



Kings Clipstone route 1

A circular route of about 4.5 miles long starting at the Dog & Duck pub. Archway Road to Birklands, then via Sherwood Forest Farm Park and the Maun Valley before returning to the village along Squires Lane.

1. The signal box is one of the finest examples left in the county. If you turn and look at the field you will see how uniform the slope is. Between 1819 and 1838 the Duke of Portland spent almost £40,000 on the 8 Mile irrigation scheme called the Flood Dykes to create water meadows. Huge amounts of earth were moved to smooth the fields and move the river, with an irrigation canal being excavated along the top.



The road now takes you under the railway. The smaller arch allowed the Flood Dyke to pass under the railway. At the junction ahead turn left under the railway bridge. All the fields on this side of the river were part of the irrigation scheme so show the same sort of uniform slope.

2. The bridge across the River Maun is called Forge Bridge and is believed to be the site of one of the iron forges and slitting mills found along the river around 1650. Forges needed a good supply of charcoal and waterpower to work the hammers and bellows. In a 20 year period from 1640 the forest was plundered of most of the trees and fencing to make charcoal.

3. Archway Lodge was built by the Duke of Portland to prove the durability of the stone from his Mansfield Woodhouse quarries, after it had been rejected for the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament following the fire of 1835. The outside of the building is a copy of the Worksop Prior gatehouse but instead of saints the niches are adorned with figures from forest folk-law. This was supposed to be the first of several spanning a private drive from Welbeck to Nottingham but no more were built. The building is sited so that the centre tree 1.5 miles away along Green Ride could be seen through the arch



4. Follow the road up to the A6075 and cross. Take the track bearing left along the edge of the forest (Birklands). When you reach a path crossing the track, turn left.

5. Follow the path until you come to a cross on your left (on the forest edge) marking St Edwin's Chapel and Hermitage.

6. Turn left at the next track, which will take you back towards the A6075, crossing into King's Wood, follow the permissive path through the wood.

7. The path emerges opposite the entrance to the Sunday Market and the Farm Park. There are good views over ancient Clipstone Park – the royal hunting park was 7.5 miles in circumference.



8. Follow the roadway down the hill past the Farm Park. Still going down hill you will pass through a gate with a sign stating that it is locked at dusk. There is a fine old wood to the right with Iron-age pigs roaming in an enclosure.

9. The road continues to drop into the valley, turns right for a short way before turning left past the one of the fishing lakes. The walk crosses the river and ascends the hill. At the fork in the track bear left. With the beech wood on your right continue up the hill. On the top, cross over the next track and take the footpath through Cavendish Wood. **The farmyard is not a right of way.** Emerging from the wood turn left along the track. Cavendish Lodge and farm are the next building you pass.



10. The old barn has two fine horse draw wagons in it. Follow the road round to the right. This is Squires Lane. **Please remember that the barn is private property.**

11. At the bottom of the dip look left to the back of the field. The hedge is on an embankment that was the dam for the old fishpond. Half way down the lane are Old Barnside Cottages, parts of which may date to 1730 when Clipstone Hall stood on what is now Old Barn Court. At the end of Squires Lane the village proper begins. The walk joins Gorsethorpe Lane, bear to the right then turns left onto the B6030 at the top of the small hill.

12. Across the road can be seen one of the few iron chapels left in the area. Behind the chapel are the ruins of Kings John's Palace.

13. As you move across the embankment towards the Dog & Duck pub, to the right is the water meadow. From before 1180 for about 600 years this was the site of the half a mile long Great Pond of Clipstone. The remains of the dam are to the left of the road. The 1180 record also mentioned a mill situated at the bottom of the slope where Vicar Water joins the river Maun.

