

Welcome to Turls Hill & Swanbrook Valley

Historical background

Turls Hill and the Swanbrook Valley lie within the ancient parish of Sedgley, crossing the boundary between Sedgley and Cosley. They preserve an area of the network of small fields that used to characterise the farming area.

Turls Hill House, which was demolished during the 20th century, was first recorded during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558 – 1603). Only a few trees now survive to mark the parkland that used to surround it.

By the 1820s a large quarry named Bumble Hole had been developed to the north of Turls Hill Road and a second was added later in the 19th century. As well as providing building stone these quarries would have supplied lime kilns built just to the east of the wood. This burning of limestone would have been used to make quick lime, which was used for making building mortar and plaster.

Hurst Hill Wood wraps around the old quarries and has been designated as Ancient Woodland (hurst is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning woodland on a slope).

Code of conduct

We welcome the following activities: walking, jogging, informal games and kickabouts, use of the formal recreation facilities, visiting the play area, watching wildlife, walking your dog, sitting and watching the world go by and enjoying the scenery.

The following activities are not welcome in the valley: unauthorised use of motor vehicles, use of drugs and drinking of alcohol, vandalism or damage of the site, its facilities and wildlife, violent or threatening behaviour, fly tipping, dropping of litter, lighting fires or dog fouling, criminal activity. If you witness any of these or other undesirable activities you can report them by calling the Police on 0845 113 5000 or Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

In an emergency contact the Police on 999.

Healthy walks

The current recommendation for adults is to be physically active for at least 30 minutes, five days a week, and for children to be physically active at a moderate level for at least 60 minutes, seven days a week. Walking is an excellent way of achieving this. A moderate level of activity means any activity that raises your heart rate and temperature more than normal, so if you want the health benefits of walking this is how you should feel.

We have suggested two walking routes around the park:

• Red Route (600m or a third of a mile)

This walk goes through an open area, part on grass and part on paths. It has some slight inclines and declines. Be careful on wet and icy days.

Beginners should aim for 9 minute laps, occasional walkers should aim for 7 minute laps while frequent walkers should aim for 6 minute laps.

• Purple Route (950m or over half of a mile)

The walk goes through an open area; mainly all along grass (very long grass in some parts) although some sections are on paths. There are also some slight inclines and declines. Be careful on wet and icy days.

Beginners should aim for 14 minute laps, occasional walkers should aim for 11 minute laps while frequent walkers should aim for 9 minute laps.

To improve your fitness try to build up the number of laps you can walk and try and reduce the time it takes you.

For further information contact the parks physical activity manager via Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

Active travel

Active Travel Corridors are walking and cycling routes that link surrounding areas to local destinations.

They are generally made up of direction signs, warning signs, road markings, improved crossing facilities, segregated and shared cycling routes, improvements to public rights of way, access to canals and paths.

The benefits of active travel include: weight management, helping to prevent diabetes, high blood pressure and coronary heart disease and also the reduction of traffic congestion and contribution toward improved air quality.

General site information

Ownership and management of the site

Directorate of the Urban Environment, Dudley Council, Claughton House, Blowers Green Road, Dudley, DY2 8UZ.

Telephone via Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

Bye-Laws

Made by the Borough Council of Dudley, under Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875, Section 15 of the Open Space Act 1906 and Sections 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 with respect to pleasure grounds and open spaces vested in or maintained by the Borough Council of Dudley.

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Key

- Trees (general)
- Grassed areas
- Footpaths
- Public right of way
- Bridleway
- 'Healthy Walks' route (600m)
- 'Healthy Walks' route (950m)
- Part of Limestone Way walk and 26 mile Dudley walk
- DMBC land boundary
- Bus stop
- Crossing Point
- Park entrances
- Fencing
- Stile
- Gate
- Horse gate
- Gate, stile and horse stile
- Active travel corridor
- Potential active travel corridor
- You are here



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