

Walk 12: Woodford Park

This is a short, flat walk, mainly on pavements and gravel paths, which will take you through Woodford Park, past the war memorial and World War 1 Centenary Gates, where information boards will tell you all about Woodley in WW1, and then on to the lake. The route then circles the playing fields and returns to the Oakwood Centre, via the other side of the lake. There are many benches if you wish to take a break, and toilets and some refreshments are available at the Woodford Park Leisure Centre when it is open. The Oakwood Centre, where you can find a café, toilets and information about Woodley, is open during the day.

Woodford Park, sited on what was originally farmland, was officially opened in 1964 by Lord Luke, chairman of the National Playing Fields Association.

Length

1.1miles (1.9 km). Allow 40 mins plus stops.

Starting Point

- | | | |
|------------|--|--|
| Bus | 14/19c
13/19a
127/128 | Chequers stop. Headley Road.
Chequers stop, Beechwood Avenue. walk along the right-hand pavement towards a pedestrian crossing, but do not cross it. Go straight ahead to reach a second crossing in front of the Chequers pub. Go over the crossing, turn right to the 14/19c bus stop. |
| Car | | Headley Road Car Park (Pay & Display) Headley Road, Woodley RG5 4JA
OS Grid Ref: SU7621 7328. w3w:///summer.neck.sprint
Walk into the precinct and turn right to the Chequers pub (the opposite end to Waitrose). Cross Headley Road at the pedestrian crossing, turn right to the 14/19c stop
<i>or</i>
Woodford Park Leisure Centre car park, Leisure Drive (off Haddon Drive), Woodley, RG5 4LY. OS Grid Ref: SU 76237364. w3w:///owners.grass.hotels
<i>(Note: often busy on Saturdays until early afternoon – sports teams)</i>
Walk through the car park towards the children’s playground and paddling pool. Turn right to pass the paddling pool on the left and then left towards the lake. At the junction turn right towards the all-weather pitch, to join the walk at point (8) below. <i>Note: this car park has disabled parking facilities.</i> |

Refreshments

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| The Oakwood Centre | Headley Road, Woodley. Near point (1) |
| Woodford Park Leisure Centre | Near the car park – see above |
| Various cafes | Woodley Precinct – see map |

Route Instructions (See map below for numbered points)

1



At the Chequers bus stop (14/19c) on Headley Road walk along the left-hand pavement away from the precinct. Carefully cross the entrance to Hicks MOT and Service Centre to reach the entrance to the Oakwood Centre. This is point (2) below.

2



Turn left into the courtyard of the Oakwood Centre and then immediately right to the path between the building and the hedge. This is point **(3)** below.

3



Walk past the end of the building and continue forward towards the war memorial and the Woodley in WW1 display boards. Walk past the display boards to the WW1 Centenary gates. This is point **(4)** below.

4



Just before the gates bear left and take the path to the Coronation Hall. At the notice board turn left, with the Coronation Hall on your right, and continue on the path, through the park, passing a grassy mound on your right, to reach a T-junction with a basketball net ahead. This is point **(5)** below.

5



Turn left and follow the path around another grassy mound on the right, to reach the junction with a gravel path on the right. This is point **(6)** below.

6



Turn right onto the gravel path and follow it round to the end of the lake, keeping the lake on the left. There is a grassy mound and then a children's play area on the right. Continue to reach a fork in the path. This is point **(7)** below.

7



Continue ahead up a gentle slope and turn left at the T-junction at the top. Just before the 3G pitch on the right there is a right-hand turn. This is point **(8)** below.
If you parked at Woodford Leisure Centre Carpark, turn right at the T-junction at the top of the slope, then left and then right again to return to the car park.

8



Take the right-hand turn and follow the path between the pitch and the sports hall. Turn right at the end of the pitch to walk past the back of the sports hall and the pavilion towards the car park. This is point **(9)** below.

9



Keeping the car park on your right continue ahead under the trees along the edge of the field, turn left at the end of the field to walk along the side of the fence (on your right) to the top of the field. This is point **(10)** below.

10



Turn left and continue past the path into Keane Close on your right, between the trees on your left and the fence on the right to reach the corner of the field, with the school playground in front of you. This is point **(11)** below.

11



Turn left, walk past the school playground, then field on your right, and then the Woodford Park sign on the left, to reach a junction at the end of the school fence. Bear left and walk round the end of the 3G pitch (on your left) to reach a signpost. The lake is ahead of you. This is point **(12)** below.

12



Turn right, taking the path to Oakwood Centre. Follow the path around the lake, with the lake on the left and fences on the right, to reach a right-hand turn at the end of the fence. This is point **(13)** below.

13



Turn right, and follow the path to the Oakwood Centre, passing grassy mound and then skateboard park on the left and children's play area and the gardens on the right. Continue straight on, with the Oakwood Centre now on the right and flower beds on the left to reach the entrance to the Oakwood Centre Courtyard on the right. This is point **(14)** below.

14



If you arrived by bus or if you parked in the Headley Road Carpark, turn right into the courtyard of the Oakwood Centre. This is point **(15)** below. *If you parked at Woodford Park turn left and continue forward towards the war memorial and the Woodley-in -WW1 display boards. Walk past the display boards to the WW1 Centenary gates. This is point (4) above.*

15



Walk through the courtyard to the exit on to the pavement of Headley Rd on your left. Turn right, carefully crossing the entrance to the Hicks MOT and Service Centre and walk to the bus stop: the start of the walk. This is point **(16)** below.

16



Journey's End

