Dothill Local Nature Reserve

What can you do there?

This tranquil area is small enough to explore within a few hours, yet large enough to be a peaceful retreat from everyday life. The reserve includes wetlands and pools, historic canal sections, woodlands, grasslands and streams. It is a place where bird and amphibian life thrive and is easily accessible to all.

This short circular walk passes pools, brooks and beautiful woods to find the stunning Wellingtonia trees. Their warm, soft, spongy bark makes them a great tree to hug.

Address / location:

Severn Drive, Wellington, Telford. TF1 3JB.

What3words location:

collected.demotion.lavished

Opening times:

24/7 all year round.



This map shows the whole of Dothill Local Nature Reserve. Map accurate as of April 2023; some paths may change to improve access around the Reserve.

Download the map here: www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/10176/dothill - leaflet

Photo and map credit: The Friends of Dothill.

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Getting there:

By car - The reserve is 28 minutes' drive from Broseley, 20 minutes from Newport and 12 minutes from Telford town centre.

Parking is available on the street at the end of Severn Drive, Dothill, Wellington TF1 3JB or Donnerville Close, Wellington. There is a public car park opposite Admaston House, Admaston TF5 OBN (What3words: hammocks.split.partly).

By bus - From Telford Town Centre, the No. 15 bus goes to Brandon Avenue, Shawbirch. It is a 25 minute walk from Wellington Train Station.

Facilities:

There are **no toilets** on site.

The nearest toilets are at Admaston House Community Centre.

Refreshments are available at The Pheasant Inn, Shawbirch.

There is a children's play area on the reserve and angling is available by permit through Telford Angling Association.

Who owns / manages it:

Dothill Local Nature Reserve is owned by Telford & Wrekin Council and managed in partnership with the Friends of Dothill.

To report issues, visit MyTelford: www.telford.gov.uk/my-telford

Photo credit: The Friends of Dothill.



Background:

Dothill Local Nature Reserve is situated in the north-western corner of Telford and spans approx. 44 hectares. It was designated a Local Nature Reserve in 2016.

The nature reserve comprises three main areas: Dothill Pool, Tee Lake and Beanhill Valley. It is surrounded by residential areas and main roads, but it is a tranquil home to a diverse range of habitats. The Henge provides a focal point and central place to meet where the Friends of Dothill hold various events throughout the year.

For further information:

There is a longer (3.4 mile) circular walk over gentle terrain from which you can spot 50 different species of tree!

www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/10177/dothill - telford 50 tree trail walk

More information on the Friends of Dothill can be found here:

www.dothillnaturereserve-friends.com

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Accessibility:

The walk is mainly on hard surface paths with areas of small gradients. The natural path through the woods can get muddy in wet weather so sturdy shoes are advisable.

Details of the walk:

A map of the Three Bridge Way (which is approx. 3/4 of a mile) can be found on the next page.

A good place to start the walk is the noticeboard at the north-east corner of the lake.

From the noticeboard walk past the benches, keeping the lake on your left. (At the fork in the path, you'll see a Three Bridge Way sign on your right.)

Follow the path round to the right. You are walking past a pond that used to be a fish pool belonging to Dothill Park. The concrete blocks used to support sewage pipes running from Wellington to Shawbirch Road treatment works.

Continue along the path around a sharp bend to the left and over Shawbirch Bridge (marked B on the map). Here is an area it is hoped will become a wetland (there is an information sign about this beyond the fence on your left).

At the crossroads keep straight on. You are now passing Beanhill Wood and Beanhill Brook is to your right. This stream begins on The Wrekin.

You will soon see a large information board about the reserve, and nearby is Admaston Bridge (marked A on the map) which goes over Beanhill brook. The route takes the left turn into the wood (you are not crossing the bridge).

Follow the natural path through the wood. On your right there is a lovely dead-hedge that the volunteers have been building over the last few years, using coppiced hazel.

Emerging from Beanhill Wood, the field to your left has a ring of 10 Wellingtonia trees. These are part of the 50 Tree Trail, and eventually they will be giants!

At Dothill Bridge (marked C on the map) you cross the reserve's other stream, which comes from The Ercall. Ignore the path to the left over the bridge and continue ahead up the slope. Shortly you will see a sign on your left about ash dieback disease and the planting of oaks to help replace the ash.

Bearing left, Tee Lake is on your right, and you are nearly back where you started.

Photo credit: The Friends of Dothill.



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Bridge Way An easy access circular route in the heart of the Reserve Pree



Download the map here: www.dothillnaturereserve-friends.com/3bridgeway