

Welcome to Retford, a market town in the Bassetlaw District of Nottinghamshire. It lies on the River Idle and the Chesterfield Canal. Retford is located 26 miles east of Sheffield, 23 miles west of Lincoln and 31 miles north-east of Nottingham. The population at the 2021 census was 23,740

There is **no hot** food at our pubs so you may want to fuel up with a breakfast. Alternatively, In the market square you can find a hot food van or round the corner from the **Beer Under The Clock** is Kennys Fish Bar and a Greggs for food on the hoof to the **Idle Valley Tap**.

Wetherspoons is a little over a 15-minute walk, and like the whole of today's route, is along the flat.

Unfortunately, there is only one bus at 10:05, the Sherwood Arrow (SA) service, and it takes 4 minutes to get to the bus station which is just behind the Dominie Cross. The SA route starts in Nottingham and is only every 2 hours so punctuality might be problematic.

Turn left out of the station and then cross Station Road to take the right fork into Victoria Road. At the first junction you can see the 1912 facade of a Co-Op on the left. Continue on down Victoria Road and a little further to your left is an impressive piece of tree topiary. At the end of the road turn right into Albert Road over the Idle River bridge, cross the road to the left-hand side when convenient. At the end of the road is a light-controlled junction, carry on slightly to the left into Arlington Way. The road crosses the Chesterfield canal and then passes an entry to the bus station. A little further is a light-controlled junction, turn left into Grove Street and on the left in about 100 yards is the **Dominie Cross**, opposite is **The Turks Head**.

1 Dominie Cross 38 Grove Street, DN22 6JR Opens 08:00 JB Times => 11:05

Food and beer are served from 08:00.

As well as the usual, there were two Hook Norton brewery ales, a fine Double Stout and Old Hooky.

Our next stop is directly across the road.

2 The Turks Head 39 Grove Street, DN22 6LA Opens 11:00 JB Times 11:05 => 11:55

This is a pleasant little pub, with wooden panelling and an open fire. There are two regular ales, Adnams' Ghost Ship and Timothy Taylor's Landlord. On the visit there was also Adnams' Citrus Pale Ale and Wolfpack's Alpha Stout.

The next leg takes under 5 minutes. Leave the pub and turn right to walk down Grove Street. At the end of the road cross the market square to the left and pass through a portico in the centre of the left-hand side to enter the Town Hall Yard square. A few yards on the left is the **Beer Under The Clock**.

3 Beer Under The Clock 3 Town Hall Yard, DN22 6DU Opens 12:00 JB Times 12:00 => 12:55

This is a modern space with a corner bar that offers 5 changing beers, and at the time of recce, several Lillys' ciders. The ales on sale were Blue Bee's American Five Hop, Cromwell's Best Bitter, Drone Valley's Kurd Stout, Jolly Sailor's Pale Sail Ale & Maypole's Monterrey Hop.

Available to eat are various filled rolls and Bacon, Cheese & Caramelised Onion sausage rolls.

Turn left and go the short distance to the end of the road. Turn left into Exchange Street and walk about 50 yards, passing Kennys Fish Bar. Turn right into Carolgate, passing Greggs and after a few hundred yards we find our last pub, the **Idle Valley Tap**, on the right at the junction with Wharf Road.

4 Idle Valley Tap Carolgate, DN22 6EF Opens 11:00 JB Times 13:00 =>

This pub serves 2 regular beers, Welbeck Abbey Idle Valley Pale & Red, and 6 changing beers which usually include one from Abbeydale or Farmers brewery.

Unfortunately, the watermain in Carolgate burst the night before the recce and the pub was shut for sanitisation! I telephoned early the following week and normal service had resumed.

Retford - 6th March 2025

Allow 15 minutes to reach a high-level platform or 20 minutes for a low-level platform.

Head slightly right out of the pub, cross the road and up the slight incline of Carolgate to pass back over the Chesterfield canal, cross to the right-hand side of the road when convenient. At the light-controlled crossing, swing right and back into Albert Road to retrace our steps to the station. After about 400 yards, as you cross the Idle River bridge, turn left into Victoria Road and at the end it emerges into Station Road.