

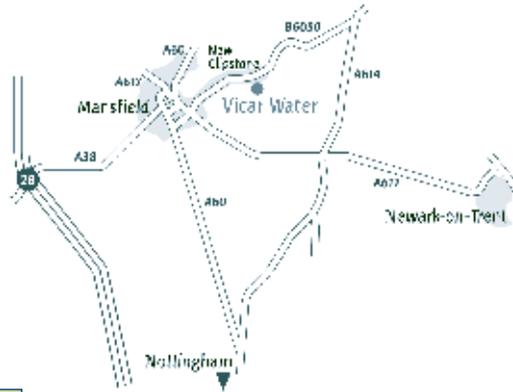
to create a more interesting and varied habitat. The oaks are being thinned out to allow the remaining trees to grow to their natural size and to let more light into the wood. Bluebells and wood anemones have also been planted.

Follow the path around Vicar Pond and take a look back further along to take in the view of Clipstone Colliery.



7 Clipstone Colliery was opened in 1922 by the Bolsover Colliery Company. At nearly 65m high its winding towers are amongst the highest in Europe. The Colliery was closed in 2003.

At the end of Vicar Pond follow the path around to the right so that you continue walking along the opposite bank of the lake. Continue along this path until, after crossing a bridge over Vicar Water, you rejoin the tarmac road. Turn left here and retrace your footsteps to the visitor centre car park.



Vicar Water Country Park is situated off Mansfield Road (B6030), Clipstone, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

The park has open access. The car park is open during daylight hours.

For Further Information Please Contact:

Community Services

Tel: **01636 655713**

Vicar Water Visitor Centre

Tel: **01623 466340**

The park's Countryside Ranger

Tel: **07980 610308**

Rumbles Catering Project

Tel: **01623 424836**

Ordnance Survey Reference SK588627

Land Ranger Sheet 120



NEWARK &
SHERWOOD
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Helping to create Greenwood, Nottinghamshire's Community Forest

Discovering Vicar Water Country Park

An attractive recreational area that provides facilities for fishing, walking, cycling and a visitor centre that offers refreshments and information.



The Trails of Vicar Water

Trail 1

A short walk around Vicar Pond

Start:

Vicar Water Visitor Centre Car Park

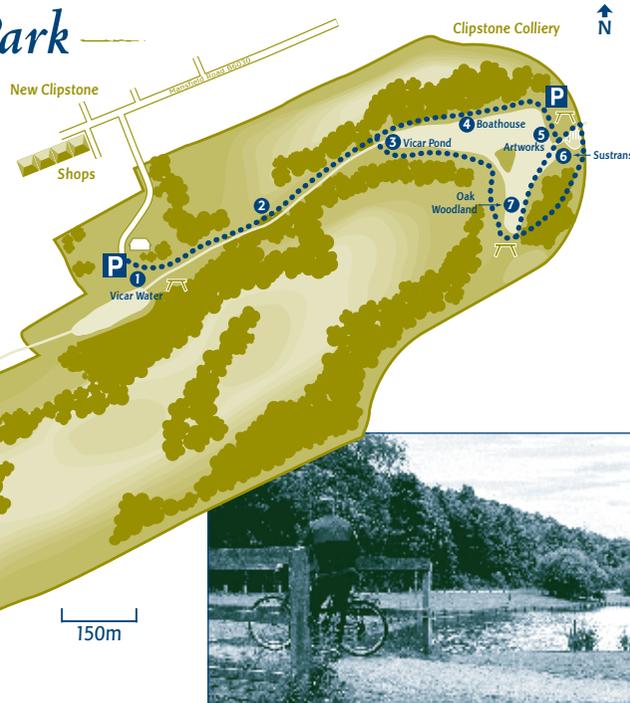
Time:

Allow 30 to 40 minutes

Type of Route:

Along level paths suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs

Discovering Vicar Water Country Park



For this trail follow markers with BLUE coloured bands.

From the car park turn right onto the tarmac road, follow it downhill and round a left hand corner where it joins a bridleway from Mansfield.

1 Vicar Water, the stream which runs parallel to the road, used to be fed by natural springs. These have now dried up and in times of low rainfall Vicar Water itself used to run dry. To overcome this problem a borehole has been sunk and used to keep water flowing all year round. We do not know how Vicar Water got its name, but in the Middle Ages it was called Warmebroke - or Warm Brook.

Continue down hill until the trees on both sides of the road stop and the valley widens out.

2 The road used to run through a 70m long tunnel here. The access over the tunnel allowed Clipstone Colliery to form the spoil heaps further away. In 1999 tipping ceased and the embankment and tunnel were removed. Much of the colliery shale that formed the embankment was used to create an impermeable lining for Vicar Pond.

Carry on until you reach a bridge over Vicar Water on your right, with Vicar Pond ahead of you.

3 Vicar Pond was formed during the early 1870s by the damming of Vicar Water. The 5th Duke of Portland had the work carried out to create a trout fishery that was used to stock his lakes at Welbeck Abbey. The lake is now used for coarse fishing and contains carp (up to 20lbs), bream, roach, perch, tench and rudd.

Continue along the road. The woodland on your left was planted in the late 1970s as part of the first phase of reclamation of Clipstone Tip

and contains rowan, larch, scarlet and English oak, and many others.

4 In the early 20th century the 6th Duke of Portland had a thatched boathouse built in this area. At the time Vicar Pond was popular as a boating and swimming lake, both for local people and, during the First World War, the many soldiers stationed at Clipstone Camp (one of the largest in the country). Bathing at the time was well organised with roped-off bathing areas and marquees for changing.

Carry on down the road into the bottom car park.

5 There are 2 pieces of public art in this area. Daniel Sly, a local artist, carved the fish sculpture out of a large copingstone from a recently



demolished railway bridge. The Golden Hand is one of many pieces of public art linked with the Sustrans National Cycle Route and was created by London-based artists Bank.

Continue along the path to the other side of the car park where you reach a surfaced path - part of the Sustrans National Cycle Network .

6 This section of cycle path is part of a National Route that runs from Dover to Inverness. In Nottinghamshire the route enters the north of the County near Workson and runs south to Nottingham before going into Derbyshire just beyond



Beeston. Over the next few years Sustrans will continue to develop cycle routes throughout the country.

Turn left down the surfaced path and take the first right onto the woodland path. Alternatively turn right and walk along the path which borders Vicar Pond. The oak woodland was planted in the 1930s. It is now being managed