

Heatherton Circular Walk 9

Start and finish: Heatherton Community Centre car park off Hollybrook Way, next to the shopping centre.

Grid reference of start and finish: SK31588 32920

Distance: 5.6 kilometres (3½ miles).

Time: Allow 1¾ hours.

Terrain: Paths in the Heatherton area of Littleover. On the most difficult parts of the route in dry weather you will encounter quite smooth surfaces and a fairly steep slope. There will be easier sections. Main walk and around pond is suitable for powered mobility scooter users, and manual wheelchair users, (with assistance) but not the Priory Way walk to Findern.

Nearby bus routes: The Villager (V3) along Rykneld Road, the Harlequin (HQ) along Rykneld Road and through Heatherton, and service 35 along Haven Bauk Lane. Ring traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.traveline.org.uk for details of these services.

Parking: Free car parking at the Heatherton Community Centre off Hollybrook Way. Do not park in any other car park unless you have permission.

The walk

1 On the same side of the road as the community centre, walk along Hollybrook Way, away from Rykneld Road. Cross over Cranhill Close and Bridgeness Road, danger - roads. 100 metres after crossing Bridgeness Road, you will come to the Hell Brook recreational path.



2 Turn left along the Hell Brook recreational path. Please be aware that cyclists are also allowed to use this section of path.

The housing between Rykneld Road and Moorway Lane was identified for development in the Council's City of Derby Local Plan. Marketed by developers as Heatherton Village, over 1400 houses have been built since 1993.

Continue along the Hell Brook recreational path, which forms an important linear wildlife corridor through the housing. It connects with the open countryside in South Derbyshire (150 metres away in the opposite direction).

After a short while you will come to a section of path with woodland alongside the brook.

This forms the eastern boundary to Derby Grammar School for Boys, formerly Rykneld Hospital. Originally built as a small country house for Josias Cockshutt, c1780, it was added to the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest in 1987. It has been in use as a school since 1995. The school grounds are important for wildlife because of the woodland, and a large pond.

Continuing on, cross over Callow Hill Way, danger - busy road, bearing to the left of the gas governor to continue along the Hell Brook recreational path. After about 40 metres, bear left at Cascade Grove.

3 Just beyond, where the path splits, bear right on the path away from Hell Brook. This path can still be used by cyclists. In 60 metres, cross over Woodcote Way, danger - road, and continue along to Gorsehill Grove, another 75 metres.

Heatherton Circular Walk



Location of walk



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Walk: Heatherton Circular
Distance: 5.6 kilometres, 3½ miles
Time: Allow 1¾ hours.
Timings based approximately on 1.6 kilometres, one-mile every 30 minutes

Further information

Derby City Council
 Rights of Way Service
 Planning Division
 The Council House
 Corporation Street
 Derby DE1 2FS

Telephone 01332 640809
 Minicom 01332 640666
 Fax 01332 643299
 email rightsofway@derby.gov.uk
 web derby.gov.uk/derby-walks

Eventually, you will end up back where you started on Moorway Lane. Cross over Moorway Lane, danger - busy road, and turn left down the hill. Please be aware that cyclists are also allowed to use this path.

6 At the bottom of the hill, where the road bears right, marked by the chevron sign, continue along the path keeping the road on your left.

If you wanted to extend the walk by about three miles, you could turn left at this point, crossing Moorway Lane, danger - busy road, and follow the path alongside the pond and drive to Hall Pastures Farm, continuing across the fields to Findern, returning by the same route to rejoin this walk. A leaflet has been produced by the Findern Footpaths Group called the Priors Way. Visit www.findernfootpathsgroup.org/ for a copy.

7 Where the housing finishes, follow the path round to the right. If you wanted to have a look at the pond, bear left, crossing Moorway Lane, danger - busy road, and continue along the path opposite, retracing your steps to continue the walk when ready.

This pond was surveyed in 2004 as part of the Council's WildDerby project pond survey. Heatherton New Pond, as identified in the survey, was one of 69 ponds found outside gardens in the city. Noted as being good for birds, species recorded include Mallard, Coot, Little Grebe, Mute Swan, Tufted Duck, Moorhen and Ruddy Duck.

Back at point 7, continue along the path adjoining Hell Brook for another 600 metres, passing a play area, a seating area, and crossing over Hell Brook, to return to Hollybrook Way. At Hollybrook Way, turn left, using the central reservation on your right, to return to the start.

Walk along Gorsehill Grove, danger - road, and then cross over Woodcote Way again, danger - busy road, bearing right to continue along the path.

In 150 metres, walk along Fulbrook Road, danger - road, turning right on to Swanmore Road. After a short distance, cross over Charlbury Close, danger - road, and then bear right along the path up the hill, away from Swanmore Road.

4 At the top of the hill bear right along Briars Lane. Please be aware that cyclists are also allowed to use this section of path.

In 'Littleover before the Twentieth Century', Second Edition (2009) by Robert Cope, Briars Lane is shown on maps as an 'ancient' road dating back to 1768. On the 1883 Ordnance Survey First Edition it is shown as Briery Lane.

On your left, King George V Playing Field was established by the Littleover Parish Council. They purchased the land and opened the park to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935.

Beyond the playing field, where the path splits, carry straight on, taking in the extensive views over South Derbyshire towards Willington and Findern. After a while, bear left in front of the play equipment. Continue on along the path, eventually coming out on to Moorway Lane.

5 Cross over Moorway Lane, danger - busy road, bearing right into Moorway Lane Open Space and Millennium Wood (no cycling). Walk through the open space, bearing left at each junction of paths.

The Millennium Wood was planted in the year 2000, with one tree for each new born child in Derby. Up to 3000 trees were planted, and a register of names is kept in the Mayor's Parlour.