

Description of Walking Route

The walk begins at the Arrow Valley Lake Car Park off Holloway Drive. Leave the car park towards the Lake, turning left to follow the West Bank of the Lake. Continue along this route.

The Lake was man-made by the New Town Development Corporation as part of the Arrow Valley Park project and covers some 30 acres.

To the west of the lake along the path is the River Arrow This has been canalised to allow the Lake to be produced and the area drained.

Both the lake and the river are important havens for wildlife.

Continue along the path until you reach Beoley Mill. This was originally one of the many scouring mills along the Arrow which formed part of the Redditch Needle Industry. It is still used for commercial purposes but no longer has a water wheel.

Return towards the Lake following the small road.

At the Lake, turn right and follow the path around the Lake. The Arrow Valley Visitor Centre, situated on the edge of the lake, has a cafe, Gift Shop and toilet facilities.

The Arrow Valley Park has four way-marked trails around the Lake which are available from Redditch Council. The trails range from one to four miles.

As well as being important for wildlife, the lake is popular for fishing and water sports, with its own sailing club (Redditch Sailing Club).

Arrow Valley Lake is an excellent place to see many species of wildfowl. It is particularly good, during the cold winter months, when birds flock to the sheltered shores.

Although the lake is man-made, it is fed naturally by the Blacksoils Brook in the north-east corner of the lake.

A weir controls water intake. The brook continues down the east side of the lake and enters the River Arrow just below the southern tip of the lake.

At the end of the lake turn fully left to follow the path around the Southern bank.

When strolling around the lake, look out for some of the wildfowl, such as the ginger plumes and slender beak of the Great Crested Grebe.

Also look out for the elegant Mute Swans, Mallards, Tufted Ducks and the handsome Pochard.

The area South of the path consists a small wooded areas and meadows.

This has a wide range of trees, shrubs and wild flowers. There are many paths passing through and is well worth exploring.

Continue along the path around the Lake and eventually arrive back at the start in the car park.

HistoryWalks

around Redditch

Arrow Valley Park
Centre (Lake)

This is a circular walk of the Lake and its surroundings.

Distance: approx 2 miles (3.5km)

Terrain: Fields. Country Park Tarmac Walks.

Large Car Park at Arrow Lake

The central part of the Arrow Valley Park is dominated by the lake. This was built by the Redditch Development Corporation to enhance the drainage in the valley and also to provide a leisure area for residents. It has excellent walks, a visitor centre with a good range of refreshments and a sailing club.

Within the central area of the Arrow Valley Park, the River Arrow was canalised. There is therefore very little of interest. However, towards the southern part of this area the river returns to it's pre-New Town course.



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