

Bournville Parks

(Circular route) 6km (3.5 miles)

An easy flat walk, on paved paths all the way except one 150 yard stretch. Can be cycled, but the bicycle will have to be pushed through Cadbury's grounds and up one flight of steps.

Access Points:

Walk is circular so can be started anywhere along route. The suggested start point is the Car Park for Cotteridge Park in Franklin Road (Leaflet Map Reference D7). The no. 11 bus (outer circle) stops in Linden Road close to end of Franklin Road. The nearest station is Bournville.

Points of Interest:

Picturesque circular walk following parts of the Wood Brook and Bourn Brooks through Woodlands, and Bournville Parks. The walk also includes Cotteridge and Rowheath Parks. Other points of interest include Victorian alms houses, terraced housing (note house names), Rowheath Pavilion, The Cadbury Factory and original Cadbury shops, Bournville Green and the Carillon, Selly Manor, and a model yachting pool. In spring there are lots of spring flowers and blossom.

Refreshments:

Shops at the junction of Mary Vale Road and Linden Road; Teas/Lunches and Bar at the Rowheath Pavilion. Row of shops at the Bournville Green and coffee shop set back at end of shops. Nearest pub:- Cotteridge Inn (Persore Road South – short way beyond Kings Norton station).

Walk Details:

1... From the Franklin Road Car Park, take the path downhill that leads to the tennis courts. Just past the tennis courts, turn left along path and take right path over a bridge across an unnamed tributary of the River Rea and up some steps. At top of steps, turn right into an alleyway that will take you to York Close.



2... Turn left at York Close. This housing estate was formerly the site of the Bournville Steam Engine Shed (demolished in the 1960's). The engine sheds and Kings Norton Station were the source of inspiration for the Rev Audrey's Sammy the Shunter books (Rev Audrey was vicar at Kings Norton Church). Turn left again on reaching Selly Hall Croft and turn right on reaching Franklin Road and immediately left into Mary Vale Road.

3... Continue along Mary Vale and cross over the busy Linden Road using the pedestrian crossing. (Note the original Cadbury shops on the corner opposite on right). Continue further along Mary Vale Road (note house names), cross over Selly Oak Road where the road is now named Heath Road and continue past road Long Wood. A short way past Long Wood, take path on left through railings into Rowheath Park (on left of Rowheath Car Park). Rowheath Park was previously a Cadbury's Sports Ground with a Lido.

4... After going through the gateway/railings, continue straight for 100 yards and follow the path round to the right. A short way after the bend go through another gateway/railings to the pool on your right. After crossing a bridge between two pools, follow the path round to the right to come out on Heath Road again. You may wish to visit the Rowheath Pavilion for refreshments/meal/bar. (At time of writing open 9:00 – 16:30 Mon – Sat inclusive).

5... Turn left as you come out onto Heath Road, and continue for about ¼ mile passing Hawthorne Road, High Heath Close, and continue to you reach Thackeray Road on your left. Take the path on right opposite by the side of no. 195 Heath Road into Woodlands Park.

6... At bridge (brook name not known), turn right and immediately take right fork keeping close to the brook. After 200 yards, follow path through gully way (the only unpaved part of walk) until you reach Bournville Lane. Turn left and continue past Hay Green Lane and continue past the junction with Woodbrook Road. Just past the model yachting pool, take the path on the right. This will take you round the back of the pool (model yachting on Wednesdays and Sundays). Continue along the back of the pool and taking the right fork path following the Woodbrook brook up to Woodbrook Road (by school).



7... Go straight across Woodbrook Road following the path on the left side of Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School until you reach Oak Tree Lane/Hay Green Lane junction. Turn left into Oak Tree Lane and immediately cross over the road into Bournville Park. Follow the path through the park until you meet the busy Linden Road.

8... Turn left into Linden Road and proceed for a short way and use pedestrian lights to cross over into Sycamore Road (Bournville Green). (Note the Carillon in the tower on top of Bournville School). Continue a short way past the shops in Sycamore Road passing the Carillon Visitors Centre on left (Rest House) until you reach the junction with Maple Road on your left. At the junction is Selly Manor (and Minworth Greaves) which are open to the public (at time of writing Tues – Fri 10:00 – 17:00 all year round and Sat & Sun 14:00 – 17:00 Easter until September).

9... Double back along Sycamore Road the way you came until you reach a pathway between railings just before the shops known as Bird Cage Walk signposted to Cadbury's World (n.b. first path - not adjacent driveway to car park). After the bend in the path, cross over the road at the crossing following the signs to the station and following factory buildings to your left. Take note of the information plaques on the history of Cadbury's along the way. The path crosses the Bourn Brook (formerly a trout stream). Follow the path through the factory and up ramp/steps to Bournville Lane.

10... Turn left along Bournville Lane. Cross over the road at the pedestrian crossing and continue along for a further 100 yards until you reach a path with steps on right leading to the Cadbury's Club. (Note the spectacular red brick building Swimming Baths building further up Bournville Lane on left).

[If the gates is closed to the club, continue for further 100 yards and turn right into Franklin Way. Continue up to Mary Vale Road and turn right for a short way and omit section 11].

11... An optional detour at the Cadbury's Club is to turn right through the pagoda and stroll through the old Cadbury's Ladies Sports Ground/Gardens up to the outdoor swimming pool (not in use)

(BEWARE – STEPS CAN BE VERY SLIPPY)



There is no way out past the outdoor pool, so retrace your steps back to the Cadbury's Club.

From the Cadbury's Club continue up steps between the tennis courts. At top of steps, turn left to come out into Mary Vale Road.

12. At Mary Vale Road, cross over into Franklin Road opposite. Proceed down road back to car park at start.

