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

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.

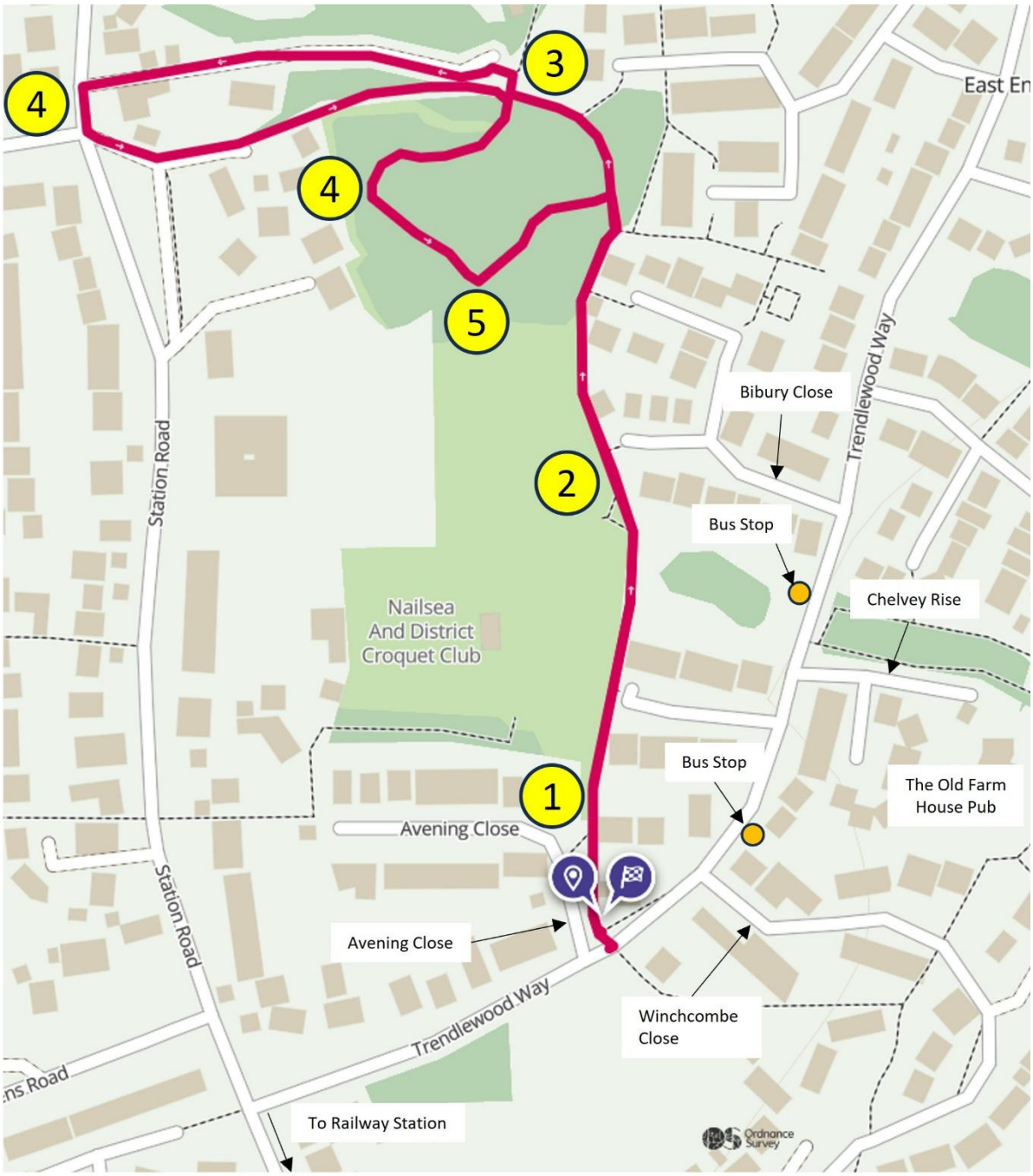
The areas of water in the park are typically shallow and often dry out during droughts. However, in periods of extended wet weather they can fill to depths of 2m or more. The bottoms are very muddy and present a risk to children who could get trapped.

<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

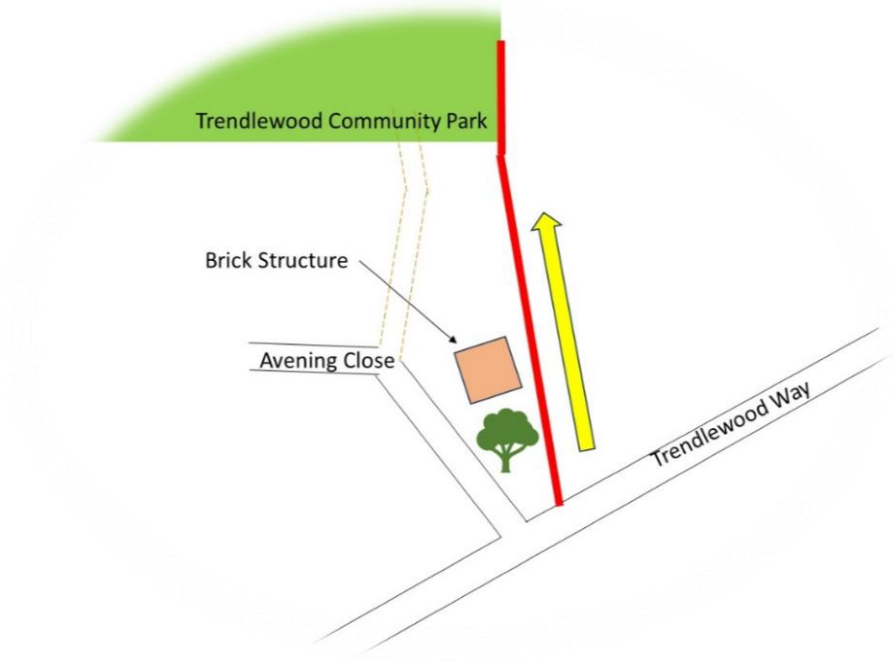


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The Route

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.

On your left, adjoining the Avening Close rear property boundaries, is a small area of rewilding where trees have been planted. These are some of the 30,000 trees planted across North Somerset by the council. Trees provide a habitat for a wide range of wildlife, giving both food and shelter. They also capture carbon in their leaves, and in the wood for as long as they are alive.

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.

Looking across the grass towards the croquet club house a number of trees can be seen. The larger trees are ornamental Turkish Hazel or Turkish Filbert trees. They are natives of southeast Europe and southwest Asia. This species of tree was first introduced to the UK in 1582. A relative of the English Hazel they produce ornate nut clusters. Around these trees the Friends of Trendlewood Park have planted a number of fruit trees, wild flowers and native Daffodil bulbs. To encourage the wild flowers the grass is allowed grow, only being cut infrequently.

The fruit trees have been planted to create an area of orchard. Orchards, once common around Nailsea, when mature offer a very rich habitat for a wide range of species and it is hoped that in time this area will benefit wildlife as well as providing some fruit for passersby.

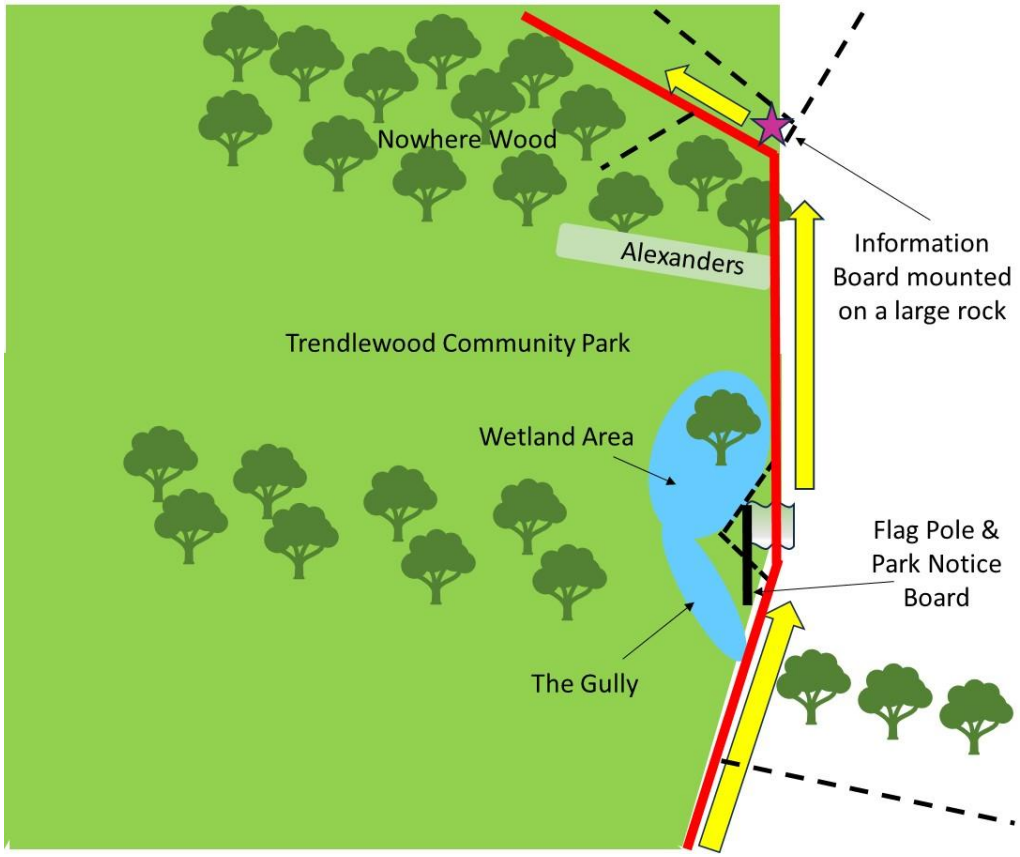
Continue along the path which descends slightly.

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.



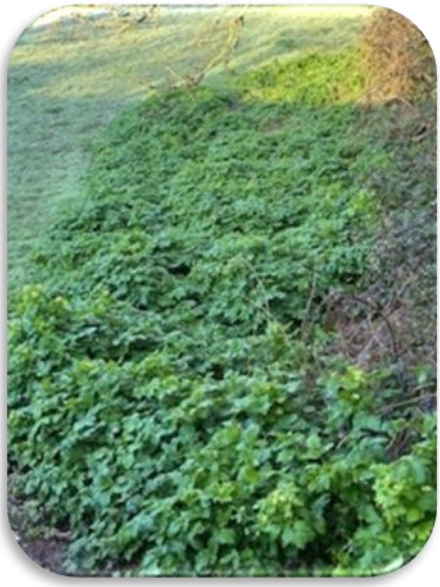
Ducks Enjoying the Wetland Area When in Flood

During droughts the whole area can dry out. The small gully close to the park notice board and flag pole was cleaned out a few years ago and water marginal plants placed there. The larger wetland area is being developed to create an ephemeral pond, slow the flow of flood water into the Gully and to encourage amphibians and aquatic insects to establish. This area was once a cattle pond.



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. Alexanders are an edible flowering plant, which grows on waste ground and in hedges around the Mediterranean and Atlantic coastal regions of Europe. It was formerly widely grown as a pot herb. In Britain Alexanders are usually confined to with a few miles of the coast.



The Carpet of Alexanders

The woods have grown in a former quarry. 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. In the spring the woodland floor has an array of flowers including Snow Drops, Lesser Celandines, Blue Bells and Cow Parsley.

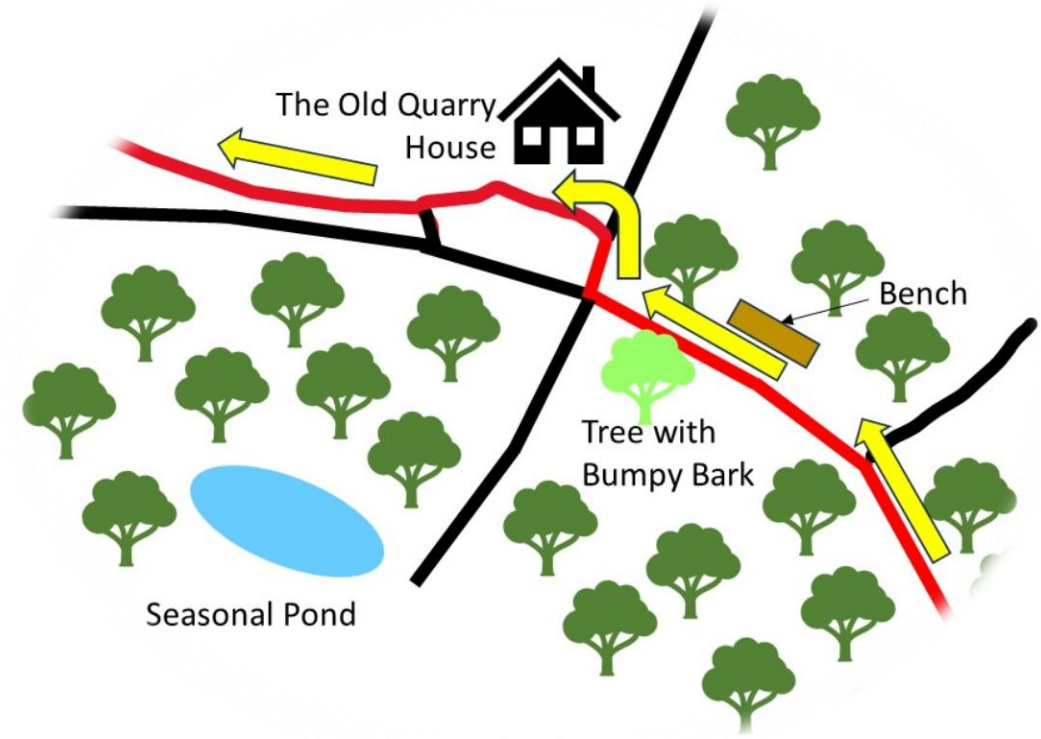
There is an excavation from quarrying on the left protected by a wooden fence, continue straight on.

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 which are a reaction to damage to the tree from stress injury, virus damage or fungal infection. The grain of the tree grows in a deformed manner.



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Tree Trunk with Burrs



Map 3 – Nowhere Wood to Nowhere Lane

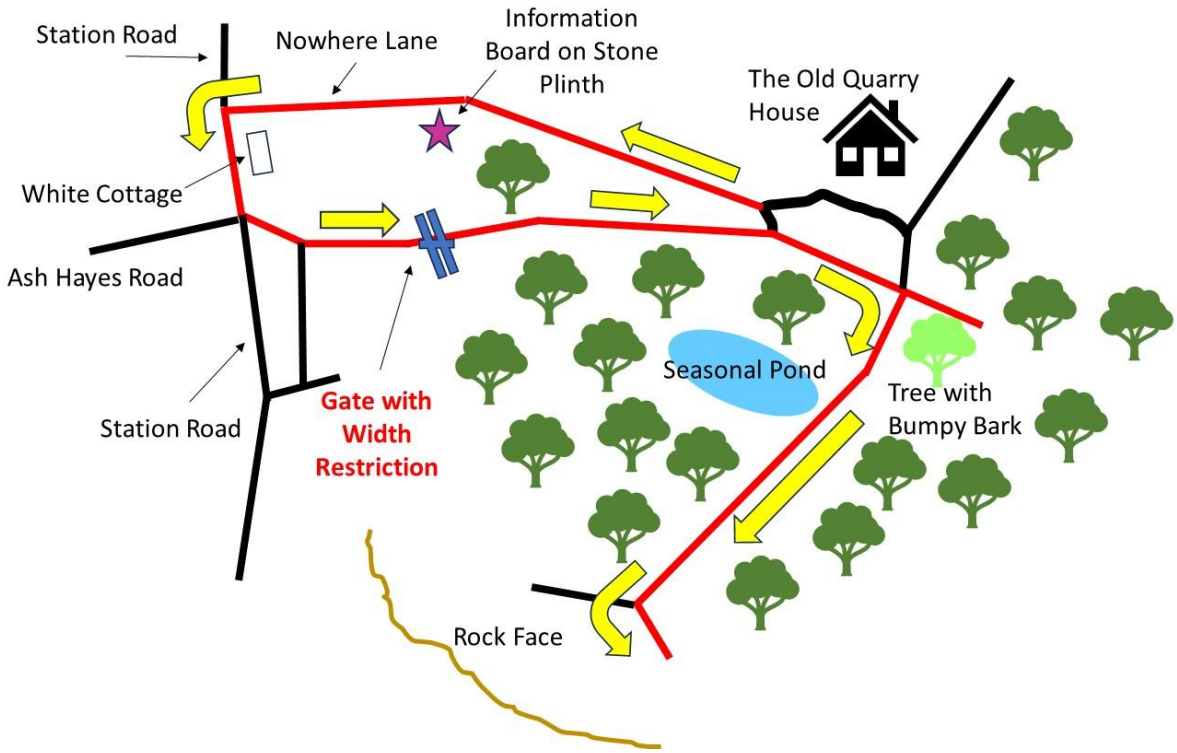
After a few metres turn left and pass the entrance to The Old Quarry house.

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. The boundary ditch can be traced for some distance. It is thought that this boundary predates the quarrying and originally protected an area of woodland, probably

the ‘trendle’, or round, wood that would have been a valuable resource. Trendle is Old English for round.

The vegetation alongside Nowhere Lane suggests longer term tree cover. Field Maple, Spindle and Oak are prevalent. The size and maturity of the trees are different to that of the vegetation within the quarry.

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 and the tree with the bumpy bark.



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The Tree Trunk with Bumpy Bark (Burrs)

You now have a decision to make. The quickest and 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 workings which operated until the 1930's.

As you proceed down the path on the right-hand side you will pass an excavation in which there is a seasonal pond. As the name implies the pond can dry out during periods of drought, especially in the summer.

The pond is fed by the water table, rain water and in very wet periods by an overflow pipe from The Old Quarry house garden. It is very shallow and shaded, and provides a wet woodland habitat containing rotting logs.

The area surrounding it consists of open areas of mud with sedges. It is an important area for rare species of snails and leeches.

The majority of the trees in the wood have grown since the quarrying ceased in the 1930's and now provide habits for birds, plants, insects and fungi. Great Spotted Woodpeckers can be heard in the spring drumming on the trees and for those out early or late listen for the Owls calling.

Many of the trees are of similar age, having grown since the quarry closed, they are closely spaced and compete for light resulting in straightish trunks with few branches low down, this is typical of long-term unmanaged woodland.

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

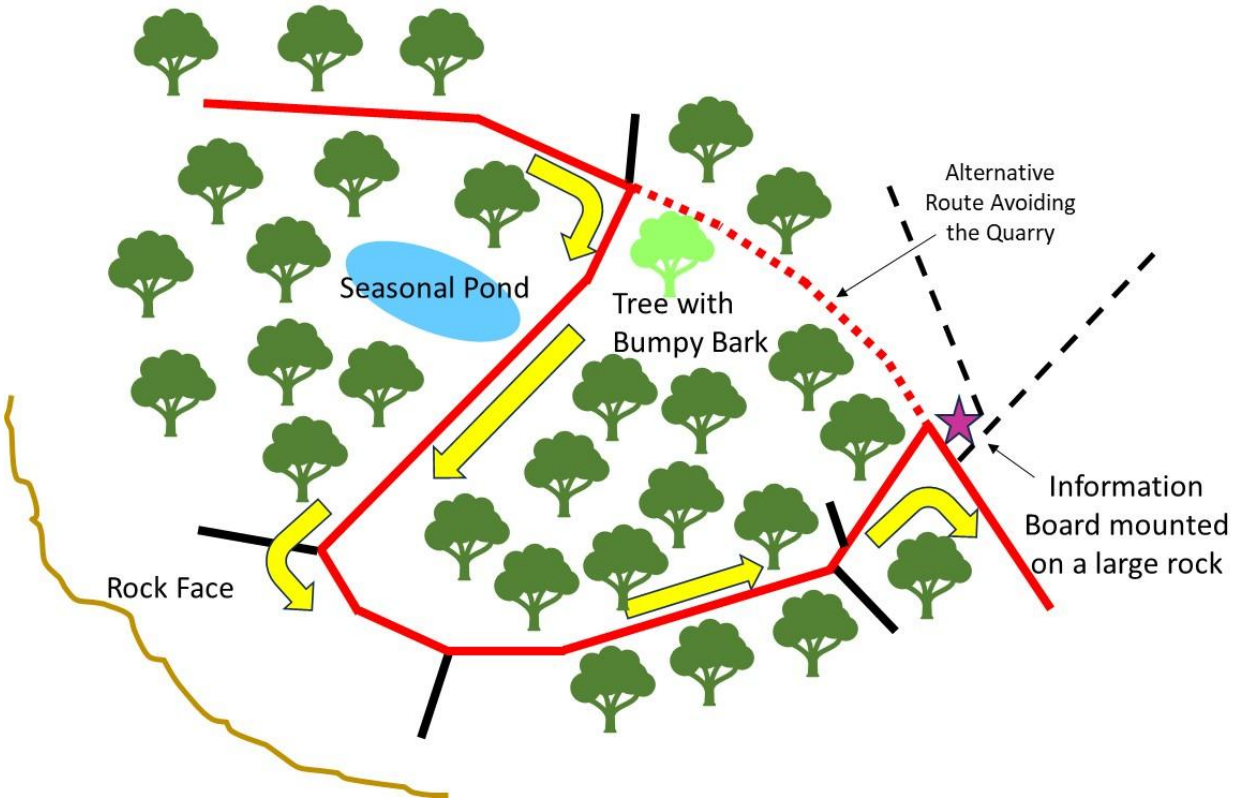
At the bottom of the path is the sandstone quarry face; keep away from the quarry face to avoid the risk from falling rocks.

Trendlewood Quarry was opened by the Hobbs family in the 1850's. The Hobbs were a quarrying dynasty in Wales and South West England. Part of the Hobb's empire was sold to the house building group Wimpey. Kelly's directories give dates and companies working Pennant sandstone which continued into the 1960s in the Bristol region, but not in Nailsea. The resulting features of this quarrying activity are still evident in the woodland today, the mounds are stone spoil heaps and retaining dry stone walls are hidden in the vegetation.

The quarry face is a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS). The sandstone here was formed around 300 million years ago from the erosion of mountains. The sand was deposited by a river system with the material coming from a south easterly direction. The colours of the rock face are partly due to soil downwash from above and partly Haematite - red and Goethite - black, which are iron oxides. The Sandstone is part of the Downend Formation which is up to 660m thick in the Somerset Coalfield - of which Nailsea is a part. Downend Formation consists mainly of sandstone with some mudstone. Some coals appear in the lower part including the seams found in Nailsea Coalfield.

There are a number of exotic species within the quarry floor such as Walnut (Juglans regia), Snowberry (Symphoricarpos spp) and Shrubby Honeysuckle (Lonicera nitida). Japanese Knotweed is also present, is but activity removed by specialists when it appears. After the quarry closed the wood was purchased by a local family who used it as their garden and they probably introduced these exotic plants.

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.