



Pretty Ponds Walk (Around Wollaton Park and Village, Nottingham)

Start and end of route: Start at Wollaton Park, Nottingham NG8 2AE SK 53202 39242

Parking is available at Wollaton Park (£3 for 2 hours and £5 all day). Tickets available via phone or from the café by the hall. The route commences at Wollaton Park and is circular.

Distance: 3.5 miles 5.5 kms approximately

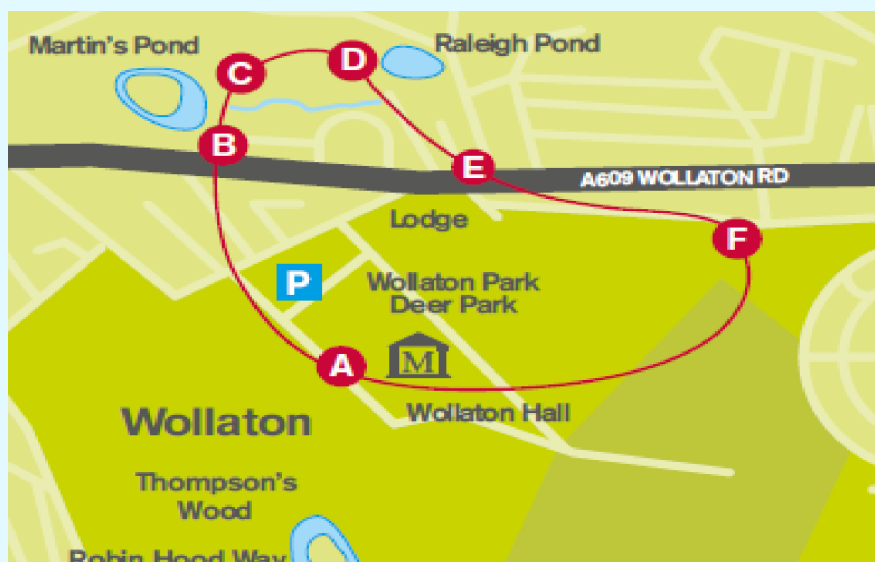
Time: Around 2 hours

Suitability: Walking fine although muddy in parts and would be difficult to cycle due to the terrain and tracks around the ponds

Refreshments and toilets: Toilets and a café available at the park by the car park

Brief description of route: The walk is on some roadside paths, around the ponds and through the park. Martin's Pond is a Local Nature Reserve, which was the first to be designated in Nottingham in 1976, and was first documented in 1835. The area is a haven for wildlife and associated with the fisheries, which sourced the lake at Wollaton Hall.

Route map:





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Directions:

1. The route starts in the park's top car park. Walking down from the hall towards the main entrance way alongside the left hand fence (with the Hall behind you).
2. Then left out onto the road towards Wollaton Village. (Look out for the deer as you go) Passed the 13th century church and Admiral Rodney pub. Spot the well in the village too which is the original centre of the village.



3. Continue pass the well and turn off onto Dovecote Drive, on the right and see the original dovecote, as a short detour.



4. Return to the main road and continue down Wollaton Road (pub road) to a T junction and a busy road. Cross over and turn right and continue along this road until you meet Russell Avenue on your left. At the right hand bend turn left into Martin's Pond and nature reserve.



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Keep left to circle right around the pond. Looking out for birds, ducks and other wildlife. (We spotted a squirrel, field mouse and a Jay)



5. Before you reach the original entrance take the path into Harrison's Plantation woodland area and look out for various trees and birds on the streams, as you walk. The path branches to your left and you continue straight on to the exit onto Old Coach road. Cross over into Raleigh Pond and walk straight ahead keeping the pond on your left. After visiting the pond continue in the same direction to reach the fence and one of the exits on Lambourne Drive. Turn right along the pavement. At the end of Lambourne Drive pass in front of the pub, (The Wollaton Pub and kitchen) cross Wollaton Road and turn left, then first right into Ancaster Gardens. At the T junction turn left along Harrow Road until about 500 yards and a break in the housing where you can enter the park.
6. Walk along this wide tree lined area with the school on your left and spot the deer again.



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7. Continue along this path until the intersection with Lime Tree Avenue to your left. Continue straight ahead and up the track passed a wooden bench on your right.



8. Cross another tarmac track and head up towards the walled gardens. Once you can see the hall you can take a variety of routes back towards the car park via the café and toilets which are in the stable block with an archway, for a welcome drink and cake stop! (If you want a longer walk you can go down to the main lake on the left side of the hall down the hill)



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Activity

See how many of the birds and ducks indicated on the information board at Martin's Pond you can find. Or take your pencil, pens and sketchbook to record the animals and birds that you see on your walk. Enjoy.

