

The Parks Trust Self-Guided Walks:

Tree Walk - Tree Cathedral to Campbell Park

Walk devised November 2018

Start point

Tree Cathedral car park, Livingstone Drive, off V10 Brickhill Street

(Note – Pay and display car park 30 minutes – 50p, 4 hours £2.50)

Walk overview

This is a circular walk, starting by a walk through the Tree Cathedral up to Willen Park and along part of the Grand Union Canal in to Campbell Park from the Cricket Pavilion end and walk around the park, taking in City Gardens, Beacon viewing point, and the Woodland Ridge back to Newlands and the Tree Cathedral.

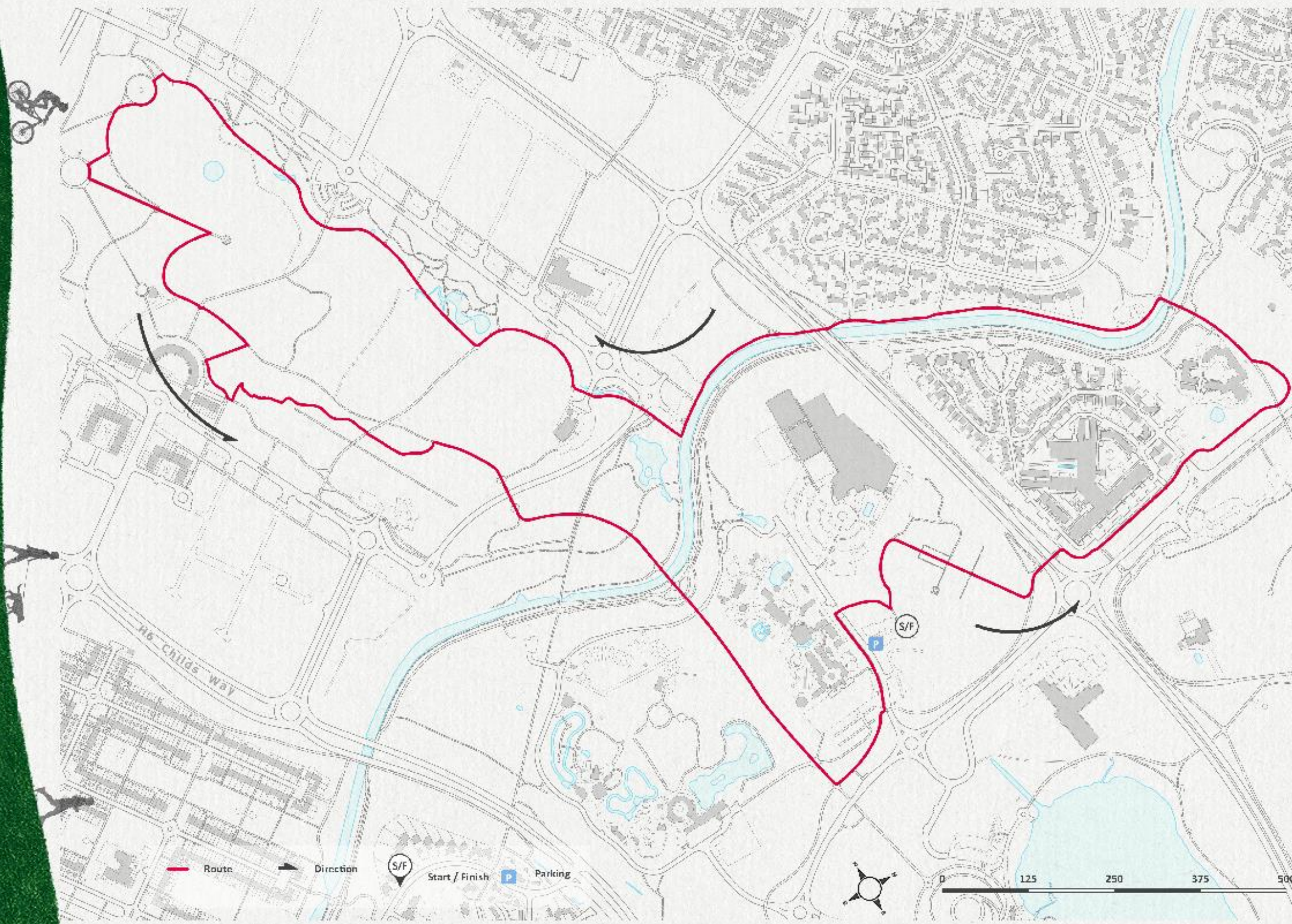
The walk is steep in parts around Campbell Park, sections through Woodland Ridge can be muddy and robust walking footwear is recommended.

Distances and times

Circular walk; Tree Cathedral – Willen Park – Grand Union Canal – Campbell Park Cricket Pitch – Campbell Park City Gardens – Beacon Viewing Point – Woodland Ridge – Newlands – Tree Cathedral. = 3 miles / 1/1.5 hours

Allow additional time to visit Camphill Café open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm





Route

Direction

S/F

Start / Finish

P

Parking

0

125

250

375

500

The circular walk

Start by taking the path in the west corner of car park past the picnic benches and the Parks Trust board, follow the path winding to the right until you reach the entrance to the Tree Cathedral.



The entrance is denoted by cypress and cedar trees, to your right you will see a board showing the different tree species planted here.

Tree Cathedral

As you walk along the central nave, you'll see the different species representing different cathedral sections; hornbeam and lime in the nave, evergreens were planted to represent the central tower and spires, and flowering cherries and apple trees as a focus in the chapels. The Cloister area features four Glastonbury thorn trees planed deliberately in a square. Designed in 1986 by landscape architect Neil Higson and based on the layout of Norwich Cathedral.



Walk through to the end of the cathedral, through the natural arch in the hedging and turn left on to the Redway path. Walk towards the H5 underpass (Signed *Willen Park*), once through the



underpass turn right, walk straight and keep left following the Redway path in front of the Lovat Fields Retirement complex. Keep following the Redway path keeping Lovat Fields Retirement complex on your left. Cross over the road at Japonica Lane and continue straight ahead. Continue to follow the Redway towards the footbridge. Follow the Redway as it winds around to the left.

At the top of the path, turn right on to the Redway path towards Camphill Café. (Optional stop here for Camphill Café, open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm). Continue to walk around towards the Grand Union Canal. Cross over the canal bridge (warning it is quite steep). Once over the bridge turn left and follow the path along the canal. *As you walk along the canal on the other bank, you'll see a series of Poplar trees.*

Poplar Trees

Poplar Trees were planted by Milton Keynes Development Corporation along most of the canal in Milton Keynes to denote the canals route.

Poplars are rapid-growing but relatively short-lived trees. They are widely distributed throughout the northern temperate regions.

Continue along the canal path, you'll soon walk by a Weeping Willow tree and then under the H5 road. Continue ahead you will soon come across some canal boats moored on your left, keep walk ahead until you see a car park, just past the green Parks Trust notice board turn right along the path through the car park towards Overgate road. Cross over the road at Overgate towards Campbell Park Cricket Pitch. Follow the path up and cross in front of the building and head towards the cricket pitch. Keeping the cricket pitch on your left follow the path round. *On your right as you walk, you'll see a series of willow trees, some of which periodically get cultivated and cut for cricket bat production.*

Willow Trees

The cricket bat willow is a hybrid of the white willow and crack willow. As its names suggests, it is used to make cricket bats.

White willow is a deciduous broadleaf tree native to the UK and Europe, through to western and central Asia and Crack willow is a deciduous broadleaf tree and one of Britain's largest native willows.

Continue on the path around the pitch until you reach a tree with a bench around its middle. At this point turn right and walk through the gate next to the cattle grid and continue straight up the path. On your right as you walk you will see Campbell Park 'City Gardens'. (There is an option at this point to walk along the paths in the City Gardens which is adjacent to the main path up to Chain Reaction sculpture. The paths along City Gardens are at times steep and uneven).

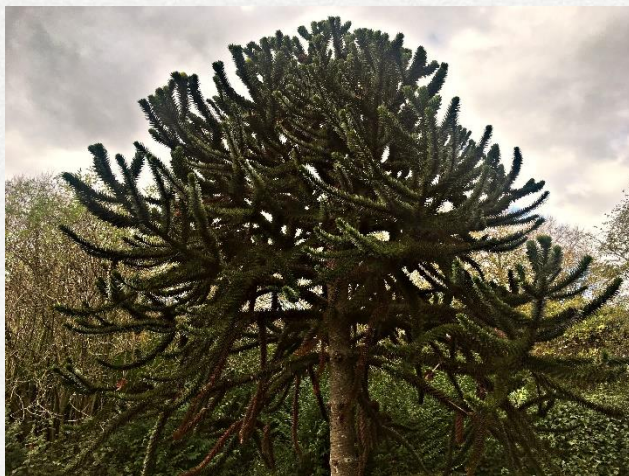


On your right in City Gardens there are several tree species including Willow and Ornamental Pear. On your left as you walk up the park you'll see 3 mature oak trees.

Oak Trees

English oak is the most common tree species in the UK, especially in southern and central British deciduous woods. As common oaks mature, they form a broad and spreading crown with sturdy branches beneath.

Keep following the path straight ahead. Pass by a little bridge and continue to follow the path straight ahead as it gradually inclines upwards. *On your right you'll see the Chain Reaction sculpture with an avenue of Lime Trees.* Keeping going straight ahead, at the top of the hill follow the path as it starts to bend round to the left. *Take time to explore the trees in this area, amongst the species Redwood, Cedars and Monkey Puzzle trees can be found just off the path.*



Monkey Puzzle

Monkey puzzle is an evergreen tree grown for ornamental purposes in Europe and north America. They can live for 1000 years, although they were only brought to the UK in the Victorian era.

Re-join the path and once you reach a set of steps with red and blue railing, turn left and climb the steps at the top of which you will see the Armillary Sphere.





Walk passed the Armillary Sphere straight ahead keeping the black fence line on your left hand side. Keep left and join the path which leads straight to the Light Pyramid (beacon). Go through the gate next to the cattle grid and head to the Light Pyramid. At the Light Pyramid stop and look out at the view; as the highest point in Milton Keynes on a clear day the view looks out towards Eastern Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire, the wind farm near Emberton (NE).

Continue along the path leading down from the Light Pyramid, at the bottom of the hill you will see some willow trees and an oak tree, pass by with these trees on your left and continue along the path straight ahead, pass the tree with a circular bench and keep going straight until you reach a crop of trees. 50 yards after the crop of trees you should see a gate and woodchip path on your left, go through the gate and enter the Woodland Ridge.



After a few steps turn left and walk along the woodchip path through the trees
The Woodland Ridge is made up of hazel, yew, evergreens, oak and birch trees.

Hazel

Hazel is often coppiced, but when left to grow, trees can reach a height of 12m, where it can live for up to 80 years (if coppiced, hazel can live for several hundred years). It has a smooth, grey-brown, bark, which peels with age, and bendy, hairy stems. Leaf buds are oval, blunt and hairy.

Keep going along the woodchip path back towards the Cricket Pavilion. After a while there will be a meeting of paths, go straight ahead and continue along woodchip path ahead. You will soon come to a clearing with the Cricket Pavilion on your left. Re-join the main path, walk straight ahead with the Pavilion on your left hand side and walk over the footbridge (over Overgate road). Follow the path as it bends round to the left and then straight ahead where you will soon come across Head sculpture.

Continue passed the Head sculpture towards canal bridge at the bottom of the path. Cross over the canal bridge and walk down the steps into Newlands. Follow the straight path through Newlands. At the bottom of the path pass through the tall evergreens and walk about 100 yards and turn left along the Redway path (before the underpass into Willen Lake).



Continue along the Redway path with Gulliver's Land on your left and the road on your right hand side until you reach Livingstone Drive. At the road turn left and follow path up until you reach entrance of Tree Cathedral car park. Cross the road back into car park.

