

Introduction

This Trail provides a fascinating overview of different aspects of a sustainable community. It takes you around a Local Nature Reserve and the different habitats within it, as well as features including a flood relief channel, views of waste management activities such as household recycling, an example of sustainable housing, and recreational facilities.

The Trail is suitable for all, including casual users of the Park, school and youth groups, and other groups and organisations. It includes alternative routes of different lengths and for different abilities.

Explore and enjoy the Trail and discover Braywick for yourself. Look out for the waymarker posts along the route.

The Trail starts outside Braywick Nature Centre, a converted 18th century stable block. The Centre has a programme of public events and runs activities and educational sessions for all ages. It also houses a small exhibition on the history and development of the Park, and sustainability issues. The Centre is open during public events - check the noticeboard outside for details or see overleaf.



Route of The Braywick Park Trail

1 Formal Park

A path runs around the formal park. This area was part of the grounds of Braywick Lodge, a large house which once stood where the car park is today. The house was demolished in 1969. There are many interesting trees growing in this area and you can find out more about them in our 'Tree Trail' leaflet (see overleaf).

2 The Dell

The Dell can be accessed either down a sloping path or some steps.

This also used to be part of the Braywick Lodge Estate, and is now a Local Wildlife Site and Local Nature Reserve. The plants in the Dell include a variety of grasses, wild flowers, shrubs and trees, many of which provide food and shelter for insects, small animals and birds. Listen for bird song and also sounds from creatures in the grass, or maybe in the bushes and trees. The pond was constructed in 1990 to provide an additional habitat. Beneath the surface is a whole new world of strange and wonderful animals. Keep your eyes open for all the things that live around the pond.



Water mint

3 The Woodland

Beyond the Dell is a small fragment of what was once a much larger wood. In the summer it can be shady and cool beneath the branches, even when the sun is shining brightly overhead. Can you feel the difference the big trees make to the environment?

4 The Cut

A path leads towards the Cut. This is not a river but a very large man made ditch constructed to carry flood water from the Thames. It has been allowed

to become overgrown in places to help wildlife living along its banks. Water birds such as swans, coots and moorhens nest in the dense vegetation. If you stand still for a few minutes you may see a heron or even a kingfisher flying over the water.

5 Reclaimed Landfill Site

Steps lead up to the top of the reclaimed landfill site, now a Local Nature Reserve, with views of Braywick Park as well as over to Bray and Maidenhead. It is difficult to believe that this was once an old refuse tip and that just a metre or so below your feet is a massive pile of rubbish.

The steep sides have been planted with trees and the grass on the very top is allowed to grow long before being cut to encourage insects and birds. You might see birds like green woodpeckers, red kites and kestrels, and butterflies such as meadow browns and skippers.



Pollarded willow

An alternative flat but longer route to Green Lane is available by continuing on the path around the landfill site rather than climbing up the steps and passing over the top of the site.

6 Green Lane and Green Way

The Trail crosses an old track called Green Lane, now part of the Green Way Recreational Route which runs from Bray through Maidenhead to Cookham. The woodland edge, scrub and hedges provide valuable shelter and nesting sites for birds. The open lighter areas create a diverse habitat for a variety of plants, birds and insects.

An alternative, flat and shorter route is to follow Green Lane to the Dell and the Formal Park.

7 Waste Handling Area

The Trail follows the boundary of the Park, with views of the sewage works, the civic amenity waste site, the household recycling area and the waste transfer station. All of the different types of waste and materials for recycling produced by households across the Borough pass through these facilities.

8 Sustainable housing

At the corner of the Park, on the far side of the Greenfields play area, you can see a sustainable housing development. The wood framed houses are very energy efficient with features such as solar panels, and have green roofs.

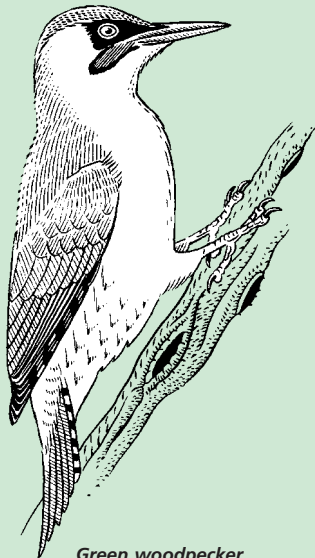
9 Sports ground and play areas

The Trail passes through the Sports Ground where archery, athletics, cricket, football, rugby and other sports take place. Several clubs are based here and there is also a play area for young people. Look out for the pavilion - heated using wood chip pellets.

10 Rough grassland

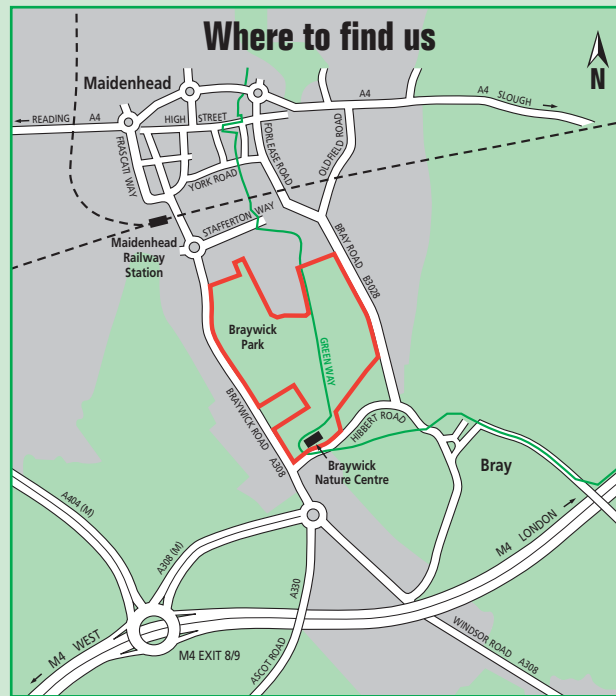
The trail runs behind the Golf Centre to an area of rough grassland. This area is made up from former landfill.

A few exotic trees were planted some years ago and additional native species have now been added. Shrews, mice and voles are found in the longer grass and scrub, along with grasshoppers and crickets. Dead wood helps to create habitats for insects including the stag beetle which is becoming rare. Birds of prey like kestrels, sparrowhawks and red kite can often be seen hunting over the grass.



Green woodpecker

Follow the path to the Formal Park and Braywick Nature Centre.



Additional information

For more information about Braywick Nature Centre events and activities please see www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/bnc_index.htm

The Centre can also be hired by groups and organisation as a venue for events, workshops, meetings and activities. See www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/bnc_centre_hire.htm

The Braywick Tree Trail leaflet is available from www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/landenv_leaflets.htm

The Green Way leaflet is available from www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_publications-green-way-leaflet-download.htm

Alternatively please call 01628 796227

For more information about the Council's commitment to developing a culture of Learning for Sustainability visit www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/ecolfs_index.htm



Leisure Services Unit
Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1RF
Tel: 01628 796227
www.rbwm.gov.uk
outdoor.facilities@rbwm.gov.uk
Out of hours: 01753 853517



Braywick Park Trail

A nature and sustainability trail around Braywick Park

