

# Downend & Bromley Heath Community Walks

## Hill House Road to Rodway Common and Emersons Green Circular Walks

### Start/ Finish:

Hill House Road Open Space **1**

**Buses:** 7, 18, 49

### Parking:

On-street in Hill House Road.

### Refreshments:

Bridge Inn Shortwood;  
Red Lion Mangotsfield.

### The Walk:

4.5 km (2.8 miles) or  
6.5 km (3.9 miles) 1 ¼ to 2 hours.

*One of the largest earth sculptures in the world, extensive views from the top of the earth sculpture and Rodway Common, and a varied landscape make this an interesting walk. Mostly hard surfaces. There are steps up to the top of the earth sculpture, but these may be avoided (see below)*



View across the pond towards the railway path

**1** Turn right out of the Open Space gate and continue along Hill House Road to cross South View and then North View. Turn right into Page Park, go along the path on the north edge of the Park and turn left to cross through the centre of the Park. Exit the Park on to Broad Street, cross the road with care, turn left and after a few metres turn right into White Lodge Road. Go down the hill to the T junction, turn left (into Signal Road) and after about 100 metres turn right to cross the road. Go down the steep slope and turn left on to the Bristol – Bath cycleway/ footway.

**2** Follow this path for about 700 metres until you reach a tarmac path to the left. Here you may choose either the **shorter route** - see 3 below - or the **longer route** - see 8 below.

**3** For the **shorter route**: Turn left and follow the zig-zag tarmac path up the hill to Rodway Common – pause at the top for a moment to enjoy the view across Kingswood to Bristol. Then continue across the Common until you reach Rodway Hill Road.

**4** To your left as you cross the Common is Rodway Hill House - built in 1350 by William Blount - its present façade dating from the 16th century. According to tradition, Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn stayed here while hunting in Kingswood, as it was then literally "The King's Wood" for hunting.

**5** Go left along the path on the edge of the Common to the pelican crossing and cross here. Go through the gap in the wall, turn left and follow this path

until you emerge onto Cossham Street opposite Elmleigh Road. Turn left into Cossham Street and, with care, cross over the road.

**6** Continue along Cossham Street to St James Church and turn right. Cross the road at the pelican crossing, turn right past the car park along St James Road to the Red Lion pub where you turn left into Long Road.

**7** Take the second right into Valley Road. Continue with the footway on the right, cross a road (Long Road again) to the T junction. Turn right into Burley Grove and then first left into Gerrish Avenue. At the top of the hill turn right into Hill House Road and return to your start point.

**8** For the **Longer route**: Continue along the railway path, taking the left

The kissing gate to Hill House Road open space



fork at the old Mangotsfield Railway Station. Shortly after passing beneath a road bridge you have a choice of route: either turn left and then right through the pinch gap stile onto a gravel track and continue as in 9 below; or continue straight ahead and alongside the Ring Road - then go to 10 below.

**9** Follow the gravel track to reach a pond. Go round the pond to the right, through a kissing gate on to the Ring Road Cycle/ Foot path, and turn left.

**10** Continue beneath the next bridge and take the next left (signed Shortwood) towards the Chain and Wheel Earthbank Sculpture (see below). After 40 metres turn right to climb the steep steps; walk along the top of the earth bank; at the end follow the path down the slope. You can avoid the steps by continuing along the Ring Road path, around the foot of the earthbank, and taking the next left to rejoin the route.

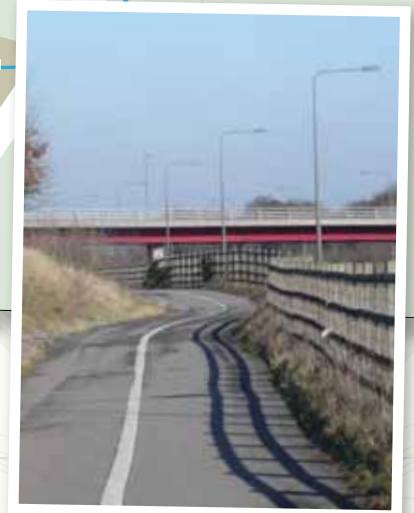
**11** Fork left at the bottom, follow the tarmac path as it turns to the right near the top to emerge into the Emersons Green estate at a metal sculpture – the ‘Now and Then’ Sculpture which depicts the history of the local area and features castings of local residents’ hands.

**12** Cross the road into Emersons Green Lane and follow this lane to Church Farm Road. Turn left and then left again to skirt around Mangotsfield Primary School. At the end of this path you will see the Church Farm Colliery Engine House ahead of you. Turn right and then left around two sides of the Engine House on to a tarmac path.

**13** Follow this path across another road and keep straight on. Fork left at the junction to join a more gravelled path and keep going. When you meet the road, continue ahead across Elmleigh Road and into Cossham Street. Now continue to the end of the walk as in 6 above.



The path forks at the old Mangotsfield Railway Station



The path alongside the Ring Road under the Shortwood Bridge

### The Chain and Wheel Earth Sculpture:

This remarkable sculpture created by artist Lorna Green was built from the spoils of the new Emerson's Green development. It is one of the largest earthwork sculptures in the world at over a third of a mile long. The shape relates to the chains of past industry in the area, and the split coal wheel of Pucklechurch, a reminder of past mining locally. At the northern end of the sculpture is a large earth mound which contains a time capsule created by children at Mangotsfield CE Primary School in 2001. The capsule will be re-opened in 2026.

The publication of these walks was funded by the Downend & Bromley Heath Community Plan Group and the Parish Council. The aim is to encourage people to know their local parks and open spaces better. Download the walks from: [www.downendbromleyheath.org](http://www.downendbromleyheath.org) or phone the Parish Clerk on 0117 956 7001 for further information.

A 3.4 mile walk around the footpaths of the Parish and walks starting from George V Playing Field can also be found on the website.

For regular, organised Walking to Health walks in this area, see [www.southglos.gov.uk/walkingtohealth](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/walkingtohealth)



DOWNEND & BROMLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL