

# BROXTOWE WALK



**Circular walk exploring Broxtowe, Broxtowe Country Park, Stonepit Plantation Nature Reserve, Strelley Recreation Ground and St Martin's Church, Bilborough**

**Walk No 8**

## DESCRIPTION

A three hour circular walk exploring Broxtowe, Broxtowe Country Park, Stonepit Plantation Nature Reserve, Strelley Recreation Ground and St Martin's Church.

## THE FACTS

<b>Area</b>	Broxtowe and Strelley
<b>Distance</b>	c 5 miles (8 kilometers)
<b>Duration</b>	c 3 hours
<b>Maps</b>	As leaflet, street map or OS Explorer 1:25000 Map 260
<b>Travel Information</b>	Free car parking, and cycle parking at Phoenix Park; Public transport tram and bus service to Phoenix Park (see <a href="http://www.nctx.co.uk">www.nctx.co.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.traveleastmidlands.co.uk">www.traveleastmidlands.co.uk</a> )
<b>Terrain</b>	Mainly wide walkways, pavements, and surfaced paths. Some sections may be muddy in wet weather so please wear suitable footwear. Unsuitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and prams.
<b>Start/ Finish</b>	Phoenix Park – Park and Ride
<b>Refreshments</b>	Beefeater Millers Barn at Phoenix Park (walk start/end), Holly Tree Farm pub & Aldi Supermarket on walk route.
<b>Shorter walk options:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Start walk at point F; at B continue to point C omitting section B-A;</li> <li>2) Omit St Martin's church by taking direct route from F-H via Strelley Recreation Park and Flamstead Road</li> </ol>	

**Cover images:** Clockwise from top left: Tree carving at Strelley Recreation Ground, Hand sculpture in Nottingham Business Park, Cows near Strelley, Gated entrance to Broxtowe Country Park

Produced by the Nottingham Local Access Forum with the support of Nottingham City Council. January 2021

For other walks in this series see [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/localaccessforum](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/localaccessforum)

## THE ROUTE

**A.** Start from the **Phoenix Park Park & Ride**. Cross the road and walk down Millennium Way with the Premier Inn hotel to your right. Cross the road and take the footpath heading towards the series of pedestrian crossings. Use these to cross over the A610 and take the path alongside the bus and cycle lane passing the green and yellow Nuthall name sign. Turn right onto Nottingham Road and then immediately cross the road. You will then see the green and white entrance sign to **Broxtowe Country Park**. Enter the park through the gap in the green gates and continue walking up the lane.

**B.** The tarmacked lane ends, changing colour to a red surface. At the corner where the bench/bin are turn right on to a tarmacked track heading up hill into the park. As the tarmacked lane ends turn right onto the surfaced path and follow this keeping the tree line on your right. Keep on this path, passing a bench until the tree line ends and you pass a second bench on your right. After the bench take the smaller path to the right. Follow this path which has trees on either side and eventually bends right. Then cross the footbridge which goes up hill into the wood. Follow the path through the wood until you reach the end of the path, marked by metal railings.

**C:** As you reach the road, **Woodhouse Way**, turn left and use the pedestrian crossing to cross. Continue straight on the dirt footpath, keeping the Belfry hotel on your left. Continue on this path until you reach a clearly marked junction and turn left down the dirt path. Where this meets a road, take the footpath passing the business park on your right. Cross a small road and continue along the footpath which then bares to the right. Walk past the front of the Aldi supermarket. Take the footpath to the right before the wooden guards passing the Aldi supermarket and then the Holly Tree Farm pub on your right. At the roundabout use the crossing to cross Lawrence Drive. Turn left on the footpath and enter the park by gap in the hedge and cross small ditch. Continue walking with houses and Cossethay Drive on left. As the houses end and the road bends to the left, head towards the playground and surfaced path.

**D:** Turn right and join the surfaced path, continue along the path until it bares around to the left. At this point leave the path crossing the grass between the wildflower mounds and heading for the line trees in the distance. As the grassy path splits take the path heading to the right and keep walking towards the trees. You will then reach a wooden gate which is the entrance to the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust **Stonepit Nature Reserve**.

**E:** Take the path to the right of the gate and continue straight ahead to follow the dirt path through the reserve. You will eventually see a boundary fence and the path bares to the left. Eventually the path goes uphill and arrives at a steep drop into the quarry ahead of you. At this junction take the path to the right keeping the boundary fence to your right. As the path goes downhill just after a wooden step you can leave the path by taking a smaller path to the left to explore the **Magnesian Limestone rockface**. Retrace your steps back to the main path and turn left. As the path splits take the path to the right and continue along this path. Continue walking along the path keeping the wire fence and ditch to your left. At the end of the path in front of you is a wooden fence and beyond that a road. Take the path leading to the right. Continue along this path keeping the road on your left and the black fence railings on the right. As the path ends turn left to use the pedestrian crossing to cross **Woodhouse Way**.

**F:** Continue straight ahead walking past **Strelley Recreation Ground** on your left. You may wish to explore the Recreation Ground by entering through the black gate. Just by the entrance are **two wood carvings by chainsaw artist Mark Butler**. Continue walking along Strelley Road keeping the black fence on your left. At the end of the fence use the pedestrian crossing to cross Strelley Road. Bear right to walk down Wigman Road. At house 287 use the dropped curve crossing to carefully cross Wigman Road. Continue straight ahead into St Agnes Close using the path with the wooden fences on both sides, passing the parking spaces on your left. As the path ends turn sharp left at the "Headway" building, ignoring the first track to left of building and head through the metal squeeze gate, past sign for St. Michael's Avenue. Follow path and bare right to gated entrance to the grounds of **St Martin's Church**

**G:** Go through gate. Walk around the church and head for the gate leading to **St Martin's Cottages**. Go through the gate and past the cottages on your right onto St Martin's Road. Continue walking straight ahead up the road until you reach Strelley Road. Turn left and use the Zebra crossing to cross Strelley Road. Bear right past Strelley Health Centre onto Moore Road. Continue straight ahead until you reach a roundabout. Cross Moor Road and continue right, heading down Flamstead Road.

**H:** Continue on Flamstead Road and cross the second roundabout and continue walking down Westleigh Road. On your left you will eventually see an entrance to **Broxtowe Country Park and Phoenix Adventure Playground**. This bright green entrance features artwork by the pupils of Seagrave primary school. Go through the entrance and continue down the path walking across a Sunflower painted on the path. At the end of the tarmacked path turn right and take the surfaced path. Continue straight along this path passing the BMX track on your right. After the BMX track continue straight ahead on the smaller path passing the basketball court on your left. Continue following the dirt path which heads down through the trees. At the end of the dirt path turn left on to a red tarmacked lane, which bends round to the right passing a bench. This is the same track (point B) walked at the start of walk. Retrace steps walking along the lane until you reach the green entrance/exit gates. Turn right at exit cross Nottingham road and then turn left to follow the path alongside the bus and cycle lane passing the green and yellow Nuthall name sign. Use the series of pedestrian crossings to cross over the A610. Use the footpath and walk down Millennium Way with the Premier Inn hotel to your left. Cross the road and return to **Phoenix Park Park & Ride**.

#### **POINTS OF INTEREST**

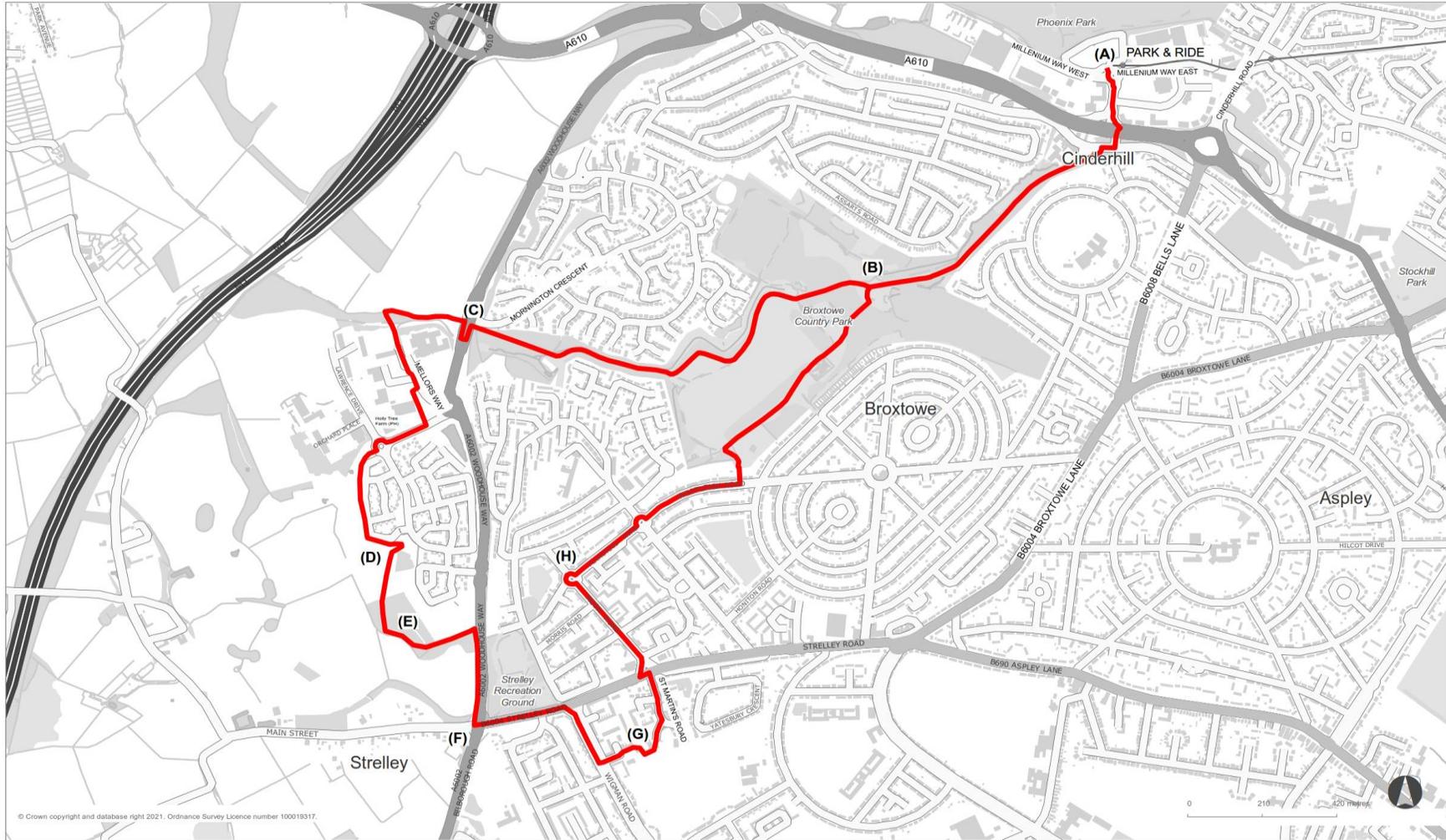
**Phoenix Park** is the site of the former **Cinderhill Colliery**. Behind Phoenix Park is **Stanton Tip**, a man made hill which is the **slag heap for Cinderhill Colliery**. It is now open wasteland abundant with flora and with excellent views across Nottingham. The adventurous can explore by leaving the park & ride entrance and continue walking along Millennium Way West, keeping the park & ride car park fence on your right. At the end of the car park fence there is a Keep Broxtowe Tidy sign. Behind this sign take the steep dirt path to access **Stanton Tip**.

**Broxtowe Country Park** is a large, 46 hectare green space with a mix of woodland and open green spaces, as well as sports facilities, on the site of the former **Broxtowe Colliery**. The tarmac track from Phoenix Park into the country park is the line of the former **railway to Broxtowe Colliery**. Some of the grassland is kept long to provide habitat for ground nesting birds such as skylark. Ramsons, more commonly known as wild garlic, grows among the trees here as well. If you are lucky, you might hear or see a Green Woodpecker amongst the trees.

**Stonepit Plantation Nature Reserve** is a former quarry and significant as the most southerly exposure in Britain of a limestone known as Bulwell Stone, a much used local building material, which has a narrow outcrop running north to the Durham coast. The Strelley area is sited on the ancient southern shoreline of this sea, which accounts for the sandy and pebbly nature of the rock in this area. The six acre site in Strelley Park was purchased by the Wildlife Trust in 1983. Strelley Estate was broken up and sold at that time by the Trustees after the death of Miss Emily Edge in 1978, having been the family home since 1678. Previously the Stradleigh or Strelley family had owned the estate from at least the times of Henry I (1100-1135).

**St Martin's Church** was built around 1360 and has been a living place of worship ever since. The external walls of the tower are made from stone which is believed to come from Broxtowe parish church in around 1450. Over the years the parapet had become unsafe and removed. The tower was repointed and the parapet restored in 2011. The tower was a tourist destination in Victorian times. Examples of marks left by visitors and craftsmen can be seen inside the church. The stained glass of the east window was lost, and the window bricked up, when the modern extension was built in 1972. The window was restored with mainly clear glass in 2014. Inside the church, the east window is framed by a painting by artist Evelyn Gibbs which shows the Angel Gabriel telling Mary that she will give birth to Jesus. Further information about St Martin's and the history of Bilborough can be found on the church website: <http://www.stmartinshiddentreasures.org.uk/>

**Strelley & Broxtowe Estates** built in the 1930's are examples of the "garden city" design. The houses followed designs by T.C. Howitt, also architect of Nottingham's council house. Housing had proper sanitation and was designed along radial routes with parks and gardens, wide roads and plenty of space.



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 The Walk

1:10,000

