



The Bourne Valley Greenway

Bournemouth & Poole

Useful Information



Bournemouth Borough Council
Parks and Gardens 01202 437812
Sustainable Transport 01202 451194

www.bournemouth.gov.uk/visitors



Borough of Poole
Walking routes / cycle maps 01202 262066

www.boroughofpoole.com



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01202 262521



boroughofpoole.com/accessibility

www.gettingabout.info

Traveline

0871 2002233 www.travelinesw.com

The 'Stream, Heath and Woodland Walk' includes a stretch of the Greenway from the Town Hall, through the Central and Upper Gardens and past Coy Pond. You can pick up a copy of the leaflet from the Bournemouth Town Hall reception.

Walking & Cycling

Greenways

Greenways are largely car-free, off-road routes connecting people to facilities, open spaces and countryside within and around our towns. They are for shared use by walkers, cyclists and (where practical and possible) horseriders.

By working together to develop new greenway routes across both Bournemouth and Poole we hope to make cycling and walking easier for people of all ages and offer a safe and attractive alternative to the car.



Health

Walking or cycling on local journeys not only reduces the volume of cars on the road, but also allows you to make better use of nearby open spaces and take some exercise. It is estimated that only 30% of the population is physically active enough to benefit their health.

Getting out and about in the open air can reduce anxiety and promote a feeling of well-being; just 30 minutes of walking or cycling every day (the current national recommendation) can improve your health and fitness levels dramatically. So next time you need to pop to the shops or get to work, don't just sit in your car - take a stroll or hop on your bike!

The Existing Route

The Bourne Valley runs continuously for 6.5km between Bournemouth Town Centre and the open countryside of Canford Heath, north of Poole, taking in Talbot Heath and Bourne Bottom.

The Greenway follows a picturesque green corridor with open spaces for play and relaxation, delightfully crafted gardens, nature reserves and beautiful heathland. This route serves a large population and offers a quiet, safe and tranquil alternative to the surrounding busy roads.

The route is waymarked with a G symbol and it takes about 30 minutes to cycle from Alderney to Bournemouth's Town Centre.



The Future

A huge amount of work has been carried out to make this route a reality, but there is still scope for more to be done. Perhaps the most important thing is that people know that the route is there to be used. If you are local to and interested in this route and its development, you may wish to get involved in an established group such as 'Friends of Coy Pond' or become involved in developing a 'Friends of Central & Upper Gardens'. The views of local people can shape the way the route is developed in the future.

A Green Corridor

The Stream



The Bourne Stream flows through the valley between Poole and Bournemouth - from open heathland at Canford Heath, through industrial and residential areas, to Bournemouth's gardens and into the sea at the Pier.

The stream and the habitats it passes through provide valuable homes for wildlife. The stream is notable for its small population of water voles which have undergone a dramatic decline nationally. Listen out for a loud 'plop' as they jump into the water!

Many of the in-stream ponds are home to numerous species and populations of dragonfly, some of them quite rare. Some of these, as well as reptiles and birds usually found near the stream or heathland, have been known to turn up in people's gardens and ponds.



The Gardens

The English Heritage Grade II* listed Gardens were created in the 19th Century. The Lower Gardens are renowned for their floral bedding displays and attractions. The Upper and Central Gardens include many trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials from around the world and are more peaceful, providing areas for quiet contemplation away from the bustle of the town.



The boardwalk in the Upper Gardens runs through a managed wildflower meadow, with Ragged Robin, Cuckoo Flower and Marsh Orchid. Beyond are the Coy Pond Gardens which attract many species of bird including wildfowl, both on Coy Pond and the new ponds at the top end of the gardens.

The Heathland

Dorset's heathlands and many of the species that live on them are both nationally and internationally important and protected. The heathland sites along the route of the Greenway are home to 6 species of UK reptiles. Heathland birds such as the Stonechat and rare Dartford Warbler can be seen, as well as some rare dragonflies.

Heathlands are very fragile habitats and the wildlife that lives on them can be greatly affected by inappropriate activities. Please follow the heathland code...

Heathland Code

- When cycling on heaths, only use bridleways or paths where cycling is permitted.
- Keep to main tracks so as not to damage or disturb plants and wildlife, especially during nesting season (March to August).
- Be aware of basking reptiles and avoid harming or disturbing them.
- Be aware of other users, grazing animals and wildlife when cycling and keep pets under control when walking.
- Take dog mess and litter home as it is detrimental to the heathland and is a health risk to wildlife and other users.
- Heathlands are dry habitats – do not start fires!



Safe Cycling

- Check your cycle is in good working order before a journey and remember to take a repair kit.
- Wear bright clothes – fluorescent in the day, reflective at night.
- Carry cycle lights.
- If wearing a cycle helmet, check it fits snugly and is securely fastened.
- On narrow roads, cycle in single file and be ready for fast traffic.
- Take care when crossing main roads.
- Give way to pedestrians on shared-use paths.
- Use a cycle bell to inform other users of your presence.
- Observe the rules of the Highway Code.

