



Something For Everyone

- 2 on site waymarked trails with views across 8 counties
- Children's and toddler's play area
- Orienteering course
- Easily accessible visitor centre, café and toilets
- Meeting room and outside space for hire
- Pay and display car park
(all money raised is used to maintain the Countryside Sites, annual passes available)



How To Find Us



By Car

Follow the brown and white 'Country Park' signs from M5 Junction 4 (A491) and Hagley (A491).



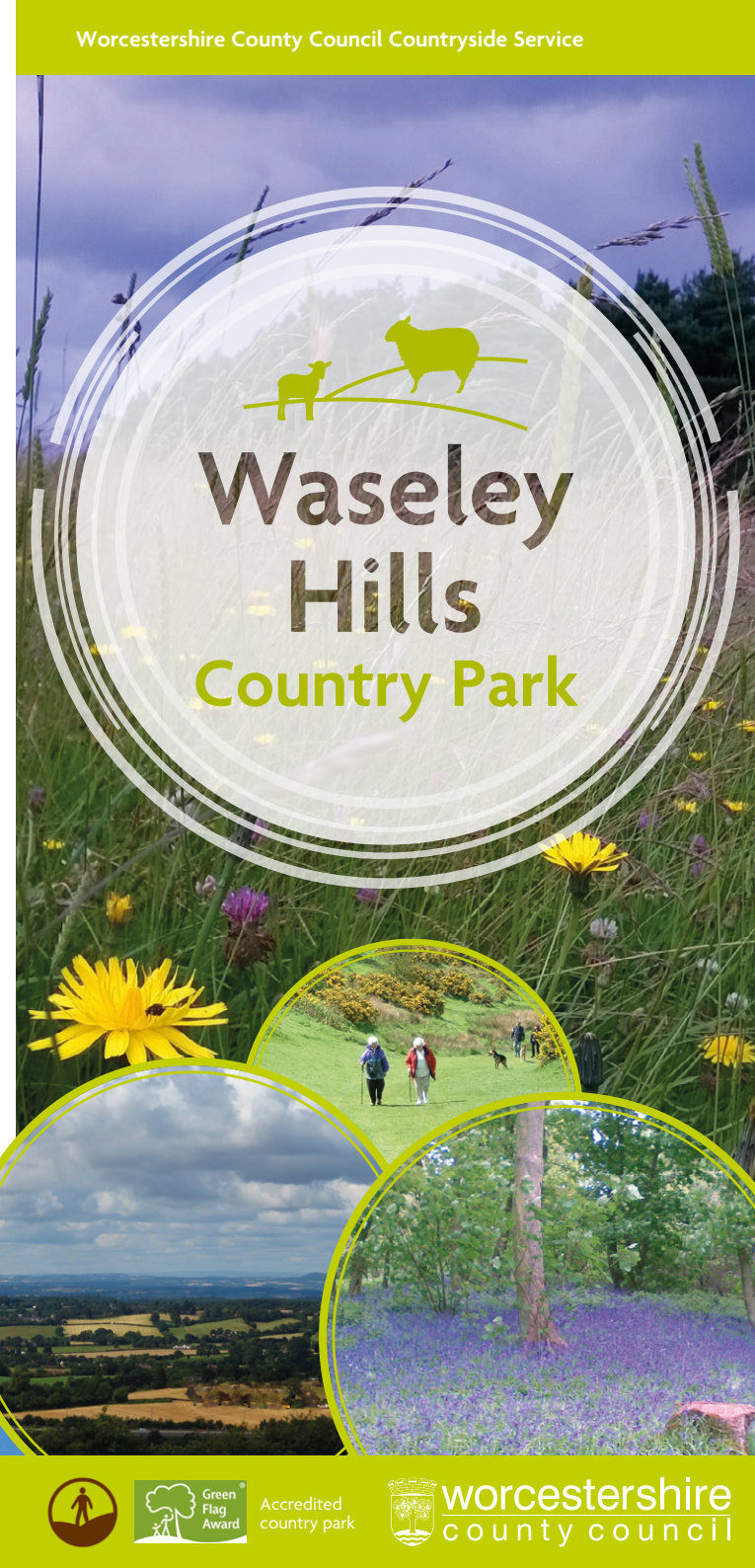
Contact Us

Waseley Hills Country Park, Gannow Green Lane, Rubery, Birmingham, B45 9AT

 01562 710025

 Search 'Waseley Hills Country Park'

 Waseley Hills Country Park



Find out more online at:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside



Accredited country park



worcestershire county council



Waseley Hills Country Park

The Midlands Watershed

What's in a name...?

The name Waseley comes from the Anglo Saxon words 'waer' meaning sheep and 'ley' meaning field, hence waer-ley or sheep field. This shows the site has been grazed for hundreds of years

Introduction

Waseley Hills Country Park lies on the South Western edge of Birmingham, just outside Rubery. The park covers 150 acres of pasture and woodland rising to a height of 998 feet. This makes it the perfect place to relax, enjoy the views and the onsite waymarked walking trails.

History

Until the 16th Century, most of the present park was part of the Chadwick Manor Estate. After the dissolution of the monasteries, the land was made over to Christchurch College at Oxford University by Henry VIII. In 1904 it was purchased by the Cadbury family who bought large areas of land to the South of Birmingham to prevent the spreading of the City out into the countryside. After World War Two, the land was given to the Bourneville Village Trust and the tops of the hills were purchased by the National Trust. The rest of the land, forming the present Country Park, was purchased in 1971 by Worcestershire County Council.



Geology

The Waseley Hills rise to a height of 998 feet and are made up of two different types of rock. The lower layer, the Keele Beds, are made up of sandstones and clays which were deposited under tropical conditions about 280 million years ago. The overlying rock is called Clent Breccia and is made up from fragments of volcanic and sedimentary rocks probably deposited by a torrential storm through a desert about 200 million years ago. Rain falls onto the top of the hills and soaks into the Clent Breccia, flowing down through the rock until it reaches the clay of the Keele Beds where it cannot go down any further. It is then forced out of the ground as a line of springs round the base of the hills. The ridged form of the park makes it a natural watershed. Rain falling on the Western side drains into the River Salwarpe and then to the Bristol Channel. Rain falling on the East forms the River Rea which flows in to the Trent and ultimately the North Sea.



Meeting Room and Outside Space Hire

The Christopher Cadbury Room is available for hire for meetings, training events or family gatherings. Seating for up to 40 people.

Free WIFI and projector use, easy wheelchair access.

Outside space for events and activities is also available for hire, including the picnic area and space for individual stalls.



The Windmill Café

Housed in a restored threshing barn, the Windmill Café is open seven days a week, all year round. Offering an extensive menu including daily specials, hot and cold food, great coffee and delicious cakes.

Having an event?

The Windmill Café can provide hot and cold buffets, tea, coffee and cakes for meetings or events.

Why not hire the BBQ?

A large BBQ in the picnic area, ideal for gatherings and parties can also be hired from the café.



Follow us on Facebook
The Windmill Café



01562 712835 – for prices and information



Search 'Waseley Hills Country Park'





Rabbit Trail

Start at the kissing gate opposite the visitor centre, turn right and follow the Rabbit waypoint discs and you won't get lost!

Length: 3 miles, 2 hours (approx.)

Terrain: 1 steady and 1 fairly steep uphill section. 4 sets of steps, 4 pedestrian gates, 9 kissing gates. Grass or compacted earth surface which may be muddy.

1. To your right, you can see Romsley Hill with its two radio masts and beyond that is the Clent Hills. The hedge you have just walked alongside was laid in 2015, to make it a thick, stockproof hedge. Now continue straight on following the hedge.
2. The ground in this area can be very wet. This is because springs emerge where two rock types meet, forcing water up out of the ground. Follow the path to the right and continue through the kissing gate.
3. You are now in Segbourne Coppice which mainly consists of sycamore, oak and ash trees. In the spring, the ground is covered in a carpet of bluebells. Continue to the left past two ancient fish ponds. These are not currently stocked with fish but are great wildlife habitats.
4. The trees to your left were planted in 1977 to mark the Queens Silver Jubilee. Eventually, the shelter belt of Scots pine will be thinned out to leave the beech trees to mimic Frankley Beeches.
5. This area is dominated by the big larch trees. Larch is one of the few conifers which loses its needles in the Winter. This is also a great spot for bluebells in the spring.
6. You are now in the Southernmost quarter of the park. The open grassland is left to grow long for a hay crop to be taken in July or August.
7. This woodland was planted in 1989 and is called The Narrows. The trees are gradually being thinned out to allow the remaining trees to grow and the ground flora to develop.
8. Ahead of you is part of an old drovers road, lined by old hedgerows. This would once have been a very busy route to take animals to market.
9. The woodland below the path is called Rotary Wood. It was planted in 1992 by Waseley Hills High School and the North Worcestershire Rotary Club.
10. This is a great spot to point out some of the West Midlands landmarks. On the far right is the Lickey Hills, moving left, you can see the large white buildings of the former Rover works at Longbridge, then the green dome of the tower at Reaside Hospital, the orange clock tower of Birmingham University and then Frankley Beeches.
11. You are now standing at the source of the River Rea. You can learn more about this small but very important river by reading the information panel in the fenced area.

From here, you can make your way back to the Visitor Centre for some well earned refreshments.



Skylark Trail

Start at the kissing gate opposite the visitor centre, turn right and follow the Skylark waypoint discs and you won't get lost!

Length: 1/2 mile, 40 minutes (approx.)

Terrain: 1 steady uphill section. 2 pedestrian gates, 4 kissing gates. Grass or compacted earth surface which may be muddy.

1. To your right, you can see Romsley Hill with its two radio masts and beyond that is the Clent Hills. The hedge you have just walked alongside was laid in 2015, to make it a thick, stockproof hedge. Now turn left following the path underneath the electricity wires.
2. Ahead of you is the toposcope which describes the panoramic views available from that point. On a clear day, you can see the Malvern Hills, Abberley Hill, the Black Mountains in Wales, the Cleve Hills and Birmingham.
3. The double hedgeline in front of you marks part of an ancient drovers road. This would have been used to transport livestock from farms to the markets. The clump of trees to your right is Jubilee Plantation, planted in 1977 to celebrate the Queens Silver Jubilee.
4. This is a great spot to point out some of the West Midlands landmarks. On the far right is the Lickey Hills, moving left, you can see the large white buildings of the former Rover works at Longbridge, then the green dome of the tower at Reaside Hospital, the orange clock tower of Birmingham University and then Frankley Beeches.
5. You are now standing at the source of the River Rea. You can learn more about this small but very important river by reading the information panel in the fenced area.

From here, you can make your way back to the Visitor Centre for some well earned refreshments.

