

The Parks Trust
MILTON KEYNES

25 Mile Challenge Walk



1. Introduction

The Parks Trust is an independent charity that cares for over 5,000 acres of parkland and green space in Milton Keynes. We look after parks, woodlands, lakes, river valleys and landscaped roadside areas that represent 25% of the city.

We believe that a closer connection to the natural environment leads to more enriched and prosperous lives. Our operations and community ranger teams are passionate about maintaining a sustainable landscape that will last for many years to come and our education and events teams play vital roles in creating connections between nature and the community, from our work with schools through to our events programme ranging from led walks to World Picnic.

We are a self-financing charity and as such we are totally independent. All of our work is funded through our commercial property, our investments and various enterprises on our parkland. We are also supported by a team of over 250 dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

The Parks Trust was established in 1992 and to celebrate 25 years we have created a 25 mile walk that we would like to challenge you to complete in a day! However, don't feel daunted, you can split the route over several days if you'd prefer.

We hope you enjoy exploring the green space in our great city as much as we enjoy caring for it.

Find out more about our work and other events and activities you can enjoy at theparkstrust.com

2. Route

Starting in one of our semi-ancient natural woods in the south-west of Milton Keynes, we shall guide you through the Tattenhoe Valley, around Furzton Lake and north along the Loughton Brook to Lodge Lake. We will introduce you to the famous Concrete Cows (if you haven't met them already) as you make your way through the North Loughton Valley parks, to the edge of our Linford Lakes Nature Reserve.

You will then turn south, passing Linford Manor, and join the Grand Union Canal to Willen Lake and then onto Campbell Park. Following the River Ouzel through the Ouzel Valley, you will end by circling Caldecotte Lake where you may want to refuel at the pub.

Walking through our parks, you will find lots of different paths that can be used for this walk, but we have written the instructions to following a single path to make it easier for those new to the area.

You can complete this walk at any time of the year; be careful in wetter weather and be prepared for kissing gates, cattle grids and steps in some locations. Watch out for our livestock being grazed in some of our parkland; please ensure dogs are kept on a lead in these areas, where the route is shared with cyclists and in woodland during the nesting season. Some of the route encompasses bridleway so please do give way to the horse and rider if you meet any.

Good luck, and we would love to see photos of you completing the walk. Share with us @theparkstrust using #25milewalk.



3. Overview



4. Practical Information

Start

Howe Park Wood Visitor & Study Centre
MK4 3GG
OS: SP83073452

Finish

Caldecotte Arms
MK7 8HP
OS: SP88783552

Waymarker



Distance

41km (25.5mi)

S1 = 3.3km (2.07mi)	S7 = 3.69km (2.29mi)
S2 = 4.01km (2.49mi)	S8 = 3.88km (2.41mi)
S3 = 3.35km (2.08mi)	S9 = 4.75km (2.96mi)
S4 = 2.71km (1.69mi)	S10 = 2.34km (1.45mi)
S5 = 3.04km (1.88mi)	S11 = 3.45km (2.15mi)
S6 = 3.4km (2.11mi)	S12 = 3.06km (1.9mi)

Topography

Min: 58m Start: 102m
Max: 119m Finish: 70m

Path Conditions

Various surfaces from tar & chip leisure route to unsurfaced bridleways

Accessibility


Kissing-gates, some with cattle-grids alongside them.
Steps at some locations

Suitable For

Able walkers. Dogs must be kept on leads in fields with livestock, where the route is shared with s and within woodlands during bird nesting season (1st March – 30th September)

We suggest you bring all food and drink with you so you can complete the challenge

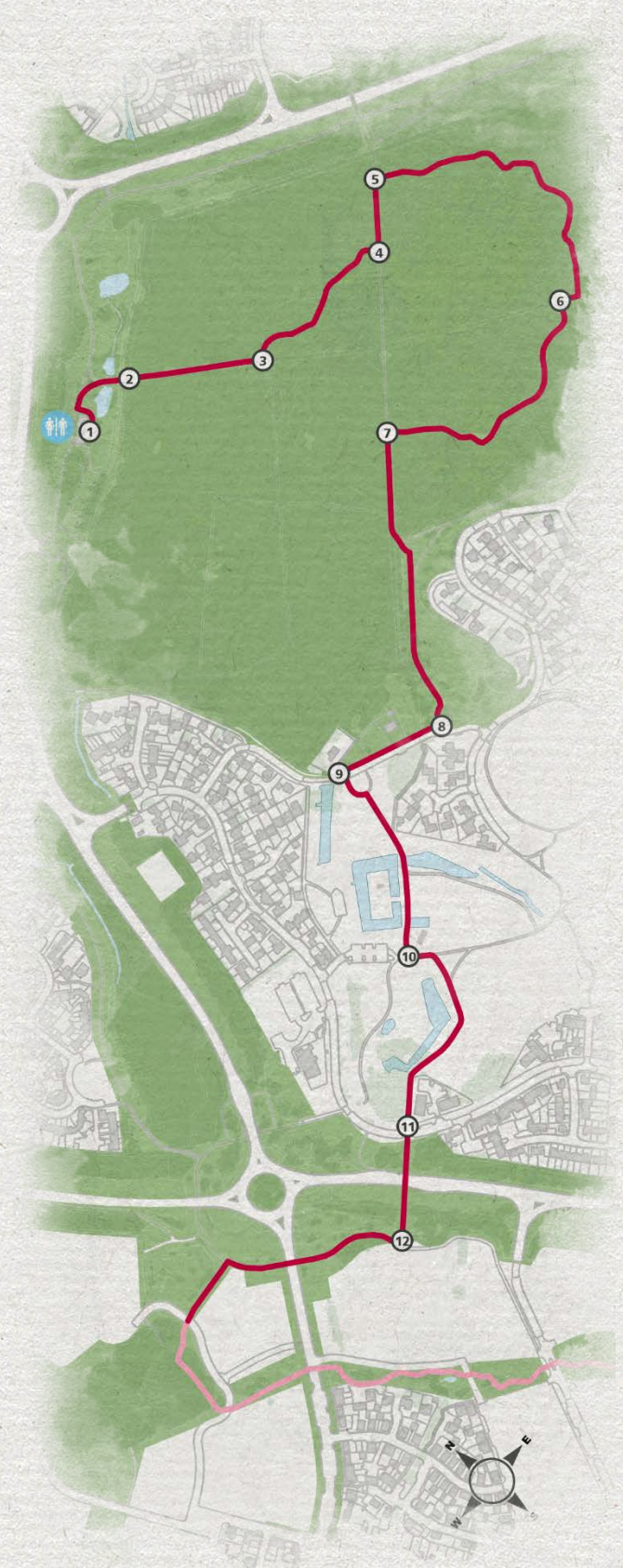
Refreshments & Toilets

 Toilet facilities are accessible along the route (with minor detour) during business hours. Check instruction maps for locations



5. Directions

	Direction	Distance km (mi)
S1: Howe Park Wood to Tattenhoe Valley 0 – 3.30km (0 – 2.07mi)		
1 	Starting at <i>Howe Park Wood Education & Visitor Centre</i> ¹ , follow path and BEAR RIGHT past the Frog Musicians sculptures and cross bridge to ENTRANCE TO HOWE PARK WOOD	0.10 (0.06)
2	Head along woodchip ride through the wood to cross-roads with woodchip path. TURN LEFT	0.13 (0.08)
3	Continue through wood to paved T-junction in the path. TURN LEFT	0.17 (0.11)
4	Continue along paved path to T-junction on right. TURN RIGHT	0.07 (0.04)
5	Continue past pond, bearing right and continue to tarmac path. TURN RIGHT, FOLLOWING SOON AFTER TURN LEFT	0.33 (0.21)
6	Continue through wood to paved T-junction in the path. TURN LEFT	0.27 (0.17)
7	Continue along path to exit wood. BEAR RIGHT following path through gate to <i>Hengistbury Lane</i> . TURN RIGHT	0.30 (0.19)
8	Follow bridleway to break in fence (left) at a driveway entrance. TURN LEFT TO CROSS OVER HENGISTBURY LANE ONTO A HORSESHOE GREEN	0.11 (0.07)
9	Continue through gate into orchard, past church (left) to T-junction in path (gate on right). TURN LEFT	0.21 (0.13)
10	BEAR RIGHT along path and through gate beside apartments to reach <i>Portishead Drive</i> . Cross road and CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.22 (0.14)
11	Continue on bridge over <i>V1 Snelshall Street</i> to T-junction in path. TURN RIGHT	0.11 (0.07)
12	Continue on redway through <i>Hayton Way</i> underpass, taking FIRST LEFT and follow path to an unnamed road, facing Kingsmead Spinney. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.25 (0.16)




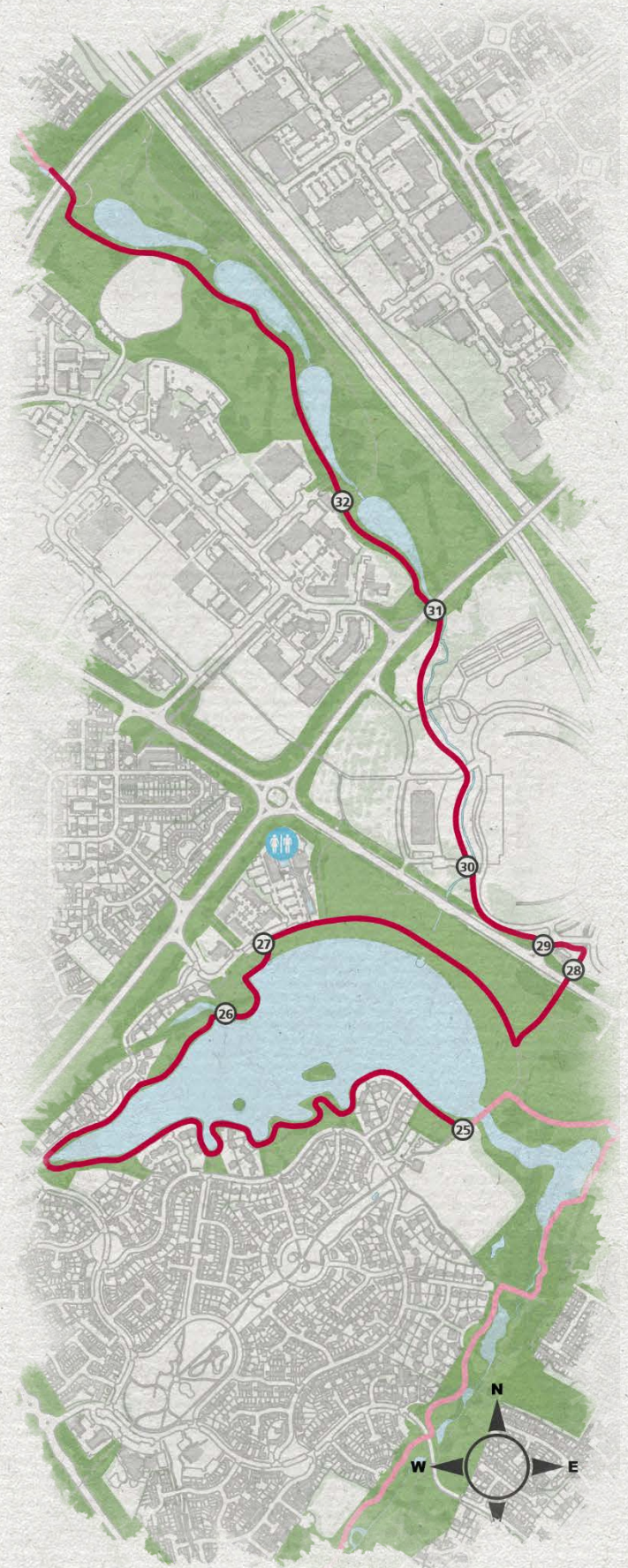
¹ Toilets accessible at *Howe Park Education & Visitor Centre*



	Direction	Distance km (mi)
13	Cross road and follow path over boardwalk into woods. BEAR LEFT	0.04 (0.03)
14	Continue to bear left along path over bridge. Exit the wood onto <i>unnamed road</i> and cross to path. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.07 (0.04)
15	Continue along path, crossing four roads (in development at time of writing) and passing lake (left) to cross-roads with bridleway. TURN LEFT (OS: SP82983321)	0.92 (0.57)
S2: Tattenhoe Valley to Furzton Lake 3.30 – 7.31km (2.07 – 4.56mi)		
16	Follow bridleway to <i>V1 Snelshall Street</i> underpass. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.23 (0.14)
17	Continue along bridleway crossing multiple footpaths and redways, keeping brook on right, to <i>V2 Tattenhoe Street</i> underpass. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	1.40 (0.87)
18	Continue along bridleway, crossing multiple paths to <i>White Horse Drive</i> . Cross road and CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.47 (0.29)
19	Continue along bridleway, crossing multiple paths to <i>V3 Fulmer Street</i> underpass. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.38 (0.24)
20	Continue along bridleway, over redway onto paved path. BEAR RIGHT at fork in path and continue straight, over cross-roads with path, to <i>Dulverton Drive</i> . Cross road and CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.55 (0.34)
21	Continue along path to T-junction with redway. TURN RIGHT OVER BRIDGE, IMMEDIATELY TURN LEFT	0.39 (0.24)
22	Continue along path, crossing boardwalk, to T-junction in path. TURN LEFT over bridge to second T-junction. TURN LEFT	0.40 (0.25)
23	Continue along path, crossing bridleway, immediately to T-junction with redway. TURN LEFT (OS: SP85073580)	0.19 (0.12)
S3: Furzton Lake to Teardrop Lakes 7.31 – 10.66km (4.56 – 6.64mi)		
24	Continue along redway, over bridge, to path on right. TURN RIGHT	0.10 (0.06)



	Direction	Distance km (mi)
25	Continue along path, keeping lake on right. At the westernmost edge of the lake, follow path round to right at a severe bend. With <i>Bilbrook Lane</i> on the left, continue along path to bridge. Cross bridge and BEAR RIGHT	1.48 (0.92)
26	Continue along path, turning right at cross-roads, over a feeding platform with viewpoint (left), to T-junction with redway. TURN RIGHT	0.20 (0.13)
27 	Continue east along redway, passing T-junction with redway ¹ (left). Take the second left turning, beside a triple star sculpture. Cross the <i>V4 Watling Street</i> bridge. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.73 (0.45)
28	Continue along redway, bearing left, to cross over access to building, followed soon after to entrance road to <i>The National Bowl</i> back onto redway. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.12 (0.07)
29	Continue along redway to fork and bear right onto path, moving away from the <i>V4 Watling Street</i> . At a service road TURN LEFT AND IMMEDIATELY RIGHT	0.22 (0.14)
30	Continue along path, crossing a further two service roads. The path changes to redway before reaching <i>H7 Chaffron Way</i> underpass. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.50 (0.31)
S4: Teardrop Lakes to Lodge Lake 10.66 – 13.37km (6.64 – 8.33mi)		
31	BEAR RIGHT to continue along redway beside lake, then bear left onto path before redway passes over stream. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.27 (0.17)
32	Continue along path, past 3 lakes and cricket field (left). At a triangle in the path with steps leading up toward the <i>H6 Childs Way</i> , turn right and follow the wall round to underpass. Use underpass, moving to other side to have flood defences on left. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.87 (0.54)




¹ Toilets accessible just before T-junction with redway, **TURN LEFT** onto path, past enclosed canal, to *The Hungry Horse* for access to toilets



	Direction	Distance km (mi)
33	Continue along path, crossing <i>Redland Drive</i> , to join <i>Leys Road</i> . Follow the road left round to a staggered junction with <i>Bradwell Road</i> . Continue straight onto <i>The Green</i> , bearing right on the road to a T-junction that leads into a path (beside information panel). TURN RIGHT ONTO PATH	0.93 (0.58)
34	Continue over bridge and IMMEDIATELY TURN LEFT . Follow path, crossing bridleway, to <i>Linceslade Grove</i> . Cross road and CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.30 (0.19)
35	Continue along path, crossing stream, and use <i>H5 Portway</i> underpass. Continue along path to a T-junction in path. TURN RIGHT (OS: SP83303816)	0.34 (0.21)
S5: Lodge Lake to Roman villa, Bancroft 13.37 – 16.41km (8.33 – 10.21mi)		
36	Continue along path, crossing two bridges, to T-junction with redway (beside car park). TURN LEFT onto redway and follow to first right turning, before weir. TURN RIGHT	0.66 (0.41)
37	Continue along path, using <i>H4 Dansteed Way</i> underpass, and cross bridge. IMMEDIATELY BEAR RIGHT , keeping stream on right, to <i>A5</i> underpass. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.41 (0.25)
38	Continue along path, BEARING LEFT at fork in path. At T-junction with redway TURN RIGHT and follow path over bridge that is beneath railway line. Soon after BEAR LEFT AND CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.76 (0.47)
39	Continue along path to cross-roads with redway. TURN LEFT AND IMMEDIATELY RIGHT across bridge and onto bridleway. Use the <i>H3 Monks Way</i> underpass and soon after find the <i>Concrete Cows</i> (left). CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.45 (0.28)
40	Continue along bridleway to cross-roads with redway. TURN RIGHT and following soon after TURN LEFT into <i>Roman Villa</i> ruins (beside information panel). Locate exiting path at the north of the ruins. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.76 (0.47)




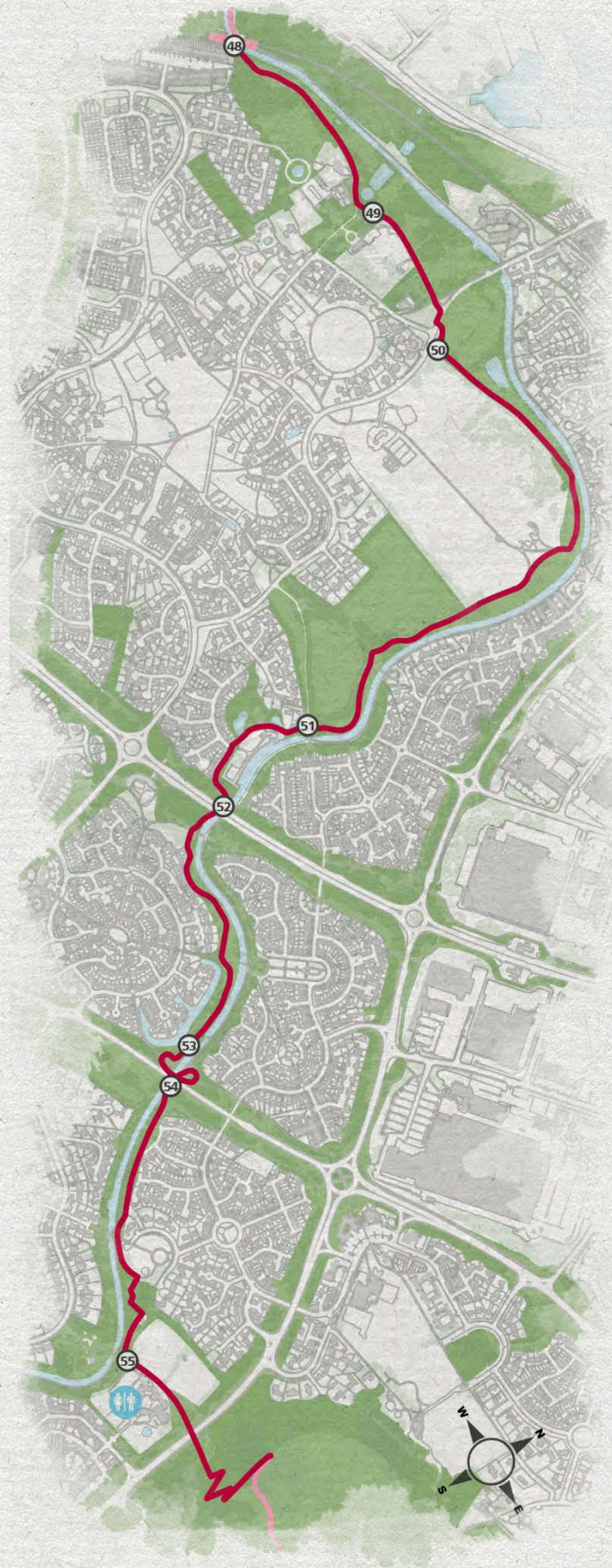
	Direction	Distance km (mi)
S6: Roman Villa, Bancroft to St Peter's Church, Stanton Low 16.41 – 19.81km (10.21 – 12.32mi)		
41	Continue along path to cross-roads with path and TURN RIGHT past <i>pétanque court</i> (left). Continue to second cross-roads with path and TURN LEFT . Follow path to <i>H2 Millers Way</i> underpass and proceed. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.47 (0.29)
42	Follow path to bridge. Pass beneath bridge and continue along path round to T-junction with redway. TURN LEFT ONTO BRIDGE.	0.58 (0.36)
43	Continue over bridge and IMMEDIATELY TURN LEFT and pass through play area to bridge crossing <i>The Grand Union Canal</i> . Cross over bridge, following path round to join towpath. TURN LEFT	0.23 (0.14)
44	Following the towpath, pass under two bridges. As the towpath continues it will pass over a weir. Soon after a footpath will meet the towpath through the hedge. TURN LEFT	1.75 (1.09)
45	Continue straight along a grass-cut path, to <i>St Peter's Church</i> . Head past the ruins and TURN RIGHT to join track. CONTINUE STRAIGHT (OS: SP83584275)	0.37 (0.23)
S7: St Peter's Church, Stanton Low to car park, Willen Lane 19.81 – 23.50km (12.32 – 14.61mi)		
46	Continue along track to cattle-grid. Use bridleway on left and follow to <i>unnamed road</i> . TURN RIGHT AND SOON AFTER LEFT onto towpath. Follow towpath under <i>Wolverton Road</i> bridge. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	1.19 (0.74)
47 	Continue along towpath ¹ to bridge, passing under to then climb the steps on the far side. TURN LEFT and cross the bridge, following soon after TURN LEFT down onto redway to reach cross-roads with path. CONTINUE STRAIGHT on path beside canal	0.37 (0.23)



¹ Toilets accessible from towpath to *Black Horse Pub*



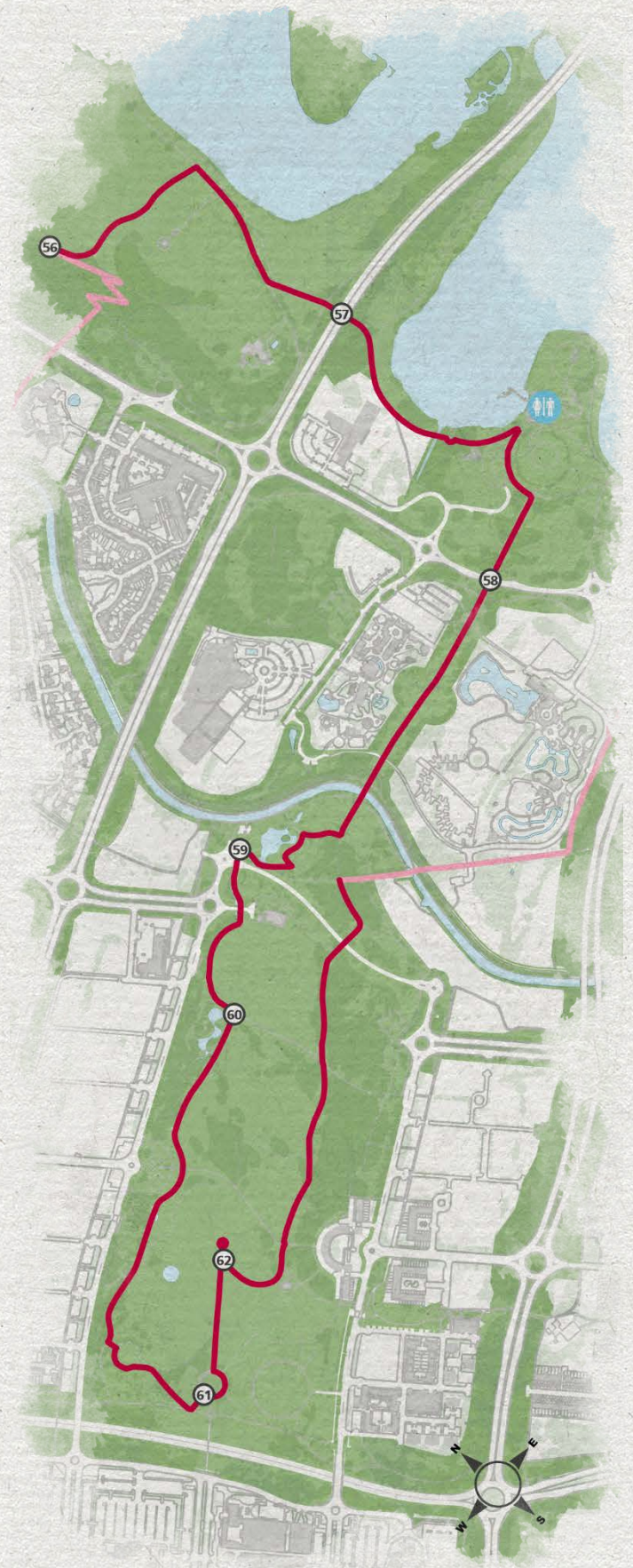
	Direction	Distance km (mi)
48	Continue straight along path. After church (right), BEAR LEFT at fork in path and CONTINUE STRAIGHT (OS: SP85194233)	0.49 (0.30)
49	Continue along path, changing to track, to <i>Marsh Drive</i> . TURN RIGHT THEN SOON AFTER THEN LEFT to cross road and join path. At first path on left TURN LEFT	0.35 (0.22)
50	Continue along path to T-junction with redway. TURN RIGHT AND BEAR LEFT , keeping parallel to canal (left) until car park on <i>Willen Lane</i> . Cross road and CONTINUE STRAIGHT	1.29 (0.80)
S8: Car park, Willen Lane to Newlands 23.50 – 27.38km (14.61 – 17.02mi)		
51	Continue along path to <i>Nicholas Mead</i> cul-de-sac, crossing road and bearing left with path, in front of several houses, towards <i>H3 Monks Way</i> underpass. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.33 (0.20)
52	Continue along path to cross-road with redway. CONTINUE STRAIGHT , bearing left at fork in path, and STRAIGHT at second cross-road with redway. Follow path to bridge. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.61 (0.38)
53	Follow path to T-junction with redway. TURN RIGHT AND BEAR LEFT to cross bridge parallel with <i>H4 Danstead Way</i> . Continue along redway, bearing left to go under road. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.26 (0.16)
54	Continue along path (parallel to towpath), passing bridge on right, following soon after TURN RIGHT onto <i>Canal Broadwalk</i> boardwalk. Upon exit, TURN RIGHT through play area to crossroads with redway. TURN LEFT , away from bridge. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.65 (0.41)
55 	Continue along ¹ path crossing bridge over <i>V10 Brickhill Street</i> to zig-zag path. Follow ramps to top of ridge and TURN LEFT AND BEAR LEFT at fork to viewpoint, where three paths meet. TURN RIGHT AND BEAR LEFT (OS: SP87354083)	0.62 (0.39)



¹ Toilets accessible along path, over cross-roads with bridleway to **TURN RIGHT** at T-junction with path and bear left round to *The Camphill Cafe*




	Direction	Distance km (mi)
56	Continue along path to T-junction with redway. TURN RIGHT , then at fork in redway BEAR LEFT and straight over cross-roads with redway to <i>H5 Portway</i> underpass. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.68 (0.42)
57	Continue on redway, bearing right at fork. Continue straight over bridge, past car park (right). TURN RIGHT before reaching café ¹ . Pass the car park and TURN RIGHT towards <i>V10 Brickhill Street</i> underpass. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	0.73 (0.45)
S9: Newlands to River Ouzel, Poplar Plantation 27.38 – 32.13km (17.02 – 19.98mi)		
58	Follow path straight over several cross-roads with paths to steps. Head up steps and cross bridge, continuing straight on path. TURN RIGHT at sculpture, then FIRST LEFT , and FIRST RIGHT , passing feeding platform to T-junction with path. TURN LEFT	0.74 (0.46)
59	Cross <i>Overgate</i> onto path then cross entrance to <i>The Parks Trust</i> office. Continue along path, round cricket field to T-junction with path. TURN RIGHT	0.33 (0.20)
60	Continue along path, crossing two cattle-grids (may be covered). Just past vehicle waiting area (left), use stairs with coloured railings to reach <i>Labyrinth</i> . Circle round to where paths re-join and BEAR RIGHT at fork. Follow path to redway and TURN LEFT AND IMMEDIATELY TURN LEFT to enter <i>The MK Rose</i> (OS: SP86023937)	0.86 (0.54)
61	Moving counter-clockwise round <i>The MK Rose</i> use the fourth exit onto path, crossing cattle-grid, to sculpture and viewpoint. Return along path to BEAR LEFT following path down slope	0.35 (0.22)
62	Continue straight along path, crossing cattle-grid to staggered cross-roads with path. CONTINUE STRAIGHT , crossing bridge over <i>Overgate</i> . BEAR LEFT at fork in path and follow to T-Junction with path. TURN RIGHT	0.84 (0.52)



¹ Toilets accessible at cafe




	Direction	Distance km (mi)
63	Continue straight along path, crossing bridge then access-road, to TURN LEFT before <i>H6 Childs way</i> underpass. Follow path, bearing right at fork, to TURN RIGHT onto redway which leads to roundabout underpass. At crossroads within roundabout TURN LEFT	0.96 (0.60)
64 	Continue along redway, BEARING RIGHT at fork. Follow redway ¹ and TURN RIGHT onto path to cross miniature railway track and use <i>H6 Childs Way</i> underpass. Continue straight along path, bearing left at fork, to bridge. Cross bridge and TURN RIGHT (OS: SP87953922)	0.67 (0.42)
S10: River Ouzel, Poplar Plantation to H8 Standing Way Underpass 32.13 – 34.47km (19.98 – 21.43mi)		
65	Continue along path, using <i>V10 Brickhill Street</i> underpass. Follow path, BEARING RIGHT at fork, then head STRAIGHT across cross-roads with redway, and again with bridleway. BEAR RIGHT at fork in path. At cross-roads with bridleway TURN LEFT onto bridleway and soon after use <i>H7 Chaffron Way</i> underpass. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	1.23 (0.76)
66	Continue along bridleway straight over cross-roads with path and cross bridge. TURN LEFT onto path. Pass through two gates and BEAR LEFT THEN STRAIGHT at cross-roads with path and pass through gate. Follow path to <i>H8 Standing Way</i> underpass and CONTINUE STRAIGHT	1.11 (0.69)
S11: H8 Standing Way Underpass to H10 Bletcham Way Underpass 34.47 – 37.92km (21.43 – 23.58mi)		
67	Continue straight along path, passing bridge (left), and T-junction with path (right), over boardwalk to cross-roads with bridleway. TURN LEFT onto bridleway to T-Junction with redway. TURN LEFT onto redway. Follow redway past bridge (left) to <i>H9 Groveway</i> underpass. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	1.24 (0.77)



¹ Toilets accessible after fork, **TURN LEFT** where redway joins, and continue to *The Lakeside*



	Direction	Distance km (mi)
68	Continue along path, bearing left at fork. At road, cross <i>Simpson Road</i> and TURN LEFT on redway. Immediately after crossing car park entrance TURN RIGHT onto bridleway. Continue straight to where bridleway merges with path. Follow path along water's edge. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	1.02 (0.64)
69	Continue along path, straight over cross-roads with path. TURN RIGHT onto boardwalk before reaching <i>Redcote Manor</i> . Return to path and continually BEAR RIGHT . Pass pagoda and cross bridge to IMMEDIATELY TURN RIGHT and cross a second bridge. Follow to <i>H10 Bletcham Way</i> underpass. CONTINUE STRAIGHT	1.19 (0.74)
S12: H10 Bletcham Way Underpass to Caldecotte Arms, Caldecotte Lake 37.92 – 40.98km (23.58 – 25.48mi)		
70	Continue along path to cross boardwalk then BEAR RIGHT . At staggered cross-roads with path TURN RIGHT and follow path along water's edge round two boat basins. On second basin TURN LEFT up final stairs and cross a private road onto redway. Cross a further two access roads to TURN RIGHT AND IMMEDIATELY LEFT onto wide path. Cross boardwalk and CONTINUE STRAIGHT	1.37 (0.85)
71 	Continue along path to west side of lake. BEAR LEFT at fork in road twice, before using <i>H10 Bletcham Way</i> underpass. Follow path, continually BEARING RIGHT to end at car park entrance for the <i>Caldecotte Arms</i> ¹ (OS: SP88733555)	1.69 (1.05)



¹ Toilets accessible at *The Caldecotte Arms*

