

Cotteslowe Park Circular Woodland Trail Walk (1 MILE/1.6KM)



The walk starts at the bottom of the slide in the playground (near the splash feature) and ends at the café kiosk which is located between the two playgrounds. The route is marked with black arrows.

- 1** From the bottom of the slide, bear off away from the splash feature to walk through the trees, keeping the stream to your right as you head towards a small concrete bridge on your right hand side.
- 2** After 60 metres, turn right over the small concrete bridge.
- 3** On the other side of the bridge, turn left and continue along the grassy track crossing on a bridge over a small ditch. You will pass the duck pond on your left hand side.
- 4** About 100 metres past the duck pond, on your right hand side there is a large sign for The Community Woodland.
- 5** Turn right at this sign onto the drovers' road, and after 50 metres take a left turn and follow the route markers through the woodland.
- 6** As you leave the woodland, walk straight ahead towards the tall trees and ditch along the eastern boundary of the Bottom Field. When you reach the trees, turn left and continue for 150 metres.
- 7** When you reach the black arrow route marker, turn left across the Bottom Field and walk between the wildflower meadow and the football pitches towards the small island copse (i.e. group of trees) in front of the duck pond.
- 8** Bear to the left of the copse to rejoin the path, then bear right to walk slightly uphill along a tarmac path with the duck pond on your left hand side. When you reach the top of the slope (opposite the Parks office building), turn left to continue following the tarmac road. You will see the fenced playground and the café kiosk – the end of this walk – straight ahead.

For a longer walk – instead of turning off towards the copse of trees at point 7, continue straight ahead along the entire boundary of the Bottom Field, and then follow the finger post signs back to the café kiosk.

TREES

Cotteslowe Park Community Woodland is the largest in Oxford City. Lots of different native varieties of trees, shrubs and hedges have been planted by local volunteers and schoolchildren, under the supervision of Forest of Oxford.



Look out for:

- Ash
- Oak
- Lime
- Rowan
- Cherry
- Birch
- Larch
- Guelder Rose
- Hazel
- Holly
- Pine
- Yew
- Hawthorn
- Dog Rose



WILDFLOWERS

Of the many different wildflowers growing in the Wildflower Meadow, one of these, Yellow Rattle, is of particular importance because it is semi-parasitic, feeding off the roots of grasses and making them weaker and allowing other wildflowers to thrive. Their seedheads make a distinctive rattling sound.



You can also see:

- Meadowsweet
- Comfrey
- Cow Parsley
- White dead-nettle
- Blackberries



BIRDS

Can you spot any of these birds on your walk?

COMMON:

- Blackbird
- Robin
- Magpie
- Chaffinch
- Red Kite

LESS COMMON:

- Buzzard
- Yellowhammer
- Wren
- Goldfinch

