

# Living Memories

*Accessible Heritage Days Out  
for the Elderly in Nottinghamshire*

Easily Accessible **Heritage Attractions** to enjoy with your elderly relatives, residents and friends.



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

# INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been created to bring heritage sites and the senior citizens of Nottinghamshire closer together.

Heritage sites are ideal places for the elderly to visit because they stimulate memories and conversation about the past that can provide relief from boredom and symptoms of depression. Heritage sites also benefit from repeat custom.

However, elderly people, including their families and carers, often need ideas of heritage sites to visit that are interesting, enjoyable, easily accessible and hassle-free.

We wanted to make it easy for you to find these places, so we did some research and put down everything you need to know in one place – this booklet.

On these days out, you will be reconnected with places and objects that you grew up with. We hope that you might share your memories with the staff or volunteers at the sites too and teach them something about the buildings, sites and collections that they hold.

If you work or volunteer at a heritage site, there is guidance on welcoming an elderly audience to your site and the benefits of doing so on our website.

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in changes to the way sites may operate. Contact the sites and check ahead about any restrictions that may be in place before your visit so that you can enjoy it without any concerns.



For more information: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/livingmemories](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/livingmemories)

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Telephone: 0115 9932600

With thanks to Rehanah Mian of Senior Heritage Days:

[@Seniorheritagedays](https://twitter.com/Seniorheritagedays)

  
**Senior  
Heritage  
Days**  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE TRUST  
MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

# Newark Air Museum



## Find us at:

Drove Lane,  
Winthorpe, Newark,  
Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY

## Disability access on site

- Disabled Toilets
- Accessible Café and Shop
- Wheelchair Accessible site
- Disabled Parking
- Visually impaired friendly tours available when pre-arranged

## Disability restrictions

- Some of the planes are positioned on grass without paved access.
- The car park surface is gravel, which can be hard for wheelchairs to move on – Disabled Parking is near the entrance door.

## Your visit

Experience the fascinating history of aviation from the 1900s to the 2000s at Newark Air Museum, which is located on the former Second World War site of Winthorpe in Nottinghamshire. The exhibits are a collection of forty-five aircraft, helicopters, aero engines and a Navigation and Training timeline display. There are various special event days each year. Have a look at their website for details. There is an entrance fee. Contact the museum for up to date details.

## Open Daily

- Nov - Feb 10am – 4pm.
- March - Oct 10am – 5pm

## Contact us:

Tel: 01636 707170  
Email: [enquire@newarkairmuseum.org](mailto:enquire@newarkairmuseum.org)  
Website: [www.newarkairmuseum.org](http://www.newarkairmuseum.org)

# Southwell Minster



**Find us at:**  
Church Street,  
Southwell,  
Nottinghamshire NG25 0HD

## Disability access on site

- Disabled Toilets
- Accessible Café and Shop
- Loop Hearing System
- Wheelchair Available
- Accessible Building and Garden
- Audio Guide – various languages
- Braille and Large Print Guides
- Electronic Touch-Pad Doors

## Disability restrictions

- Most areas of the site are accessible; however the Chapter House, Historic Library, and Pilgrim's Chapel are not, due to stairs.
- Parking is on street or a public car park opposite the site.

## Your visit

Visit Southwell Minster, which has been a place of worship for well over 900 years - both in the present building, and in the earlier Saxon church, which it replaced. Find out about its long and complex story-from its origins as a Roman villa, then a private church for the Archbishop of York, and now the Minster that it is today. See the carvings of plants and animals in stone known as the leaves of Southwell. No entrance fee but donations are appreciated.

## Open Daily

- March - Oct Open 8am – 7pm
- 28th Oct - March Open 8am – 6.30pm  
(Note: 26th Dec -1st Jan closes at 5pm)

## Contact us:

- Tel: **01636 812649** (10am & 1pm Mon - Fri)
- Email: **office@southwellminster.org.uk**
- Website: **http://southwellminster.org/**

# Bestwood Country Park



## Find us at:

Park Road, Bestwood Village,  
Nottingham NG6 8TQ

(From this Postcode keep going until  
you see the entrance sign to the park)

## Disability access on site

- Disabled Toilets
- Accessible Café (Saturdays 10am-1pm)
- Accessible Winding Engine House (Saturdays 10am -12pm)
- Disabled Parking
- Audio Loop In buildings

## Disability restrictions

- Access to the site from the car park involves passing through a kissing gate that is accessible to wheelchair users who possess a radar key. To discuss general accessibility, call ahead to the ranger's office at the number below and they will open the gate for you.

## Your visit

Former royal deer park and later a coal mine, Bestwood Country Park has connections to Richard III, Charles II and Nell Gwyn which you can learn more about during your visit. Enjoy the preserved Winding Engine House built in 1876 - the last remaining part of Bestwood Colliery or you can just have a walk around the beautiful 650-acre site and enjoy the woodland, meadows and lakes. There is no admission fee. Tours can be arranged by prior agreement.

## Opening Hours

- Car park open daily 10am - 4pm (Except Christmas Day)
- Dynamo cafe open Sat 10am - 1pm
- Winding Engine House open Sat 10am - 12pm

## Contact us:

- Tel Ranger's Office: 0115 975 7273
- Email: [Enquiries@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:Enquiries@gedling.gov.uk)
- Website: <http://www.fbcprg.org.uk/>

# The National Civil War Centre



UPRISING  
S RAISES  
VANDARD



## Find us at:

Appleton Gate,  
Newark,  
Nottinghamshire NG24 1JY

## Disability access on site

- Disabled toilets
- Accessible shop and café
- Fully accessible building
- Sensory backpacks
- Quiet sessions available

## Disability restrictions

- There are a few disabled parking bays on the street outside the centre, otherwise parking is available in the public car parks.

*There is an entrance fee. Contact the site for up to date details.*

## Your visit

Discover how the people of Newark dealt with the deadliest conflict on British soil – the English Civil War. Here you will learn about how a once powerful monarch lost his head to the axe man, and how the people of Newark survived war and plague that killed a third of its inhabitants. You can also download the National Civil War Trail app on your phone, which allows you to walk around Newark, exploring the key sites that were important in the war. A paper version of the trail is also available from the National Civil War Centre.

## Opening Hours

- March – Oct 10am – 5pm
- Nov – Feb 10am – 4pm  
(Christmas opening hours may vary)

## Contact us:

Tel: 01636 655 765

Email: [museums@nsdc.info](mailto:museums@nsdc.info)

Website: [www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com](http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com)

# Canalside Heritage Centre



## Find us at:

Weir Cottages,  
Canal Side, Beeston,  
Nottinghamshire NG9 1LZ

## Disability access on site

- Disabled Toilets
- Accessible Cafe and Shop
- Accessible Garden
- Upper Floors Accessible by Lift

## Disability restrictions

- There is limited on street parking available with a walk of approx. 150 metres to the site. The walk is flat and easy, however there is an arched canal bridge to get over.

*The site is free to access however there is a small suggested donation to view the exhibition.*

## Your visit

The Canalside Heritage Centre is a vibrant hub for visitors to enjoy and explore, with an enticing tearoom, welcoming gift shop and interpretation centre, as well as tranquil gardens and lots of activities to delight in. You can enjoy a walk along the river or the canal at your leisure. Look out for the many boats, enjoy the changing colours and sunshine on the water and spot the plentiful wildlife that can be found at any time of year.

## Opening Hours

- Open Daily 9.30am – 4.30pm  
(Christmas hours may vary)

## Contact us:

Tel: 0115 9221773  
Email: [info@canalsideheritagecentre.org.uk](mailto:info@canalsideheritagecentre.org.uk)  
Website: <https://canalsideheritagecentre.org.uk>



# Attenborough Nature Reserve



## Find us at:

Barton Lane,  
Attenborough,  
Nottinghamshire NG9 6DY

## Disability access on site

- Disabled Toilets
- Accessible Café and Shop
- Accessible Buildings and Outdoor Trails
- Hearing Loop
- Disabled Parking

## Disability restrictions

- Some of the hides cannot be accessed by wheelchair.
- There is a short but steep slope up to the bridge that leads to the main walking trails, however, this can be avoided by taking another path. All other trail access is easy.
- Some paths are liable to flood in wet weather so it is advisable to ring ahead to check directly after bad weather.

## Your visit

Attenborough Nature Reserve is a 226-hectare wetland site that allows you to get close to nature at any time of year. It was established in 1966 and opened by Sir David Attenborough. It is an important site for winter wildfowl and has numerous bird hides from where you can view the stunning wildlife. The site has lots of accessible walking trails around the water.

*There is no entry fee but donation of £3 is requested for parking.*

## Opening Hours

- Nature reserve:  
7am until dusk daily.
- Visitor Centre:  
9am – 4pm daily.

## Contact us:

- Tel: 0115 972 1777
- Email: [enquiries@attenboroughnaturecentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@attenboroughnaturecentre.co.uk)
- Website: <https://www.attenboroughnaturecentre.co.uk/>

# Rufford Abbey Country Park



## Disability access on site

- Disabled toilets-with hoist (bring your own sling) and adjustable height basin and changing bed.
- Accessible cafe and shop
- Wheelchair accessible Park
- Disabled parking
- Free wheelchairs to borrow
- Mobility scooter hire
- Portable hearing Loop
- Partly accessible Abbey ruins

## Disability restrictions

- Due to the historic nature of the site, some of the Abbey ruins are not wheelchair accessible.
- At peak times an overflow car park on a grassy meadow is used.

## Opening Hours

- Park Grounds open dawn to dusk
- Coach House Café open 10am - 5pm (4.30pm in winter)
- Lord Savile's Kitchen open Wed - Sun Noon - 3pm

## Find us at:

Rufford Abbey Country Park,  
Ollerton, Nottinghamshire  
NG22 9DFY

## Your visit

The beautiful ruin of Rufford Abbey is set in stunning parkland just on the edge of ancient Sherwood Forest. It offers nearly 900 years of history and was once a 12th century Cistercian monastery and a Jacobean era family home. Surrounding it are 150 acres of lake, woodland, meadows, and formal gardens where you can discover sculptures, a watermill, an icehouse, and lots of wildlife. Free admission to the park and abbey ruins but parking charges apply. Contact the site for up to date details.

## Contact us:

- Tel: 01623 821 338
- Email: [ruffordabbey@parkwood-leisure.co.uk](mailto:ruffordabbey@parkwood-leisure.co.uk)
- Website: [www.ruffordabbey.co.uk](http://www.ruffordabbey.co.uk)

# Bilsthorpe Colliery Heritage Museum



BILSTHORPE COLLIERY  
1927 - 1997

## Find us at:

Cross Street,  
Bilsthorpe,  
Nottinghamshire NG22 8QY

## Disability access on site

- Disabled Toilet
- Accessible Café
- Fully Accessible Museum
- Wheelchair Available to Borrow
- Car Park (No specific disabled)

## Disability restrictions

- There is no specific disabled car park available but general parking is available. If you need help parking then the staff indoors will assist you.

## Your visit

Immerse yourself in the history of Nottinghamshire's mining industry with a visit to the Bilsthorpe Heritage Museum. It is in the centre of Bilsthorpe, approximately a mile from the original colliery site. The museum has a large collection of artefacts and memorabilia from the days when the colliery gave employment to many of the residents of Bilsthorpe Village. Contact the site to pre-book a group tour. No admission fee but the museum relies on donations to keep it going, so please donate.

## Opening Hours

**Summer** - Mon, Wed, Sun Open  
10am - 4pm

**Winter** - Wed, Sun Open 11am - 3pm

## Contact us:

Tel: 01623 871 533

Website: [Search for Bilsthorpe Heritage](#)

[Museum on Facebook](#)

# Wollaton Industrial Museum



## Disability access on site

- Disabled Toilets
- Accessible Café and Shop
- 90% Accessible Site for Wheelchairs. Some areas with one step can be avoided by asking the staff who open a side door for you
- Disabled Car Park (Paid)

## Disability restrictions

- Some parts of the museum are inaccessible to wheelchair users and people with mobility problems due to steep stairs. But most parts are accessible.
- The car park is a short walk away from the entrance to the museum and has a dirt surface, which can be slightly harder to push a wheelchair on in wet weather.

## Find us at:

The Courtyard (by the café)  
Wollaton Hall,  
Nottingham NG8 2AEY

## Your visit

During your visit you will discover a great collection of artefacts that will immerse you into the industries that made Nottingham famous. Go back in time to visit Nottingham's textiles, mining, transport, communications and power generating industries from the 17th Century. This is a hidden gem with items that each visitor will connect with in some way. The steam and diesel engines are generally in steam on the last Sunday of every month. There is an entrance fee. Contact the museum for up to date details.

## Opening Hours

- 1st Jan – 31st Dec
- Sat, Sun, and bank holidays 11am - 4pm (Except Christmas and New Year)
- Mon – Fri Closed

## Contact us:

- Tel: 0115 928 5937
- Email: [info@nottinghamindustrialmuseum.co.uk](mailto:info@nottinghamindustrialmuseum.co.uk)
- Website: [www.nottinghamindustrialmuseum.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamindustrialmuseum.org.uk)

# National Justice Museum



## Find us at:

Church Street,  
Southwell,  
Nottinghamshire NG25 0HD

## Disability access on site

- Disabled Toilets
- Accessible Café and Shop
- 90% Accessible Site for Wheelchairs and Mobility Scooters
- Audio Guides and Large Print Visual Information
- Blue Badge Parking Outside Building
- Step free access to the building is via a lift at the rear of the building – through a side tunnel.

## Disability restrictions

- Due to the historical nature of the building, they can only accommodate a maximum of two wheelchair/mobility scooters at any one time.
- Some parts of the building have steep access points and can't be easily accessed.

## Your visit

There has been a court on the site of this Grade 2 listed building since at least 1375, and a prison since at least 1449. The steps to the entrance of the museum once held many public executions, and the museum itself contains the original courtrooms, dungeons and cells. Live interpretation actors bring Nottingham's real horrible history to life! There is an admission fee. Contact the site for up to date details.

## Open Daily

- Mon- Fri Open 9am- 5pm
- Sat - Sun Open 10am- 5pm

## Contact us:

Tel: 0115 952 0555  
Email: [info@nationaljusticemuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@nationaljusticemuseum.org.uk)  
Website: [www.nationaljusticemuseum.org](http://www.nationaljusticemuseum.org)

*We hope you found the information in this booklet inspirational and helpful.*

*We have handpicked these 10 locations within the County because they are interesting, enjoyable, easily accessible and hassle-free. So please take the time to visit them and create some new memories.*



Information correct at time of going to print. Please contact the sites directly for up to date details.





*Easily Accessible Heritage Attractions to enjoy with your elderly relatives, residents and friends.*



**W** [nottinghamshire.gov.uk/livingmemories](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/livingmemories)  
**E** [laura.simpson@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:laura.simpson@nottsc.gov.uk)  
**T** 0115 9932600

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