Walk 1 Nowhere Wood and Golden Valley Meadows Walk (Abridged)

Summary

A pleasant walk starting and ending in Chelvey Rise by the Old Farm House public house passing through woods and meadows. Not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchair users.

Walk Information

Distance: 2 km (1.25 miles), Gradients: gentle mostly level, Surfaces: metalled, hard surface and unsurfaced.

How To Get There

By Car: Park in Chelvey Rise, or any nearby street. Always be considerate of the residents, do not obstruct their access.

By Bus: Use the X7 or X7A bus and alight at the Bibury Close or Winchcombe Close Bus Stops.

By Train: Walk northwards from Nailsea and Backwell Train Station along Station Road passing Backwell Lake, up the hill and turn right into Trendlewood Way. Chelvey Rise is second turning on the right. Distance from the station 1 km.

Safety

We want you to enjoy your walk in Trendlewood Community Park and the park is very safe. However, you should be aware of the potential hazards you may encounter on your journey.

Trip and Fall Hazards

Some paths are unsurfaced and can become muddy and slippery during and after damp weather.

Some paths are uneven with small rocks protruding through them.

Some paths have roots breaking through them.

Risk of Drowning

Do not enter the water.

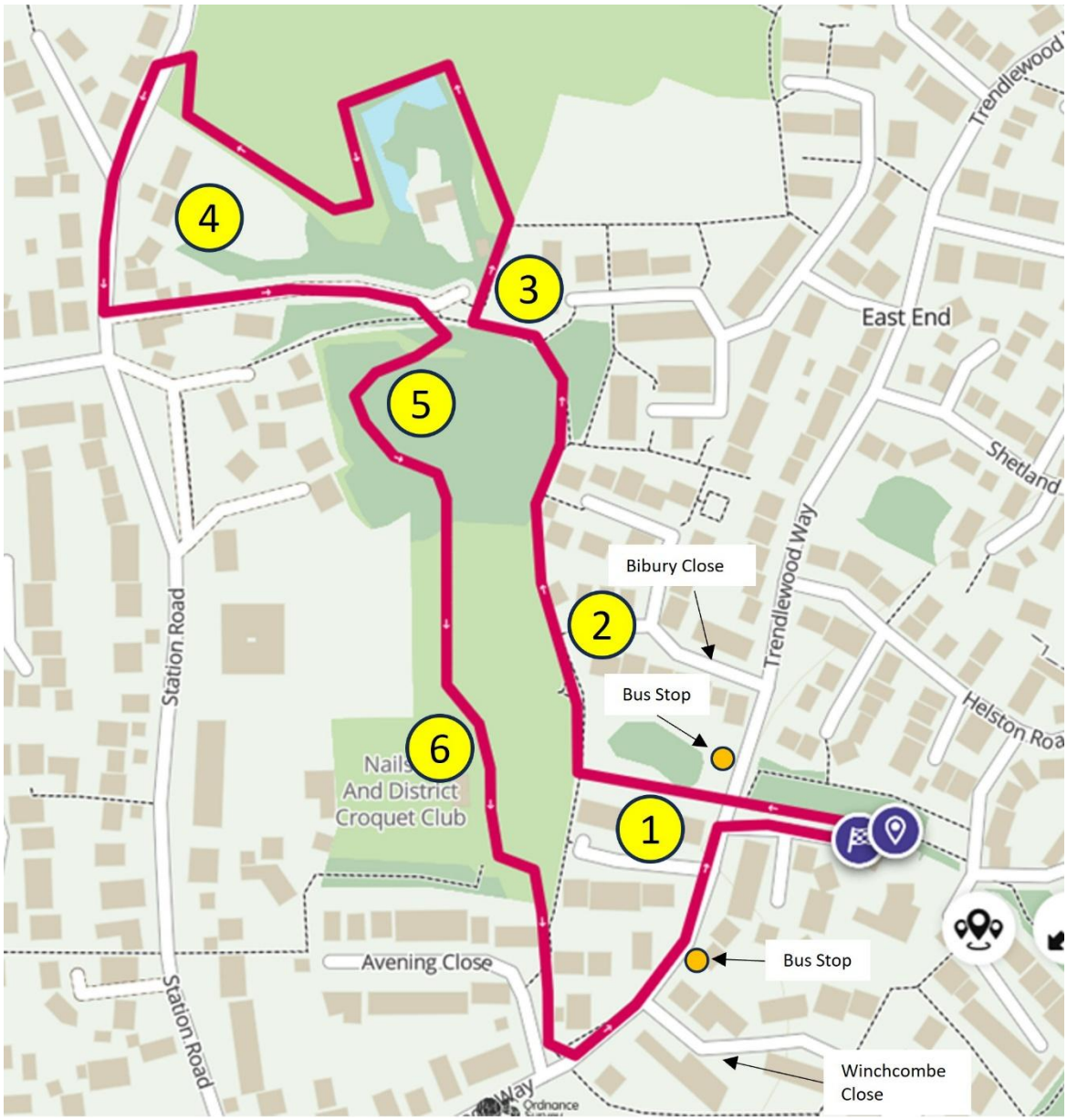
The areas of water in the park are typically shallow and often dry out during droughts. However, in periods of extended wet weather they can fill to depths of 2m or more. The bottoms are very muddy and present a risk to children who could get trapped.

Falling Trees

Do not enter the wooded areas during high winds.

There is a potential risk from falling branches and trees. Many trees have Ash Die Back and the history of quarrying can result in poor root holding.

The Route



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The Route

The route to be followed is shown in red on the maps. The numbers refer to the sketch maps in the text.



Map 1 - The Old Farm House Public House to the Wetland Area



The Old Farm House Public House

Standing in Chelvey Rise with the public house behind you walk towards Trendlewood Way.

The shallow valley on your right is part of the park that connects parkland on Nailsea's eastern boundary with the rest of the park.



The Park Alongside Chelvey Rise

Taking care cross Trendlewood Way and follow the public footpath, indicated by the small concrete sign on the left of the open area, up a slight rise to the open grassy area.



The Small Concrete Sign

This part of the path is unsurfaced and can be slippery in wet weather.

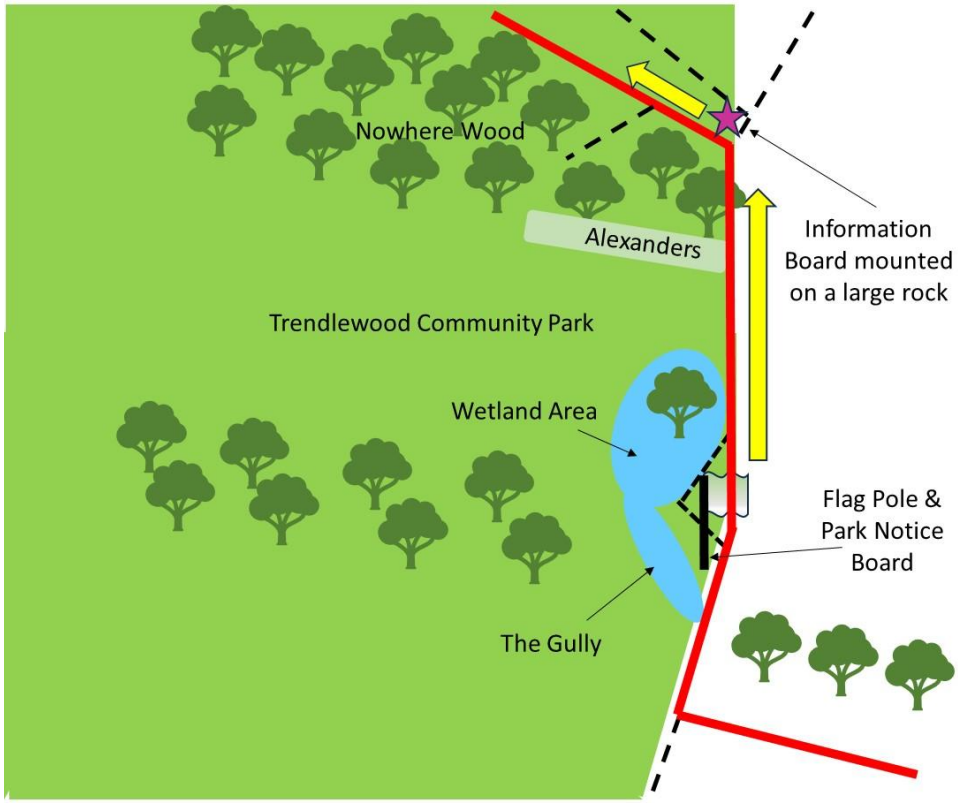
Turn right on to the tarmac path and walk ahead. On your left you will pass the wetland area. In periods of damp weather this area fills with water from a spring that flows for several months each year.



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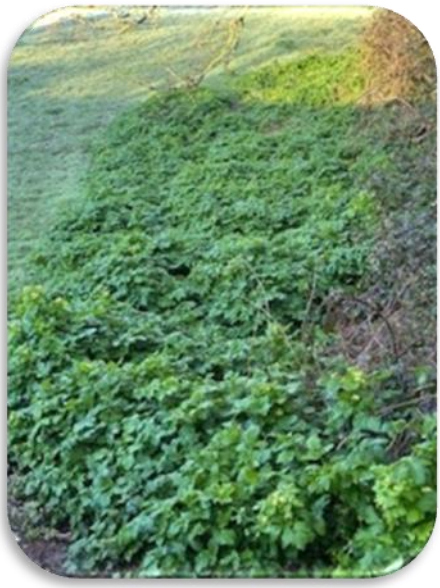
The Wetland Area in Flood

During droughts the whole area can dry out.



Map 2 - Wetland Area to Nowhere Wood

Carry on towards the woods. As you enter the wood there is a carpet of green plants to your left running along the boundary of the wood down the grass slope, these are plants known as Alexanders or Alisanders.



The Carpet of Alexanders

After a short distance you will see an information board mounted in a large rock. This board tells you about the quarry and natural life that now lives in the former industrial site. Leave the information board on your right and walk straight on.

There is an excavation from quarrying on the left protected by a wooden fence, continue straight on.

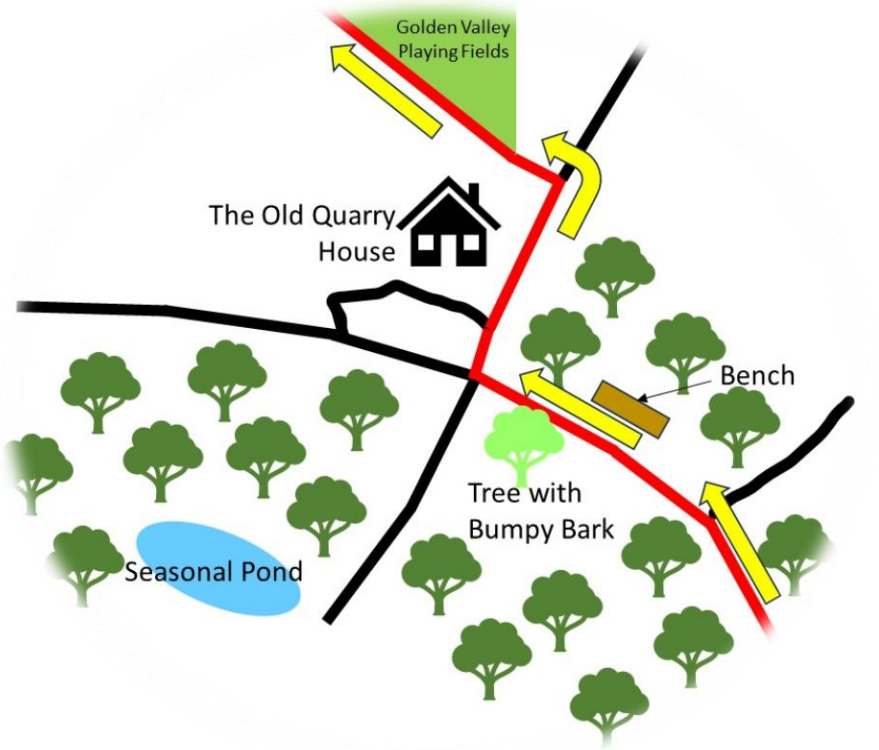
After passing a bench on your right take the path to the right at the footpath cross roads. Before you turn at the footpath cross roads notice the tree with bumpy bark on the corner of the path that goes downhill. We will use this tree as a landmark. The bumps are tree burrs.



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Tree Trunk with Burrs

After about 60m (65 yards), where The Old Quarry house garden boundary ends, turn sharp left and taking care, go up the short slope. There are some rocks here and the ground can be muddy in wet weather. This part of the walk is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchair users.



Map 3 - Nowhere Woods to Golden Valley Playing Fields

You have now left Trendlewood Community Park and have entered the Golden Valley Playing Fields.

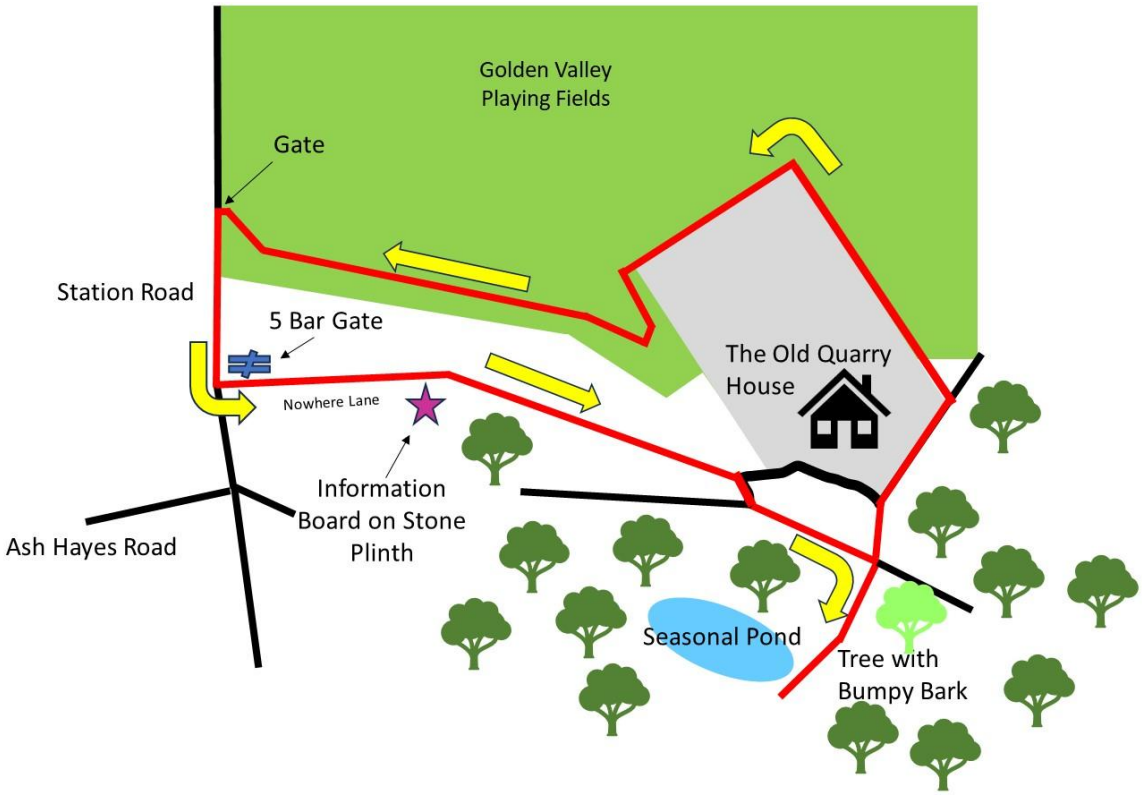
These fields are managed by Nailsea School but the public are allowed, as a gesture of goodwill, to access them provided they do not carry out activities likely to endanger others, that dogs are kept under control, no mess is left behind and the environment is respected.

The Friends of Trendlewood Park maintain and improve, for nature, two areas of the playing fields. The triangular shaped area you are standing is one of those areas.

The grass is only cut once a year to encourage the growth of wild flowers.

There is no path here but go forwards keeping the boundary of The Old Quarry house garden to your left, leave the triangular plot of land but keep The Old Quarry house garden boundary on your left and then turn left again descending down the shallow slope.

The land here, which is lower than the rest of the playing fields, is the other area being managed by the Friends of Trendlewood Park.



Map 4 - Golden Valley Playing Fields to Nowhere Wood

Continue to walk along the edge of this area and then up the slope near Station Road, go through the gate on the left and turn left.

Walk along the Station Road footpath until you get to a lane on the left. The entrance to the lane has a five-bar wooden gate that is usually open, on the gate post is a small circular yellow public footpath sign and larger Whittlestone Way sign. Take the turning and proceed along the lane, which is called Nowhere Lane.

As you re-enter Nowhere Wood there is stone plinth on your right with an information board mounted on it.

Continue along Nowhere Lane. After a while, looking closely to your right, a shallow ditch becomes visible. This is the remains of a boundary ditch with oak trees, known as Boundary Oaks growing along it.

Shortly before the entrance to The Old Quarry house turn right, crossing the boundary ditch and then immediately turn left.

You are now back at the footpath cross roads and the tree with the bumpy bark.



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The Tree Trunk with Bumpy Bark (Burrs)

This time turn right and descend down the incline.

The path leads into the main Pennant Sandstone quarry workings which operated until the 1930's.

On the right in one of the excavations is a seasonal pond, which as the name suggest can dry out during periods of drought.

Ash, Sycamore, Oak, Hawthorn and Field Maple trees grow in the wood. Ash trees are particularly common in the woods, but most of the Ash trees are infected with Ash Die Back and many have been felled while others allowed decay naturally. Holly is also plentiful and has to be cut back to allow other plants thrive. There are also a few specimens of Willow and Beech trees.

A range of plants cover the ground in the quarry, including Periwinkle and Winter Heliotrope which are both invasive species.

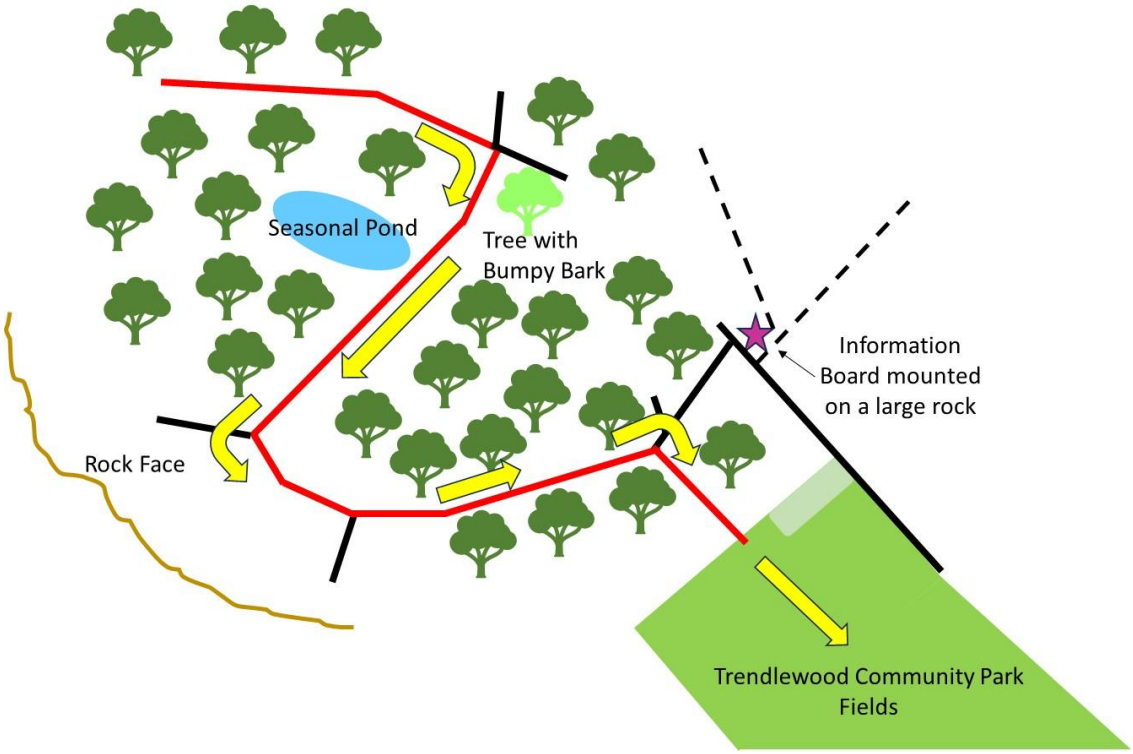


Periwinkle

At the bottom of the path is the sandstone quarry face; keep away from the quarry face to avoid the risk from falling rocks.

The quarry face is a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS). The Sandstone is part of the Downend Formation which is up to 660m thick in the Somerset Coalfield - of which Nailsea is a part.

The path now turns away from the rock face and climbs up out of the quarry.



Map 5 –Nowhere Wood and Quarry Rock Face to Open Field

Near the top of the incline the path divides, take the smaller path on the right.

Where the path enters the open field the remains of the embankment is to your right under the brambles but not really visible.

Cross the open field of amenity grass passing the children's play area and picnic tables. There are some benches to sit on near the large climbing frame with netting.

Continue on pass the Zip Wire and go through the line of trees.

Keep the boundary with the Croquet Club on your right. You will then be in the area managed as an orchard.



Map 6 - Open Field, Orchard and Back to the Start

The Friends of Trendlewood Park have planted a number of fruit trees, wild flowers and native Daffodil bulbs in this area. To encourage the wild flowers the grass is allow grow, only being cut infrequently.

At the end of the orchard area follow the track from the croquet club and exit the park via Avening Close. Turn left into Trendlewood Way before crossing Trendlewood Way back to Chelvey Rise returning to The Old Farmhouse pub for a well-earned rest.