

Canon Hill Park 5 kilometre walking route



- **Start the route at the entrance to the park by the Midlands Arts Centre (mac). Turn left on tarmac pathway, with the lake Canoe Pool and the boat house on the right. Further on, pass the model of Elan Valley Reservoir on left.**

The real Elan Valley supplies water 74 miles away to Frankley, by means of an underground aqueduct, entirely by gravity feed to Birmingham.

The park retains its Victorian horticultural character with formal flower beds.

- **Continue along the path, passing Garden Tea Room and Ranger information office on the left.**

The park was designed and laid out by John Gibson, who trained under Joseph Paxton at Chatsworth.

- **Take left hand (rough surface) pathway uphill towards Russell Road.**

The park, given to the city by Louisa Ryland, daughter of local manufacturer Samuel Ryland, first opened to the public in 1873.

- **Follow the tarmac pathway through the trees, with the Victorian bandstand on the right and the Golden Lion pub, a grade 2 listed building, on the left.**

The pub dates back to the 1600s, but was relocated to the park in 1911.

- **From this higher pathway you will pass the Parks Maintenance yard on your left. Bear right on the pathway going downhill to join main pathway. See lakes in front.**
- **Bear left and join main pathway towards wildflower meadow and Queen Mother's Woodland.**

The woodland was planted with one oak for each year of her life, originally 80, but extended to 90 and then again to 100 trees, supplemented to mark the Millennium.

- **Follow the Rea Valley Walking & Cycling Route. The river runs the length of the park.**
- **Bear left at the boundary of the park and follow the tree-lined pathway uphill towards Holders Lane Gardens and Holders Lane sports pavilion.**
- **Leave the path bearing right and walk around the perimeter of the field. Join the River Rea pathway going back towards the park.**
- **Following the pathway on your left, pass the exit to Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park.**
- **Bear left on a natural pathway to pass the small lake on right and pass to the left of the bridge. Re-join the main tarmac pathway with the main lake on your right, and follow until you reach the mac on your left.**

What to look out for

The park is home to a fine collection of native and non-native trees with over 100 different species from around the world including Irish yew, Judas tree, blue atlas cedar, brilliant sycamore and giant redwood 'wellingtonia'.

Conservation areas include the RSPB Plantation, a five-acre woodland and wildflower meadow.

Wildlife includes kingfishers, bats and nuthatches.

Holdings Lane Woods, a conservation area and a fine example of mostly ancient woodland with a high percentage of oak and beech.