

Cofton Park Loop

(Circular route) 3km (2 miles).

Cofton Park is a natural amphitheatre, 135 acres of rolling grassland acquired by Birmingham City Council in 1933. The park is much loved by local dog walkers, weekend football teams and was in 2010 the venue for the beatification of Cardinal Henry Newman by his holiness pope Benedict XVI.

Allowing extra time to climb the parks hills 1 hour to 1 ½ hours will make your walk a pleasant ramble. For the less able the central area of the park is flatter with a free car park accessed from Lowhill Lane. The 62 bus stops on Lickey Road by the recommended start point.

1... A good starting point for this walk is the park entrance next to the Birmingham City Council nursery situated on Lickey Road. Plants for the city's floral trails and Chelsea Flower Show displays are grown here (the nursery is open to the public at selected times).

2... Following the boundary clockwise you will see the MG factory on your left, at the bottom of the hill you will see the car park. The buildings that remain here were once part of Lowhill Farm. Following round there are a few shops on Groveley Lane.

3... As you start to climb the hill you will skirt a small pine coppice; arriving at the top you will have a lovely view of the Lickey Hills Country Park. If the view tempts you to explore the country park has play areas, a visitor centre and a café.

4... Looking back across the park you can see the new Longbridge development taking shape on the site of the old Austin factories. Herbert Austin started the Austin Motor Company in 1905, producing the first car in 1906 for the great sum of £650! Longbridge became world famous for producing cars such as the Austin Seven. When he died in 1941 Lord Austin was buried at Lickey Church, Rose Hill.

5... Well placed on top of the hill is a family picnic area. There are also shops, pubs and restaurants nearby. (via the park entrance at the top of the hill)



6... Following the boundary as you descend the hill the nursery will once again appear on your left hand side.



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