

Broomfield Park

Starts at Spon Gate Primary school and Children's centre

31 minutes | 1.1miles 1.8km | Easy Access



ID: 300.5 | Developed by: Verity Tiff | Checked by: Jane Reeves |

This circular walk takes you past the original 1935 facade of the former Coventry Technical college, under the Coventry-Nuneaton Railway line and through Broomfield Park with it's children's play areas.



— Main Route
 — Alternative Route
 H Point of Interest
 4 Waypoint

Starts at

Spon Gate Primary school and Children's centre, CV1 3BQ

Ends at

Spon Gate Primary school and Children's centre, CV1 3BQ

Getting there

WM Centro Buses 6/6A, 10 and 18 have regular services along Spon End and Butts Rd.

Route instructions

[1] Standing with your back to the entrance of Spon Gate School on Upper Spon St, cross the road and turn left. Walk along Upper Spon St a short way and just before the small row of shops, turn right into Sherbourne St. At the end of this cul-de-sac, turn left to walk through Wellington Memorial Gardens

(A) Wellington Gardens were named in tribute to the people of New Zealand who contributed to the Lord Mayor of London's National Air Raid Distress Fund.

Continue past the memorial plaque onto Windsor St and turn right. Walk along Windsor St to the main road (Butts Rd) by the Butts Retreat public house.

Butts Road is a busy main road into Coventry City Centre. Only cross this road at one of the designated crossing points with lights. Take care once you have crossed Butts Rd; on the opposite side of the main road is the vehicle entrance to the new Department of Education building. The traffic in and out of this entrance is controlled by the traffic lights.

[2] Cross Butts Rd at the lights on this corner. Turn left and cross the vehicle entrance to the Department of Education building with caution. Continue along Butts Rd, past the Premier Inn to the junction with Albany Rd on your right.

(B) The Premier Inn retains the facade of the original 1935 college building.

Turn right into Albany Rd. Walk up Albany Rd, passing under the railway bridge to a set of traffic lights by The Albany public house.

[3] At the lights, DO NOT CROSS THE ROAD. Turn half right into Broomfield Rd. Walk along Broomfield Rd and take the first turning on your right, Melbourne Rd. Continue along Melbourne Rd, past Bristol Rd and Kingston Rd on your left to the crossroads (there is a Costcutter shop on the corner). Turn right into Sovereign Rd and continue, crossing Lodlow Rd and Collingwood Rd to the end of the road where there is a path going through an arch under the Coventry-Nuneaton railway line. Follow this path as it curves to the left and then enter Broomfield Park on your left.

(C) Broomfield Park was first laid out in the 1920s on land donated by Albert Herbert whose first engineering works were nearby. There is not much of the original layout remaining, except for some large old trees. The park has a children's play area and benches where you may wish to sit and take a break.

[4] There is the option here to walk through the park and under one of the original sandstone arches of the Spon End viaduct. Take the left hand path, keeping the children's play areas on your right, to the end of the path. As you leave the park in Broomfield Place, turn left and walk under the railway arch *(D)* one of the few original sandstone arches of the Spon End viaduct, continuing forwards along Broomfield Place to Melbourne Rd. Turn right and walk along Melbourne Rd to the main road. When you reach the main road, turn right and walk under the railway arches until you reach the pelican crossing just past the Dyers Arms public house. Here you rejoin the main route at waypoint 5.

Otherwise take the right hand path through the park, with the children's play areas on your left and Butts Park Arena on your right, to leave the park in Broomfield Place.

(E) Butts Park Arena is currently the home ground of Coventry RFC and Coventry Bears

(F) Some of the houses on Broomfield Place are good examples of 'topshop' weavers' cottages.

DO NOT TURN LEFT along Broomfield Place, but continue forwards into Sovereign Row to return to the main road.

[5] Cross the road with care at the pelican crossing and continue on the path immediately ahead of you, following it as it turns to the right in front of Spon Gate House. Turn left to walk over the footbridge crossing the River Sherbourne (G). At the road turn right and you are back outside Spon Gate School.

Additional 'Point of Interest' information

(A) Wellington Gardens is a small community of elderly people's bungalows that were built after the war using money granted to Coventry from the Lord Mayor of London's National Air Raid Distress Fund. In 2011 the memorial garden was revived and redesigned with the help and ideas of young people who took part in Whitefriars Housing Associations's summer 'Boot Camp' project. There is a memorial plaque and an information board in the gardens.

(B) The Premier Inn is partly built on the site of the The Coventry Technical College, built in 1935. This was known locally as 'The Butts', referring to the road name, which was given referring to the firing butts where the burgers practised archery in medieval times. When the college moved to the new site in Swanswell, the land was sold for development, but there was a requirement that the original 1935 front facade should be retained.

(D) The Coventry to Nuneaton Railway line is a short branch line linking Coventry and Nuneaton. On 26th January 1857, 23 of the 28 arches of the Spon End Viaduct collapsed and the line did not reopen completely until October 1st 1860. The rebuilt arches were built using blue engineering bricks instead of sandstone as in the original structure.

(E) The sports ground at Butts Park Arena dates back from the 1870s and formerly had a cycle track which was built in 1879 and a running track. These fell out of use in the 1990s. For a time this was the home ground of the Coventry Jets American Football team.

(F) Topshops were houses with a workshop on the top floor. The 3rd floor had a glass shed roof, to enable the weavers to work for as long as possible working in natural daylight..

(G) The River Sherbourne has its source in Hawkes End and then flows south through Spon End and the city centre to join the River Sowe at Baginton. This River Sowe then flows into the River Avon near Stoneleigh. The River Sherbourne is culverted just before it reaches the ring road under the city centre although there is talk of possibly re-opening the river in the city centre.

Notes

There is the option to extend this walk once you reach Broomfield Park at waypoint 4. The option takes you along the Western side of the park and then under one of the original sandstone arches of the Spon End viaduct.

Acknowledgements

Developed by: *Verity Tiff*

Checked by: *Jane Reeves*



A view across the children's play areas in Broomfield Park
Photo taken by: Verity Tiff



A view along Broomfield Place with its topshop weaver's cottages
Photo taken by: Verity Tiff

