

Woodgate Valley Country Park 5 kilometre walking route



- **Leave the Visitor Centre and car parks passing the children's playground and mound to the left.**
- **Walk down the path between the horse fields.**

From here you get views across Woodgate Valley and can see the Chamberlain Clock Tower at Birmingham University in the distance to the right.

Birds such as buzzards and swallows can be seen hunting over the fields during the summer and are just two of over 90 species that have been recorded at Woodgate Valley.

- **Continue down the pathway to the green metal bridge, turn right and follow the gravel footpath.**

The Bourn Brook flows through the heart of the valley and forms the parish boundary between Quinton and Bartley Green.

Along the brook was evidence, in the form of burnt mounds, that Bronze Age man once lived in this area in around 2500BC.

The brook is home to freshwater shrimps, mayfly larvae, sticklebacks and kingfishers.

- **Continue to follow the stream and walk past the green brick built bridge. Exit via a tarmac path on to Summerfield Road.**

Along the way you will pass through plantations of alder, cherry and field maple and

alongside damp meadows, where wild flowers can be seen in spring and summer. Look out for orchids in June.

The meadows attract over 20 species of butterfly. These meadows are cut annually for hay to feed the horses in the winter.

- **Continue until you see a red bridge, continue on the path past this.**

Along the stream there are lots of meanders and curves. These meanders are constantly changing through erosion and deposition. At some points, these loops have been cut off from the main channel to form an ox bow lake.

- **Continue along this path until you reach a green metal gate (at West Boulevard). Bear left to return on the other side of the Bourn Brook and follow it back passing first the red and then the green brick built bridges and finally on to the green metal bridge.**

Along the route you will have passed several small weirs with stepping stones. These weirs, as well as providing crossing points, help to combat pollution and re-oxygenate the water, aiding wildlife.

- **At the green metal bridge cross over the brook and follow the path opposite and back through the horse fields. Return to the visitor centre for a well-deserved cup of tea.**