



The Centre Tree - site 7

Kings Clipstone route 7

A circular route of about 8 miles along Archway Road to Edwinstowe, then the Major Oak and Birklands, returning via Warsop Windmill, Sherwood Forest Farm Park, the Maun Valley and Squires Lane.



1. Starting at the Dog & duck go north on Archway Road. If you look over the hedge to the left you see Vicar Water, which was the outfall from the Great Pond of Clipstone. For over 600 years, from about 1200, a mill was sited at the bottom of the slope next to the river.

2. Follow the lane round past the signal box on Clipstone west junction. The box is one of the best examples left in the county. The second arch allowed the Flood Dyke to pass beneath the railway. Follow the lane round to the left under the second railway bridge. The lane then drops down to Forge Bridge. Turn right down the river. During 1600s Kings Clipstone was the site of busy industrial mills – timber to produce charcoal and waterpower meant that there was a number of slitting mills – pig iron was refined, then passed through rollers and a slitting mill to produce nails.

3. The river was straightened all along this section to drain the mires when the Flood Dyke irrigation system was built from 1819 to 1838. To the left of the path an old bend can be seen. As you approach the small wood you can see the opposite bend on the right. In the wood the river flows rapidly through the artificial cutting. At the end of the first field after the wood turn right towards the river. The system cost £38,000 to build and stretched from Mansfield to Edwinstowe. Vast quantities of soil and rock were moved to construct the dyke, move the river, smooth the slope of the fields and drain the bogs and springs. Notice how uniform the slope is across these fields.

4. Follow the riverside path until you come to Mill Lane, Edwinstowe. Continue in the same direction turning left at the main road. Walkers can go straight up Church Street but cyclists will have to go up East Lane on the right.

5. Cross the A6075 at the traffic lights and continue on Church Street until you reach the cricket ground. Turn left before the pitch and head for the back corner furthest from the road. This leads to the Glebethorpe bridleway. At the first branch in the track take the right hand track to the Major Oak.

6. Major Oak – it is claimed that the Oak is named after a Major Rouke who walked here every day from Woodhouse Place in Mansfield Woodhouse. Cycling is prohibited near the tree. You will take the first track to the left after you have passed the tree (part of the Robin Hood Way).

7. The track rises slowly up hill. Ignore all side branches and you will come to Green Ride (part of the national cycle route) with the Centre Tree. Originally this could be seen through the arch of Archway Lodge 1.5 miles to the south. Cross Green Ride and continue in the same direction through the forest until you reach the end of the track at which point turn left. At the first bend take the footpath that runs straight on. This brings you out at Kings Wood, Warsop Windmill.

8. Warsop Windmill – Kings Wood – it is claimed that the wood contains remains of a deer leap and ditch that enclosed Clipstone Park. The park, which was enclosed in 1180 by a paling and ditch over 7 miles in length, was a royal deer park. It still appeared on maps as late as 1801.

9. Emerging onto Gorsethorpe Lane follow the wood to its bottom corner and take the permissive path down to the farm park. The path drops down into the Maun Valley. At the farm park continue down the hill, through the gate (which is locked at dusk) and follow the track down to the river where you cross the bridge and ascend the hill.

10. 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. (Cyclists have to keep right, past the beech wood following the farm track and turn left at the field)

11. Cavendish Lodge – built about 1745 by the Duchess of Oxford, who wanted a quiet place to escape to during the week whilst Welbeck was undergoing major rebuilding work. The house, or cottage as she called it, had a small hall, an octagonal dining room, a drawing room, a bedchamber and dressing room, built with stone taken from Clipstone Hall, which in turn had been built with stone taken from the King John's Palace. Lots of other recycled materials were used as it was only intended as a temporary arrangement. The duchess wrote 'as the roads around it are always good, I shall spend half the week there, taking only a maid and a footman with me'.

12. Half way down the lane are Old Barnside Cottages, parts of which may date to 1730 when Clipstone Hall stood on the site next door now occupied by the modern houses. At the end of Squires Lane the village proper begins. Be extra careful of the roads as parts lack a footway. The walk joins Gorsethorpe Lane then turns left at the top of the slope onto the B6030.