

ALAN'S STORY

Location: Bestwood

Distance: 2.5 miles

Estimated time: 2 hours

Alan has a story to tell about leaving and returning; of trying to make sense of something a stranger once told him; of male voice choirs, aubergine muffins, and Muntjac deer. He is joined by those who come here as visitors, rangers, and volunteers, and for whom this place plays a big part in their lives.

The walk starts at the car park on Park Road with the Winding Engine House behind you.

Walking up Park Road we come to Alexandra Lodge, and then retrace our steps for a moment before turning into the heart of the country park. We follow a path that passes Khalsa Wood before walking through the Big Wood glade to the Adventure Playground. Looking out over the landscape, we then follow paths back down to the Winding House, past some very old trees and along the side of the reclaimed colliery area. Approaching the Dynamo House and the Winding Engine we continue towards the play area, coming into Bestwood Village opposite St. Alban's Road, with our starting point a couple of minutes away to the right.

The walk is on a variety of paths, and depending on the weather, these may be wet and muddy. The stretch of road up to Alexandra Lodge can sometimes have big puddles so you might want to bring suitable footwear. There is also a small, steeper downhill section of the walk, although there are benches to stop and sit on (and we will) as we go down here.

There are a total of 14 tracks on this walk, with regular stops along the way. There are also sections when the audio is playing as you walk.



The stops are:

- 1 The Bestwood Country Park car park on Park Road
- 2 The noticeboard at the bottom of Broad Valley Drive
- 3 Alexandra Lodge
- 4 The Park Rangers' noticeboard
- 5 The arch to Khalsa Wood
- 6 The picnic tables in the Big Wood glade
- 7 The Adventure Playground
- 8 Bench on the downhill path
- 9 Bench by the old oak and copper beech trees
- 10 The old oak overlooking the dip
- 11 Path alongside the reclaimed colliery area
- 12 The Winding House
- 13 Bench by the basketball play area
- 14 St. Alban's Road