Walk 2: Trendlewood Park and Nowhere Wood. Suitable for Wheelchair Users (Abridged)

Summary

An all-weather walk starting and ending in Avening Close through open park areas and Nowhere woods. Suitable for pushchairs and wheelchair users.

Walk Information

Distance: 1.5 km (0.9 miles), Gradients: gentle mostly level, Surfaces: All weather metalled and hard surfaces. ***Note there is a gate with limited access width, 85cm – detour may be necessary***. Also, parts of Nowhere Lane surface are uneven and has some small pot holes.

How To Get There

By Car: Park in Chelvey Rise or any street and then make your way to Avening Close. Always be considerate of residents, do not obstruct their access.

By Bus: Use the X7 or X7A bus and alight at the Bibury Close Bus Stop, then go south to Avening Close. Or alight at the Winchcombe Close Bus Stop, cross the road and go south to Avening Close.

By Train: Go northwards from Nailsea and Backwell Train Station along Station Road passing Backwell Lake, up the hill and turn right into Trendlewood Way. Avening Close is first turning on the left. Distance from the station 1 km (0.6miles).

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.

<u>Trip and Fall Hazards</u>

Some paths are uneven.

Some paths have roots breaking through them.

If you deviate from the route onto unsurfaced paths, be aware that they can become muddy and slippery during and after damp weather.

<u>Risk of Drowning</u>

Do not enter the water.

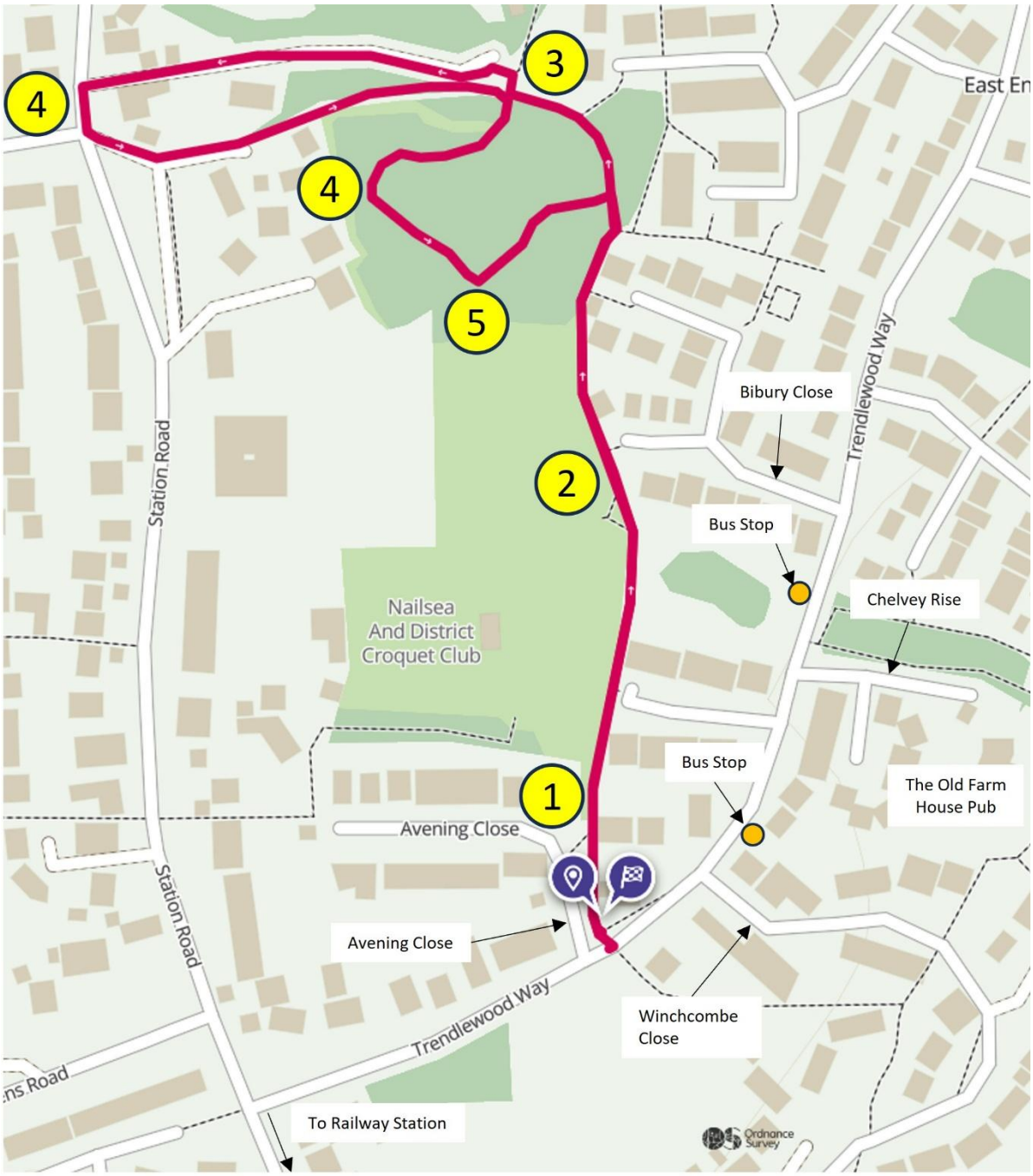
The areas of water in the park are typically shallow and often dry out during droughts. However, in periods of extended wet weather they can fill to depths of 2m or more. The bottoms are very muddy and present a risk to children who could get trapped.

<u>Falling Trees</u>

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

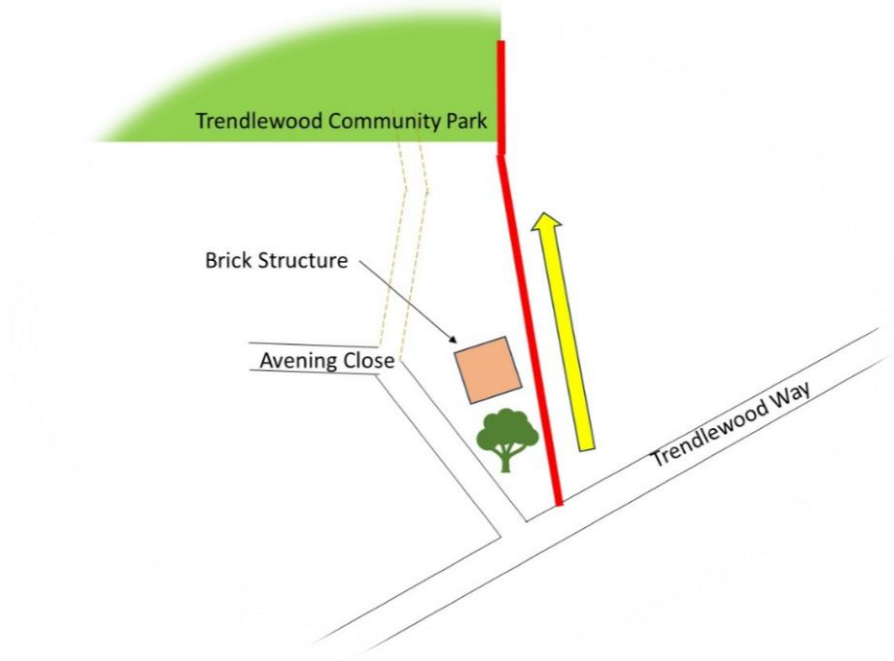


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The Route

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

Make your way to the tarmac footpath next to the junction between Avening Close and Trendlewood Way.



Map 1 - Avening Close, Trendlewood Way Junction to Trendlewood Community Park.

From the junction follow the footpath northwards passing the brick structure on the verge. As the space in front of you opens out you are entering Trendlewood Community Park.

The vehicle track across the grass leads to the Nailsea Croquet Club. The Croquet Club is private property and not part of the park. The wall of club house can be seen behind the hedge row.

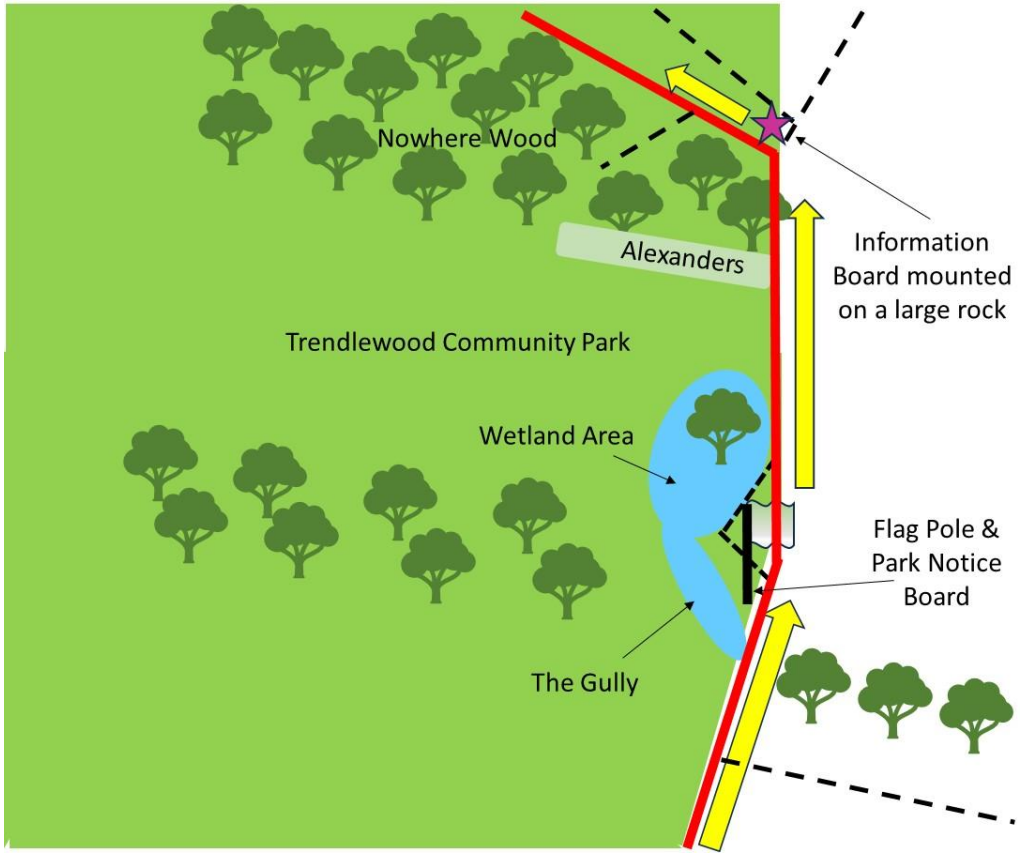
Continue along the path which descends slightly.

To 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.



Ducks Enjoying the Wetland Area When in Flood

During dry periods the whole area can dry out.



Map 2 – The 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 set into 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.

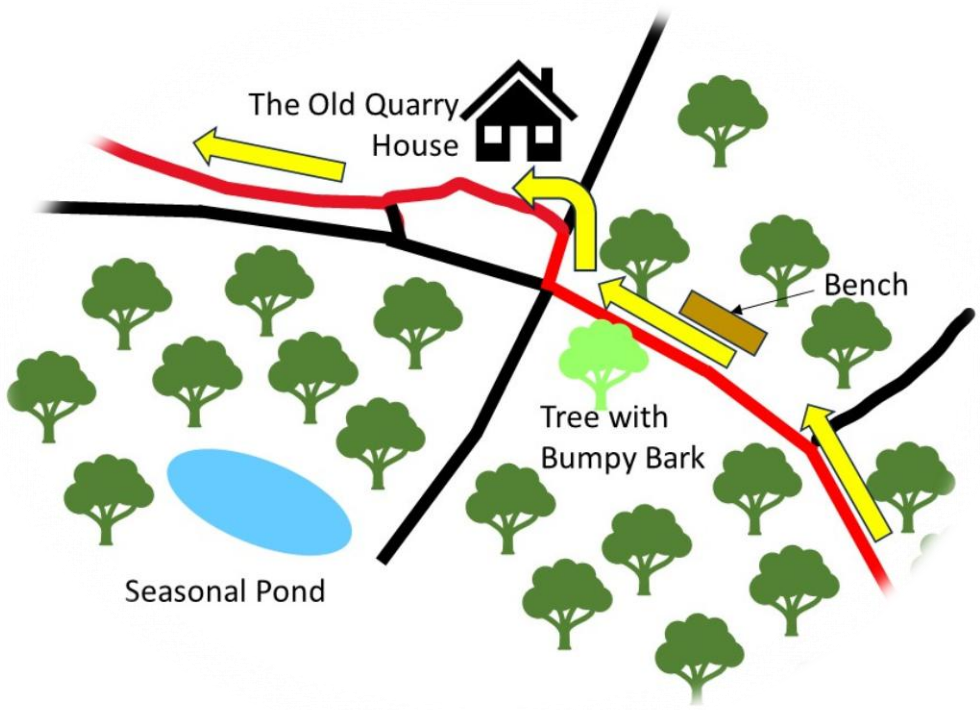
There is an excavation from quarrying on the left protected by a wooden fence, continue straight on.

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

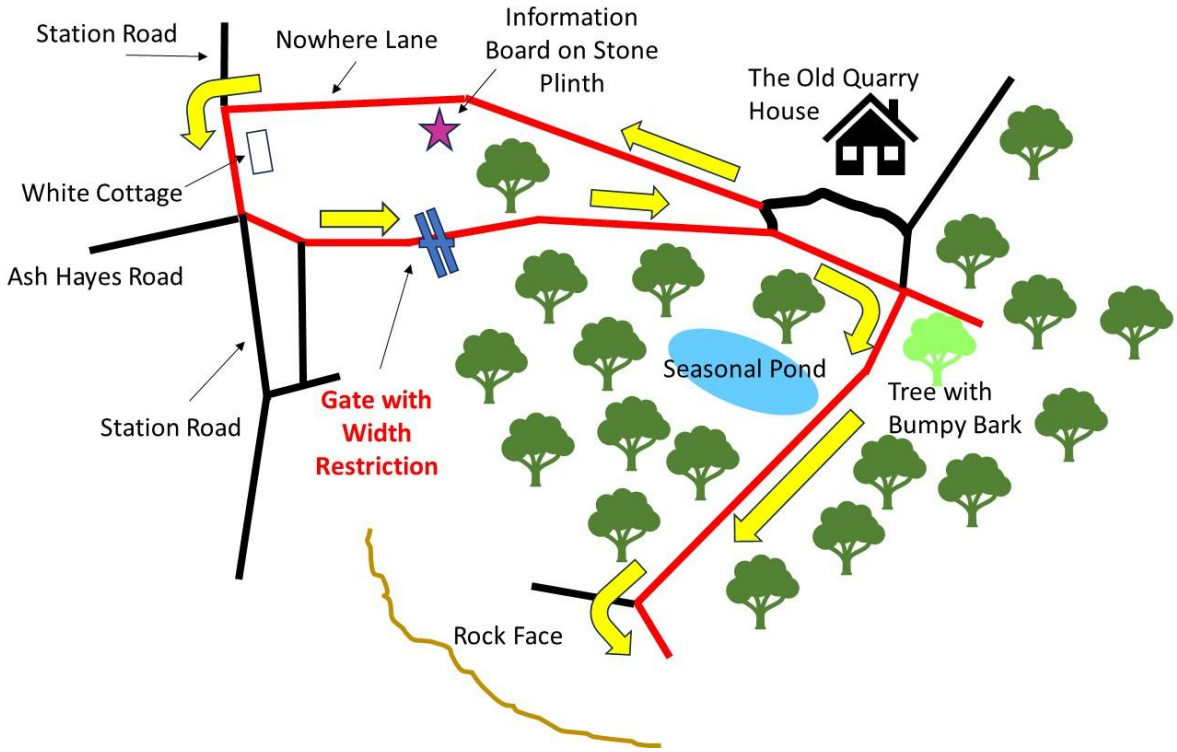


Map 3 – Nowhere Wood to Nowhere Lane

After a few metres turn left and pass the entrance to The Old Quarry house.

You are now in Nowhere Lane, follow the lane. Looking closely to your left, a shallow ditch is visible running parallel to the lane. This is the remains of a boundary ditch with oak trees, known as Boundary Oaks growing along it.

Towards the end of the woods on your left there is stone plinth with an information board mounted on it. The information board tells you about the local area and some of its history.



Map 4 – Nowhere Lane to Seasonal Pond and Quarry Rock Face

Continue along the lane until you reach Station Road, turn left and proceed along the footpath at the side of the road. Pass the white cottage on your left and then turn left. A few meters further on there is a public footpath sign and a sign to Trendlewood Park.

Turn left into the lane. **NOTE: In the lane there is a gate that has a width restriction of about 85cm. If you cannot pass through the gate retrace your route back to the tree with the bumpy bark.**

Follow the lane and go through the gate which marks the boundary of Trendlewood Community Park.

You are now back in Nowhere Wood. The wooden fencing on your right protects you from the edge of quarry, there is a sheer rock face beyond the fence - do not climb the fence.

The boundary ditch becomes visible again on your left. Continue along the footpath until you reach the footpath cross roads where the tree with the bumpy bark is.



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The Tree Trunk with Bumpy Bark (Burrs)

You now have a decision to make. The shortest route back is to carry straight on retracing the earlier route to Avening Close. However, it is more interesting to turn right and descend down the incline. The gradient does not get any steeper than what you can see in front of you. However, having descended into the quarry you will of course have to climb back out, also after wet weather there may be a thin covering of mud on parts of the track.

The path leads into the main Pennant Sandstone quarry. As you proceed down the path on the right-hand side you will pass a seasonal pond. As the name implies the pond can dry out during periods of drought, especially in the summer.

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 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.

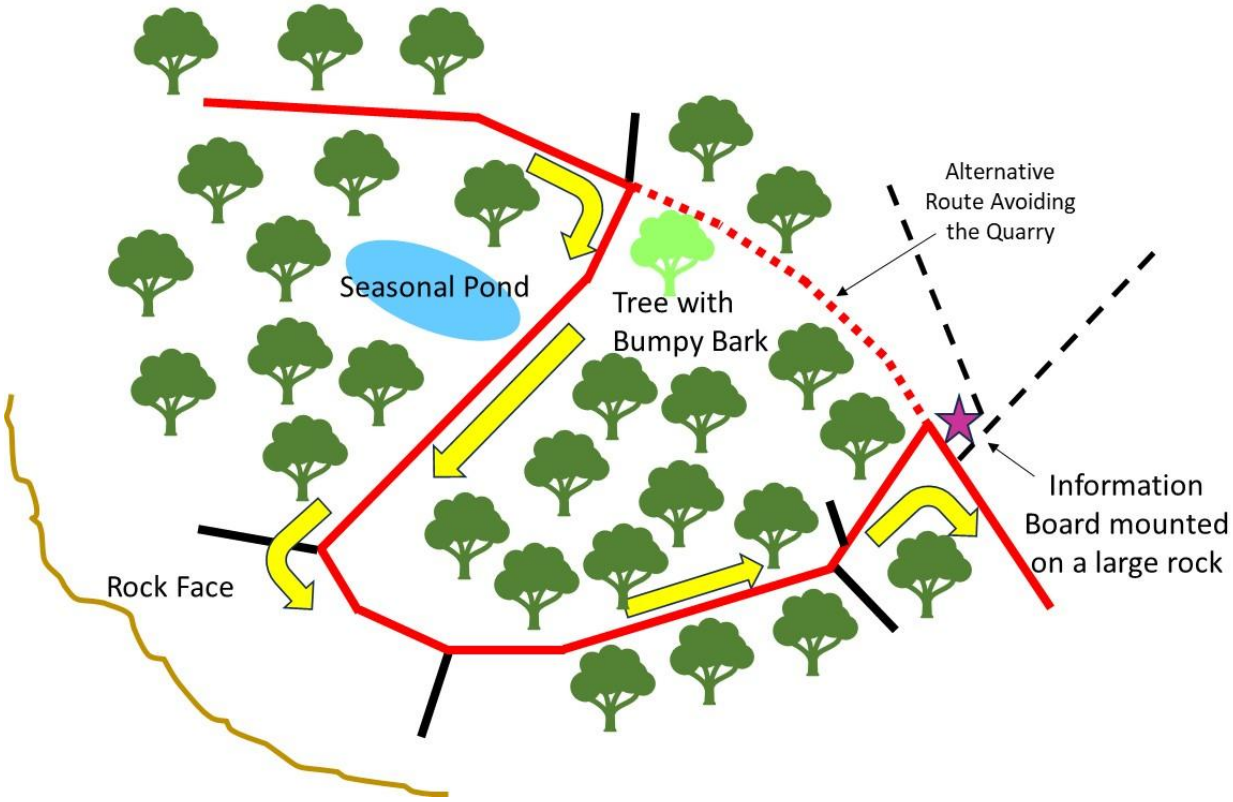


Periwinkle

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. This incline was used by horses to drag the stone out of the quarry to an embankment at the top where the stone was loaded into tubs which were then pushed along rails to Station Road.



Map 5 – Quarry Rock Face to Nowhere Wood Information Board

Near the top of the incline the path divides, take the wider path to the left.

The bumpy ground on the left is the result of spoil from the quarrying but has been repurposed in recent years as a BMX bike track for children.

Rejoin the main path turning right and passing the large rock with the information board mounted in it.

Continue straight on retracing your route back to Avening Close.