

Hall Green Naturehood Trail

A varied circular nature walk connecting local green and blue spaces starting at the historic Sarehole Mill. Step-free option en route.

Distance 4.7 kilometers / 2.9 miles **Duration** 1 hour and 30 minutes



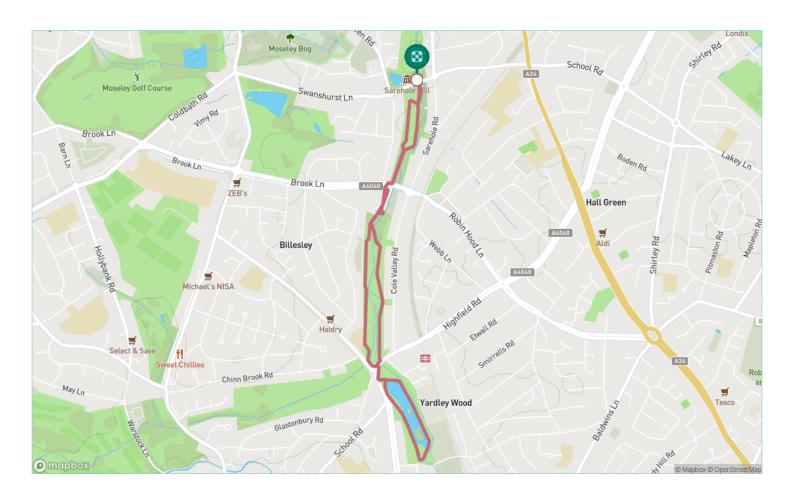


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Step 1: Welcome to our Hall Green Naturehood Trail brought to you in collaboration with the National Trust. Join us to discover all of the wild neighbours and hidden nature right here. Tap 'Read More' for visitor information

Transport & Visitor Information

This walk starts at Sarehole Mill. There is a bus stop right outside named Sarehole Mill and it is served by routes 5 and 11C Outer Circle.

The walk is along hard surfaced paths until step 30. After this point, wheelchairs and mobility scooters with decent off road wheels will be able to continue up to step 38, creating a linear walk. Please note that the mill is open 11am - 4pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You can wander the grounds free of charge. Access to the mill itself is via payment either online or via their shop. The site is managed by Birmingham City Council who also helped contribute to this trail.

Step 2: This walk starts outside the entrance to Sarehole Mill.

Step 3: Entry to the grounds is free and it is a dog friendly site

Step 4: Sarehole Mill is one of Birmingham's last two working watermills. There has been a mill on the site since before 1542. Read more below.

Sarehole Mill

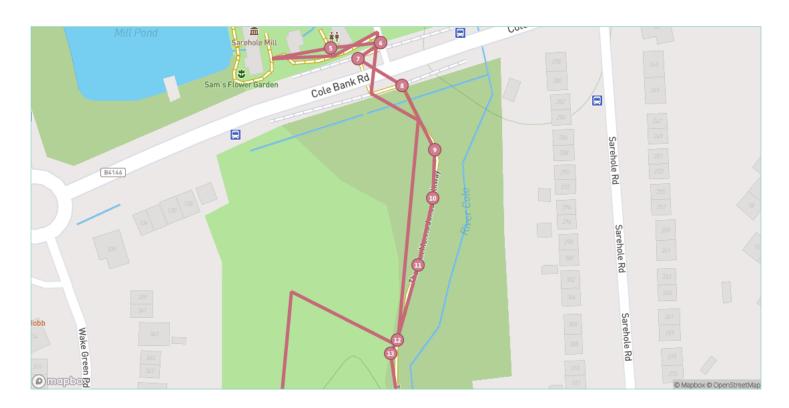
Sarehole Mill was first built over 480 years ago -back in the days of Tudor king Henry VIII! In the 1850s, a steam engine and tall chimney were added, giving the mill its iconic silhouette. Its waterwheels once ground grain, sharpened tools, and even rolled metal during the Industrial Revolution. One of the two waterwheels kept grinding wheat until recently, but flood damage has paused it for now and restoration work is underway.

Read more

https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/sarehole-mill

Step 5: The mill has public toilets. You need a RADAR key for the accessible one.





Step 6: Exit the carpark next to the mill onto Cole Bank Road.

Step 7: Head right and then cross over the road at the lights. Look out for the sign for the John Morris Jones Walkway.

Step 8: Turn left on the opposite side and look for the path on the right that head into the woods where the path becomes tarmac.

Step 9: Welcome to The Shire Country Park. This pretty path is known as the John Morris Jones Walkway. Tap the 'Play' button for another fun fact!

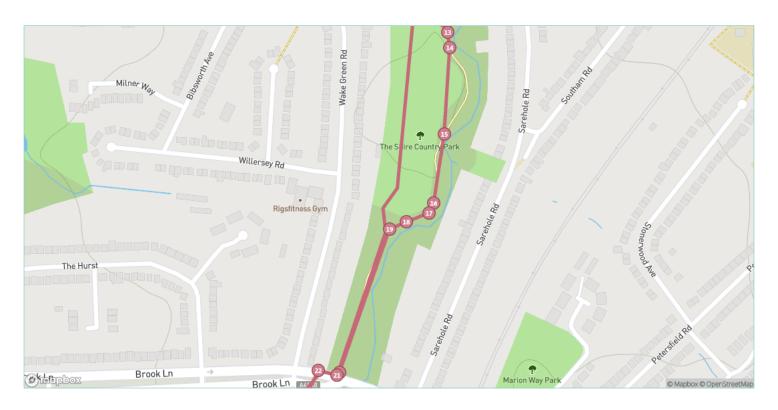
Step 10: The River Cole is on the left. Kingfishers can been seen hunting for fish along the meandering river. Can you spot or hear any birds today?

Step 11: Did you know that the River Cole is a 25-mile-long (40-kilometre) river? About 4 miles of it runs through this very park! Continue ahead.

Step 12: The Colebank Playing Fields are on the right. Why not take a peek through?

Step 13: In the summer, common speedwell and lady's smock carpet the field edges. We'll be back here later





Step 14: For now we continue along the path in the woods.

Step 21: Turn right on Brook Lane.

Step 15: This is a beautiful spot by the river. Fancy dipping your toe in? Only do so if the river levels are low and the current is slow.

Step 16: There are plenty of oak trees along this path - perfect for a game of nature bowling! \$\mathbb{B}\$ Tap the 'Play' button to find out more \$\mathbb{Q}\$

Step 17: You'll see the meadow on the right. This bench is a great place for a bit of cloud-spotting!
△ Tap 'Play' to find out how.

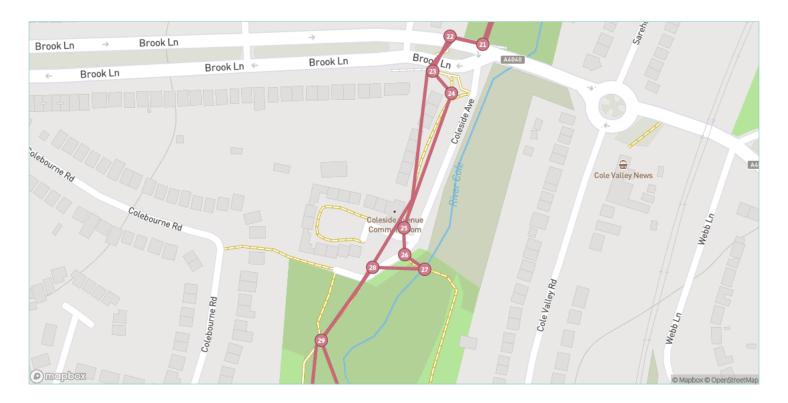
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Step 18: Continue along the path.

Step 19: Make sure you keep to the left at this fork.

Step 20: At the end of this stretch, exit through the wooden archway onto the pavement.





Step 22: Cross over Brook Lane at the pelican crossing.

Step 29: At the first path junction turn left and head over the small concrete bridge.

Step 23: Turn left on the opposite side for a few steps.

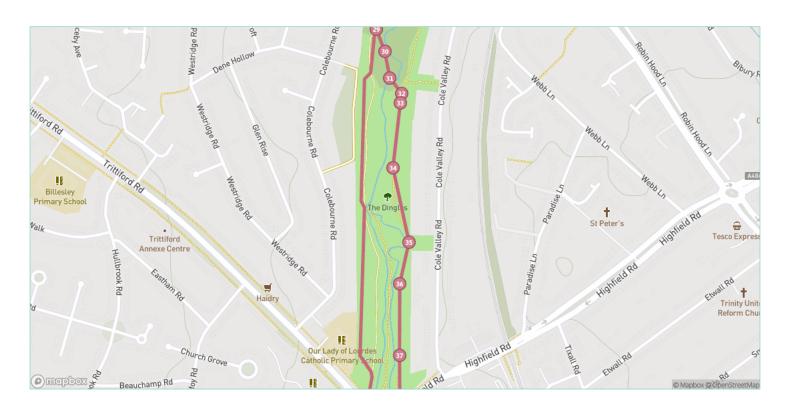
Step 24: Turn right to walk along the path alongside the houses on Coleside Avenue.

Step 25: At the end of the pavement, carefully cross over the cul-de-sac.

Step 26: On the left is Four Arches Bridge.

Step 28: We don't cross over this bridge. Instead, turn left on Coleside Ave, pass the car park and through the gate onto the path to The Dingles.





Step 30: Head along this path, keeping the river on the left. You can find out more about this area by tapping 'Read More' below.

The Dingles

This area is called The Dingles, which means a deep, leafy hollow and is centred where the River Cole and its tributary Chinn Brook meet. This green corridor was once farming land in medieval times. If you look closely, you can find signs of old field layouts. Now, it's full of wild meadows and thick woods. Listen for birds singing in the branches and feel the cool shade under the trees.

Step 31: The path narrows here and changes from a hard surface to be more natural and uneven. Go over the wider Whirl Hole bridge.

Step 32: Once over the bridge, continue through the field on the right. There's a bench here if you feel you need a rest.

Step 33: Look for the undulating medieval ridge and furrows in the field.

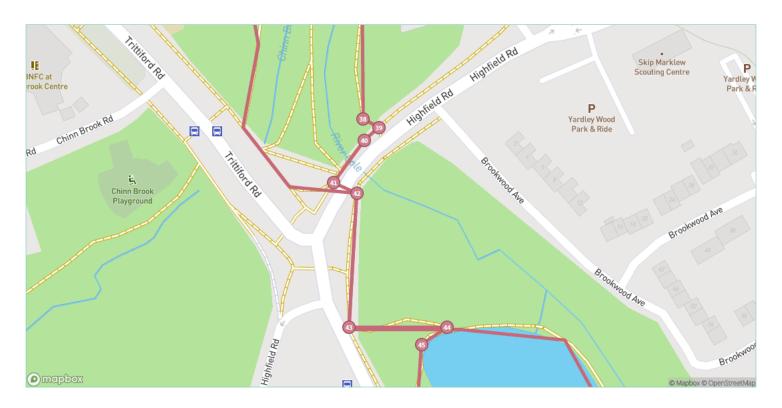
Step 34: At the end of the field the path heads into the woodland.

Step 35: The River Cole is now to your right.

Step 36: The grass path opens back up. This area provides habitats for wildflowers, insects, birds and mammals.

Step 37: Take a moment to enjoy the sights and sounds of the river slowly meandering alongside you.





Step 38: At the end of the path, exit through the narrow wooden gap in the fence. Wheelchairs and mobility scooters are unlikely to fit through...

Step 39: ...this narrow gap so we suggest wheelchair or large-buggy users u-turn here and retrace their way back to the start. Why not see if you can notice and enjoy new or different things in nature as you go?

Step 40: To continue, turn right and head along Highfield Road.

Step 41: Turn left and carefully cross the road at the traffic island before the roundabout.

Step 42: Turn right on the opposite side.

Step 43: Enter Trittiford Park on the tarmac path on the left.

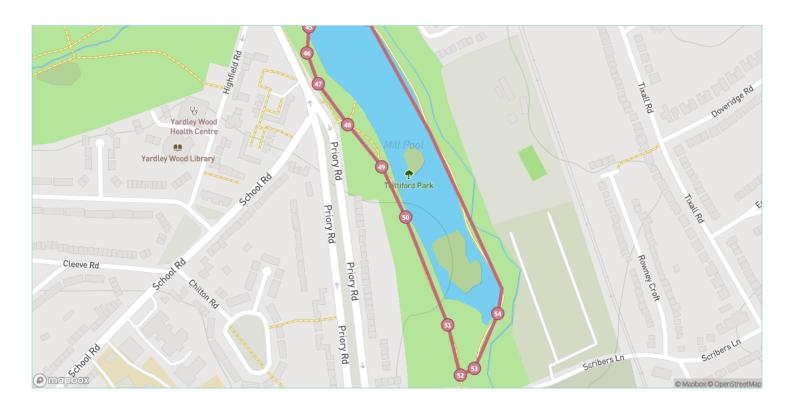
Step 44: At the bottom of the path you'll find the spectacular Mill Pool. Tap 'Read More' below to learn more.

Trittiford Mill Pool

Trittiford Mill Park and Mill Pool is a calm, peaceful place. Back in the 1800s, the stream here powered a corn mill, and later a rolling mill for metal! Today, the pool is home to ducks, swans, and fish and there's even a special spot where fish lay their eggs. Whilst you're here, why not listen to the water trickling, watch the birds gliding across the surface, and notice how history and nature come together in one place.

Step 45: We're going to do an anticlockwise loop of the pool. So head right to join us. *♥*





Step 46: There are plenty places to sit, rest and enjoy the views.

Step 53: Continue along the tarmac path.

Step 47: If you fancy, head down to the water's edge to get closer to the bird life.

Step 48: Information boards give more details of all the wildlife that visit the pool, from swifts to dragonflies.

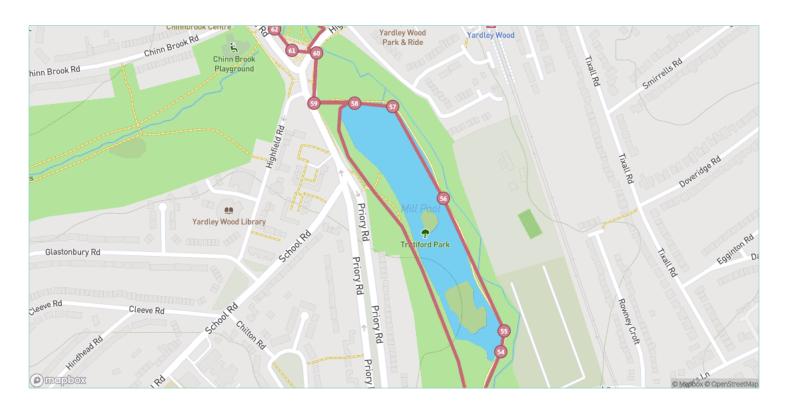
Step 49: Look out for this wonderful bird mural on the right. This inspired us to do some wildlife drawing when we got home. What would you draw?

Step 50: Continue along the path through this lovely avenue of large trees.

Step 51: Look for the oak tree in the small field on the right. In autumn this is a great spot for a game of acorn target toss! Tap 'Play' below.

Step 52: To continue our anticlockwise loop, turn left and cross over the metal footbridge.





Step 54: You'll soon be back by the waterside.

Step 55: Look out for the swans and other birds on the water. Tap the 'Read More' button below for tips on watching birds.

Watch a Bird

Our feathered friends can be found anywhere and everywhere, but to see something really special, here's a few tips and tricks you should know.

Find out more

https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/discover/nature/wildlife/birds-to-spot-through-the-seasons

Step 56: The River Cole runs along the right of the pool.

Step 57: Cross over the small bridge.

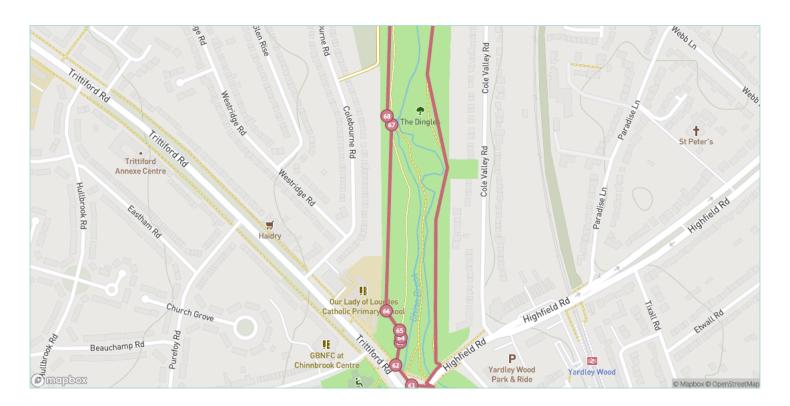
Step 58: You'll soon be back at the path from earlier. Turn right and follow the path back out of the park.

Step 59: After exiting the park, turn right and head back to the traffic island we crossed earlier on

Step 60: Carefully cross back over Highfield Road just after the roundabout at the drop curb and central island.

Step 61: After crossing the road, continue straight ahead along this shared path beside Trittiford Road.





Step 62: Look for the small path on the left between wooden posts. Head on in!

Step 63: You're now back in The Dingles.

Step 64: The Chinn Brook is flowing to your right.

Step 65: As the path opens up, turn left and head along the grass path on the left hand side of the meadow.

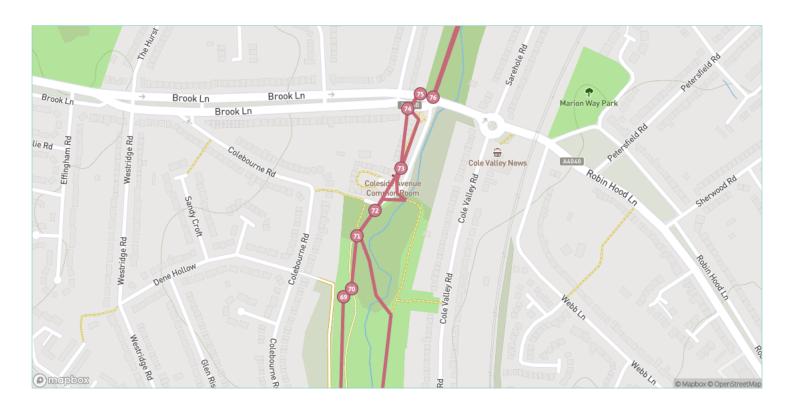
Step 66: Common spotted orchids grow here in early summer. Whatever the season, fancy a nature scavenger hunt?

→ Tap 'Play' for tips →

Step 67: To the right of the meadow the Chinn Brook and River Cole run alongside each other before joining just further ahead.

Step 68: Continue along the beautiful and peaceful meadow.





Step 69: At the end of the meadow turn to the right and head back towards the tarmac path.

Step 70: Turning left and continue along the path.

Step 71: This path leads us back to the first section of The Dingles from earlier in the walk.

Step 72: Go back through the gate that opens onto Coleside Avenue.

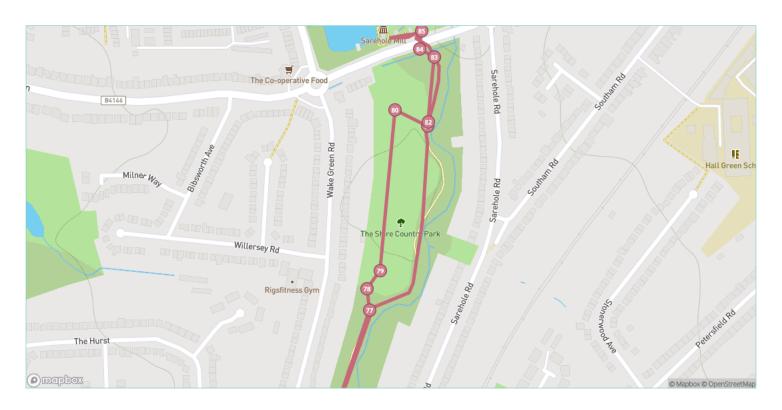
Step 73: Follow the pavement with the houses on the left.

Step 74: Carefully cross back over Brook Lane at the lights.

Step 75: Turn right on the opposite side.

Step 76: Turn left and head back into The Shire County Park under the wooden archway we used earlier.





Step 77: Go to the left at the fork.

Step 78: This path soon opens up onto Colebank Playing Fields.

Step 79: Continue along the left hand side of the fields. Tune in with your senses to the nature all around you. What good things can you spot?

Step 80: At the end, follow the grass path as it bends to the right. Have you ever made friends with a tree? Fancy finding out how? Read more below.

Get to Know a Tree

How well do you know the trees near you? Look at a tree's leaves to try and identify it or search for clues in its roots, bark and branches. You can even hug a tree to learn its age.

Find out more

https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/50-things/no.-1-g et-to-know-a-tree

Step 81: Go through the wooden posts to reach the tarmac path.

Step 82: Turn left and head back along the path with River Cole on the right.

Step 83: Exit the green space to reach the road.

Step 84: Go back over Cole Bank Road at the crossing when safe to do so.





Step 85: And we are back at the beginning of this walk at the Sarehole Mill.

Step 86: We hope you enjoyed this jaunt around your Naturehood? If you did, we'd love you to share the walk with friends who might enjoy it too. Just tap the 3 dots to share. Thank you!

