

# Rea Valley Circular

## Approximate length of walk / duration of walk:

Whole walk 13 kilometers (8 miles) / 3.5 Hrs.

Short cuts:- Right circular section 4.5 kilometers (2.75 miles) / 1.25 Hrs

Middle circular section 5.5 kilometers (3.5) miles / 1.5 Hrs

Left circular section 7.25 kilometers.(5 miles) / 2 Hrs

## Terrain:

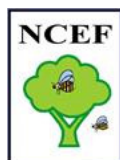
A flat circular walk (only one short hill between Oddingley Road and Varden Way) the walk is along paved paths all the way. Can be cycled. Uses Cycle Route 5 along the River Rea. Roads fairly quiet except Tessall Lane, Longbridge Lane, and West Heath Road which can be busy. The optional extension round Merecroft Pool is more difficult to cycle as the route is along rough paths.

## Access Points:

Walks are circular and can be started anywhere along route. The suggested starting point is opposite the junction of Wychall Lane and Meadow Hill Road, Kings Norton (reference G7 on leaflet map). Buses 47 and 49 stop at that access point. The nearest railway station is Kings Norton for Wychall Lane or Northfield and Longbridge Stations which are on the route.

## Points of Interest:

Almost half of the walk follows the River Rea Valley from Meadow Hill Road to Longbridge Lane. The return journey meanders round pleasant suburbs, Fairfax Recreation Ground, West Heath Park, and finally round Merecroft Pool on the Kings Norton Nature Reserve. At Longbridge Lane there is an alternative route through the Longbridge Austin Village. There are two short cuts which gives three, or more, shorter circular walk alternatives.



## Refreshments:

Shops en route at Longbridge Lane, Fairfax Road and the Fordrough.  
Nearest pubs: The Bull at the Green, Kings Norton. The Cotteridge Inn, Pershore Road South, Cotteridge (by Kings Norton Station).

## Walk Details:

1... Start at Wychall Lane opposite junction with Meadow Hill Road. Take signed path onto the Rea Valley path, going over river bridge and after a few yards turn left onto the Rea Valley Route. Follow main path for 1/3 mile and up to the top of Burnhams Drive. (Worth taking path detour on left through wooded section which comes back onto main path).

2... At the top of Burnhams Drive turn right to the Wychall Reservoir, still following the Rea Valley Route. Continue past the Reservoir where you may see heron, and many species of ducks, until you reach Popes Lane.

- (you can take short route 1 – see below)

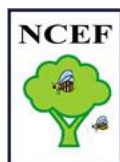
3... Cross over Popes Lane and continue following the Rea Valley Route, crossing Wychall Road, and finally coming out into Middlemore Road. Turn left and go up to the crossroads. (you can take short route 2 – see below)

4... At crossroads, go straight across into Station Road, go under Railway Bridge and turn immediately left into Mill Lane and turn immediately left again to go up steps past the old Northfield Mill ruins. Follow path through wooded area where the old mill ponds used to be and back onto Mill Lane, continue straight on following the road past new housing and continue down hard surface path through an area known as the Daffodil Fields onto Tessall Lane.

5. Turn left at Tessall Lane and round to the right following the railway line up to Longbridge Lane. Turn left at Longbridge Lane, past the station.

\* (you can take alternative route through Austin Village– see below)

Continue along Longbridge Lane for ½ mile (past Turves Green Lane) and turn left into Parkdale Drive and take path on left on a grassed area on bend in road. At Fairfax Road, turn right, continuing past the shops and up to the junction of Edgehill Road and follow the road round to the right and continue to West Heath Road crossroads.\* (short cut route 2 and alternative route joins)



6... Cross over West Heath Road to continue down The Fordrough. Where the road turns sharply to the left, take the path into West Heath Park. Continue straight on, ignoring path on left and the path that forks off to the right and continue downhill to the brook. Turn left just before the brook and follow path out of the park into Oddingley Road and turn right. Continue to bend in road and turn right into Elmridge Road.\* (short cut route 1 joins at this point from opposite direction)

7... At the end of the cul-de-sac continue along short path to Oakridge Road and turn right up to Vardon Way. Turn left at Vardon Way and continue until The Fairway (previously Kings Norton Golf Course). Cross over The Fairway to take the path opposite. This path will take you across Grassmoor Rd and finally into Meadow Hill Road. \* (walk short extension through Kings Norton Nature Reserve – recommended, the best bit of the walk).

8... Either turn left down Meadow Hill Road back to the Wychall Lane start or continue through the Kings Norton Nature Reserve by crossing over Meadow Hill Road and taking the path opposite. After 100 yards, bear round to the left to avoid going into Beaks Hill Road. Follow the path skirting the Mere Croft Pool to your left and continue straight on until you come to a path 'T' junction. Turn left to bring you back to the start at Wychall Lane

#### Short Cut 1.

Turn left up Popes Lane. Turn right at Wychall Lane and immediately left into Chaddesley Road. At sharp right hand bend in Chaddesley Road, take left turn into Elmridge Road and continue at 7. above.

#### Short Cut 2

At West Heath Road, turn left, over the River Rea bridge and continue up slight hill to reach The Fordrough crossroads. Turn left and follow at 6. above.

#### Alternate route through Austin Village

Just passed the station turn left up Coney Green Drive/Central Ave/Hawkesley Crescent. Turn left into The Oak Walk, and turn left along Turves Green, past shops bearing right until you come to the West Heath Road crossroads. Turn right up West Heath Road until you reach the crossroads at The Fordrough. Continue from 6. above.

