

Aylesbury Gardenway



# Aylesbury Gardenway - Nature and Heritage Walk Nature and Heritage Walks around the Gardenway

# Let's take a walk!

The Aylesbury Gardenway nature and heritage walks offer a great chance to get outdoors, explore and learn more about the local area, nature and local history. The Gardenway will create a circular orbital park with walking, cycling and wheeling routes connecting the parks, woodlands and other green and natural spaces around the edge of Aylesbury.

The Gardenway offers an exciting opportunity to look after and support the natural environment, create and protect habitats for wildlife and better connect people with nature and local history.

# How to go on a Nature and Heritage Walk

We are inviting everyone to discover and experience parts of the Gardenway route as it is now. These walks are a self-guided activity for you to enjoy at a time that suits you. The route maps, together with the guidance sheets, will help point you in the right direction and tell you about the wildlife, plants, trees, habitats, landscapes and history features you might spot along the way.

## Choose a section of the route

We've divided the 22km long route that encircles Aylesbury into eight shorter sections. You can walk one, two, three, or all sections if you're feeling ambitious!

## Download the maps and guidance notes

Download the information from our website aylesburygardenway.co – just choose which route(s) you want to follow and then either print or download to your phone or tablet for on-the-go use.

And you're off! Dress for the weather and set off on your walk. The maps and information sheets will guide you to explore and learn more about the landscape, habitats, wildlife and history features you might see along the way. Don't forget to plan your return journey!

You can also visit Buckinghamshire's Heritage Portal <u>https://</u> <u>heritageportal.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/</u> to learn more about the historic features you are interested in.





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# Please tell and show us what you see along the way

We'd love to hear about your thoughts and experiences from the walks. Please feel free to make a note of what it was like to walk the route and also to note what animals, birds, plants or trees you spot. For example, did you walk by water or did you just enjoy looking at the views and green spaces? Please take photos of the things you spot on your journey. Show us the places that interest you, the views you enjoyed, wildlife spotted but also show us where more could be done to improve the spaces for people and nature. Share you ideas on what to include, improve, introduce or radically change to make the Gardenway a really special place for visitors and residents alike. We want to make sure that everyone, no matter what age, background or ability is able to enjoy these spaces.

## Please share your ideas for improvements

We look forward to hearing your creative ideas - and to help, here are a few questions to get you thinking:

· Where can we plant new trees, wildflower meadows or hedgerows?

• What would make that part greener, cleaner and more beautiful?

• Where could we be making more room for the river, creating more wetland scrapes, wet woodlands, and growing and expanding the beautiful Black Poplar tree landscape?

Does that neighbourhood park need a community orchard?
Whatever happened to the Aylesbury plum tree?
How could we make the most of historic and archaeological features?

#### How to share your feedback

Tell us which route(s) you walked and then send your photos, videos and comments by either:

Use our interactive 'Put a pin in it!' map on our website at: <a href="https://www.aylesburygardenway.co/engagement-activities/put-a-pin-in-it">https://www.aylesburygardenway.co/engagement-activities/put-a-pin-in-it</a> Here you can leave comments, ideas and suggestions and also upload photos and videos to illustrate your feedback.

• **Instagram** – post a photo and tag @aylesburygardentown with your comment as the caption.

• **Facebook** – post a photo, write a comment and tag @AylesburyGT in the comment.

• Twitter – tweet a photo and your comment to @AylesburyGT.

If you are not online you can call us on 01296 585315 and we will arrange a call back to discuss your thoughts.

Look on the website for upcoming events and register to take part in an online discussion or design workshop.

We will read and collate all the feedback we receive and this will help to shape the Gardenway design. We may also contact you to ask permission to use, re-post or re-tweet your photos and comments.

Use the QR Code in the bottom right hand corner of this sheet to leave your feedback, upload photos and videos.

# **Top tips**

Please read our top tips to help you make the most of your nature and heritage walk.

#### 1) Select your route(s) and go at your own pace.

The whole route is about 22km long, and mostly follows the existing, Round Aylesbury Walk with eight sections. The length of each section varies and ranges from 1.5km to 3km and will take 25 to 40 minutes on average. You can walk one section, or multiple sections at once, or walk a few sections over the course of a few days or weeks.

#### 2) Plan ahead!

It's always a good idea to plan your outward and return route, check the hours of daylight available, take a drink and some snacks and let someone know where you are going, just in case.

#### 3) Take a camera/camera phone.

If you're able to take photos and videos, we'd love to see what things you spotted and the views and spaces you enjoyed most.

#### 4) Prepare for mud, water and weather.

Some parts of the route (particularly alongside the River Thame) can be difficult to walk or even blocked at times due to flooding. Wear practical clothing and footwear that is suitable for the weather and ground conditions. Boots or wellies are recommended! Use other routes where needed to avoid flooded areas.

#### 5) Take care and be safe!

This is an unsupervised activity, and you are responsible for your own safety, so please do take care!

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#### 6) Take a friend/family member/dog!

Getting outdoors is fun and healthy, so why not take a companion. Please make sure you follow local Covid-19 social distancing rules.

#### 7) Spread the word!

Tell your local friends and family about the Aylesbury Gardenway project and the different ways to get involved. Share our social media and engagement website www.aylesburygardenway.co. The more people that get involved, the better!

These walks are fun, free, sometimes soggy and a chance to get to know your local area in a new enjoyable way! We hope you enjoy them and please don't forget to leave your feedback to help us codesign the Gardenway and make it a place for everyone.

# **Glossary of common terms**

The information sheets which accompany the eight walking maps contain some terms and abbreviations, some of which relate to landscape features or particular designations. Please see the list below for a quick 'heads up'.

Aquatic habitat - Water/wetland habitat C10th - 10th century EA - Environment Agency Heritage - Historic/cultural features PROW - Public right-of-way ROW - Right-of-way SAM - Scheduled Ancient Monument Scrape - Shallow wetland area SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest

Thank you for taking part - you're all amazing!



