to house it. The corrugated iron building, originally a chapel in Battersea, London, was erected on the present Museum site.



This 'Tin Tabernacle' was in such poor repair by the 1930s that it was condemned to a scrap yard. The present Museum was purpose built and opened in 1938. The arcade extension was opened in 1989.

11. MANSFIELD ARTS CENTRE

(Managed by NEW PERSPECTIVES THEATRE CO.)

Opened in 1905, the former library was built with money given by Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish-American philanthropist, on land given for the purpose by the Duke of Portland. It replaced the early library premises in the Corn Exchange at the rear of the Town Hall which had become too small to meet demand. The current facade of the building took shape in 1932 with the addition of a second storey extension to the front of the building in which the reference library was housed. In 1977 Her Majesty the Queen opened the new Central Library on Westgate and this building is now the Mansfield Arts Centre.

12. THE BRUNTS CHARITY BUILDING

The Brunts Charity Building on the corner of Leeming Street and Toothill Lane was built in 1915. Samuel Brunts died in 1711, bequeathing much of his wealth for charitable purposes. An annual pension of £4 was to be paid to elderly townspeople of good character but of reduced means and an increased amount is still paid today. Money left for the education of poor boys has led to the establishment of Brunts School. The charity owes its continuing wealth to revenue from buildings formerly owned by Samuel Brunts, in the commercial centres of Nottingham and Mansfield.



13. MALTBY'S ACADEMY

This three storey house is known locally as 'Maltby's Academy', as for over fifty years it was the home of a private school run by three generations of the Maltby family. Founded in 1836 by Mr. John Maltby, the school, principally for boys, remained here until 1887 when it moved to more suitable premises on Clerkson Street. The building now serves as living accommodation.

14. RIVERSIDE WALK

This path is a section of the Riverside Walk, a walkway along the line of the River Maun. The walkway, still to be completed, aims to link points of interest and areas of attractive open space.

15. BRIDGE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

Originally this site was occupied by a very grand 18th century property known as Stanhope House. The Methodist Church bought Stanhope House from the Earl of Chesterfield in 1812 in order to build a larger Church for their ever expanding congregation. The current Church was built in 1863 with seating for 800. Even this was eventually filled to capacity and a smaller church was built less than half a mile away on Newgate Lane, to take the pressure off Bridge St. (This smaller church is now an electrical retailer). Bridge St Methodist Church still remains one of the largest churches in Mansfield.



16. PARISH CHURCH OF St PETER AND St PAUL

Since the time of the Domesday Book, Christians have worshiped on this site. The present building has been constructed over many centuries. Some stones probably date back to Saxon times, but most of the building is Medieval, with the spire being added in 1669. In 1561 Queen Elizabeth I granted a free Grammar School to the vicar and church warden "within the parish of Mansfield for the bringing up and instruction of youths and boys". In Queen Anne's reign, the original school building was replaced by this one situated within the churchyard. In 1877 the school moved again, this time to Chesterfield Road and in 1890 an equivalent Girls' Grammar School opened on Woodhouse Road.

17. MAKING IT! CENTRE

Situated in the historic Mansfield Brewery, Making It! is a family visitor attraction (open seven days a week) that gets you fully involved in the whole process of making things. From invention to design, testing to printing, advertising to distribution, it's highly interactive for inquisitive minds and active hands of all ages. Tour the exhibits, then choose, design and make your own product to take home with you. The café bar serves hot and cold food all day, whilst the shop provides themed merchandise and memorabilia.



18. THE MALTINGS, MIDWORTH STREET

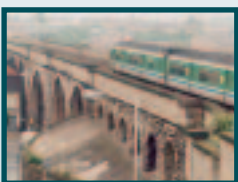
In the eighteenth century one of the town's principal industries was the making of malt from barley. This last, local malt house was once owned by William Broadhurst, who was said to be the largest maltster in England, and later came to Addison Titley who became a partner in Mansfield Brewery in 1873. The building served its purpose until 1975, when the brewery stopped making its own malt.

19. DAME FLOGAN STREET

In the time of Henry VII, around 1500, Robert and Cecily Flogan were among the town's most successful businesspeople. They lived at The Harte, now the White Hart Inn on Church Street. Cecily survived her husband by several years and being childless, made provision for the estate to be administered by trustees for charitable purposes after her death.

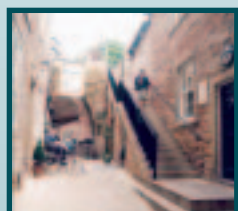
20. THE VIADUCT

The imposing fifteen arch viaduct that spans the town was constructed for the extension of the Leen Valley railway from Nottingham to Worksop. The first passenger train eased its way across the viaduct at 7.10am on 1st June, 1875. Passenger services ceased on this line in 1964. The Robin Hood Line, from Nottingham to Worksop became operational in November 1995, with the original station being restored in 2000.



21. WHITE LION YARD

The White Lion Yard includes one of Mansfield's oldest buildings, dating from 1584, together with caves dating from the 18th century. There is an exhibition showing how the buildings and caves have been used since the 18th century and how the yard and buildings were reconstructed using traditional materials and methods a few years ago. Here is an ideal resting place during the walk with Aficianado's cafe and restaurant occupying one of the caves as well as the courtyard. You can relax and enjoy a snack or meal.



White Lion Yard can be accessed from Church Street by the passageway between The China Basket and Webster's Butchers, and includes a Visitor's Centre with an interactive display about Mansfield. Information is available here from members of The Old Mansfield Society.

22. THE SWAN INN

Even in Tudor times The Swan was Mansfield's most important inn. A date stone suggests that some of the present structure may date from a rebuilding in 1584. It was the main coaching inn of the town, with daily services to London during the 1820s and 30s.

See overleaf for the Town Centre Walk Map.