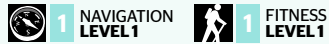


• Distance 6km/4 miles • Time 1½hrs • Type Parks and riverside



Plan your walk



WHERE: Circular walk around some of South Birmingham's little-known nature reserves.

START/END: Sarehole Mill Car Park, Cole Bank Road (SP099818).

TERRAIN: Easy walk on woodland paths, residential streets and riverside paths.

MAPS: OS Explorer 220; Landranger 139.

GETTING THERE: West Midlands bus 11 circular route through South Birmingham, including Hall Green (© 0121 254 7272, www.travelwm.co.uk).

EATING & DRINKING: Sarehole Mill Café & Shop (© 0121 777 6612).

SLEEPING: Corner House B&B, Hall Green (© 0121 744 4721); Oaks Guest House, Shirley (© 0121 694 4940).

VISITOR INFORMATION: Visit Birmingham (© 0121 202 5115, www.visitbirmingham.com).

GUIDEBOOKS: Birmingham



This remarkably green circular walk ascends by Coldbath Valley to the former common lands of Swanshurst and Billesley, then descends by Chinn Brook and the River Cole, through the secretive Dingle Nature Reserve. There is a car park, café and toilets at Sarehole Mill. The walk is easy but muddy in places.

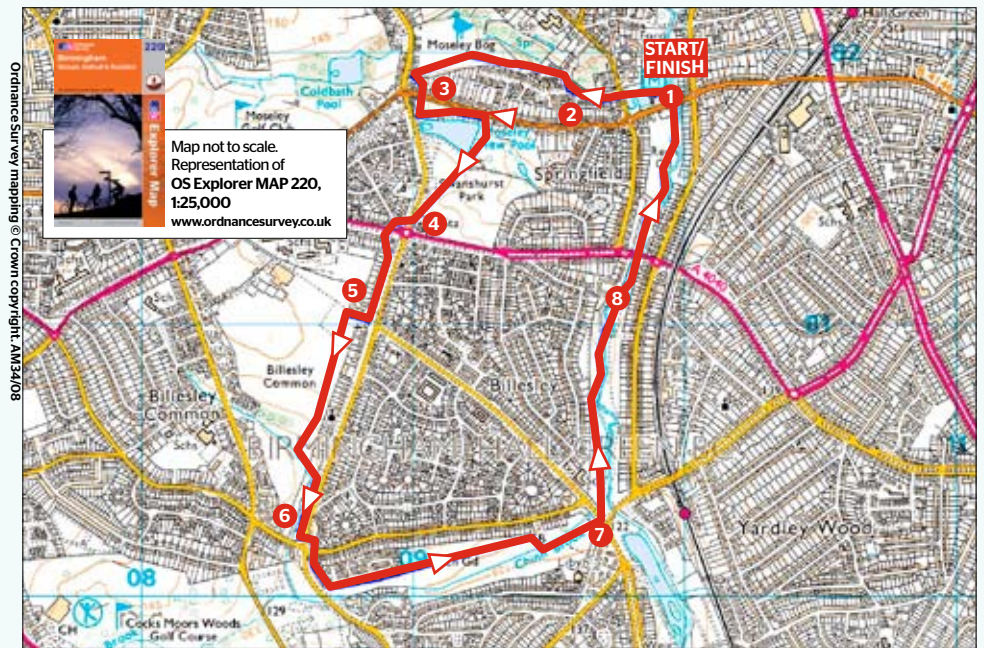
1. START Turn L across the car park (SP099818), over the mill tail-race by a footbridge into a grassy area. Bear L and follow a ditch and a metal fence, emerging through a gate on to Wake Green Road. Cross over into Thirlmere Drive and walk through the housing estate. Turn second R into Pensby Close and at the end of this cul-de-sac cross the grassy verge to Coldbath Brook.

2. Ascend the steps up the bank and enter the forest, taking the path to the L, past a local nature reserve known as Moseley Bog. Continue ahead up steps, ignoring tracks coming in from the L, and enter a small clearing known as Joy's Wood.

Follow the grassy path ahead, ignoring the R-hand fork, to the end of the small clearing. Continue through a band of trees, a second clearing, another band of trees and a third clearing. Where the path divides, take the L fork to the corner of the clearing and follow the path towards the L-hand fence. Where the main path bears R, leave it and follow the boundary fence to the corner stile.

3. Turn L into Yardley Wood Road and follow it over the roundabout, across Swanshurst Lane, past the bus shelter, then turn L through bollards into Swanshurst Park. Follow the path, turning L around the lake then R along the top of the dam. At the end of the dam, head up through the trees and into open parkland. Cross the grass towards the fire station tower at the corner of the park. Keep R of the tower, leave the park and turn L into Yardley Wood Road.

4. Cross the road near the shelter and continue over the grass verge



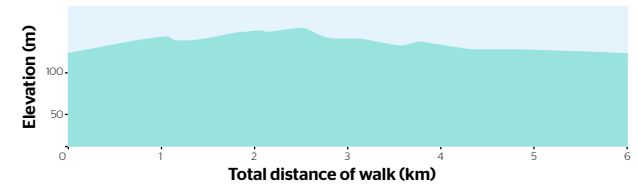
Continued...

LOCAL RAMBLERS AREAS/ GROUP: South Birmingham Ramblers (© 0121 624 2533,

into Menin Crescent. This is part of the first council estate in the area, built in 1923 to provide 'homes fit for heroes'. Follow the crescent around then, opposite Menin Road, turn L on a path to the pedestrian crossing over Brook Lane, then on to the path ahead beside an unmade access road. Follow the pavement to the Greenridge Care Centre, then R into Billesley Common.

5. Keep to the path beside the R-hand boundary until the common opens out, then strike L across the access road and follow the L-hand fence, with Moseley Rugby Club to your R. Just before the end of the field, strike diagonally R to a grassy path through scrubland to Haunch Brook,

Steepest of walk



crossing it near a dead tree. Turn L on to a grassy path and follow the brook through a wood to Haunch Lane.

6. Turn L to the mini-roundabouts and cross Yardley Wood Road. Turn R over Chinn Brook Road and continue on the footway. Cross Firth Drive, then turn L through a gap into the Greenridge Care Centre, then R into Billesley Common.

7. Go through the gap into the Dingle

nature reserve and take the path signposted to Sarehole Mill, along the top of a bank between the River Cole and the Mill tail-race, over a footbridge and turn R along the R-hand edge of a meadow. At a junction of paths, turn R then L at a bridge to walk downstream beside the river to a bridge over the head-race channel. Cross the bridge, turn R and follow the path through a gate into Coleside Avenue.

8. Follow the avenue past Four Arches Bridge, over new Brook Lane to a gap in the fence. Go through and follow the path towards the chimney of Sarehole Mill and through a gap on to Cole Bank Road. Cross over into Sarehole Mill car park.

Route devised by Ted Spiller for Get Walking Keep Walking in Birmingham.



Route and gradient profile created using Anquet Maps v06. Download more maps from www.Anquet.co.uk

