

Rockwell Local Nature Reserve

Route 2 - 45 Minutes / 2 Miles

A pleasant, easily accessible walk taking you past Darlington's historic rail bridge.

About the route

This is a circular route positioned on the north eastern side of Darlington. It follows part of the River Skerne and passes through the heart of Rockwell Local Nature Reserve.

This reserve is the largest and most popular in Darlington.

It was restored in 2000 to provide an essential and tranquil habitat for wildlife.

The route is accessible to wheelchair and pushchair users and seating is located around the route to provide useful resting places.

Walking instructions

Start on Haughton Road by the traffic lights at McMullen Road. You can also access from Springfield estate between points 4 and 5.

- 1 Take the path across the playing fields and follow alongside the River Skerne.
- 2 Pass the footbridge on your right.
- 3 Cross the next footbridge on your right.
- 4 Turn right and head back alongside the opposite side of the river.

- 5 Take the footbridge on the right back to the start.

Things to see

There is a variety of wildlife and birds to see such as; Kingfishers, Robins, Goosanders, Otters and the rare and highly endangered Water Vole.

You will also see the chimney sculpture and the Five Arch Bridge which represents the railway heritage of Darlington.

Historically, the bridge provided rail access to the Springfield Ironworks across the River Skerne.



Health & safety

Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather. Be careful near the river and keep children away from the edge. Take care when crossing roads.

This route links to

- Whinfield Loop (Route 1).
- Red Hall & Great Burdon Loop (Route 3).
- This walk is close to bus routes 9 & 10 and North Road Railway Station.