

ISE VALLEY VAGABONDS

Marston Vale Millennium Country Park Trail BWF App No PT195

START & FINISH: The Forest Centre, Station Road, Marston Moretaine, Bedford
MK43 0PR

OS map 153 Grid Ref TL005417 Distance 10km

Fee £1.00 Patch £2.00

Route last updated on 3 February 2016

This route description is valid from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

This walk has been established by members of the Ise Valley Vagabonds Walking Club (BWF Club No 70) and is a qualifying event in the IVV award scheme. It can be walked at any time.

Notes

- 1 There are 3 types of path/trail/track in the Millennium Park:
 - a Footpaths for pedestrians only
 - b Mixed cycle/pedestrian trails
 - c Horse riding trails
- 2 We would remind you that a range of refreshment and information services is available in the Forest Centre (*along with free WiFi*).
- 3 All sections of the described trail are open to the public at all times.
- 4 Keep dogs under close control.
- 5 Remember that the Forest Centre car park is locked up at 18.00 hours on Mondays to Fridays and at 17.00 hours on Saturdays and Sundays.

AFTER HEAVY AND/OR PROLONGED RAIN, THERE ARE TWO SECTIONS OF THE ROUTE THAT MAY BECOME FLOODED

Exit the Forest Centre and turn right, past the cycle hire building, towards the 'Node', the point where all trails meet. At the signpost at the 'Node', turn right onto cycle/pedestrian trail and ahead (parallel to you, on the right, is the horse trail). After just over 200 meters, by the yellow marker post, bear right crossing the horse trail to follow the grass public footpath. You will see that there is a ditch on your right. At the next yellow marker post, keep going in the direction indicated, to another yellow marker post which marks an intersection of trails. Here, turn left. You soon come to 2 more yellow marker posts. Cross the horse trail and cycle/pedestrian trail, through the gap in the fence and turn left a narrow footpath. Go through a kissing gate and at the yellow marker post, go up the steps on the right to go up a rise overlooking the lake. (*This is the highest point in the Country Park and where you'll get the best view of the whole site including Stewartby Lake*). The carved oak bench here was created to reflect the wildlife in the area. Facing the lake, turn left. At the noticeboard

QUESTION 1. HOW MANY CHIMNEYS WERE THERE IN THE 1930's?

Pass to the right of the wind turbine. At the yellow topped marker post, fork right on a smaller footpath towards the lake.

AFTER HEAVY AND/OR PROLONGED RAIN, THIS SECTION BACK TO THE MAIN TRACK MAY BE FLOODED AND WILL BE VERY MUDDY IN PLACES

At the next yellow topped marker post, turn right then, in 20 metres, fork right past a notice board.

QUESTION 2. WHAT IS THE COUNTY FLOWER OF BEDFORDSHIRE?

Continue and you will pass a small steel-fenced compound beside the lake. Cross the wooden bridge over the stream. Keep following the path, muddy in places, meandering alongside the lake, then eventually go past a slight mound on the left, to the main cycle/pedestrian trail. Turn right along this track and follow ahead ignoring a footpath which exits the park to the left. Staying on the cycle/pedestrian trail, bear right in the direction of Stewartby. Ahead for 1km, ignoring 2 paths off to the left, staying in the Country Park. You come to small open area with a picnic table and signpost. Ignore another path off to the left which leaves the Country Park. Bear right to continue following the cycle/pedestrian trail for 500 metres, to cross the wooden bridge over (Elstow) Brook. Go ahead and pass 2 exits to the road. Staying in the park, follow the track as turns right then left to cross the access road into the boat club. Keep ahead through the fence to keep following the main cycle/pedestrian trail as it bears to the right. Then keep ahead with the private boat club on the right. Follow this track for 1km until you come to 2 paths off to the right. (*The first one only takes you to a nature reserve and viewpoint, 0.3km away*). Turn right at the second path marked Forest Centre, 0.8km and in 30 meters, at the yellow marker post,

QUESTION 3. WHAT ARE YOU AT?

Turn left, cross the horse trail and take the right of the two grass paths, through the young trees. Ahead and follow the path around to the right, then in just a few meters, at a 4-way marker post, by a bench, turn left. Cross the wooden bridge and go ahead with the hedge on the right. At the yellow marker post, cross the hard track and continue straight ahead. This path bears left to a yellow marker post. Go to the main cycle/pedestrian trail and turn right. Ahead along the main trail.

IF THE PATH IS FLOODED, GO VIA THE ROUGH PATH ON THE LEFT, BEFORE THE FLOOD, KEEPING TO THE RIGHT TO REJOIN THE MAIN TRAIL. (It will cost £120,000 to implement necessary improvements to prevent this flooding).

Just after a yellow topped marker post/path to the left, you will pass a carved wooden bench. Keep following cycle/pedestrian trail as it turns to the right. Ignore the path which exits the park to the left.

QUESTION 4. ON THE METAL SIGNPOST AT THE EXIT ON THE LEFT, WHAT 2 IMAGES ARE SHOWN?

But just before this, look to the left. There is a small railway station. Stay in the Country Park and on the cycle/pedestrian trail for 2.1kms as it meanders around the edge of the wetlands. After 900 metres, at the houses, follow the main trail round to the right and join the Timberland Trail.

QUESTION 5. WHICH WALK HAVE YOU JOINED?

Continue on the cycle/pedestrian trail, over the park access road and then follow around to the right. In 700 metres you reach a marker post. Turn right through the metal gate and go ahead to the Forest Centre, the end of this walk. (*The cakes in the café are particularly nice*).

We hope you have enjoyed the walk!

The Ise Valley Vagabonds have established other Permanent Trails at Bedford (2), Daventry, Kempston, Kettering, Kings Lynn, Leicester, London (2), Marston Moretaine (3), Oxford, Rugby, Rushden, Stamford, Stratford upon Avon, Warwick, Wellingborough and Woodstock.

They are all qualifying events towards the IVV award scheme. Further information about these walks, the IVV, the club and all its activities can be found by visiting our Web Site www.vagabonds.org.uk

THE ORGANISERS ARE NOT LIABLE FOR ACCIDENTS, THEFT, AND/OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE BY THE ORGANISERS TO MAKE THIS A SAFE, ENJOYABLE AND MEMORABLE EVENT.

**ISE VALLEY VAGABONDS
PERMANENT TRAIL REGISTRATION FORM**

TRAIL	Marston Vale Millennium Country Park Trail	2017/1
ROUTE UPDATED	03 February 2016	
DATE WALKED		
NAME		
ADDRESS		
TEL		
EMAIL		
ADDITIONAL WALKERS		
ENTRY FEE	<input type="text"/> Walkers @ £1.00 (€2,00) each	Total £
AWARDS REQUIRED	<input type="text"/> Patches @ £2.00 (€4,00) each	Total £
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED		£
Please put my IVV stamps on a new set of Insert cards Yes/No		
ANSWERS		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
Comments		
<p>If you have a problem with this trail, please try and resolve it with the organiser. If you are unable to resolve the problem, then please contact the BWF Trail Officer.</p>		
<p>Please enclose a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE (at least C6 (114 x 162mm) or DL (110 x 220mm)) with this form and send it to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carol Jones 138 Rushden Road Wymington Rushden Northants NN10 9LE</p>		