

Nature Walk for Chaddesden Park

Nature Area



Improve your physical and mental health with this gentle walk around Chaddesden Park Nature Area. The ponds in the Nature Area are regarded by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as some of the best in the city for aquatic life.

Nature to be seen includes:

(Wildlife to be seen will depending on seasons and weather)

Birds: Green woodpecker, bullfinch, dunnock, hawfinch, house sparrow, spotted flycatcher, starling, song thrush.

Trees and flowers: English oak, ash, sycamore, wild cherry, alder, birch, rowan, common knapweed, meadow buttercup, ox-eye daisy, selfheal, purple loosestrife.

Animals: Water vole, southern hawker dragonfly, ringlet butterflies, frogs and toads.

Let us know the wildlife you see on your walk

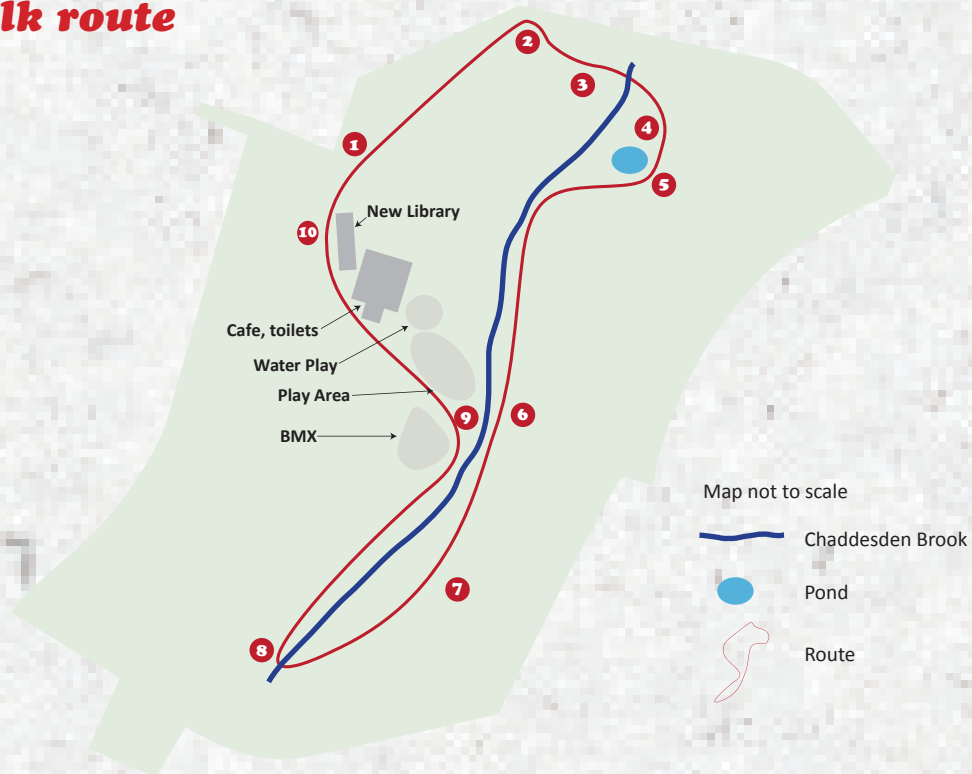
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We will update our website with nature seen at each park. Visit www.derby.gov.uk/parks

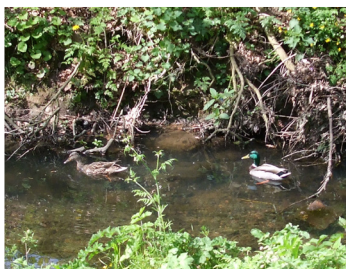


Walk key	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface graded A = smooth with footpaths. Mainly tarmac and gravel paths with connecting grass tracks which can get muddy. • Slope Gentle = up to a 1 in 20 gradient • Access = suitable for wheelchair and pushchairs. • Family walk
Estimated time	1.5km (0.9 miles), 45 minutes at a steady pace
Facilities	Library, Community Buildings, Play Area, Water Play Area, BMX track, Café and Toilets
How to get there	By bus from Derby City Centre : Arriva 20 or Trent Barton i4 By road Sat Nav: DE21 6LA Free parking

Walk route



- 1.** The walk starts at the car park, off Maine Drive. Walk towards Maine Drive and cross the brook using the bridge.
- 2.** The brook is home to many amphibians and invertebrates including newts and dragonfly. If you are lucky, you may see a water vole.



- 3.** You are now entering the nature area which is part of the historic grounds of the former Chaddesden Hall, knocked down in 1926. The nature area was designated in 2009 and helps protect and enhance the varied wildlife habitats the park has to offer. Head into the woods taking the left hand path. During spring and summer the wildflowers on the woodland floor can reach up to head height.
- 4.** The woodland is called Mossey Yard Plantation and was established as part of the parkland landscape in 1727, although most of the current canopy trees date from the late 1800s. Look amongst the tall trees and you find oak, ash, elm, pine, yew and many more varieties.

- 5.** Head to the right and into a clearing surrounded by hedgerows and centred with two ponds. The ponds are home to a healthy population of frogs and toads. The Friends of Chaddesden Park, The Conservation Volunteers and Derby City Council have been working in partnership to improve the area for nature with tasks including hedge planting, pond clearance and balsam pulls.
- 6.** Walk past the ponds and into the open fields, make your way towards the brook. Follow the brook through the park past the middle bridge. 95 different species of bird have been spotted on the park and these are some you may see: jay, green woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker, sparrow hawk.
- 7.** Carry on along the brook to the pedestrian footbridge. There is no footpath in this area so be careful as it can get a little muddy. The area you are walking through is the old pitch and putt course which is included as part of

the nature area. You will notice several tree plantations of differing ages. The most recent tree plant was carried out in 2012 where volunteers and local school children planted over 600 native trees.



- 8.** Cross the footbridge and walk back along the gravel path. Before you start the walk take a look around, you will see a perfectly straight line of 10 alder trees. These trees once lined the banks of one of several manmade fish ponds used as a food source for the residents of Chaddesden Hall.





9. Follow the gravel path until you arrive at the play area. You are now at the hub of the park with great facilities on offer including, water play area, BMX track, café and toilets, bowling greens and the Park Ranger office.
10. Use the wide tarmac path to walk past the play facilities and head toward the large new building with a grass and solar panel roof. This is The Phillip Whitehead Memorial Library and inside you will find interpretation boards on the history of the area and in particular Chaddesden Hall. Carry on past the library and this will take you back to the start of the walk.

Don't forget to tell us about the wildlife you have seen on your walk, by following us on Twitter

**@DerbyCC - use #derbywalk
or email: parks@derby.gov.uk**

Produced in Partnership with Derbyshire Mind - Enjoying Derby and Derby City Council

For information about Derby's Local Nature Reserves please call [Derby Parks on 01332 293111](tel:01332 293111), [Minicom 01332 640666](tel:01332 640666), email parks@derby.gov.uk or visit www.derby.gov.uk/parks